

# The God Who Pursues Us, Jan. 8 to 11, 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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## Introduce/ Review Bible Recap and Q&A

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

## Gen. 1-11 big points of what we've read

*The beginning reveals God as the initiator*

*“His-Story”*

### Glance through each day's reading – what did you highlight, note, struggle with, etc?

Gen 1-2, God creates and partners

Gen 3, man rebels and God pursues

Gen. 4, Temptation flares, God warns and works

*“Sin will take you farther than you want to go, keep you longer than you want to stay, and cost you more than you want to pay.”*

Gen. 5, Adam to Noah – set up for God's next victory

Gen 6-9, 2<sup>nd</sup> rebellion and God's victory and ongoing plan through Noah

Genesis, Epoch 1 – Chronological Guide p. 3 bottom

## A resource on the interactions between Job and his friends

### 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 wickeds' 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.

## Takeaways: