



The Suffering of Job

Bible Story: The Suffering of Job • *Job*

Bottom Line: Job learned that God is good, even in suffering.

Memory Verse: “¹⁶...all things have been created through him and for him. ¹⁷He is before all things, and in him all things hold together.” *Colossians 1:16-17, NIV*

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.

LARGE GROUP: Communicating God’s truth in engaging ways.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Before we hear the Bible story, I’m going to ask our big picture question. And then I want you to say the answer. Ready? OK. **Who is God?** [*Let kids respond.*] **God is our Creator and King.** Now turn to a neighbor. One of you will ask the big picture question, and the other will answer. [*Prompt kids to begin.*] Great job! Whew, what a journey we have been on through the first several chapters of Genesis. We’ve seen how God created the world and everything in it, and we learned that everything God created was good. Everything He made was created for His glory. But when sin entered the world, people’s sin separated them from God. Sin spread, but God had a plan all along to rescue sinners. Today we will hear a story that happened around the same time God scattered the people at the tower of Babel and their families began to grow. This story is found in the Book of Job (JOHB).

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What a hard experience for Job! Job was a rich man, and he lost everything he had—his animals, his children, and even his health. Job’s wife told him to turn away from God, but Job did not. Job’s friends came and told him God was probably punishing him for some sort of sin in his life. Job was a sinner, but that wasn’t why he was suffering. Suffering is pain that is caused by injury, illness, or loss. Sometimes it’s physical pain, and sometimes it’s mental or emotional pain. And one thing we know about pain is that it hurts!

God spoke to Job through a whirlwind and **Job learned that God is good, even in suffering.** In the end, God gave back to Job everything he lost—and so much more.

Sometimes, like Job, we can forget that God is always in control. Even when bad things happen, God is in control. His ways are greater than our ways and we don’t always understand what happens, but God loves us and we can trust Him because of who He is. **Who is God? God is our Creator and King.**

CHRIST CONNECTION



What You Say “ 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.

One day, Jesus will put an end to suffering on earth and those who trust in Jesus will be with Him forever.”

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (Small Groups, 40 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect and learn how the Bible story applies to real life experiences, through interactive activities and discussion questions.

1. Bible Story Review/Skills

What You Need: Big Picture Question Poster, Bibles

What You Do:

- Distribute Bibles and guide kids to find the Book of Job.
- Suggest they use the table of content in their Bibles if they need help finding it.
- Ask kids what book comes after Job. (*Psalms*)
- Choose a volunteer to read aloud Job 42:16-17.
- Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

What You Say ” We have been learning stories from the Book of Genesis. Why do you think we are skipping all the way back here to the Book of Job? [*Allow kids to respond.*] The Bible isn’t in exact chronological order. First, it’s organized into the Old Testament (things that happened before Jesus was born) and the New Testament (things that happened after Jesus was born). Then it’s organized further by type of book; we call these genres or divisions.

The Book of Job is the first of the books of Wisdom, which include Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Songs. But the story of Job happened during the time of the patriarchs—Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph.

Because of sin, everyone suffers—those who follow God and those who don’t. God is always in control, and He loves us. He is good, even when we don’t understand His ways.”

2. Discussion Questions:

- What did Job learn about God and about himself? *Lead kids to recall that Job learned that God is good, even in suffering. Guide them to see how Job realized he cannot completely understand God or His ways.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 55:8-9.)
- How is God near to us in our suffering? *Lead kids to recognize God’s presence through His Word, through the Holy Spirit, and through fellow believers who offer comfort and encouragement.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 139:7-10.)
- How have friends encouraged you in a hard time? How can you encourage others? *Invite kids to share their experiences. Remind them that God is present and working for our good and joy, even in times of trouble.*
(Option: Choose a volunteer to read 2 Cor. 1:3-4.)



3. Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, ziptop bag (1 per kid), scissors

What You Do:

- Before the session, make a copy of the Memory Verse poster for each kid and cut each poster into 20 pieces.
- Gather each set of pieces in a separate ziplock bag.
- Display the Memory Verse poster.
- Lead the kids to read the Memory Verse together.
- Give each kid a bag of puzzle pieces.
- Prompt kids to put the puzzles together.
- When they finish, guide them to read the Memory Verse aloud together.

What You Say "The Bible says that knowing God's Word makes us wise. [See Ps. 119:130.] We won't understand every part of God's plan, but we know that *God is our Creator and King*. He made everything, and we can trust Him because He is good."

Pray and Dismiss

What You Need: Prayer journals, Journal page (1 for each kid), markers/crayons, Bibles

What You Do:

- Distribute journal pages and pencils.
- Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page:
 - What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
 - What does the story teach me about myself?
 - Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
 - Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
 - How does this story help me to live on mission better?

- As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas and write in your small group journal.

What You Say: Pray, "thanking God for loving all people and accepting us by faith in Jesus. Pray that the Spirit would help kids show God's love to all people."

As adults arrive to pick up, tell kids to recite the memory verse to them.