

THE
GOSPEL
PROJECT
FOR KIDS

1st - 2nd Grade

October 7, 2018



Use Week of:

Unit 1 • Session 6

The Suffering of Job

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Job

STORY POINT:

Job learned that God is good, even in suffering.

KEY PASSAGE:

Colossians 1:16b-17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

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Additional resources are available at gospelproject.com. For free training and session-by-session help, visit www.ministrygrid.com/web/thegospelproject.

LEADER Bible Study

Why would we hear the story of Job while studying stories from Genesis? Most biblical authorities believe, based on subject matter and language, that Job was a contemporary to the patriarchs. Job fits chronologically into this period in history.

Job was a wealthy man who loved God. At the beginning of the book, God allows Satan to test Job's faithfulness. Job lost everything, and he asked God why these things were happening. God answered Job, and His response reveals that God alone is all-powerful, sovereign, and good.

"Have you ever in your life commanded the morning or assigned the dawn its place?" (Job 38:12). God has. He is all-powerful. "Does the eagle soar at your command?" (Job 39:27). It does at God's. He is sovereign. "Who provides the raven's food when its young cry out to God?" (Job 38:41). God provides. He is good.

While the Book of Job speaks volumes to the problem of human suffering, it is also an important picture of how a suffering person should relate to God. Throughout all of Job's suffering, Job never turned away from God. Job didn't understand his suffering, but he understood who God is. Job's suffering ultimately brought him closer to God.

Job reminds us that following Jesus is worth it. God is good, present, and in control. We can trust Him when we don't understand the pain we have to endure. At the cross, God used the ultimate pain to bring about the ultimate good: our future and final salvation from sin.

Before you teach, pray that the Holy Spirit would help kids understand God's truth. Point kids to the Suffering Servant, Jesus, who was truly innocent yet suffered greatly so that we could be brought closer to God in both our suffering and our joy.

The BIBLE Story

The Suffering of Job

Job

Job (JOHB) was a wealthy man who loved God and wanted to follow God's plan.

One day, Satan came to God. God told Satan about Job. "No one else on earth is like him," God said. Job was an honest man.

He feared God and turned away from evil.

"Job only follows You because You protect him and bless him,"

Satan said. "If You take away everything Job has, he will not follow You anymore."

So God gave Satan permission to take away everything Job had, but Satan was not allowed to hurt Job. Satan sent men to steal Job's animals. He caused Job's children to die. **In one day, Job lost everything. Job was sad, but he still followed God.**

Satan came to God again. He said, "If Job gets sick, he will not praise You anymore." So God gave Satan permission to make Job sick, but God did not let Satan kill Job. Job became ill with sores all over his skin.

Job's wife asked, "Do you still have faith in God? Curse God and die!"

"That's foolish," Job said. "How can we accept good things from



God and not trouble?”

Then **three of Job’s friends visited Job.** Their names were Eliphaz (EL ih faz), Bildad, and Zophar (ZOH fahr). **They said, “Job, you must obey God. If you do what is right and stop sinning, God will give you back everything you lost.”**

“I haven’t done anything wrong,” Job said. Job wished he had someone to talk to God for him. He wanted answers; he **did not understand why he was suffering.**

Finally, a man named Elihu (ih LIGH hyoo) came to Job. “God is greater than man,” Elihu explained. “God always does what is right.”

Then God spoke to Job through a whirlwind. “Were you there when I made the earth?” God asked. “Are you the one who told the sea where to stop? Did you decide when the sun would rise or when snow would fall? Did you put the stars in the sky? Can you tell the eagles when to fly in the sky?”

Job could not completely understand God’s plans, but he could trust God. God is all-powerful, sovereign, and good. **Job was sorry for doubting God. God gave back to Job everything he had lost—and so much more.**

Christ Connection: Job learned that God is all-powerful, sovereign, and good. When we face suffering, we can hope in God. God sent Jesus, the only truly innocent One, to suffer and die so that everyone who trusts in Him can have forgiveness and eternal life.

Bible Storytelling Tips

• Use your voice:

Pause and allow for silence between paragraphs or scenes to emphasize the intensity of Job’s situation.

• Draw pictures:

On a dry erase board or large sheet of paper, sketch figures as you tell the story. Consider portraying Job, his family and animals, Job’s friends, and a whirlwind.

INTRODUCE the Story



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KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b-17

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

Welcome time

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to fill out attendance sheets, and help new kids connect to your group. As kids arrive, ask them if they have any questions for God. If they could ask any one question of God, what would they ask? Remind them that many questions only God can answer.

SAY • Today we will hear a story about a man who suffered some very difficult circumstances. He felt that God was treating him unfairly, and he wanted to ask God about his situation. Do you think God answered this man? We'll find out more soon.

Activity page (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete the “Whirlwind Maze” activity page. Instruct kids to complete the maze by drawing a continuous line from the beginning to the end.

SAY • Job's life took many twists and turns he did not expect. He felt that God was not treating him fairly, but he learned a lot when God spoke to him through a whirlwind! Can you imagine what that would be like? We'll hear the full Bible story later.

- “Whirlwind Maze” activity page,
- 1 per kid
- pencils or markers

Session starter (10 minutes)

OPTION 2: Whirlwind paintings

You may choose to cover any surfaces with disposable tablecloths and put oversized T-shirts on the kids to protect clothing. Provide each kid a paper plate and a drinking straw. Help kids put a few dollops of paint on their plate and demonstrate how to blow the paint around their plate with the straw to make interesting patterns and shapes. Set the plates aside to dry.

SAY • Those are beautiful creations! Today we will hear about a time God spoke to a man about His beautiful creation. He spoke from a whirlwind. Why do you think He spoke about His creation?

- washable paints
- paper plates
- drinking straws
- disposable tablecloths (optional)
- oversized T-shirts (optional)
- wet wipes for cleanup

The Gospel: God's Plan for Me

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means “good news.” It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.



God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.



We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)



God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.



Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.



We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

Offer to talk with any child who is interested in responding to Jesus. Provide *I'm a Christian Now!* for new Christians to take home and complete with their families.

APPLY the Story



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BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

Key passage activity (5 minutes)

- Key Passage Poster
- index cards
- pen

Write each word of the key passage on a separate index card. Arrange the cards facedown in a grid pattern. Instruct the kids to take turns flipping over two cards. If the cards are words that appear next to one another in the key passage, they will stay faceup. Otherwise, they must be turned facedown again and the next kid will take a turn. Once all the cards have been turned faceup, kids must work together to put the cards in the correct order.

SAY • Great job putting that passage in order. Our key passage reminds us that Jesus has always existed. He was there at creation, and He holds all things together. Everything exists to bring glory to Him, including you and me! We glorify Jesus by obeying His commands and telling others about Him.

Discussion & Bible skills (10 minutes)

- Bibles, 1 per kid
- Story Point Poster

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Demonstrate how to use the table of contents in the front of a Bible to help them find the Book of Job. Remind them that the large and small numbers in the text represent chapters and verses respectively. Then, read the first few chapters of Job, or

review the Bible story using the bolded text from the Bible story page. Ask the following questions, guiding discussion as suggested:

1. Who thought that Job only loved God because of His blessings? (*Satan, Job 1:11*)
2. Did Job curse God when he faced suffering? (*No, Job 2:10*)
3. What did Job's friends think caused Job's suffering? (*They thought Job was being punished for sin, Job 4:7-9*)
4. Was Job truly innocent of sin? *Guide kids to think about how everyone is born a sinner. Discuss with them the fact that only Jesus is truly without sin.*
5. Is suffering a result of God punishing sin? *Guide kids to discuss the nature of sin and how it has broken the world. Help them see that suffering is not always a direct result of our own sin. Remind them that those who trust in Jesus' death and resurrection will not face punishment for sin, though our sin will still carry consequences for us and others.*
6. How is God good even when we face suffering? *Guide kids to think about the ways God can use difficult times to glorify Himself. Remind them that Jesus' suffering purchased our freedom from sin. Help them see that because we were created to glorify Him, His glory is our good.*

SAY • The story of Job is not always easy to understand. Even many adults must think about some hard questions to understand Job's story. Job did not understand why he faced suffering, but **Job learned that God is good, even in suffering.** We can trust God's goodness when we face suffering too.



Activity choice (10 minutes)

• index cards
• pen

OPTION 2: Peer mediators

Write scenarios on index cards that might cause two people to disagree with each other. Form groups of three kids, and provide a card to each group. Invite two of the kids in each group to play the roles of people who disagree. The third kid will practice being a *mediator*. Explain that a *mediator* is someone who goes back and forth between people who

disagree to help them communicate, understand each other, and come to an agreement.

Example scenarios:

- Two kids want to watch different TV programs, but the programs come on at the same time.
- Two kids each want to be goalie in a soccer game, but they are on the same team.
- One kid has two friends who refuse to speak with one another.

SAY • Job said he was innocent. He felt his suffering was unfair. He thought that a mediator could help him show God that he did not deserve such hard circumstances.

In fact, none of us is innocent. We are all guilty of sin. Thankfully, God sent Jesus to be our mediator. He died on the cross to save us from sin and protect us from the punishment we deserve.

Reflection and prayer (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper to each child. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or about the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Whom can I tell about this story?

Make sure to send the activity page and any other pages home with the kids so that parents can see what their kids have been learning.

If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page provided with this session. Pray for your group.

- pencils and crayons
- paper
- Bible Story Coloring Page, 1 per kid

Tip: Give parents this week's Big Picture Cards for Families to allow families to interact with the biblical content at home.