

# **False Charges**

#### What's It All About?

"Just tell the truth, serve detention, and be done with it. You don't want to be kicked off the team, do you?" Jake asked.

William listened to his friend and Quiz Bowl partner. "But I'm innocent. I didn't take Mr. Miller's stopwatch. Besides, he already dropped me," William said. His face felt hot with shame as he remembered sitting in Principal Ware's office with Mr. Miller standing over him. Nobody had ever accused William of stealing.

"William was the last student to leave my room. Later, I couldn't find my stopwatch. William must have taken it. I want him off the Quiz Bowl team," Mr. Miller said angrily.

William looked sadly at his friend. "Jake, of all people, you and my parents should believe me. Dad grounded me; other team members ignore me. It isn't fair. I didn't take that old stopwatch."

In the next few weeks, none of William's friends contacted him, he missed the district Quiz Bowl, and every day his dad asked for his confession.

One night William prayed, "Dear God, You know I didn't do anything wrong. But, no one believes me. Why are You letting this happen? But no matter what happens, I still love You."

Several weeks later, William got called into Principal Ware's office. William's stomach tightened when he saw his dad there, too. "Please sit down," Mr. Miller said.

"William, I found the stopwatch. It was underneath some papers. I'm sorry that I falsely accused you," Mr. Miller said. "You've always been honorable. I jumped to the wrong conclusions. I've explained everything to the team and your dad. We want you to lead us as Team Captain when we go to State. Will you?"

How would you react if you were William? How did God use an unpleasant situation for William's good? What might have Mr. Miller and William's dad learned?



## **Learning From God**

Job was upright, feared God, and avoided evil (Job 1:8). Even after suffering the loss of his children and harvest, Job didn't sin. He didn't blame God. The rest of the book of Job describes what happened when Satan tested Job with suffering. Job cried out and even complained to God, but he never turned his back on Him. Friends came to comfort him, but then they ended up confronting him. Bildad, a friend of Job, implied that Job or his children must have deserved punishment from God.

Job 8:1–10, 20–22, NIV—Then Bildad the Shuhite replied: 2 "How long will you say such things? Your words are a blustering wind. 3 Does God pervert

justice? Does the Almighty pervert what is right? 4 When your children sinned against him, he gave them over to the penalty of their sin. 5 But if you will seek God earnestly and plead with the Almighty, 6 if you are pure and upright, even now he will rouse himself on your behalf and restore you to your prosperous state. 7 Your beginnings will seem humble, so prosperous will your future be. 8 "Ask the former generation and find out what their ancestors learned, 9 for we were born only yesterday and know nothing, and our days on earth are but a shadow. 10 Will they not instruct you and tell you? Will they not bring forth words from their understanding? 20 "Surely God does not reject one who is blameless or strengthen the hands of evildoers. 21 He will yet fill your mouth with laughter and your lips with shouts of joy. 22 Your enemies will be clothed in shame, and the tents of the wicked will be no more."

#### What I Have Learned

Complete the statements.

- 1. Job's friend named \_\_\_\_\_\_spoke to Job. (v. 1)
- 2. He questioned if Job's \_\_\_\_\_\_sinned. (v. 4)
- 3. He wondered if Job was really \_\_\_\_\_ and upright. (v. 6)
- 4. Bildad wanted Job to think about the teaching of people in the \_\_\_\_\_ age. (v. 8)
- 5. He said \_\_\_\_\_\_ would not cast off a perfect man nor help an evil man. (v. 20)

In your own words, explain what Bildad told Job.

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## **Keep In Mind**

"Then Bildad the Shuhite replied:
'How long will you say such things?
Your words are a blustering wind'"
(Job 8:1–2, NIV).

## **Choosing What's Best**

Think about Job and Bildad in today's Scripture. Fill in the table. Then, do the same for William and Jake.

What Job needed	What Bildad offered		
What William needed	What Jake and Dad offered		

Do you think Bildad, Jake, and Dad aimed to accuse? Why might they have reacted the way they did?

How might these examples help you when you advise people?

### **Doing My Part**

Job's faith was in God. Faith comes from purposefully drawing close to God. You can do that by reading the Bible and praying daily. What do these Psalms say about trusting God?

Psalm 30:2, 4–5: \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 37:3–5: \_\_\_\_\_

Psalm 40:1–3: