

The best is yet to come

The disconnected life is one we live apart from our true **identity**, **value** and **purpose** because we can only find them through our connection to God. The aim of **ABC** is to help people reconnect with God by showing them Jesus.



A Better Connection

Session **1** notes

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A Better Connection

Hopefully you have brought your completed *Give it 7 Days* with you to this session. It will be a useful tool for you to refer to on your journey to discover if reconnection is for you.

This sheet will help you as you prepare for session 2. Please complete it and bring it with *Give it 7 Days* next time.

If ever there was ever someone who had reason to take issue with God it was Job! He was a man who on the face of it had everything: health, a good reputation, a happy family life and a relationship with God. But do you recall how, one by one, all these things were taken away – he suffered the loss of bereavement, of possessions, of his standing in society and of his own health.

Do you remember what his wife told him? See what she said and his reply in Job 2:9–10 (NIV) and fill in the gaps:

‘His wife said to him, “Are you still holding on to your integrity?

_____ *God and die!” He replied, “You are talking like a foolish woman. Shall we accept good from God, and not*

_____ *?” In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.’*

Then some ‘friends’ came to sympathise with him but their comments were so unhelpful that he told them bluntly!

Fill in the gaps as you check what straight-talking Job had to say to them in Job 16:2–3:

“I have heard many things like these;

_____ *comforters are you all!*

Will your long-winded speeches never end?”

Hopefully you’ve not had as many tough experiences as Job, but in the end God restored him, even though he was very open and direct with the complaints he brought to God. All of Abraham, Moses and Job argued with God at various times – and Job wrestled with God. It seems that God can cope with this!

CIRCLE YOUR STRENGTH OF AGREEMENT WITH THESE STATEMENTS

(1 = least agree; 10 = most agree):

I HAVE SOMETIMES ARGUED WITH GOD

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

I HAVE SOMETIMES BEEN ANGRY WITH GOD

1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10

Paul tells us that God works good things out of bad circumstances as we trust Him (Romans 8:28).

CAN YOU THINK OF ANY GOOD THINGS THAT HAVE COME OUT OF HARD TIMES?

YES **NO** **UNSURE**

Listen to Job’s conclusion from The Message :

‘I’m convinced: You can do anything and everything. Nothing and no-one can upset your plans. You asked, “Who is this muddying the water, ignorantly confusing the issue, second-guessing my purposes?” I admit it. I was the one. I babbled on about things far beyond me, made small talk about wonders way over my head. You told me, “Listen, and let me do the talking. Let me ask the questions. You give the answer.” I admit I once lived by rumours of you; now I have it first hand – from my own eyes and ears! I’m sorry – forgive me. I’ll never do that again, I promise! I’ll never again live on crusts of hearsay, crumbs of rumour’ (Job 42).

IT’S TIME TO PLAY ‘THE OPPOSITES’ GAME – FILL IN THE GAPS!

My Problem!	His Response (God’s, that is!)
My sin	His <i>grace</i>
My hostility	His
My weakness	His
My pain	His
My smallness	His

God is your Father who loves you and has a party waiting for you!

- ‘... I am the Lord, who heals you’ (Exodus 15:26)
- ‘He will wipe every tear from their eyes. There will be no more death or mourning or crying or pain, for the old order of things has passed away. He who was seated on the throne said, “I am making everything new!”’ (Rev 21:4–5).

As you prepare for the next session, read Luke 15 and ask the Spirit of God to do His work deep within you.

See you next time – please bring this sheet and your *Give it 7 Days* booklet with you, or see free online version <http://connect4life.org.uk/disconnected/7-days>