

# The God Who Does Not Fit in a Box, Jan. 15 to 18, 2026

## WHY LEARNING COMMUNITIES? *Circle Two Opportunity...*

To become better and better disciples of Christ TOGETHER so we can face **anything** through...

1. Deeper learning of Biblical truth and 2. Stronger “iron sharpening iron” relationships

**Ephesians 4:12–16 (ESV)**

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## Check-in on logistics of Bible Recap

How it is going so far... struggles... suggestions... tips for other people...

## Review from Sunday

- ➔ “His-Story” – constantly reminder that it is the basis for understanding the Bible
- ➔ God is the Revealer - He communicates His agenda each time we read the Bible
- ➔ We must focus on what we *can* know not what we can’t. There is MUCH of God’s Story that is not recorded, and SO many details that He intentionally left out by His purposes. Scholars often make the mistake of speculating and extrapolating what *might* have been and miss God’s point
- ➔ “His-Story” is often initially unclear and filled with spiritual ambushes
- ➔ If we are ignorant of the Bible, we will not be prepared to play when our number is called
- ➔ Weird moments in “His-Story” point to important elements
- ➔ “His-Story” always points to Jesus as the real Hero and to His Messiah sending plan

## Insights and Questions?

### Sunday Scriptures

Gen. 9:18-28 – after the flood Noah and Ham

Job 1-2, Divine Council, God’s sovereignty

Job 3-37, Debate about God’s ways and man’s responsibility

Job 38-42, God’s Truth and resolutions

**Chronological Guide:** “The Book of Job” p. 112 – “Sheol for All the Dead” p.114

Job's "Friends" Summary  
*"I have heard many such things; miserable comforters are you all" (16:2)*

| Job's "Friends"*                | Cycle 1   | Cycle 2   | Cycle 3  |
|---------------------------------|---|---|--|
| Eliphaz - "Mystic" (4:12-16)    | Wrongly applies biblical principles: you reap what you sow (4:8), children suffer because of their parent's sin (5:4); God disciplines his people (5:17). You will be blessed if you are redeemed (5:17 ff)   | Job is a lot of hot air (15:2), "Job drinks injustice like water" (15:16)   | Now Eliphaz is explicit, "Is not your evil abundant? There is no end to your iniquities." (22:5). Eliphaz is "gossiping" because Job is a righteous man. "Agree with God and be at peace" He is saying, "Get right Job; it's up to you." |
| Bildad - "Traditionalist" (8:8) | Your children died because of their sin (8:4). "God will not reject a blameless man." The logic is obvious; it is your fault (8:20)   | You do not accept our assessment and that amounts to thinking we are stupid (18:3). You are getting what you deserve; you reap what you sow (18:21)   | All men are guilty and, essentially, you are a maggot, a worm (25:1-6).  |
| Zophar - "Rationalist" (11:1-2) | Job deserves worse than he is getting (11:6). Shape up and it will get better.  | The wicked may prosper for a bit - but "the exulting of the wicked is short" (20:5) -- The wicked's portion from God is that their possessions will be carried away (20:29). Zophar gives much wisdom in this section but wrongly applies it to Job |  |
| Elihu                           | <p>I can hardly stand listening to you all. I'm about to explode waiting to talk (32:19). You are so "thick" you can't hear from God when he is speaking to you (33:13); God is showing you that you are wrong through your pain (33:19); He mocks Job by quoting his own words back to him (34:5-9) -- sets up a false dichotomy: either you admit Job deserved his suffering, or you say that God is doing wrong (34:10), you don't need a hearing before God (34:23) -- though I wish Job were on trial (34:36) -- Job is spouting out a lot of empty talk (35:16) -- Elihu makes a big deal out of how reverent he is -- He seems very sanctimonious!</p> <p>Ash believes that Elihu offers a legitimate critique. He contends that, whereas the other friends rebuked Job and said that he suffered because he sinned, Elihu rebukes Job for sinning amid his suffering. Ash's argument is somewhat persuasive. Could this be why God does not directly address Elihu? Perhaps, Elihu is preparing Job for God to intervene?</p> |   |  |

\*Credit to Pastor Charlie Boyd of [Fellowship Greenville](#) for the labels for Job's friends.

### Cultural phrases from Job

1. "By the skin of our teeth" Job 19:20, meaning to narrowly escape trouble
2. "Catch my breath" – Job 9:18
3. "Dying gasp" – Job 11:20 (NIV and some other translations)
4. "Gird up your loins" – Job 38:3 (meaning to prepare for a difficult task)
5. "Hard as rock" – Job 21:44
6. "Old as the hills" – Job 15:7
7. "Skin and bones" – Job 19:20, Psalm 102:5
8. "The Lord giveth and the Lord taketh away" – Job 1:21
9. "The patience of Job" – James 5:1
10. "The root of the trouble" – Job 19:28
11. "Woe is me" – Isaiah 6:5, Job 10:15

### Takeaways:

