Faith and Love C.O.G.I.C Sunday School

Lesson 8 October 20, 2024 HOPE SATISFIES



Sunday School Core Values





Sunday School Responsive Reading

<u>Superintendent/Teacher:</u> Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. **Psalm 133:1**

School/Class: But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased. **Hebrews 13:16**

<u>Superintendent/Teacher:</u> All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. **2 Timothy 3:16**

School/Class: Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.

Psalm 119:105



Sunday School Responsive Reading

<u>Superintendent/Teacher</u>: Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others. **Philippians 2:4**

School/Class: He who has a generous eye will be blessed, for he gives of his bread to the poor. Proverbs 22:9

Superintendent/Teacher: Therefore he says: "When He ascended on high, He led captivity captive, and gave gifts to men." Ephesians 4:8

School/Class: As each one has received a gift, minister it to one another, as good stewards of the manifold grace of God. 1 Peter 4:10



Sunday School Responsive Reading

<u>Superintendent/Teacher</u>: For as the body is one and has many members, but all the members of that one body, being many, are one body, so also is Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:12

School/Class: For as we have many members in one body, but all the members do not have the same function. Romans 12:4

<u>Superintendent/Teacher:</u> By this all will know that you are My disciples, if you have love for one another. **John 13:35**

School/Class: For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another. Gal. 5:13



Sunday School Responsive Reading

<u>ALL:</u>

But grow in the grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen. **2 Peter 3:18**



- Bible Basis: Job 42:1-10
- ▶ Bible Truth: God can do all things, prevails over all things, and hears our prayers in trying situations.
- ► Memory Verse: "And the LORD turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the LORD gave Job twice as much as he had before" (Job 42:10)
- Lesson Aim: By the end of this lesson, your students will: EXPLORE the satisfactory conclusion of Job and God's conversation; AFFIRM that God will answer our questions in ways best for us; and BECOME INVOLVED in an active and hopeful prayer life.
- ▶ Background Scriptures: Job 42; Psalm 86—Read and incorporate the insights gained from the Background Scriptures into your study of the lesson.



Lesson Scripture: Job 42:1-10, KJV

1 Then Job answered the Lord, and said,

2 I know that thou canst do every thing, and that no thought can be withholden from thee.

3 Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.



Lesson Scripture: Job 42:1-10, KJV

4 Hear, I beseech thee, and I will speak: I will demand of thee, and declare thou unto me.

5 I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but now mine eye seeth thee.

6 Wherefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

7 And it was so, that after the Lord had spoken these words unto Job, the Lord said to Eliphaz the Temanite, My wrath is kindled against thee, and against thy two friends: for ye have not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath.



Lesson Scripture: Job 42:1-10, KJV

8 Therefore take unto you now seven bullocks and seven rams, and go to my servant Job, and offer up for yourselves a burnt offering; and my servant Job shall pray for you: for him will I accept: lest I deal with you after your folly, in that ye have not spoken of me the thing which is right, like my servant Job.

9 So Eliphaz the Temanite and Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite went, and did according as the Lord commanded them: the Lord also accepted Job.

10 And the Lord turned the captivity of Job, when he prayed for his friends: also the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before.



LIGHT ON THE WORD

To sit or to lie in dust and ashes was often a sign of repentance and humiliation in the ancient Near East. Dust represented man's frailty, and to lie in dust was to recognize the frailty of one's humanity in committing a wrong or experiencing grief due to the loss of a loved one, famine, or other calamity. Ashes symbolized worthlessness; to throw ashes on one's head was to humble oneself and acknowledge one's worthlessness in the sight of God. These gestures were not mandated by God but originated in the culture of the time.



LIGHT ON THE WORD

Job's friends Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar mourned with him for seven days after he suffered great loss. They then encouraged Job to confess his sin of pride, as they believed that it was the reason for his suffering. Eliphaz appealed to personal experience, Bildad pointed to universal wisdom, and Zophar declared what he felt was common sense. They all agreed that Job's problems were his own doing and that questioning God simply made matters worse.



Teaching the Bible Lesson

LIFE NEED FOR TODAY'S LESSON:

AIM: We will know some people often wonder

who or what controls the final outcome in life's

many challenges.



INTRODUCTION

The Trouble with Friends

After Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar finished speaking to Job concerning his suffering, a young man named Elihu spoke. Elihu rebuked the three friends for being unable to give Job a reasonable answer for why he was suffering. However, Elihu was only able to give a partial answer to Job's question by saying that people cannot understand all that God allows but must trust Him. This was the best answer that a human could give, yet it was incomplete because Elihu did not have all the facts.



BIBLE LEARNING

AIM: We will know that the psalmist pleads with

God to send help in a time of great need.



I. JOB'S RESPONSE TO THE LORD

Job's Reply Job 42:1-6

Job understood his humanity in a new way. He had an encounter with God that caused him to reevaluate his perspective. Job repented of complaining, as he now knew that God is sovereign. His spiritual eyes had been opened, and he humbled himself in dust and ashes.



. JOB'S RESPONSE TO THE LORD

Job's Reply Job 42:1-6

1 Then Job answered the LORD, and said, 2 I know that thou canst do everything, and that no thought can be withholden from thee. 3 Who is he that hideth counsel without knowledge? therefore have I uttered that I understood not; things too wonderful for me, which I knew not.

Now we come to the end of the book. When Job says "I know" (Heb. yada', yaw-DAH), he acknowledged the omnipotence of God. God knows everything and He is all powerful. Job had the amazing experience of God Himself speaking to him. Instead of speaking about justice issues, God spoke of His mighty creation. Job and his friends had thought of God as the great moral accountant, chalking up our rights and wrongs, and dishing out appropriate punishments and rewards.



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In verse 3, Job quoted what God said in Job 38:2, intensifying the action with the verb "hideth" which is more complete than "darkeneth" (Heb. chashach, haw-SHAWKH). In this verse God said that Job was speaking out of ignorance when he brought his complaints before Him. "Hideth" in verse 3 is 'alam (Heb. aw-LAM), which is speaking of God's grand designs for the universe that are concealed from us human beings. These are things that Job cannot speak of, because they are hidden from him and from us. God is the great I AM-He exists in the past, the present, and the future, all simultaneously. His plans take all these things into account.



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So what did Job say after hearing what God had to say about Himself? First of all, he discovered that God is much more than some superior human being. When we pray, we often think we know just what God should do to answer our prayers, when in reality, God has the whole picture and we do not.



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To see our holy God as He really is always causes us to realize how sinful we are in comparison. We think of Isaiah in the Temple as God in His holiness appeared to him. Isaiah said, "Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts" (from Isaiah6:5). We find Job saying a similar thing inverse 6. "I abhor myself" can have several different meanings. The verb in Hebrew is ma'as (maw-AS) and can also mean to melt or submit. Although his three friends had accused him of doing terrible things, Job is not agreeing to their accusations.



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He still maintains that he has done nothing so awful that he deserves the troubles he has experienced. He is aware of his arrogance before the LORD. When coming face to face with God, all these things must have been going through Job's mind. The last words that we hear from Job show his desire to "repent in dust and ashes." The Hebrew word for "repent" is nacham (nawKHAM), in which we see him sighing, breathing strongly with a sense of sorrow, and regretting his ignorant and hasty words before God.



LIGHT ON THE WORD

Job's Faith is Deeper

Job is now conscious of the fact that he did not speak in the right way concerning God. His speech only served to hide God's true purposes rather than reveal them. He sought to understand God and his ways but fell short. His repentance is an acknowledgment that God is in control and that He alone knows what is best for His creation.



II. THE LORD RESPONDS TO JOB'S FRIENDS

God Reprimands Job's Friends
Job 42:7-9

The LORD is angry with Job's friends. They are deserving of His wrath. He demands a sacrifice from Job's friends as a payment for defaming the name of the Almighty. Seven bulls and seven rams, which represent a sin offering, must be taken to Job, who will pray for his friends. Only then will the LORD forgive Job's friends and not treat them as their sins deserve.



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Now we switch from poetry to prose as we come almost to the end of the book. God defends Job by speaking to his friends. Evidently Eliphaz was the oldest of the three men, and so he is chosen by God as the representative. The three friends have the very narrow view of God mentioned earlier-that God is the great moral police officer, a God of immediate retribution, quickly meting out punishment when people sin and quickly bestowing material riches on the righteous.

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Sometimes this is true, but often it is not. When we accuse people of wrongdoing, just because they are suffering, we are imputing to God a very limited character. We read in Hebrews 12:6 that the one "the LORD loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth." Yes, those who suffer are more likely to be God's favorite children. This is similar to the way good parents treat their children. They do not ignore them and let them do whatever they want.

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When we look at people who seem successful even though they are very immoral, we may be forgetting God's grace and mercy to sinners as He waits for them to repent. Often people die without ever turning to God and then they are punished, because they have ignored the great grace of God. The book of Job should open our eyes to see more of the sovereign greatness of God. He alone does what He wants, because He alone sees the whole picture. Hopefully, this study has helped us to catch a greater vision of the greatness of our God. Job was certainly not perfect, but he passionately desired to communicate honestly with God. His friends, on the other

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Job was certainly not perfect, but he passionately desired to communicate honestly with God. His friends, on the other hand, just mouthed platitudes that they had heard. But even worse, they arrogantly thought they knew why Job was suffering, even though they had no real evidence for sin on his part. God commanded them to make a sacrifice for their sins of spiritual pride and their lack of kindness toward Job. Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar must have felt humiliated. They had thought they were the righteous ones, but God accuses them of sin and validates Job's righteousness. To make things even worse, they need Job's prayers of intercession for their own sakes. And the LORD accepts Job's prayer for them.

LIGHT ON THE WORD

Unwise Counsel

The LORD calls Job's friends to account for their bad advice and counsel. They spoke for God when they too did not understand God. In fact, God says they did not speak about Him correctly. They accused Job and did not have the right to do so. As a result, their sins must be atoned for and they must rely on the prayers of the one whom they sought to accuse.



III. THE LORD REVERSES JOB'S SITUATION

God's Justice Does Prevail
Job 42:10

Job prays for his friends, and the LORD accepts his prayer. Job is accepted because he has already repented of his arrogance and pride. God reverses Job's situation and brings him out of "captivity." It is also recorded that the LORD gives Job twice as much as he had before. This is all detailed in the rest of the chapter (vv. 11-17). All this happened as a result of Job's prayer for his friends.



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Here God has asked Job to take a step of faith. He first has to intercede for his so-called friends, and then the LORD gives him twice as much as he had before. Job had no idea that this would be the result, and he surely had to wait many years for this to happen. He lived 140 years more and in this time he had seven sons and three daughters, the same number cannot be replaced with other children, nevertheless, these were amazing children.



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We look at the names of the daughters-Jemima, which means dove; Kezia, which means cinnamon; Kerenhappuch, which means a container of expensive black eye makeup. Job lived to see his children grow up and have his grandchildren, and his grandchildren grow up and have his great-grand-children. His herds grew from nothing to double the number of sheep, camels, oxen, and donkeys than he had before. Not only did Job's material blessings increase, but because of his experiences he gained the privilege of knowing God in a unique and powerful way.



LIGHT ON THE WORD

Spiritual Eyes Opened

Throughout the story of Job, we see him questioning God and His goodness. Now we see God giving Job even more than what he had before. The LORD knew the whole story while Job only knew a piece of it. Amid the wrestling, Job comes to have his spiritual eyes opened-not after he is blessed, but during the time of his trial. When Job first experienced his troubles, he had no idea that the LORD would restore him. When he began to pray for his friends, he had no idea that God was about to bless him with twice as much as he had before.



BIBLE APPLICATION

AIM: We will understand and accept that we cannot

know everything about God's motives and actions.



BIBLE APPLICATION

There are many people in our society who are experiencing the trials of life. Because of this, their hope grows thin and they resort to relieving the pain they feel through addictive and destructive behaviors. Even as believers, we often question God's ways and whether He is good to us. This lesson shows us that the LORD can sustain us in our hope when we maintain intimate communication with Him. When our hope fades, He can strengthen us until His purpose is finally revealed.



STUDENT RESPONSES

AIM: We will respond in obedience to God's correction



STUDENT RESPONSES

Evaluate the circumstances in your life and pray that the LORD would open your spiritual eyes to see what He is doing. But do not stop there! Pray that the LORD would show you how to respond to your family and friends who are going through circumstances that are beyond their control. Offer wisdom, prayer, and silence. We as humans cannot know what God is doing in someone's life unless we seek God for our friend in need. Only speak when your friend is in danger or when the LORD shows you, then remain silent and let the LORD reveal an answer.



Prayer

Dear God,

Speak to our minds and hearts, LORD, and let us understand what You would have us to do in caring for others. Speak to our ears, hands, feet, and eyes, LORD, as You guide us where to go and what to say and do,

In Jesus' Name, we pray, Amen.



Next Sunday
October 27, 2024
Lesson 9
God's Divine Glory Returns
(Ezekiel 43:1-12)

