The Lord Speaks

Job 38:1-40:24

MEMORY VERSE

JOB 40:2
"Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him?"

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A large bag of popcorn, two empty bags or bowls, and two small dessert paper plates.

A "sun catcher" template for each child, colored pencils or crayons, a hole punch, ribbon, cotton balls and cooking oil.

Red construction paper, scissors, glue sticks, markers and small slips of paper.

ATTENTION GETTER!

"What a Mess We Can Make of Things!"

For this activity you will need a large bag of popcorn, two empty bags or bowls, and two small dessert paper plates. Split your class up into two teams. Have them line up on one side of the room. Set the two bags or bowls at the other end of the room. Set one opposite each team. Set the large bag of popcorn between them. The object of the game will be to get the most popcorn into the two bags or bowls at the other end of the classroom.

Give each team a small, dessert-sized paper plate. The teams will each dip their plate into the bag of popcorn and transport the popcorn across the room and dump it into the bag or bowl with spilling as little as possible. The child going will then race back to their team and hand the plate to the next person who will go. If the children are older, you may want to turn the plate upside down before putting the popcorn on in order to make it more challenging.

After everyone has a chance to carry, check to see who has the fullest bag and declare a winner. You may also want to declare a winner for the "least messiest." Have all of the children gather around and introduce today's lesson. We will see today that God asks Job about 70 questions. He cannot answer any of them. Job learns some valuable lessons about how we can sometimes make a mess of things when we try to be smart in our own eyes. Just like the popcorn got everywhere we can learn that we are never perfect. Only God is perfect. God is wiser than man.

LESSON TIME!

In law cases taken to court, the prosecutor will speak, then the defense speaks, and then the judge has the final word. In a sense, this is what happened in the book of Job. Job's friends have spoken, Job has spoken, and now the great and awesome Judge of the Universe will speak forth the truth. Job had boldly spoken to the Lord, as we often do; yet when God spoke, Job had no defense—he was silent before God. What was it that God said that left righteous Job speechless? Let's find out. God is wiser than man.

JOB 38:1-3
Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

"Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge?

Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me.

Each one of Job's friends had given counsel. Now the Lord God, Himself, answers Job. We can be sure His judgment is always according to truth, above man's ways. God is able to show us where we fall short, turn us away from sin, and "bring forth our righteousness as the light and our justice as the noonday" (Psalm 37:6).

How did God speak to Job? He spoke out of the whirlwind. What a mighty voice God has, that He can speak in the midst of a storm and His voice is perfectly heard. It would be good for us to remember that in the middle of whatever storm or trial we are in, God's voice can be heard over the storm.

God begins with a question, "Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge?" Job did not understand the reasons for his circumstances or the ways of God, yet he had made many assertions, accusations, and even demands. God spoke to convict Job of his sin first and to justify Job from the accusations of his friends. God knew that Job was yearning to hear from Him. Do you desire to hear from God? Are you ready to listen as He speaks?

God then instructs Job to stand up and be ready now to give some answers to His questions.

JOB 38:4-11
"Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! or who stretched the line upon it?

To what were its foundations fastened? or who laid its cornerstone,

When the morning stars sang together, and all the sons of God shouted for joy?

"Or who shut in the sea with doors, When it burst forth and issued from the womb;

When I made the clouds its garment, and thick darkness its swaddling band;

When I fixed My limit for it, and set bars and doors;

When I said, 'This far you may come, but no farther, And here your proud waves must stop!'"

God reminded Job of His omnipotence and wisdom compared to Job's weakness and limited understanding. Did Job assist in creating the world? God continued to ask Job many questions: How did the world become so perfectly framed, so exact and with perfect proportions? Who can determine the circumference and diameter? Who can determine the lines that are drawn on the globe? How is it so firmly fixed? It is hung upon nothing, yet it cannot be moved, nor does it sink from its own weight? Who laid the cornerstones so that the parts of it do not fall down? Can Job repeat the praises that were sung at creation? They responded at the glory of God, the creator of the entire world. Who commanded the waters that fled at God's rebuke? God manages the raging sea in spite of its strong tide and waves. He handles it just as a mother does the child in swaddling clothes. It says He made the clouds and thick darkness to hold it. He had a specific place for the sea, just as He does for each of us, and a determined plan for us. In verse 11, we see God's power over the sea. As mighty as the sea is, God has it under control. God is wiser than man.

God did not ask us for advice when He created the world. It's a good thing! With our limited understanding and wisdom, we would have made quite a mess.

Now, God will ask six more questions:

JOB 38:12-24
"Have you commanded the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place,

That it might take hold of the ends of the earth, and the wicked be shaken out of it?

It takes on form like clay under a seal, and stands out like a garment.

From the wicked their light is withheld, and the upraised arm is broken.

"Have you entered the springs of the sea? or have you walked in search of the depths?

Have the gates of death been revealed to you? or have you seen the doors of the shadow of death?

Have you comprehended the breadth of the earth? Tell Me, if you know all this.

"Where is the way to the dwelling of light? And darkness, where is its place,

That you may take it to its territory, that you may know the paths to its home?

Do you know it, because you were born then, Or because the number of your days is great?

"Have you entered the treasury of snow, or have you seen the treasury of hail,

Which I have reserved for the time of trouble, for the day of battle and war?

By what way is light diffused, or the east wind scattered over the earth?

Here, we see that God gives Job six more questions. God asks him if he commanded the morning and caused the dawn to know its place? We did not create the regularity of day and night. It is God's glorious work of creation. There is nothing that man can do to change the rising or the setting of the sun.

The morning light is a joy to the righteous, but the evil does not love the light. God sees that, and makes the light a "minister of his justice as well as of his mercy." Imagine a large tablecloth that you take and shake to get rid of crumbs. God said the light is designed to "shake the wicked out of the earth." God says the light is withheld from the wicked; they lose their comforts and their high arm is broken. God will break their pride and evil intentions.

God asks Job if he knows what lies at the bottom of the sea. Have the gates of death been open to him? Death is a great secret held by God. We need to be sure we are facing the gates of heaven when the gates of death open to us, then we need not fear death. Did Job know the breadth of the earth? Could he comprehend it and describe it to God? If we cannot describe the breadth of the earth, do we dare try to tell God what is right?

God challenges Job to describe how light and darkness were first made. God ordered and designed the light and darkness, and we cannot change it. We see morning come, then the darkness, which is then ushered away by the morning. The might and majesty of God come into play here. God tells us that in the clouds the snow and hail are generated. God is in control of them to disperse them as He desires. We can see what vanity or foolishness it is to strive against God. God is wiser than man.

Sun Catcher

God told Job to consider light and how it declares His glory. How has God shown His glory to you? We will make a sun catcher to help us to remember how God has shown His glory in our lives. You will need a "Sun Catcher" template for each child, colored pencils or crayons, a hole punch, ribbon, cotton balls, and cooking oil. Refer to the directions on the templates to make the sun catchers. After making them, the children can hang them in their windows. They will give the appearance of stained glass.

JOB 38:25-41
"Who has divided a channel for the overflowing water, or a path for the thunderbolt,

To cause it to rain on a land where there is no one, a wilderness in which there is no man;

To satisfy the desolate waste, and cause to spring forth the growth of tender grass?

Has the rain a father? Or who has begotten the drops of dew?

From whose womb comes the ice? And the frost of heaven, who gives it birth?

The waters harden like stone, and the surface of the deep is frozen.

"Can you bind the cluster of the Pleiades, or loose the belt of Orion?

Can you bring out Mazzaroth in its season? Or can you guide the Great Bear with its cubs?

Do you know the ordinances of the heavens? Can you set their dominion over the earth?

"Can you lift up your voice to the clouds, that an abundance of water may cover you?

Can you send out lightnings, that they may go, and say to you, 'Here we are!'?

Who has put wisdom in the mind? Or who has given understanding to the heart?

Who can number the clouds by wisdom? Or who can pour out the bottles of heaven,

When the dust hardens in clumps, and the clods cling together?

"Can you hunt the prey for the lion, Or satisfy the appetite of the young lions,

When they crouch in their dens, Or lurk in their lairs to lie in wait?

Who provides food for the raven, When its young ones cry to God, And wander about for lack of food?"

God has been revealing to Job his ignorance and lack of understanding. Now God focuses on the weakness and helplessness of man. God commands the thunder, lightning, rain, and more at His command. God has control over the direction of the waters; He directs where the rain will fall. Because He has control over the rain, He does not neglect the wilderness, the desert land. God is in control of every little thing, even the smallest rain shower.

Can man control or command the rain? We can pray to God for rain, and He may answer; but, we cannot command the clouds to let loose the rain. We cannot send the lightening anywhere in the sky, but God can. God has the stars of heaven under His command; they are not under our command. In our weakness, we cannot change their course, where they stay, or anything. Could Job keep the great constellation, Orion, in place, or cause it to move? No. Only God controls the heavens.

When we consider God's strength and wisdom, man indeed is weak and helpless. God is the author and giver, the father of all wisdom and understanding. We have no wisdom in ourselves. We could never number the clouds with our wisdom. Can we stop the rain from falling? How foolish we would be to think we could, in any situation, make a wiser decision or evaluation than God. It is wise for us to come into submission and yield to His wisdom.

It is God who provides food for the animals. Have you ever cared for the lions? Probably not, yet they continue to live in the all sufficiency of God's provision. God provides for even the ravens. Men only take care of the things they like and want to care for, usually whatever brings them pleasure, but God takes care of all His creation. God is wiser than man.

JOB 39:1-12
"Do you know the time when the wild mountain goats bear young? Or can you mark when the deer gives birth?

Can you number the months that they fulfill? Or do you know the time when they bear young?

They bow down, they bring forth their young, they deliver their offspring.

Their young ones are healthy, they grow strong with grain; They depart and do not return to them.

"Who set the wild donkey free? Who loosed the bonds of the onager,

Whose home I have made the wilderness, and the barren land his dwelling?

He scorns the tumult of the city; He does not heed the shouts of the driver.

The range of the mountains is his pasture, and he searches after every green thing.

"Will the wild ox be willing to serve you? Will he bed by your manger?

Can you bind the wild ox in the furrow with ropes? Or will he plow the valleys behind you?

Will you trust him because his strength is great? Or will you leave your labor to him?

Will you trust him to bring home your grain, and gather it to your threshing floor?"

God continues with His questioning; and in the process, He further reveals His omnipotence and Job's weakness. God knows when animals have their babies and has placed within them the instinct to care for their young. God cares for all His creation, man and creatures.

God speaks of His care for the wild donkey, which is free to roam in his home in the wilderness and the salt land. The wild ox is able to serve, but not willing to serve, and God challenges Job to force him if he is able. God created these animals with His purposes in mind. Some are wild, and others able to be tamed by man for labor.

JOB 39:13-18
"The wings of the ostrich wave proudly, but are her wings and pinions like the kindly stork's?

For she leaves her eggs on the ground, and warms them in the dust;

She forgets that a foot may crush them, or that a wild beast may break them.

She treats her young harshly, as though they were not hers; Her labor is in vain, without concern,

Because God deprived her of wisdom, and did not endow her with understanding.

When she lifts herself on high, she scorns the horse and its rider.

God asks Job if it was he who gave the beautiful wings to the peacock who walks in a great deal of pride. The ostrich is also beautiful, but a foolish bird. (Note: Wisdom does not always go with outward beauty.) The ostrich is careless in her care of her babies. She does not hide the eggs in a nest, but leaves them on the ground to be trampled on. We see she lacks natural affection, yet God cares for them by warming them by the sand and the sun. She labors in vain, because she does not care for what comes of her

labor. God denies her wisdom and understanding. Though she leaves her babies in danger, she is quite fast to flee from danger when threatened, so fast that the horseman cannot reach her. God is wiser than man.

JOB 39:19-30
"Have you given the horse strength? Have you clothed his neck with thunder?

Can you frighten him like a locust? His majestic snorting strikes terror.

He paws in the valley, and rejoices in his strength; He gallops into the clash of arms.

He mocks at fear, and is not frightened; nor does he turn back from the sword.

The quiver rattles against him, the glittering spear and javelin.

He devours the distance with fierceness and rage; Nor does he come to a halt because the trumpet has sounded.

At the blast of the trumpet he says, 'Aha!' He smells the battle from afar, the thunder of captains and shouting.

"Does the hawk fly by your wisdom, and spread its wings toward the south?

Does the eagle mount up at your command, and make its nest on high?

On the rocks it dwells and resides, on the crag of the rock and the stronghold.

From there it spies out the prey; its eyes observe from afar.

Its young ones suck up blood; and where the slain are, there it is."

God talks about the great strength of the horse. Though man uses the strength of the horse, it was God who gave it strength, and beauty as well. Was it Job who made the horse to leap, or made him so majestic? Where did the horse's courage and fierceness in battle come from?

Next, God shows how the birds are proofs of His wonderful power and beauty. God chooses two birds, the hawk, a bird of prey, and the eagle, a royal bird, yet also a bird of prey. God points out the strength, swiftness, and direction of her flight, towards the south, when the weather becomes cold. It is God who has given this wisdom to the birds, not man. God points out the height of the eagle's flight, for no bird flies higher than the eagle. She, unlike the ostrich, makes her nest in high, inaccessible places. As we look at the magnificence of these few animals, we can see the glory and wisdom of God in creation. God is wiser than man.

JOB 40:1-5
Moreover the LORD answered Job, and said:

"Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? He who rebukes God, let him answer it."

Then Job answered the LORD and said:

"Behold, I am vile; What shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth.

Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; Yes, twice, but I will proceed no further."

Now God asks Job a summary question; “Shall he who would find fault with the Almighty contend with Him? He who disputes with God, let him answer it.” It is the height of foolishness to try to argue with the Almighty God and give Him instruction.

Job could not answer, for he knew he was wrong. Job’s encounter with God brought Job to a realization of his own spiritual poverty. He confessed his pride and sin. In an attitude of true repentance, he declared, I lay my hand over my mouth. Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; yes, twice, but I will proceed no further."

JOB 40:6-14
Then the LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

"Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me:

"Would you indeed annul My judgment? Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?

Have you an arm like God? Or can you thunder with a voice like His?

Then adorn yourself with majesty and splendor, and array yourself with glory and beauty.

Disperse the rage of your wrath; Look on everyone who is proud, and humble him.

Look on everyone who is proud, and bring him low; Tread down the wicked in their place.

Hide them in the dust together, Bind their faces in hidden darkness.

Then I will also confess to you that your own right hand can save you.

Again, God questions Job out of the whirlwind, challenging Job to "prepare yourself like a man." God asks Job if he will set aside and render void God's judgment. Would he condemn his God so Job may appear righteous and justified? We must remember that God's judgment is always true.

A proud person will not acknowledge their sin, condemns God, and tries to make themselves look good to others. What foolishness! God is righteous and just. Man is sinful and hopeless apart from the salvation God offers through Jesus Christ. God is a consuming fire; all of man's forces against God are nothing.

God's arm is strong, strong enough to save all of mankind. Can you do that? All power and strength come from God. We can do nothing without Him.

The amplified version of verse 10 reads, "Since you question the manner of the Almighty's rule, deck yourself with excellency and dignity of the supreme Ruler, and yourself undertake the government of the world, if you are so wise, and array yourself with honor and majesty" (Amplified Bible). Matthew Henry comments, "God decks Himself with such majesty and glory as are the terror of devils and all the powers of darkness and make them tremble; He arrays himself with such glory and beauty as are the wonders of angels all the saints in light and make them rejoice."

God humbles the proud. As Nebuchadnezzar acknowledged, “Those that walk in pride, he is able to abase” (Daniel 4:37). God wants man to know that He alone has the power to save them from sin and its consequences. In Psalm 22:29, we read, “All [they that be] fat upon earth shall eat and worship: all they that go down to the dust shall bow before him: and none can keep alive his own soul.” God is wiser than man.

JOB 40:15-24
"Look now at the behemoth, which I made along with you; He eats grass like an ox.

See now, his strength is in his hips, And his power is in his stomach muscles.

He moves his tail like a cedar; The sinews of his thighs are tightly knit.

His bones are like beams of bronze, His ribs like bars of iron.

He is the first of the ways of God; Only He who made him can bring near His sword.

Surely the mountains yield food for him, And all the beasts of the field play there.

He lies under the lotus trees, In a covert of reeds and marsh.

The lotus trees cover him with their shade; The willows by the brook surround him.

Indeed the river may rage, Yet he is not disturbed; He is confident, though the Jordan gushes into his mouth,

Though he takes it in his eyes, Or one pierces his nose with a snare.

God concludes his discussion on the magnificence of His creation with a mighty animal, the behemoth. Behemoth signifies "beasts" in general, but is thought to be perhaps a hippopotamus, elephant, or, perhaps, a dinosaur (extinct today). He is strong and well built, and his bones are like bars of iron compared to other animals. He moves his tail like a cedar tree, and the tendons of his thighs are twisted together like a rope. He lives by eating the grass and is first in magnitude and power of the work of God in animal life.

God provides him with sword-like tusks, and only God can master him. How is he fed? Not by man, but by the mountains that God created and where all the wild animals play. God also designed the trees to cover him and cool him. He drinks a great deal from the river, and if it "is violent and overflows, he does not tremble; he is confident though the Jordan River swells and rushes against his mouth."

As God responded to Job, His strength, wisdom, power, and glory are revealed and contrasted to the weakness and foolishness of man. How foolish that frail man would challenge God and His ways. It will only be to his hurt. How wise to submit ourselves completely to an all-powerful and all-knowing God who desires to save us from destruction and reveal His loving plan in our lives. God is wiser than man.

Forgotten Prayer Request

Job had prayed for a long time and felt like God was not answering Him. Have you ever prayed and felt like God was not answering your prayers? God heard all of Job's prayers and finally did answer him. He had not forgotten about him, nor was everything out of

control. God's ways are much higher than our ways. We can trust that God has everything under control and rest in His love, even though we do not understand our circumstances.

Using red construction paper, cut out two 6" x 8" heart shapes. Glue together the sides and bottom. Leave a slit at the top to place papers in later. On the outside of the heart, write out Romans 8:28, "...We know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."

Next give each child a small slip of paper. Have them write out a prayer request, perhaps something that maybe God has not seemed to answer in a long time. Do not have them write their names down (God knows). Pass the heart around and have them put the slip of paper into the heart. When everyone is done; ask if anyone would like to share. After a few have shared, you may want to share something. Next, pray together, as a class, that the Lord will answer all the requests in His timing. You may want to save these and pray specifically for your children during the week!

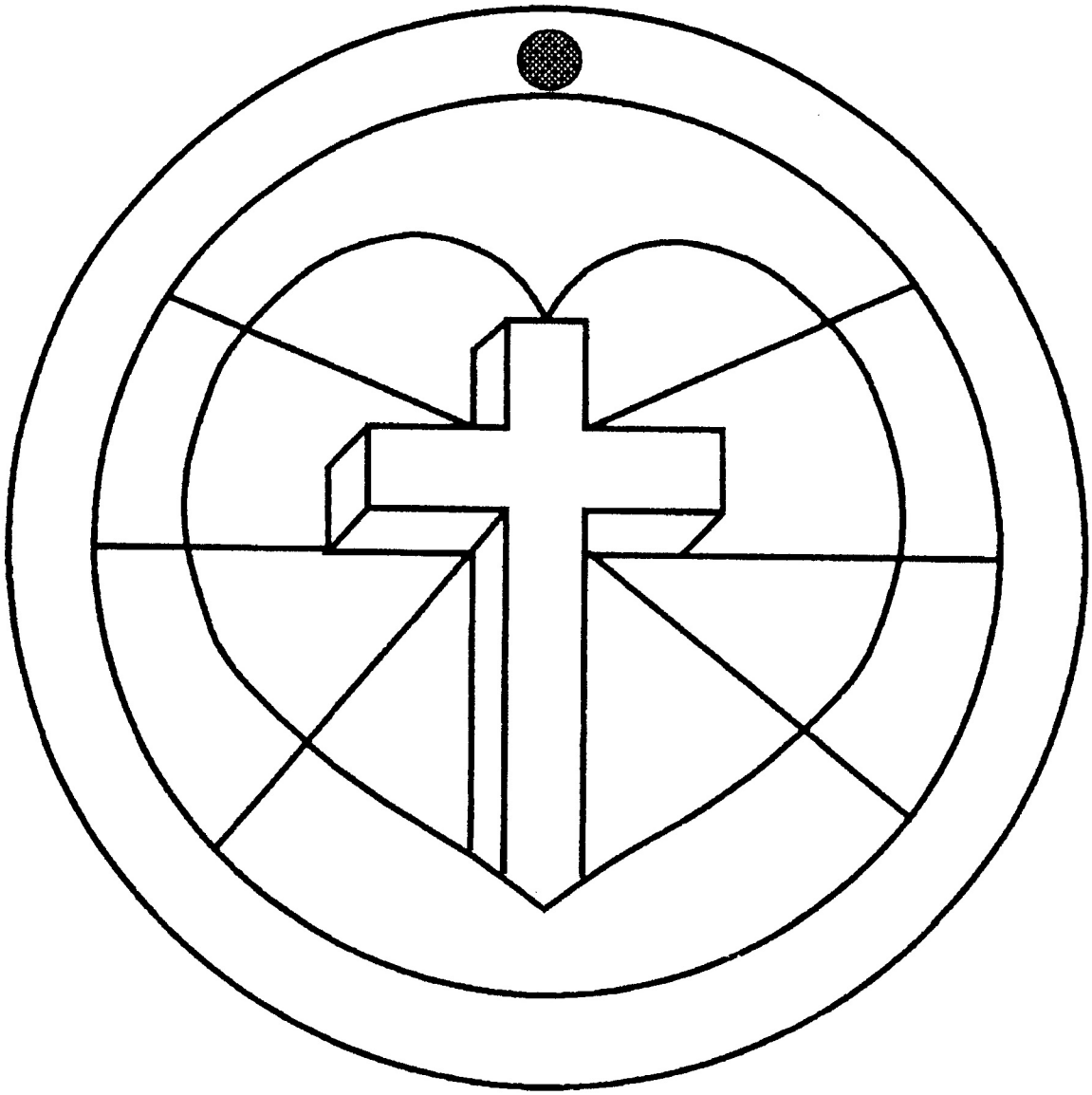
PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to trust the Lord and be patient as He works in our lives, even though we may not understand our circumstances. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

Template - Sun Catcher

SUN CATCHER INSTRUCTIONS:

- ✓ Make as many copies of this template as the number of children in your class.
- ✓ Using colored pencils or crayons to color the picture.
- ✓ In the blank spaces have the children write a way that God has shown His glory, or their favorite Bible verse.
- ✓ Cut out the circle shape and punch a hole for the hanger.
- ✓ Dip a cotton ball into cooking oil and lightly apply it on the sun catcher – this will make the paper more transparent.
- ✓ Attach a piece of ribbon or string for the holder.
- ✓ Hang it in a window to catch the sunlight.



THE LORD SPEAKS
(JOB 38:1-40:24)

MEMORY VERSE:

***"Shall the one who contends with the Almighty correct Him? "* JOB 40:2**

TRUE OR FALSE:

1. "The LORD answered Job out of the whirlwind." **JOB 38:1**

TRUE OR **FALSE**

CIRCLE THE CORRECT WORDS:

2. The LORD asked, "Who is this who darkens counsel by words (**WITH**, **WITHOUT**) knowledge." **JOB 38:2**

3. Again the LORD said, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the (**HOUSE**, **EARTH**)?" **JOB 38:4**

4. Then the LORD asked Job, "Have you (**COMMANDED**, **WATCHED**) the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place?" **JOB 38:12**

5. The LORD continued, "Can you lift up your voice to the (**CLOUDS**, **CROWDS**), that an abundance of water may cover you? Can you send out (**LIGHTS**, **LIGHTNINGS**), that they may go, and say to you, 'Here we are!'? " **JOB 38:34-35**

6. The LORD asked, "Does the (**EAGLE**, **BEAGLE**) mount up at your command, and make its nest on high?" **JOB 39:27**

"Then Job answered the LORD and said:
***'Behold, I am vile; what shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth.' "* JOB 40:3-4**

TRUE OR FALSE:

7. The LORD questioned Job, saying, "Would you condemn Me that you may be justified?" **JOB 40:8**

TRUE OR **FALSE**

FILL IN THE BLANKS:

8. Furthermore the LORD asked, "Have you an _____ like God?" **JOB 40:9**

9. The LORD said, "Then adorn _____ with majesty and splendor, and array _____ with glory and beauty." **JOB 40:10**

10. Finally the LORD said, "Then I will also confess to you that _____ _____ right hand can save you." **JOB 40:14**

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(JOB 38:1-40:24)

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THE LORD SPEAKS
(JOB 38:1-40:24)

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Who *is* this that darkeneth counsel by words without knowledge?"
JOB 38:1-2

THE LORD SPEAKS

(JOB 38:1-40:24)

C L O U D S N Q W U Y F Q D A
J Y W F S B C N L N H B N D D
O D S F O G V Y W U L E I W Y
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P O A O D R M Y K L D W A H M
I J E C V E M K E A G L E P W

ALMIGHTY
ARM
CLOUDS
CONTENDS
EAGLE
EARTH
FOUNDATIONS
JOB
JUSTIFIED
LIGHTNINGS
LORD
MORNING
MOUTH
SAVE
VILE
WHIRLWIND

THE LORD SPEAKS

(JOB 38:1-40:24)

B R B I E B V M T D G S I Q B B I D N Q
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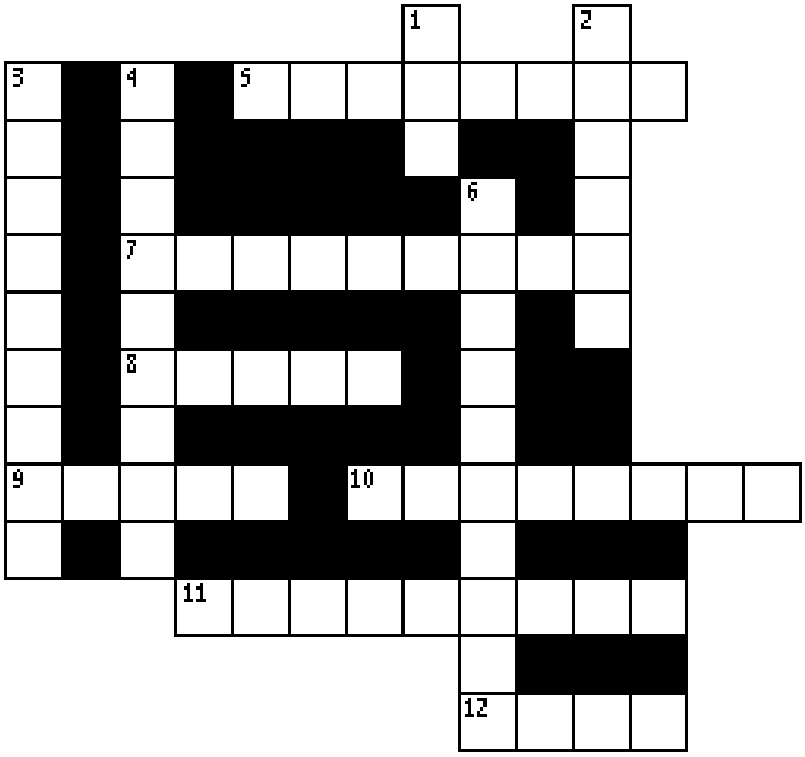
B I I E F C E V Q A Q H P E A D V H V H

ALMIGHTY
ARM
CLOUDS
CONTENDS
EAGLE
EARTH
FOUNDATIONS
JOB
JUSTIFIED
LIGHTNINGS
LORD
MORNING
MOUTH
SAVE
VILE
WHIRLWIND

THE LORD SPEAKS

(JOB 38:1-40:24)



7 ACROSS "The LORD answered Job out of the _____." **JOB 38:1**

4 DOWN The LORD asked, "Who is this who darkens counsel by words without _____." **JOB 38:2**

8 ACROSS Again the LORD said, "Where were you when I laid the foundations of the _____?" **JOB 38:4**

11 ACROSS Then the LORD asked Job, "Have you _____ the morning since your days began, and caused the dawn to know its place?" **JOB 38:12**

2 DOWN The LORD continued, "Can you lift up your voice to the _____, that an abundance of water may cover you?" **JOB 38:34**

6 DOWN Can you send out _____, that they may go, and say to you, 'Here we are!'? " **JOB 38:35**

9 ACROSS The LORD asked, "Does the _____ mount up at your command, and make its nest on high?" **JOB 39:27**

10 ACROSS "Shall the one who _____ with the Almighty correct Him? " **JOB 40:2**

3 DOWN The LORD questioned Job, saying, "Would you condemn Me that you may be _____?" **JOB 40:8**

1 DOWN Furthermore the LORD asked, "Have you an _____ like God?" **JOB 40:9**

5 ACROSS The LORD said, "Then adorn _____ with majesty and splendor, and array yourself with glory and beauty." **JOB 40:10**

12 ACROSS The LORD said, "Then I will also confess to you that your own right hand can _____ you." **JOB 40:14**