

**Gathering Question:** Share with your group a time in your life when your world seemed to fall apart. Do you remember some of the things you thought about and the emotions you experienced?

## Surviving Satan's Attacks

On the morning of April 18, 1906, the San Andreas fault settled violently, and San Francisco suffered a horrendous earthquake. Huge cracks opened up in the ground and buildings shuttered and some of them fell. Fire swept through the city, leaving it virtually destroyed and in ruins. Thousand of people who went to bed the night before and peacefully slept awoke to a world that had fallen apart around them, before their very eyes.

If the Richter scale could have measured the personal tragedy that Job's "earthquake" caused it would have literally been off the scale. In one day Job lost everything he owned and almost everything he held dear. Because of what Job endured and the way he endured it, his name has become synonymous with suffering, hardship, and patience. Even though Job's suffering was extreme, it was by no means unique. In one form or another, his story is being repeated and reenacted every day in a broken and fallen world.

Throughout the book, Job expresses his strong desire to talk with God and find out why all this has happened; "If only I knew where to find him; if only I could go to his dwelling! I would state my case before him and fill my mouth with arguments. I would find out what he would answer me, and consider what he would say." (23:3-5) Yet, when God finally does speak, he never tells Job the reason for his suffering! Incredibly frustrating, is it not?

The bottom line of suffering is not to know the answers to all the questions and to understand why. It is to know that God is in control and that he loves us and will take care of us no matter what.

**Read:** Job 1, 2

**Reflect:**

1. Why do you think we are allowed to hear the conversation between Satan and God at the beginning of this book? This conversation is not revealed to Job and his friends. If it were would it have made a difference to them?
2. The name "Satan" means accuser. In what ways is Satan an accuser in the first two chapters of Job?
3. Have you ever wanted to storm the gates of heaven to ask God for an explanation for the pain you are experiencing in your life? Why is this desire so strong within us?
4. Based on these two chapters, how does Satan use suffering and tragedy to tempt us to sin?