

Before completing Section 1, please read *The Caterpillar Book 1--Chapter 1*

Section 1

Introduction

Chapter 1 of *The Caterpillar* is the introduction to the first of three counselors to Job—James Holiday or Eliphaz the Temanite. As is the Book of Job as well as *The Caterpillar*, James believes that sin results in suffering and suffering is a result of sin. His evidence was his own experiences. Therefore, the book begins by taking you on a journey through a day in the life of James Holiday, or Eliphaz, to lend some insight as to why he believes his theory to hold true for everyone.

Vocabulary Words

The seven words chosen, for vocabulary in Chapter 1, are all extremely important to Christianity. They were all extracted from the psalm on page 9 of *The Caterpillar Book 1*. Each word is accompanied by the Webster's and Easton's Bible Dictionary definitions.

Use these two (2) definitions, along with your independent thoughts, to create your own personal definition for each of these words.

God: *Webster's.* The supernatural being conceived as the perfect and omnipotent and omniscient originator and ruler of the universe; the object of worship in monotheistic religions.

Easton's. The name of the Divine Being.

Your Definition. _____

Forgiveness: The act of excusing a mistake or offense.

One of the constituent parts of justification. In pardoning sin, God absolves the sinner from the condemnation of the law, and that on account of the work of Christ, i.e., he removes the guilt of sin, or the sinner's actual liability to eternal

wrath on account of it. All sins are forgiven freely. The sinner is by this act of grace for ever freed from the guilt and penalty of his sins.

Sin: Estrangement from God.

Is "any want of conformity unto or transgression of the law of God", in the inward state and habit of the soul, as well as in the outward conduct of the life, whether by omission or commission. It is "not a mere violation of the law of our constitution, nor of the system of things, but an offense against a personal lawgiver and moral governor who vindicates his law with penalties.

Favor: An act of gracious kindness.

Kind regard; propitious aspect; countenance; friendly disposition; kindness; good will.

Grace: A state of sanctification by God. Free and unmerited favor or beneficence of God.

God's forgiving mercy. Gifts freely bestowed by God as miracles, prophecy, and tongues.

Mercy: Leniency and compassion shown toward offenders by a person or agency charged with administering justice.

Compassion for the miserable. Its object is misery. By the atoning sacrifice of Christ, a way is open for the exercise of mercy towards the sons of men, in harmony with the demands of truth and righteousness. In Christ, mercy and truth meet together. Mercy is also a Christian grace.

Salvation: The act of delivering from sin or saving from evil. Saving someone or something from harm of from an unpleasant situation.

The deliverance of the Israelites from the Egyptians, and of deliverance generally from evil or danger.

Chapter Highlights

Chapter Highlights are comprised of a series of questions designed to provoke thoughts related to the text.

1. Why do you think that it is so important for James to make the baseball game special for his son Evan?

2. The last few paragraphs on page 8 explains James' day. How do you think James will view the world from this day forward?

3. What would you say to James at the end of this chapter?

Topics on the Text

This subsection is to compare and contrast certain events in The Caterpillar to others in The Book of Job.

Prerequisite: Read the first chapter in The Book of Job. Pay close attention to the conversation between God and Satan.

Instructions: Use the following questions to challenge yourself. Apply practical knowledge to your answers.

Job 1: 6 – 12 The Lord meets with heavenly beings and Satan accompanies them.

Does it appear that God and Satan have some sort of relationship? Why or why not? _____

What do you find interesting about their conversation? _____

What did God mean when he told Satan to ‘consider’ his servant Job? Why would God want Satan to consider Job? _____

Supporting Scripture

Read the following scripture:

God's Justifying Righteousness

But now, apart from law, the righteousness of God has been disclosed, and is attested by the law and the prophets, the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe. For there is no distinction, since all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God; they are now justified by his grace as a gift, through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus, whom God put forward as a sacrifice of atonement by his blood, effective through faith. He did this to show his righteousness, because in his divine forbearance he had passed over the sins previously committed; it was to prove at the present time that he himself is righteous and that he justifies the one who has faith in Jesus. Romans 3: 21-26

Instructions: In groups, discuss the supporting scripture and its impact on the beliefs of modern-day Christianity. How does this passage relate to Job?

Homework Exercise

Have you ever given someone less than they deserve in life? If you have lived long enough you have.

- Think of someone that has deserved more from you in life i.e. a spouse, child, relative, friend, co-worker, neighbor, stranger etc. How have you made them feel as though they deserve less from you than what they were entitled?
- Now think even harder. How have you given God less than God deserves?
- Is there anyone else included in this equation? How have you not received what you deserve by stripping others of what they deserve?

Assignment: Use the thoughts that you have accumulated to answer the above mentioned questions. Take your thoughts and write a letter to one (1) person that fits this profile. Be open and honest, using details and examples of your opinions and emotions. After you have finished, hold the letter in your hands, read it aloud, and pray to God for this person. You can choose whether you would like to share this letter with the person or not.

*****Bonus***Bonus***Bonus*****

Field Assignment

Christianity is easy; but only to those who work hard. Suffering is a part of our society no matter the source. Allow yourself to be tested in the name of Jesus. Practice ‘The Piety That God Rewards.’

Read: Matthew 6: 1-6 *The Piety That God Rewards*

Work: Seek out someone that you know is suffering. This can be either someone that you know, or it can be a complete stranger. Identify what you feel to be something that they need help with i.e. prayer, peace, guidance, food, transportation etc. Do something to help this person end their suffering. Help them without them knowing. Let no one know of your works.

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