

# The Suffering of Job

**Bible Story Focus:** The Suffering of Job- Job

**Memory Verse:** "...all things have been created through him and for him" Colossians 1:16b

**Main Point:** God made everything.

**Christ Connection:** Jesus always obeyed God, but He suffered to rescue us.

## Leader Notes:

### 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 Passage

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

<sup>3</sup> They said to each other, "Come, let's make bricks and bake them thoroughly." They used brick instead of stone, and tar for mortar. <sup>4</sup> 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."

<sup>5</sup> But the Lord came down to see the city and the tower the people were building. <sup>6</sup> 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. <sup>7</sup> Come, let us go down and confuse their language so they will not understand each other."

<sup>8</sup> So the Lord scattered them from there over all the earth, and they stopped building the city. <sup>9</sup> 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

### 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.

### **Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)**

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer the following activities to 3-, 4-, 5- year olds as they arrive.

### Simon Says

**What you Need:** No Supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Explain to preschoolers that you will be Simon.
- You will give them instructions to follow, but children should only obey those instructions that begin with "Simon says".

- Gently correct preschoolers who did an action that Simon did not say rather than sitting them out.
- After a few rounds, choose a preschooler to be Simon and play again.
- Continue playing with new Simons as time allows.

**What You Say:**

“Good job doing what Simon said! In today’s Bible story, God gives instructions like Simon and amazing things happen. Let’s go see what happens.”

## **Worship & Story Time: Communicating God’s Truth in Engaging Ways**

Engage kids’ hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

**Worship: Engage kids’ hearts through dynamic and interactive worship in a Large Group setting.**

**What you Need:** Worship DVD (from your campus leader), DVD player and TV

**What You Do:**

- Choose one song to sing with the kids from the worship DVD.
- Ask kids to follow along with the worship leader on the screen.

**What You Say:**

“Great job praising God for who He is. That is what we do when we worship God in song and with our lives. Now let’s see what we are going to learn from the Bible today.”

## **Bible Story**

**What You Need:** Bible

Welcome children to the group. Invite the kids to join you in Large Group by repeating this phrase “God made me, and my name is [child’s name]”

**What You Do:** Place a bookmark at Genesis 1 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it.

**What You Say:**

“The Bible is the most important book. The Bible is God’s Word, and God’s Word is True. Today’s Bible story comes from the very first book of the Bible, Genesis. Can you say Genesis? Genesis is in the first part of the Bible called the Old Testament. The stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus. “

## **PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO**

### **Talk about the Bible Story:**

A man named Job loved God. One sad day, Job lost all of his sheep, camels, and donkeys. He lost everything—even his 10 children! Then Job got sick with sore spots all over his body. But Job still loved God. Job’s friends said, “Maybe God is mad at you. That is why bad things happened.” But that was not

true. Job said, "I wish someone would talk to God for me." God spoke to Job in a whirlwind. God said, "Were you there when I made everything? Can you understand My plan?" God showed Job that He takes care of everything He made. Job said, "Your plan is good and right. Nothing can stop Your plan!" Later, God gave Job many good gifts and more children. Job lived a long, happy life.

*Ask the following review Questions:*

What did Job's three friends say when they visited him? (*told Job to say he was sorry for doing wrong things, said God was punishing Job for his sin*)

Who is greater: God or people? (*God*)

What did Job learn in this Bible story? (**Job learned that God is always good.**)

Would God still be good if He didn't heal Job and give him back everything he lost? (*yes*)

How does Job remind us of Jesus? (*Jesus is the only Person who never sinned, but He suffered to take the punishment for our sin.*)

**Who is God? God is our Creator and King.**

**Learn the Big Picture Question**

**What You Say:** Can you answer our big picture question? **Who is God? God is our Creator and King.** God asked Job a lot of questions: "Where were you when I created the earth? Can you measure how big it is? Can you send out lightning bolts? Do you make horses strong? Does an eagle build its nest where you say?" Job learned that God is much greater than people. **God is our Creator and King.** We can trust Him.

**Practice the Memory Verse**

Open your Bible to Colossians 1:16b. Read the memory verse aloud several times.

**What You Say:** "Our memory verse tells us that everything that was made was made by Jesus and for Jesus. Remember that Jesus is God. Jesus is God the Son. Jesus created everything, and Jesus is Lord over everything. Jesus holds everything together."

Transition to small group.

**Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)**

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

**1. Stuff a shoe box for Operation Christmas Child**

**What You Need:** Gather items, such as stickers, sticker pages, safety scissors, tape, activity books, socks, soap, hair brush, cup or water bottle, special toy or WOW item

**What You Do:**

- Form an assembly line where each preschooler places a certain item in each box.
- Consider adding a drawing or card from your preschoolers in each bag.

- Label your box with boy or girl and age

**What You Say:** "Job suffered in our Bible story today. The children who will receive these boxes are suffering too. When they receive their box, most of them understand love for the very first time. The story of Job reminds us of Jesus. Jesus is the only Person who never sinned, but He suffered to take the punishment for our sin. Jesus comforts us when we suffer, and we can trust Him. **Job learned that God is always good.**

## 2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

**What you need:** Memory Verse Poster

**What You Do:**

- Show the poster to the kids
- As you say the words point to them on the poster
- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include "All things [*sweeping one palm in an arc*] have been created [*striking fists together*] through him [*pointing to the sky*] and for him [*pointing to the sky*]." Repeat several times.

**What You Say:** Our Bible verse tells us that **God made everything**. God made the world because He is good.

**Pray and Dismiss:**

**What You need:** coloring page, crayons

**What You Do:**

- Kids can color the coloring page while they wait for parents or you can send the paper home to do there.
- Pray- "God thank you for creating everything and making it good. Thank you for your promises. Help us to turn to you when we sin and ask for forgiveness"

**What You Say:** Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Send home the coloring page.