

# JOB'S BLESSING



*Message:* God blesses us as we pray for others

*Scripture:* Job 42:10

There are 66 books in the Bible, and one of them – it's almost in the middle - is called the book of Job. Guess who it's about. It's about Job!

It tells us a lot about Job. It tells us he had 10 children. It tells us he was very rich. (You have to be if you have 10 children!) And it tells us he loved the Lord and obeyed Him.

Then something terrible happened. Satan took away just about everything Job had: his house, his children and everything he owned. The only thing he had left was his wife – and she used to nag him! Satan even caused Job to have awful sores all over his body. Job couldn't understand why God allowed all this to happen to him. It seemed so unfair. Job's friends gave their opinions, but they didn't know what they were talking about.

Finally, God stepped in and made things right again. But He didn't do it until Job did something very important. It tells us in chapter 42, verse 10: "After Job had prayed for his friends, the Lord made him prosper again and gave him twice as much as he had before." (NIV)

So God blessed Job after he prayed for his friends. You see, God blesses us when we pray for other people. When we pray for other people it shows that we're fulfilling the commandment to love our neighbor. Maybe we should see if that works in our lives. Maybe, when we say our prayers this week, we should pray for others before we pray for ourselves.

Let's pray right now: Father in heaven, there are lots of things we need and lots of things we want, but help us to remember to pray for the needs of other people before we pray for ourselves. Help us to be a blessing to others and to fulfill the commandment to love our neighbor. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

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