

Seminar

When Weakness Comes



Abigail Richardson

What are the goals of this seminar?

- To discuss our frailty and weakness in illness
- To consider the work of God in us and through us in illness
- How prayer and the word of God can help us in illness
- What happens when the carer gets sick
- How you can help others in periods of illness

What impact has illness had on your life?



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What sickness does

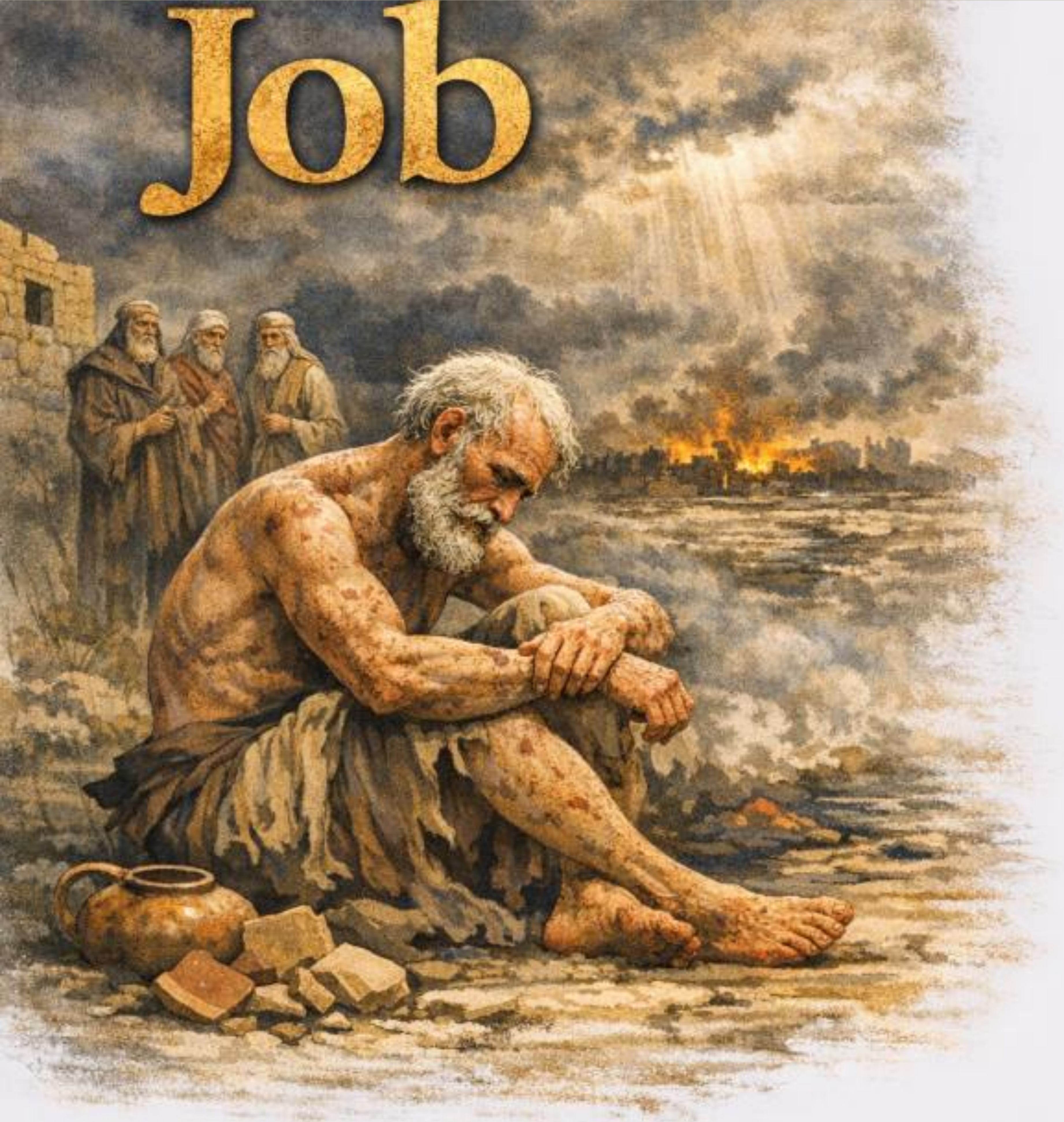
- Reveals our weakness and frailty
- Impact social interactions
- Friendships
- Relationships (spouse and children, wider family marked/impacted)
- Painful both physical and mental pain
- Highlights our fears
- Brings death more into view

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Group discussion

In what ways does illness affect our walk with the Lord and our knowledge of Him?

Job



The book of Job
(a quick overview)

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Looking for the cause of illness



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What is God doing in us and through us in illness?

- God is revealing in us our frailty and weakness
- Our need for God causes us to long for the return of Jesus
- Shows us what is in us
- Shows that we are finite
- Displays His strength in our weakness
2 Corinthians 12.9, Psalm 73.26, 2 Corinthians 1.9
- God is weaning us off this world
- God reveals His love for us
- He will never leave us

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What happens when the carer is sick?

- Share in the suffering
- "If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together" (1 Corinthians 12:26)
- "Carry each other's burdens, and in this way, you will fulfil the law of Christ" (Galatians 6:2)
- Romans 8.16-17

When the carer is sick (continued)

Practical implications

- Reduction in the number of counselling sessions
- Stopping sessions for a while
- Stopping sessions completely

How can you can help others in periods of illness?

- Pray
- Point to Jesus
- Read scripture to them and with them. Send them scriptures (Prayerfully consider what scriptures you may send/read)
- Offer practical means of support
- Take time to listen to them
- Be willing to stay for the journey and ask the Lord for help

How can you help others in periods of illness? (cont.)

- Find out a bit more about the condition wider reading can help, but be sure to ask the individual what is happening for them in their illness as it may be different from what you read
- Get to know the individual in their illness, offering help according to the needs of that person with guidance from the Lord
- Resources such as I'm praying for you- 40 days of praying the Bible for someone who is suffering by Nancy Guthrie
- Seek to deepen in your own relationship with God

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How prayer and the word of God can help us in periods of ill health

- Helps us to give voice to our concerns to the Lord
- Gives us opportunity to pour out our pain and our emotions to the Lord
- Scriptures such as Psalm 88, Psalm 22, Job 3, Psalm 13, Psalm 131 give voice to the pain and distress of Job and the Psalmist
- Prayer and the reading and studying of the Bible helps us to acknowledge our need and dependence on God

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How prayer and the word of God can help us in periods of ill health (continued)

- Furthers our trust in the Lord
- Helps us in acknowledging the only one who can do something about our pain
- We are helped, encouraged, reminded, strengthen, challenged
- Lamentations.3.22, Hebrews, Psalm 94.14. Reminds us of the Lord constant love and faithfulness to His people

When weakness comes



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Jesus loves me, this I know

Jesus loves me, this I know

For the Bible tells me so

Little ones to him belong

They are weak, but he is strong

Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!

Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so

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Jesus loves me - loves me still
Though I am very weak and ill
From his shining throne on high
Comes to watch me where I lie

Jesus loves me he who died
Heaven's gate to open wide
He will wash away my sin
Let his little child come in

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Jesus loves me - he will stay
Close beside me all the way
Then his little child will take
Up to heaven for his dear sake

*Yes, Jesus loves me! Yes, Jesus loves me!
Yes, Jesus loves me! The Bible tells me so*

Original written by Anna Bartlett Warner (1860) with tune added by William Batchelder Bradbury (1862)

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