

Job and Disability



Getting started:

Have a think about movies you've seen and experiences from real life.

Do you think that we relate to people with disabilities with pity, fear, shame or disgust?

What stands behind these different attitudes?

Job and People with Disabilities

Read over Job 29. Draw a map of how Job's society was organised. Where did people with disabilities fit?

Now read over Job 30:1-15. What can you add to your map?

God's Vision of the Cosmos

Read over Job 38 and 39 and try to draw the world as God sees it.

What do you notice about the place of people in the description?

Do you think that the weird and wonderful animals have anything to teach us about human society?

The Job at the end of the book

Read Job 42.

Job 42:6 is hard to translate. One issue is that 'repent' and 'comfort' is the same word in Hebrew. Another issue is that dust and ashes can symbolise repentance or mourning.

What do you think of these ideas?

- I despise myself and repent in dust and ashes.
- I withdraw my case and change my mind about the need for mourning in dust and ashes
- I melt down in worship and am comforted even though I'm still in dust and ashes.

Make a diagram of how Job relates to people in the final chapter of the book. How would you describe him?

What evidence can you see of mutuality?

What evidence can you see of play?

Your life

Draw a diagram showing where people with disabilities fit in your life.

When you are with people with disabilities, do you express mutuality and play?