

Job 38:1-7,34-41 God answers Job

Job asked God some questions and the Lord answered Job, speaking out of a mighty whirlwind.

God said, 'Who is this, who talks about my plans but doesn't really understand? Prepare yourself, Job; I will ask you a series of questions; Do you dare to reply? Where were you when I laid the **foundation of the earth**?

Tell me, if you are wise.

Here's an easy one – Who measured the **dimensions of the globe**?

Who wound the **equator** around it?

Who determined the earth's place in the **solar system**?

Or set its **orbit** round the sun while all the **stars** sang together for joy accompanied by angels?

Can you – Job – call out to the **clouds** causing **rain** to flood down on you?

Can you make **lightning** bolts crack? Do they report to you saying, "Here we are"?

Who puts wisdom into **human beings**, or gives their minds understanding?

Who, in their cleverness, knows the **clouds**? Who can tilt them, pouring down **rain** from heaven to put an end to **drought** and water the **hardened earth**?

Tell me, Job, can you hunt like a **lioness**, to feed her hungry **cubs** who crouch in their **dens**, or lie waiting in the bushes?

What about the **raven**? Who provides for its **chicks** when they cry to God for food?



John 6:15-21 Jesus walks on water

Because of all the miracles he had performed, the people wanted to make Jesus their king. They weren't going to take no for an answer, but this wasn't God's plan, and so Jesus went away from the crowds. There was a mountain beside the Sea of Galilee and he went there by himself.

Now, the disciples had been expecting to meet up with Jesus, but when it got dark, they decided to get into a boat and cross the lake. They headed for Capernaum, the town where Jesus was based.

As the disciples rowed, the wind picked up, until conditions were stormy. The surface of the water became choppy and dangerous, but still they kept on their way.

After rowing for three or four miles, the disciples looked out and saw a figure approaching them, walking on the surface of the lake. Naturally, they were terrified, not sure what they were seeing.

'Do not be afraid,' the figure said. '**I am** Jesus.'

Frightened that the storm might harm their friend, the disciples wanted Jesus to join them in the boat, but immediately, and miraculously, they found that they had reached their destination.



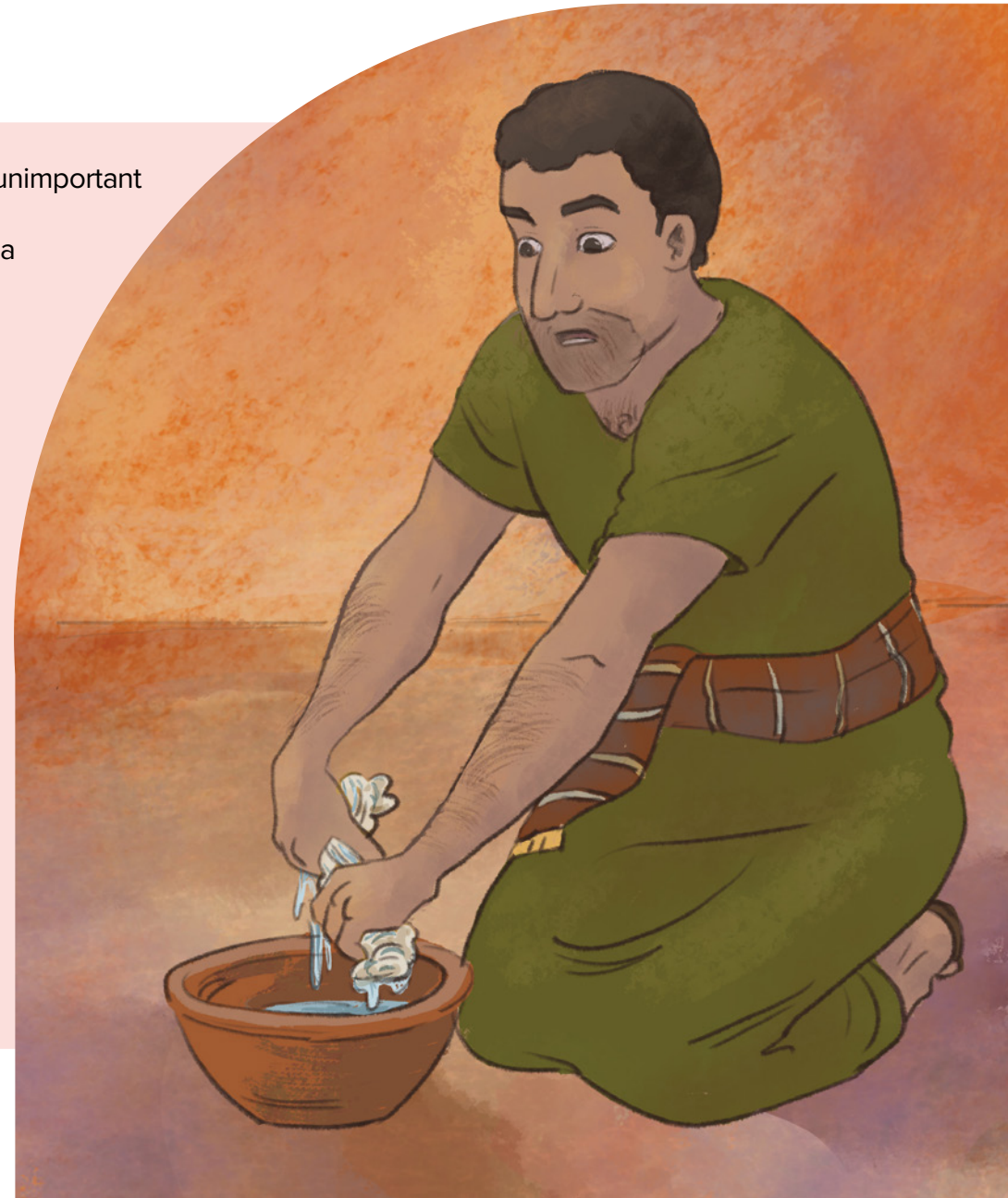
Judges 6:36-40 Gideon tests God

Gideon didn't think much of himself. He was an unimportant member of an unimportant clan, a young man who did the chores his father gave him.

Gideon didn't think he was strong and he certainly didn't think of himself as a warrior. His people, the Israelites, had been defeated by the Midianites and had been hiding in the mountains for seven long years. Gideon felt ordinary and unimportant. He wished there was someone strong who would fight the Midianites.

Then God's angel appeared to Gideon. "The Lord is with you, mighty warrior. God wants you to set the Israelites free." Gideon was shocked. He was so shocked that he needed proof. He said, 'God, If you really want me to free Israel from the Midianites, you'll have to give me a sign.'

Then Gideon took a fleece of wool and laid it out on the floor. 'If the fleece is wet with dew tomorrow morning, but the ground around it is dry, I'll know you truly will use me to defeat the enemies of Israel,' he said. The next morning the ground was dry, but the fleece was full of enough water to fill a washbasin. Still, Gideon wasn't convinced. 'I need one more sign,' he told God. 'Don't be angry, but let's switch things around. This time, if the fleece stays dry, but the ground is wet, I'll know you think I'm the man to lead your people.' That night, although dew settled on the ground, Gideon's fleece remained bone-dry.



Psalm 19 Wonder at God's creation

The heavens announce the glory of God;
The skies proudly shout, 'See all that God's made!'
Nothing can silence their speech every day;
'God knows everything!' The night-sky displays.

They don't use voices; they don't speak in words;
Strain hard as you can, there's nothing to hear;
Yet all through the earth their voices ring out,
And their praises resound in every ear.

Just take a look at the bright rising sun,
Eager as a groom on his wedding day;
All round the globe watch him circle with joy,
Nothing can hide from his heat on the way.

The body revives in the sun's warm rays,
So God's perfect law gives life to the soul;
A fool is made wise, by following God's rules;
A straightforward path that's trusty and whole.



The heart rejoices, for God's law is right;
Yes! All God's commands are light to the eyes;
Lasting forever, they're righteous and true;
Following them you'll be holy and wise.

God's law: what competes? What else could compare?
Silver or gold? Not diamonds or rubies.
Finer than money and more wholesome too;
God's law is sweeter than tasting honey.

What warns us away from doing things wrong?
How should we behave to earn a reward?
How do we know that we've made a mistake?
We learn from the law, the law of the Lord.

Keep me pure, O God, and innocent too.
Don't let my dumb pride tell me what to do;
You're my redeemer, my shelter and rock;
Let my words and thoughts be pleasing to you.



Luke 10:25-37 The Good Samaritan

One day, someone asked Jesus how he could please God. Jesus said to him, 'What are the most important things?' The man answered, 'To love God and to love our neighbour as ourselves'.

'Well done!' Jesus said. 'If you do those things, you will please God. You will be very close to him.'

Then the man said, 'But, who is my neighbour?'

So Jesus told this story:

One day a man was travelling on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho. Suddenly robbers jumped out from behind some rocks. They attacked the man, beat him up, took all his possessions, even most of his clothes and left him for dead.

As he lay at the roadside, another traveller came hurrying along. It was a priest from the Temple in Jerusalem. He looked at the man, but he didn't stop. If he stopped and touched him, he wouldn't be able to serve God in the Temple that day. He hurried on by.

A little later someone else came hurrying along. It was a Levite, someone who helped with the services at the Temple. He looked at the man, but he didn't stop.



If he stopped and touched him, he wouldn't be able to serve God in the Temple that day. He hurried on by.

After a while another traveller came hurrying along. It was a Samaritan. Now the Jews did not like Samaritans and Samaritans did not like Jews. The Samaritan looked at the man and he stopped. The Samaritan went over to the man who had been beaten up by robbers. He poured oil on the hurting places and bandaged his wounds. He gently lifted him onto his donkey and took him to an inn. He asked the innkeeper to look after the injured man until he was well enough to go home. The Samaritan gave the innkeeper some money and said if it cost any more, he would pay him next time he came past.

Jesus then turned to the man who had asked him the question and said: 'I wonder who was neighbour to the man who was attacked and robbed?' I wonder what you think? (pause to let the children answer)

Because the Good Samaritan loved his neighbour, even though he was his enemy, he showed he loved God too.

The Good Samaritan showed love to the man who was attacked and robbed, even though he was his enemy.
His love was like God's love — God loves everyone.

