



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. ¹⁷ He 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.

10 Minutes **SOCIAL**: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

Would You Rather

What You Need: “Would You Rather Questions”

What You Do:

- Take turns answering the would you rather questions.
- Choose 3 questions each week and have everyone give an answer.

What You Say “Did the questions this week help you know your small group better? In our lessons we are going to learn Who is God? Let’s go to large group to find out who God is.”

10 Minutes **Worship**: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

15 Minutes **LARGE GROUP**: COMMUNICATING GOD’S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

Today’s Passage

5 Now the whole world had one language and a common speech. 2 As people moved eastward, they found a plain in Shinar and settled there.

3 They said to each other, “Come, let’s make bricks and bake them thoroughly.” They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. 4 Then they said, “Come, let us build ourselves a city, with a tower that reaches to the heavens, so that we may make a name for ourselves; otherwise we will be scattered over the face of the whole earth.”

5 But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. 6 The Lord said, “If as one people speaking the same language they have begun to do this, then nothing they plan to do will be impossible for them. 7 Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other.”

8 So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. 9 That is why it was called Babel—because there the Lord confused the language of the whole world. From there the Lord scattered them over the face of the whole earth. Genesis 11:5-9

Context

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.



Today's Takeaways

- Job was tested by Satan. Lost everything. But, in all of his suffering, He did not sin.
- **BL:** Job learned that God is all-powerful, sovereign, and good
- When we face suffering, we can hope in God.
- Jesus suffered so that we can trust in Him and have hope even when life is hard.

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Discussion Questions:

- Who thought that Job only loved God because of His blessings? (*Satan, Job 1:11*)
- Did Job curse God when he faced suffering? (*No, Job 2:10*)
- What did Job's friends think caused Job's suffering? (*They thought Job was being punished for sin, Job 4:7-9*)
- 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.*
- 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.*

Activity: Peer Mediators

What You Need: index cards, pencils

What You Do:

- 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.

What You 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."

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Mirrored Words printable, hand mirror, Memory Verse Poster

What You Do:

- Ask the kids if they recognize the key passage.
- Give them chances to read the key passage.
- Then, allow a kid to use a hand mirror to read the key passage in the reflection.
- Practice saying the key passage together

What You Say "Great job figuring out that key passage! Our key passage reminds us that Jesus is the Lord of creation. He holds all things together by His power. God created people in His own image, and He loves us. We exist to glorify God. Through Jesus, we can know and love God, which gives Him glory."

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: No supplies needed

What You Say:

"Father, thank You for Your goodness. Help us to trust You even when we face suffering. Give us compassion for those who suffer. Amen."

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents who created everything and is King and what they learned about God in the story of Job today.