



NOVEMBER 24, 2024

THE SUFFERING OF JOB

JOB

CHRIST CONNECTION

When we face suffering, we can hope in God.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION

Who is in control? God is in control.

MEMORY VERSE

Genesis 50:20

PREPARE



Take time to reflect
on today's lesson

LEADER BIBLE STUDY

Job's story is an impactful passage on human suffering and God's sovereign goodness that transcends any circumstance. The book of Job shares of a God-fearing, virtuous man who continually turned from evil. Though he was not sinless, Job was counted righteous by his faith in God until the end.

How does Job respond when unexpected suffering comes to him? How does Job's story encourage us in our own suffering?

In the beginning of Job, we see an interaction between Satan and God, in which the Creator allows Satan to test Job to see if he would continue to follow God amidst suffering. Job would lose his sheep, camels, servants, and children. In response to this loss, Job worshiped God and refused to blame Him. Next, Job would become afflicted by painful boils. Despite Job's tragic sufferings, he refused to speak ill of God, even when his own wife told him to give up his faith.

In the following chapters, Job wrestled with his experiences in suffering, as his three friends tried in vain to comfort and help him in his pain. They could not fathom that Job's suffering did not result from sin. However, another voice, that of Elihu, spoke into Job's circumstances with true wisdom: God is greater than man, holy, and just; only He is righteous and sinless.

God met Job amidst his questions, reminding him of man's place within His created universe. Though people are unworthy of God's goodness, the Creator delights in showcasing His glory to the ones He has made. After Job prayed for his friends, his fortune was not only restored, but it was doubled.

Although God allowed Job to suffer, His hand was there to guide him, and His comfort remained by his side. What we glean from Job's story is that God's righteousness is so much greater than our own, that He is worthy of worship despite our circumstances. In 2 Corinthians 4:17, Paul declared that "our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory."

There is only one truly righteous person who suffered unjustly: Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Help kids see that God is good, and His full worthiness is displayed in Jesus, the only truly righteous One. By faith in His finished work on the cross, we are counted as righteous and granted eternal hope. Pray for the children in your group to experience God's goodness and place their faith in Him alone.

TODAY'S STORY POINT

God is good even in suffering.



THE SUFFERING OF JOB

Job was a good man who worshiped God and turned away from evil. He had many children, servants, and animals. One day, God's enemy, Satan, came to God. God said, "Have you seen Job? He is a good man who loves Me and turns away from evil."

Satan said, "Job only worships You because of how much You have blessed him! If you take away all You have given him, he won't worship You anymore." God gave Satan permission to cause suffering in Job's life.

Satan sent men to take away Job's oxen and camels. He sent fire from heaven that killed Job's sheep. Job's children and servants died as well. Job lost everything in one day. Job was very sad, but he still worshiped God.

Satan went to God again. "If Job also became sick, he won't worship You anymore." So God allowed Satan to harm Job's body as well. Satan caused Job to have painful sores all over his body!

Job's wife said, "Why do you still hold fast to God? Curse God and die!"

Job responded, "Should we only accept good things from God, and not also bad things?"

Three friends came to Job. Their names were Eliphaz (EL ih faz), Bildad (BIL dad), and Zophar (ZOH fahr). These friends thought that Job was being punished for hidden sin. They told him to stop sinning.

"I haven't done anything wrong!" Job said. Job began to wonder why God would allow him to suffer so much. Had God made a mistake?

Another man named Elihu (ih LIGH hyoo) came to Job. He reminded Job what was true about God: "God is greater than man. He always does what is right."

Finally, God spoke to Job through a whirlwind. "Were you there when I made the earth?" God asked. "Can you control the stars or the lightning? Do you give the animals their food each day?"

Job realized that while he did not understand everything, he could trust God, who is all-powerful and completely good. Job was sorry he had doubted God.

God gave Job back everything he had lost and so much more.

CHRIST CONNECTION

In his suffering, Job recognized that God is all-powerful and good. **When we face suffering, we can hope in God.** God sent Jesus, the only truly innocent One, to suffer and die so everyone who trusts in Him can have forgiveness and eternal life.

WELCOME



Connect with kids as they arrive

OPENING ACTIVITIES

Greet each kid as they arrive. Use this time to build relationships and help new kids connect to your group. Before heading to Large Group, kids can work on the provided coloring or activity pages. You can also do the Memory Verse Activity below as a class!

MEMORY VERSE

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today.

- Genesis 50:20, ESV



MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

It's Bible Bucks Day! Throughout the morning, our Bible Bucks Leaders will be going from room to room to give kids the opportunity to recite any memorized Bible verse to earn Bible Bucks.

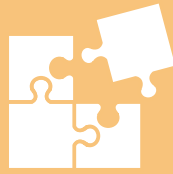
Remind kids that we memorize God's Word so we can have His words with us at all times. The more we read God's Word and spend time with Him, the more we will learn about Him!

FOCAL POINT: STORIES

This semester, we're focusing on the power of stories — such as the true stories of the Bible, Jesus' parables, our testimonies, and more! Take some time this week to share at least one story of how God is working in your life or the lives of kids in your class.

Even "little" stories can have a big impact and encourage others to continue serving the Lord and loving the kids in our ministry. Use the QR code in your class or text Taylor to share your story!

K12 ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games with younger kids after Large Group

ACTIVITY

Split your class into pairs and give each pair a plastic bag of the provided game cards.

Challenge the kids to play a memory game using the cards. If a kid finds a match, they get another turn. If not, their partner gets to take a turn. Continue until all matches are found!

CONNECT THE DOTS



Even though Job suffered great loss, he learned that God is always in control. God spoke to Job from a whirlwind and reminded Job that He is the Creator, and all things are under His rule. We can praise God that He is in control of all things because He is good and works everything for His good plan.

CONNECT THE DOTS



No matter what we're going through — whether good or bad times — we can thank God for all He's given us. God sent Jesus to suffer and die so everyone who trusts in Him can have forgiveness and eternal life. We can always be thankful for God's goodness and good plans!

CRAFT

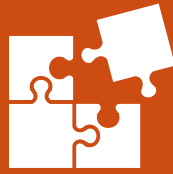
Supplies: gratitude tree kits, markers/crayons, glue (if needed)

Give each kid the two halves of their gratitude tree and several leaves. Have them slide the two pieces together so the tree stands on its own.

Have kids use markers/crayons to write things they're grateful for on the provided leaves, then stick the leaves to the branches of their tree!



345 ACTIVITIES



Do crafts and games
with older kids after
Large Group

ACTIVITY

Give each kid a blank piece of paper or notecard. Invite kids to draw pictures and write a note of encouragement for someone who may be suffering or facing difficult times.

Provide a few Bible verses for kids to look up and write on their cards such as *2 Corinthians 1:3*, *Romans 15:13*, *Psalms 27:13-14*, *2 Corinthians 4:17*, etc. Encourage kids to write a prayer on their cards as well.

CONNECT THE DOTS



God calls believers to comfort one another and weep with those who weep. When someone is going through a hard time or a trial, we can be there to pray for them, offer encouraging words, and point them to the hope of Jesus. One day, everything bad will be undone when Jesus returns to make a new world without sin.

CONNECT THE DOTS



No matter what we're going through — whether good or bad times — we can thank God for all He's given us. God sent Jesus to suffer and die so everyone who trusts in Him can have forgiveness and eternal life. We can always be thankful for God's goodness and good plans!

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CLOSING ACTIVITIES



Continue to engage kids while they wait to be picked up

BIBLE STORY REVIEW

After Large Group, ask the following questions and lead your class to discuss.

1. Does trusting in God and following Him mean we will never suffer? Why not?
2. How did Jesus suffer? Why did He suffer?
3. How is God with us when we go through hard times?
4. Will God ever fail us? Why not?
5. How have friends encouraged you during a hard time? How can you encourage others and remind them God is good when they go through hard times?

HAVE EXTRA TIME?

If you have extra time in your class, use it to add to our gratitude chain! We'll be adding to this chain all month long. Let kids take strips of paper and write down things they are thankful for. Once they're done, staple them into a long chain and leave it in the room.

BEFORE YOU GO...

Please clean up by doing the following:

1. Put all extra supplies and binders back in the curriculum bins
2. Clean all trash off the tables
3. Put all crayons, markers, etc. back in the appropriate containers and cubbies
4. Erase the whiteboards and put markers/erasers back in the holder
5. Turn off the TVs as you leave

THANK YOU FOR SERVING WITH US!