

## Scripture Reading: Job 1:1, 2:1-10

*Job never saw why he suffered, but he saw God and that was enough.*  
—Timothy Keller

The names Allen Stanford, Sean Quinn, MC Hammer and Jordan Belfort may not be familiar to you. These people were once filthy rich, but lost it all because of greed, bad decisions, bad luck, foolish gambles or for other reasons.

Yet millions of people suffer loss every day *through no fault of their own*. Their worlds are turned upside down because of disease or death. When actor Liam Neeson's wife, Natasha, Richardson, died, he said on the television program *60 Minutes*, "It hits you. It's like a wave. You just get this profound feeling of instability. The Earth isn't stable anymore ... ."

The ancient patriarch Job was one of these innocent sufferers. The story of Job, told in part in the Scripture reading above, is one that speaks to all those who are suffering in mental or physical anguish. It's the story of an innocent, righteous person whose faith remains intact in spite of the unspeakable tragedy that afflicts him.

Not the least of Job's problems is that *God seems to be complicit* in the suffering. The Scripture reading above opens in heaven where God and Satan are having a conversation. God notes that his servant Job is "a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil" (2:3). But Satan says that anyone who has been blessed with riches and good health like Job would be careful not to bite the hand that feeds him. Then God (this is the hard part) allows Satan to test Job.

The test has two parts. Part A is in chapter 1 in which Job's worldly possessions — including cattle and sons and daughters — are destroyed. Part B is in chapter 2 in which Job is still grieving over the loss of his family and material wealth. Now Satan takes away Job's health and attacks his body with all manner of sores and disabilities. Job has been completely reduced, broken, humiliated. He's alive — but barely.

Yet, ignoring the advice of his wife and his friends, and laying aside his own doubts, Job did not abandon his faith in God, and in fact it was his faith that carried him through those terrible times. He had no way of knowing that his steadfast faith would ultimately be rewarded.

—Timothy Merrill

*Prayer: O God, help me when I suffer in body and soul to cling to you as my rock and my refuge. Amen.*

*Blessings on World Communion Sunday!*  
*Lisa & Pastor Ben Motz*  
*Steven, Sara, & Ethan*

**Daily Bible Readings**

**Sunday:** 1 Corinthians 1-5

**Monday:** Ezekiel 22-28

**Tuesday:** Ezekiel 29-35

**Wednesday:** Ezekiel 36-41

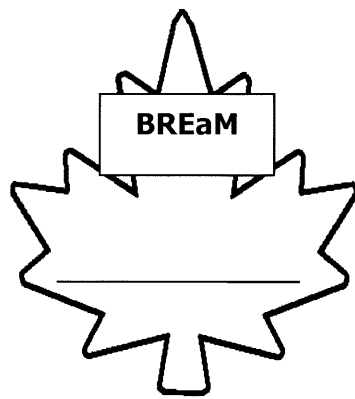
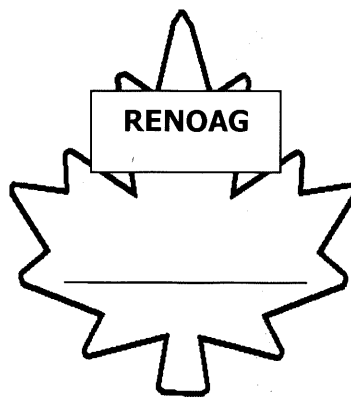

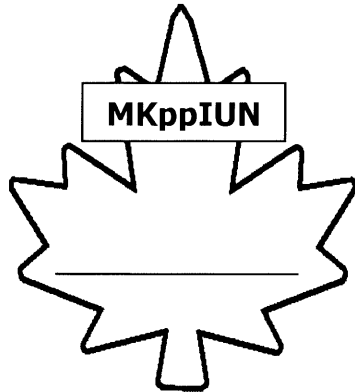
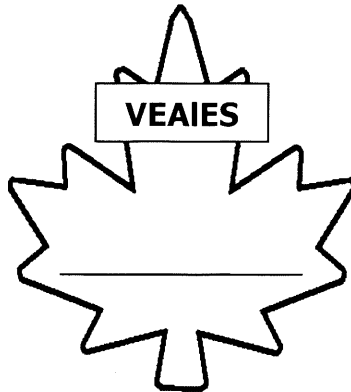
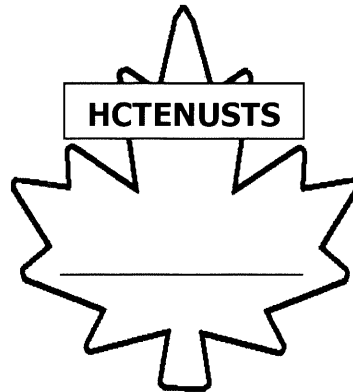
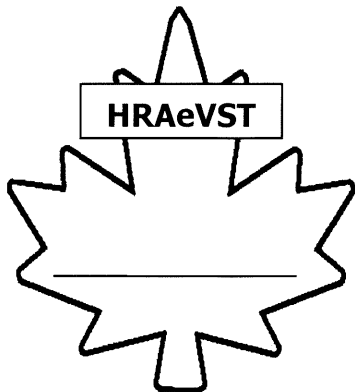
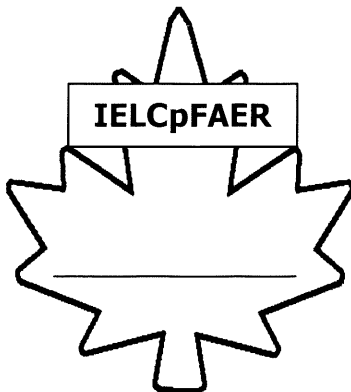
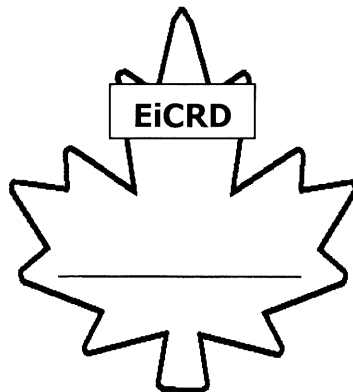
**Thursday:** Ezekiel 42-48

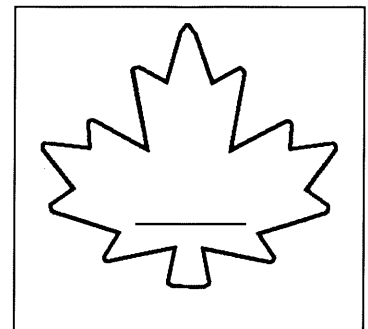
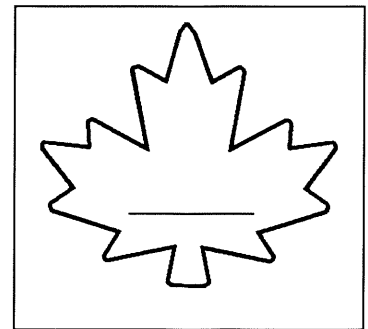
**Friday:** Daniel 1-6

**Saturday:** Psalms 109-113

**FALL FUN!**

Unscramble the letters in each leaf below and write the word on the line provided. Each word is appropriate for the fall season. Notice the lowercase letters in the leaves. Unscramble these eight letters to form **two words** that reveal an American favorite, and write in the empty leaves below.



**SOLUTION:** BREAM=amber;  
 RENOAG=orange;  
 AFLLeNN=flannel;  
 MKppIUN=pumpkin;  
 VEALES=leaves;  
 HCTENUSTS=chestnuts;  
 HRAEVST=harvest;  
 IELCPFAER=fireplace;  
 EiCRD=cider.  
**SECRET WORDS:** apple pie.

**October 3, 2021, is World Communion Sunday**