



THE STORY OF JOB

JOB 1-42

GOAL

- ▶ To teach children that God is bigger than our problems. God is sovereign so He does not have to answer for the things He does or does not do, but He is also good so we can trust Him with everything that happens in our life.
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GOSPEL HIGHLIGHT

- ▶ As Job endures his suffering, he speaks of a Redeemer in Job 19:25-27 who could restore back to him all that had been lost. The redeemer Job spoke of is Jesus who gave His life to save us from sin, death and suffering. Jesus says it like this in Mark 10:45, "the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give His life as a ransom for many."
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CHARACTERS

- ▶ **Job:** Job was a good man who shunned evil (Job 1:1), had a large family, and was very wealthy. But he also endured terrible suffering and loss. Through it all, Job remained faithful to God.

Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar and Elihu: These were Job's four friends who were certain that Job was being punished for his sins. They pretended to offer Job comfort, but ultimately they accused him of sinfulness that was deserving of God's judgement.

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WORDS TO KNOW

- ▶ **Suffering:** The experience of physical pain and/or mental anguish. Job is often remembered as a man who endured terrible suffering and yet kept his faith.

Sovereignty: The absolute right of God to do all things according to His own good pleasure. In the story of Job, the sovereignty of God is contrasted with the limited understanding of Job and his friends.



MEMORY
VERSE

▶ **Job 1:21:** The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

MEMORY
VERSE

▶ No matter what happens in this life, God is in control. Regardless of how we perceive our circumstances, God is for us and will work everything in our lives (even suffering) for good.

MEANING

OVERVIEW

▶ **Read Job 1-42:** This story centers on a wealthy and famous man named Job whom God allows to be directly attacked by Satan. Through these attacks, Job loses everything important to him – his family, wealth, prestige and health. Friends came to comfort Job, but they offered him bad advice, questioned Job’s character, and they drew false conclusions from events.

In the end, God showed Job that He is sovereign and can be trusted entirely. Job humbles himself before God and confesses that the ways of God are beyond his understanding. Throughout his story, Job remains faithful to God. In the end, God blesses Job with far more wealth than he had before.

SUGGESTIONS

▶ Job went through an absolutely miserable season in his life, but he never cursed God for what happened to him; however, he did question God’s judgment in inflicting this suffering on him. As you discuss this lesson with your class, be sure to cover the following:

1. Bad things happen to good people: The Book of Job opens telling us that Job was a blameless and upright man. Then Job lost everything. Job’s suffering was not a result of his sin, and it was not sent by God. Rather, it was something God used to reveal more of Himself to Job, while at the same time, revealing the character of Job.

2. Friends may fail, but God never will: Throughout this story, Job’s friends failed to comfort him (Job 16:2). But in Job 19:25-27, Job describes the strength that sustains him through his suffering: a personal Redeemer who lives!

3. God is with us when we suffer: Over the course of this story, Job asks the question “why?” over 25 times. And while Job may never have gotten the answer he was looking for, he came to the conclusion that God was with him as he suffered. In Job 23:10 Job says “he knows the way that I take; when he has tried me, I shall come out as gold.”



**PRE-LESSON
ACTIVITY**

Ages 5-7 **A Good Friend** | **Supplies:** *Blindfolds, masking tape and small pillows.*

On the floor of your classroom, use two long parallel strips of masking tape to create a walking path. In this path, place several pillows that will be used as obstacles. Pick a student to go first, blindfold them and place them at the start of the path. The remaining students can give verbal commands to help the blindfolded student stay within the lines and avoid obstacles. This game is a good way to remind your class that a good friend helps, rather than criticizes, in a time of need.

Ages 5-10 **The Mirror Game** | **Supplies:** *A mirror and index cards with Bible verses written on them.*

Prop up the mirror with some books, or if it is bigger, lean it against the wall. Have your students take turns holding the memory verse up to the mirror so that the letters appear backwards to the child. The student who can read their verse the quickest without making any mistakes wins. Use this game to remind your kids that though we may not always understand what God is saying to us in difficult times, He is still with us.

Ages 8-10 **Would You Rather...?** | **Supplies:** *A list of "Would you rather...?" scenarios.*

Start this activity by having a volunteer come forward. Present them with a "Would you rather...?" scenario that is connected to suffering. For example, "Would you rather be stung by 100 bees or bitten by a single shark?" Before the student answers, let the rest of the class try to convince them one way or the other. Then let the student give their final decision. Continue this activity until you are out of questions or time. This game is a good way to discuss the trials of Job that often left him with no easy choice.



**POST-LESSON
ACTIVITY**

Ages 5-7 Job Tag | Supplies: *A pack of red circular “dot” stickers. You’ll need enough for each student in your class.*

In this game, every student is given a single red dot. On the word “Go!” students will try to stick their red dot on another student. Students who get stuck with a red dot will try and remove the dot and stick it to someone else. Set a time limit. When time is up, any students without a dot at the end of the game win. The student with the most red dots loses.

Ages 5-10 Balloon Stomp | Supplies: *Balloons and string.*

Prepare students for this game by reminding them that Job lost everything precious to him and that the tragedies that befell him seemed to come from out of nowhere. Then, tie a balloon to the ankle of each student. Once all students have a balloon, start the game and have students try to stomp on each other’s balloons. The last student with an unpopped balloon wins.

Ages 8-10 God Sees Our Steps | Supplies: *Binoculars.*

Before the game starts, read Job 34:21 to your class “His eyes are on the ways of men; he sees their every step.” Take your class outside and have them take turns using the binoculars and telling the class the things they see. Remark on how any wildlife that is spotted is unaware of being watched. Then, remind your class that God sees everything we do even if we don’t realize He’s watching. When we suffer, God knows and cares.



TAKE
HOME



Like Job, all of us will go through tough times. It's not a matter of if, but when. So, when we face challenging times of suffering, the following should guide us:

- 1. Seek God, not understanding:** When we go through difficult times, we always want to know why. But many times there is no answer to this question. Instead, we should draw near to God and allow Him to bring us peace of heart and mind.
- 2. Seek help in suffering:** During suffering, we should reach out for help. This can be a parent, friend or other loved one. But human help is limited. Our greatest source of help is always found when we bring our problems before God in prayer.
- 3. Remember God is in control:** Nothing we face is outside of God's control. Even in times of sickness, distress or suffering, God is able to use these things for our good and His glory. When we suffer, the most important thing is to continue trusting God!



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: How many children did Job have?

A1: Job had 10 children.

Q1b: Most would say Job lived the "good life." What would the "good life" include for you?

Teacher Notes: Maybe it would mean having a cool bike or all the video games we could ever want. While prosperity is not promised to everyone who loves God, He blesses everyone who loves and obeys Him. We may not have every material possession we've ever wanted, but God has blessed us in other ways.

SLIDE 2



Q2a: What did God say Satan was not allowed to do to Job?

A2: God told Satan that he could not kill Job.

Q2b: You bet your friend that his bedroom is painted blue, and if you're wrong you'll do his chores for a week. Is this a smart bet?

Teacher Notes: No, because our friend knows what color his room is painted. If our friend takes this bet, we should know that we guessed the wrong color. We are about to get saddled with a lot more chores! The deal Satan makes with God regarding Job is an equally foolish idea. God knows everything present, past, and future. God knows how Job was going to react to everything, just as He knew that Satan would present this plan.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: What terrible news did the servants bring Job?

A3: The servants told Job that all of Job's servants, livestock, and children had been killed or stolen.

Q3b: Think back to the last bad day you had. Was it as bad as what Job experienced?

Teacher Notes: Hopefully, none of us has ever experienced a day anywhere nearly as bad as Job's. Many stories in the Bible can offer us perspective, meaning, by comparison, things we face on a day-to-day basis really aren't that bad.

SLIDE 4



Q4a: What did Job do after hearing all the bad news?

A4: He tore his clothes, shaved his head, fell on the ground, and worshiped God.

Q4b: How would you react if you lost your most favorite possession?

Teacher Notes: We likely would be very sad. Worshiping God may not be something we think of immediately, but it should. The only reason we had it in the first place is because God blessed us with it.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5



Q5a: What did Job's wife tell him to do?

A5: She told Job to curse God and die.

Q5b: Have you ever had chicken pox?

Teacher Notes: Anyone who has ever had chicken pox remembers how itchy they are! All you want to do is scratch them, but that only makes it worse. Job's sores were so itchy, the only thing that made it feel better was to scrape broken pottery against his skin! Those are some seriously itchy sores! How horrible it must have been to have to endure!

SLIDE 6



Q6a: What did Job's friends think was the cause of his suffering?

A6: Job's friends thought he was suffering because of some sin he committed.

Q6b: Has a friend ever offered to help you study for a math test and then criticized you for not understanding it yet?

Teacher Notes: This doesn't sound very helpful. Job's friends came over to pray for him and comfort him, but instead they ended up giving him awful advice and criticizing him for being in this situation, which they thought was obviously caused by some sin Job had committed. They came to offer comfort and left Job feeling worse than before they had arrived. When we see a loved one going through a hard time, we should offer them our love, support, and prayers. We shouldn't judge them, just help them.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 7



Q7a: What did God explain to Job?

A7: God explained that no one had the right to question Him or His decisions, even if they don't seem to make sense.

Q7b: If God is in charge of everything, couldn't He have stopped Job's suffering?

Teacher Notes: Yes, God could have stopped Job's suffering. In fact, He could have prevented it from happening all together. Job complained to God that He was wrong to deal so harshly with him. He had done nothing wrong! Why was this happening to him?! As God explained to Job, He created everything. He sees everything. He is in control of everything. He does not need to explain His decisions to anyone. Because God's decisions have far-reaching reasons and effects, it would take a very long time to explain them, and it's likely that even with all of the facts, we still wouldn't understand. When we face difficult situations, the only explanation we can expect to get or understand is that God has His reasons, and they are good. We must trust that God knows what He is doing.

SLIDE 8



Q8a: Did Satan's plan work?

A8: No, Job still loved God.

Q8b: Have you ever had a cold and couldn't breathe through your nose?

Teacher Notes: Sometimes colds can last for a couple of weeks. We don't realize how nice it is to be able to breathe through our noses until we can't for an extended period of time. Once our colds have cleared up, the first few minutes of nose-breathing is glorious! Job had gone without any comfort for so long, when his suffering was ended, he appreciated life more—and it didn't hurt that God blessed Job even more than He had before!



QUESTION & ANSWER

MEMORY VERSE

- ▶ **Job 1:21:** The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; blessed be the name of the Lord.

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BIG IDEA

- ▶ God allows bad things to happen to good people, but never without a purpose.

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CLOSING PRAYER

- ▶ Dear God, thank You for what you teach us through the life of Job. Help us to be like Job and remain faithful to You when bad things happen. We ask these things in Jesus' name, Amen.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 1



Long ago in the faraway land of Uz, there lived a man named Job. Job was a good man. He loved God, refused to do wrong, and was honorable. Job was a very wealthy man and had thousands of sheep, camels, oxen, donkeys, many servants, and 10 children. Job was the greatest man in the land. Everything in his life went smoothly.

SLIDE 2



Meanwhile, Satan took notice. He complained to God about Job. "He only serves you because you give him so many blessings. If you take away Job's blessings, he'll curse you right to your face." God then told Satan to do with Job as he pleased, but he could not harm Job himself. Satan slipped away and began devising a plan to make Job turn against God.

SLIDE 3



One day, as Job was simply enjoying life, a servant ran up, breathless, with devastating news. "All the oxen and donkeys were stolen by an invading force, and the servants were killed! I barely escaped!" Right as Job was hearing this horrible news, another servant ran up, shouting out, "A huge fire came, burned all the sheep, and killed all the servants!" Another servant came running to Job, sobbing in terror. He said, "Job! The enemy came and stole all the camels and killed the servants!" The servant had hardly finished when yet another servant came running to Job, screaming the most horrible news of all. "Your children were having a feast together and a terrible wind destroyed the house! Your children are all dead!"



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 4



In an instant, Job lost everything. It was all gone. The grief was unimaginable. Job tore his clothes, shaved his head, and fell on the ground. Satan thought Job was going to be mad at God, but instead Job worshiped Him. “The Lord gave me everything and He has the right to take it away. I will still praise God.” Job said.

SLIDE 5



Satan asked God if he could make Job sick. He was sure that Job would then curse God. God told Satan that he could continue with his plan but was not allowed to kill Job. So Satan caused Job to break out with sores over his entire body. He became very ill. The pain and itching was so unbearable that he took broken pieces of pottery to scratch the sores. Job’s wife was of no help at all. She came up to her husband and growled, “You’re still trying to do good? Just curse God and die!” Job did not sin. He continued to worship God.

SLIDE 6



Even Job’s friends started to turn against him. They thought that Job must have sinned for God to punish him like this. They were all trying to give him advice and tell him what to do. Instead of helping Job and praying for him, they criticized him. But through all this, Job still did not sin. He continued to trust and worship God.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 7



Job started to lose heart. He didn't understand why God would allow these things to happen to him. So God spoke with Job and explained to Him that, as God, he created Job and everything in existence. No one had the right to question Him or His decisions, even though they may not make sense. God was trying to show Job a valuable lesson. Job responded in the only way possible. He worshiped, and he repented.

SLIDE 8



Eventually, Job's suffering stopped. Satan's plan did not work. Job still loved God. God was so pleased with Job that He healed him and gave him back everything he had lost. This time, He blessed Job with more children, wealth, and possessions than he could ever imagine. Job even lived until he was 140 years of age. The end of Job's life was even better than the beginning.