



Use Week of:

Unit 1 • Session 6

The Suffering of Job

BIBLE PASSAGE:

Job

STORY POINT: Job learned that God is always good.

KEY PASSAGE:

Colossians 1:16b

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
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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.

Everyone suffers—those who follow God and those who don't. 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. Job didn't understand his suffering and he even doubted God, but Job's suffering ultimately brought him closer to God. God is always in control, even when His people can't see the reason behind the suffering God allows.

Job reminds us that following Jesus is worth it. God is good, present, and in control. We can trust Him even 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 preschoolers understand God's truth. Point preschoolers 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 man who loved God. But sad things began to happen to Job, and Job did not know why. Robbers stole the animals on his farm. Job's children died in a storm, and Job became sick with bad sores all over his body. He felt terrible!

Job did not understand why these things happened. Job had been kind to people and had helped poor people. People in the city respected him, and he had given good advice to others. But after all these things happened to him, people made fun of Job and were mean to him.

Three friends visited Job.

They told Job to obey God and tell Him he was sorry for doing wrong things. **They said God was punishing Job for his sin.**

“But I did not do anything wrong,” Job said. Job was tired and angry. **“I wish I could ask God some questions** and prove to Him that I have done what is right,” he said.

Then another friend came along. His name was Elihu (ih LIGH hyoo). Elihu told Job's three friends that they were wrong. He said Job was wrong to complain that God was not treating him fairly.

Then God came in a whirlwind to talk to Job. 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?"

God said, "I made the most powerful animal in the world. Can you capture it? Can you catch a crocodile?"

Job realized that God is much greater than people. God is mighty and strong and wise. He knows how the world works best. He is more powerful than anything scary. **People cannot always understand what God is doing, but people can always trust God. God is good.**

Job's story had a happy ending. **God healed Job, and Job became richer than he had been before. Job had more children. He lived a long and happy life** and saw his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren grow up.

Christ Connection: 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.

Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Invite a guest:** Invite a male guest to dress in Bible times clothing and tell the Bible story as a monologue from Job's perspective.
- **Use your voice:** Pause and allow for silence between paragraphs or scenes to emphasize the intensity of Job's situation.

INTRODUCE the Story



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

Welcome time

- "My Father's World" song
- offering basket
- Allergy Alert download
- favorite toys related to the Bible story theme

Play a theme song in the background as you greet preschoolers and follow your church's security procedures. Set an offering basket near the door to collect at an appropriate time. Post an allergy alert, if necessary. Set out a few favorite theme-related toys, such as puzzles and blocks.

Activity page

- "Finish the Pattern" activity page, 1 per child
- markers or crayons

Invite preschoolers to look at the images in each row and circle the image that comes next.

SAY • We will hear about the earth, lightning bolts, horses, eagles, and crocodiles in today's Bible story. Do you know who made all those things? Do you know who is in charge of all those things? God! In today's Bible story, a man named Job learned that God is much greater than people. We need to learn that too. Let's listen to how God taught Job in our Bible story.

LOW PREP

- items already in your room

Decide what is missing

Gather six to ten items from around the room and place them on a table. Invite preschoolers to observe the items. Instruct children to turn around while you remove and hide one item. Ask preschoolers to guess the missing item. Continue removing items and guessing until all the items

are gone. Replace the items and play again as time allows.

SAY • In today's Bible story, a man named Job did not just have one thing taken away, he had many things taken away! When you hear everything that was taken away from Job, I think you will agree that he had a good reason to be sad. But God used all the sad things that happened to Job to help Job understand more about what God is like.

Make wind art

Cover a table with newspaper or a plastic tablecloth. Fill the cups of a muffin tin halfway full with water. Mix a few drops of food color in each cup. Give each preschooler a sheet of paper. Help a preschooler use a dropper to drop colored water onto his or her paper. Show a preschooler how to blow through a straw to move the colored water around. Provide direction to preschoolers on how to blow out rather than in.

- newspaper or a plastic tablecloth
- muffin tin
- water
- paper
- food color
- eyedroppers
- straws, 1 per child

SAY • Wow! Your art looks like it has been in a windstorm! In today's Bible story, God came to talk to a man named Job in a whirlwind. Listen to our Bible story to hear what God said to Job.

Transition to Bible study

To gain the attention of all the preschoolers to move them to Bible study, show the countdown video, flip off the lights, or clap a simple rhythm for the children to copy. Invite preschoolers to decide what they think is the most powerful animal and move to Bible study pretending to be that animal.

- countdown video (optional)

TEACH the Story



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Introduce the Bible story

- Bible
- bookmark
- Giant Timeline

Place a bookmark at Job in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it. Reverently display the open Bible.

SAY • We call the Bible God’s Word because the Bible is God’s words to us. Everything in the Bible is true. Today’s Bible story is from the Book of Job.

Point to the Bible story picture on the giant timeline. Remind children that all 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.

Watch or tell the Bible story

- Story Point Poster
- “The Suffering of Job” video (optional)
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

SAY • Many sad things happened to Job, and he did not understand why. Job did not learn why the sad things happened, but **Job learned that God is always good**. People cannot always understand what God is doing, but people can always trust God. He is mighty and strong and wise.

- “Key Passage Marker” printable
- Key Passage Poster
- “All Things” song
- “My Father’s World” song

Practice the key passage

Cut out the “Key Passage Marker” and place it at

Colossians 1:16b. Invite a volunteer to open your Bible to the key passage. Read the key passage aloud. Practice the motions you created for the verse. Allow preschoolers to take turns saying the key passage from memory.

SAY • Everything—all that our eyes can see and all that our eyes can't see—was created by Jesus and for Jesus. Everything that happens happens because Jesus made it so. All of it is meant to show how wonderful He is.

Sing the key passage song, “All Things,” and the theme song, “My Father’s World.”

Learn the big picture question

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.

• Big Picture Question Poster



Missions moment

Display the “Rigney Family Prayer Card” printable.

SAY • Like Job, missionaries also face hard times and need to be reminded of God’s goodness. When missionaries like the Rigney family move to a new country, they leave behind things that are very important to them. They may have to leave a favorite pet or move far away from family. Let’s pray for the Rigney family as they get used to their new home.

• “Rigney Family Prayer Card” printable

Pray and transition to experience the story

EXPERIENCE the Story



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LOW PREP

Sing “My God Is So Big”

Lead preschoolers in singing and performing the motions for the song “My God Is So Big.” If you are unfamiliar with the tune, lyrics, or motions, look them up online before the session.

SAY • God showed Job that He is much greater than people. God is mighty and strong and wise. He knows how the world works best. People cannot always understand what God is doing, but people can always trust God. **Job learned that God is always good.**

Draw and erase Job’s sores

Print several copies of the “Job” printable. Seal each printable between two pieces of clear contact plastic. If you have access to a laminating machine, consider laminating the printables. Place the sealed Job images on a table with dry erase markers. Invite preschoolers to use the markers to draw sores on Job’s body. Then they may erase the sores to represent God’s healing Job.

SAY • Job became sick with bad sores all over his body. Later God healed Job. **Job learned that God is always good.** Job’s story reminds us of Jesus. Jesus is the only Person who never sinned, but He suffered

- “Job” printable
- clear contact plastic
- scissors (adult use)
- dry erase markers
- dry erasers or paper towels

to take the punishment for our sin. Jesus comforts us when we suffer, and we can trust Him.

Look at books about friendship

Set out books about friendship for preschoolers to look through. Read a book to a child as she shows interest.

· books about friendship

SAY • Three friends visited Job, but they were not being good friends. They said God was punishing Job for his sin, but they were wrong. Just because something bad happens to you doesn't mean you did something wrong. Sometimes bad things happen and God is the only One who knows why. We cannot always understand what God is doing, but we can always trust God. **Job learned that God is always good.**

Assemble activity bags

Invite preschoolers to assemble activity bags to deliver to a local children's hospital or women and children's shelter.

· ziplock bags
· items for bags
· cards (optional)
· paper (optional)
· markers (optional)

Gather items, such as stickers, sticker pages, safety scissors, tape, activity books, coloring sheets, word search puzzles, crayons, markers, colored pencils, glue sticks, craft sticks, watercolor paints, and bead kits with instructions. Form an assembly line where each preschooler places a certain item in each ziplock bag. Consider adding a drawing or card from your preschoolers in each bag.

Option: Contact preschool families before the session and encourage them to bring items for the activity bags.

SAY • Job suffered in our Bible story today. The children who will receive these bags are suffering too. 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.**

- Allergy Alert
- download
- scones
- paper plates
- napkins
- plastic knife



Taste scones

Give preschoolers time to enjoy tasting scones (a traditional English bread-cake).

SAY • Missionaries often have to get used to different foods when they move to a new country. This is not always easy! Snake is a favorite food in the country of Cambodia. In the country of China, many people enjoy bird's nest soup. Grub worms are often eaten in many countries in Africa. These foods probably sound very different to you, but they are delicious to people living in those countries. The Rigney family eats food that is a lot like what they were used to in the United States. You might enjoy some of it too!

Snack and review

Play the countdown video to signal the end of activities. Wash hands and gather preschoolers for snack time. Pray, thanking God for the snack.

Serve a snack. Remind preschoolers **Job learned that God is always good.** As they eat, ask preschoolers to tell you how they know God is good. Show the Bible story picture as you ask the following questions. Retell parts of the Bible story as needed.

1. 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*)
2. Who is greater: God or people? (*God*)
3. What did Job learn in this Bible story? (**Job learned that God is always good.**)
4. Would God still be good if He didn't heal Job and give him back everything he lost? (*yes*)
5. 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.*)
6. **Who is God? God is our Creator and King.**

Transition

When children finish their snack, preschoolers may color the Bible story coloring page, play a simple game to practice the key passage or big picture question, or sing along to the key passage or theme song.

If parents are picking up their children at this time, tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Distribute the preschool big picture cards for families.

- countdown video (optional)
- Allergy Alert download
- paper cups and napkins
- snack food
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster

- Bible Story Coloring Page
- crayons
- Key Passage Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- "All Things" song
- "My Father's World" song
- Big Picture Cards for Families: Babies, Toddlers, and Preschoolers