

Get Ready!

Job-Lessons Learned Through Trial

By: Judy Myers



Text

Book of Job

Key Quest Verse

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.” 1 Corinthians 10:13 (NIV)

Bible Background

The name of the book is taken from the name of the main character, Job. We do not know who wrote the book or when. It may have been the first book in the Bible to be written, most assuredly it was the first book written after the Law books, the first five books.

The setting for this story is the terrible suffering of this righteous man named Job. Job was a very wealthy man in terms of the world. He possessed spiritual wealth beyond his material wealth. The purpose of this book is to show that God is with us even in times of suffering and He can bless us through suffering. Job challenges conventional ways of thinking.

Get Ready!**Lesson Quest****What I Want My Student to:****KNOW:** That trials come to all people. How we handle them is what is important.**FEEL:** God will give us strength to get through the tough times in life.**DO:** Develop a closer relationship with God.**Leader's Devotion**

Sometimes as we go about our daily life, God gives us trials that may test our faith . When those times come, it is important to remember that He has promised He won't give us more than we can bear and that He will provide a way out for us when we are tempted and tried. I would like to share with you a recent trial that our family went through and how our faith in God gave us the courage to face it and be able to share our hope with others. On Christmas Eve of 2002, our 6-year-old granddaughter was rushed to the hospital having seizures. She had never had any problems in the past. Later that night we were told that she had a brain tumor. I kept telling myself that God would not give us more than we could handle. My prayer was that He would give us strength and that He would take any tumor that might be there away but if that were not to be, that He would make us strong and able to see His hand in what would come. He was faithful and answered our prayers. It was not a tumor but something less serious. They did recommend brain surgery on Saturday after Christmas to remove what was there. She did so well that she went home 3 days later. She was weaned off of the seizure medication and today is a happy and healthy 7-year old. Thank you, God.

During that time, our daughter-in-law who was expecting another child began to bleed and had to be hospitalized also. She was in and out of the hospital several times before the doctors felt that for her health's sake, they needed to take the baby. This was two months early. Again, God was present and the baby was healthy. After three weeks in neo-natal intensive care he was released to go home. As I write this, he is 9 months old and doing well. Minor things have come and gone since that time but in all things, we have felt the presence of God and have known that He was in control and that He would provide us with the strength to see us through. We praise Him for that. Many opportunities to share our faith came as a result of that situation. God tried us but we, like Job, were not broken. It was a time of drawing closer to Him and feeling His presence each day. As you face the trials that come into your life, remember that He is there and that if you will let Him, He will see you through.

Get Set!



Option A

Materials: Container of flour, can of baking powder, can of shortening and one cookie per child.

Procedure: Sometimes very hard things happen to us. Someone that we love may get sick or die, a friend may decide that they don't want to be friends any longer, we may have to move to a different place, or perhaps someone in our family loses a job and money becomes a very big issue. Do you think that God loves you in the difficult times? He sure does! How many of you just love the taste of baking powder? If you have never tasted it, I would like for you to sample it this morning. How about flour? Or shortening? (They might taste these as well if time permits.) None of these items taste very good. But for these cookies, they are important ingredients. (Give a cookie to each student.) Alone they taste bad but when they are mixed with the other ingredients and together, they make something very delicious. This reminds me of the story that we will have today. Let's find out how bad things that happened to Job, in the end, lead to something even better.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: Small saucer (like in a child's tea set), ¼ tsp. Salt, dash of pepper, balloon.

Procedure: Did you ever feel like nothing was going right for you? I am going to put some salt here in the middle of this little saucer. It will represent us. I am going to add just a little bit of pepper on the top of the salt. This represents problems that come into our lives and make everything seem dark and dreary. These problems sometime really get us down and make us feel like we are carrying the weight of the world on our shoulders. During those times, it is important to remember that God is there with us and he can help ease the burden of our troubles and restore us to happiness again. (As you are bringing out this point, take the balloon which you have rubbed against your clothing to make static electricity, and pass it closely over the pepper. The static electricity should pick the pepper up and remove it from the salt.) This reminds me of our story today and how, though it seemed that every bad thing possible had happened to him, Job remained faithful to God and in the end God blessed him.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!



Bible Story

Teacher Tip: Provide markers for students to highlight portions of the story in their Bibles.

The story of Job begins by telling us that he lived in the land of Uz, that he was blameless and upright, that he feared God and that he shunned evil. It goes on to tell us that he was a very wealthy man having seven sons, three daughters, 7000 sheep, 3000 camels, 1000 oxen (500 yoke), 500 donkeys and a large number of servants. It lists him as being the greatest man among the people of the East. It also tells us that he had a great concern for his children and that after they had parties together he would make sacrifices for each of them just in case they had cursed God in their hearts. (1:1-5)

The ground work is thus set for what will happen next. Beginning in verse 6 of chapter 1 we learn that meanwhile in the heavens, Satan appears before God who asks him where he has been. He replies that he has been roaming the earth. God then asks if he has had a look at his servant Job who is blameless and upright fearing God and shunning evil. Satan then questions the reason for Job’s behavior and suggests that it is just because he is so blessed and that if everything was removed from him, he would curse God. God then allows him to destroy what Job has except not to harm Job in any way.

So, as Job’s sons and daughters are together having a party, one of Job’s servants comes running to let him know that all of his oxen and donkeys had been attacked and killed along with all the servants working with them except for himself. While he was still with Job, another servant showed up to tell him that a storm had come and destroyed all his sheep and he only remained of the servants. And again, while he was still speaking another servant came to report that three raiding parties had come and taken all of his camels and killed all the servants except for him. All of the possessions that Job had were gone. And yet, it doesn’t say that he reacted in a negative way. However, the biggest test was still to come. While that servant was still speaking, another came to say that his sons and daughters and all the servants with them had been killed. Then, Job got up, tore his robes, shaved his head and fell to the ground to worship God. The Bible says that “In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.” (1:22)

Again the scene shifts back to heaven where Satan tells God that if Job himself were to suffer in his body, things would be different. So, God allowed him to put Job to the test. Painful sores from the soles of Job’s feet to the top of his head came upon him. His wife told him to curse God and die but he refused saying that we should not only accept the good from God but also the bad. Again the Bible records (2:10) that “In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.”

Get Set!**Bible Story**

Again the Bible records (2:10) that “In all this, Job did not sin in what he said.”

In chapter 2:11 we learn that three friends came to Job. They try to convince him that all his troubles are a result of his sin. They tell him to confess and things will get better but Job knows that he has not sinned and refuses to confess to something he didn’t do. One by one they make their cases and after each, Job makes his case for his integrity and faithfulness to God.

Finally through a whirlwind God appears to Job. He asks him questions like, “Where were you when I created the world?”; “Can you say the word and rain fall from the clouds?”; “Do you know when the wild mountain goats will give birth to their young?”; or “Have you given the horse strength?” He asks Job if he has the right to correct God. God made His point and Job saw that he had spoken of things that he did not understand. God then challenges Job with His power to which Job answers that God is all powerful and wise. In verses 5 and 6 of chapter 42, Job says, “I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.” God is pleased with Job’s speaking and after Job prays for his friends who God was not pleased with, God gave Job greater wealth than he had before and gave him 7 more sons and 3 more daughters who were the most beautiful in all the land. Job lived 140 years after his testing and was able to see four generations of his family before his death.

Important lessons we learn from Job:

Material possessions were not important to Job. When all those things were taken from him, he sat silently.

Job’s family was important to him. He was a good father who was concerned with his children’s relationship with their Creator. He offered prayers and sacrifices for them just in case they had cursed God in their hearts.

Job was a man of integrity. In all the situations that came to him, he did not lose that characteristic. He did not curse God or blame God for the things that happened to him even though he wanted to die and wished he hadn’t been born.

Job wasn’t swayed by the advice of his friends. He stood firm to what he believed was right.

Job realized that he had heard of God but he had not really known God personally until he went through the trials.

God rewarded Job for his faithfulness.

Go!



Digging Deeper

RESEARCH

Materials: Bibles, concordances, pencils and worksheet

Quest Connection

In Job 1:20 it says that after Job learned of his children’s death he tore his robe, shaved his head and fell to the ground to worship.

Procedure: Today we want to look at what worship is all about. Our English word worship comes from the old Anglo-Saxon word “worthship.” It simply means to ascribe worth to something. When Job worshipped God, he was ascribing worth to God. The Hebrew word found in Job 1:20 is *shachah* which means to prostrate oneself, to bow down, or to fall to the ground. Job’s response to first tear his clothing was an outward showing of his inner pain. We also see the tearing of clothing during times of pain in the story of Joseph. (Genesis 37:29, 34; 44:13) Job’s shaving his head also signified his pain. In the Old Testament, hair was a crowning glory. To shave the head would mean that the things that he found glory in were gone. In the area of the world in which he lived, he expressed his pain in a very visual and open way. Everyone around him would have seen his sorrow and known that he was suffering. Have them look in concordances for verses that speak of worship. Since in some places the Bible speaks of bowing the head, some of prostrating oneself, some of kneeling, and some of falling to the ground, have them write down the position listed for worship. It is important to note that when we worship, we acknowledge our worthlessness in comparison to the worth of the other person. A list of worship verses is printed in the Teacher Resource page if you prefer to just have them look up the verses in their Bibles and read them and write the information down.

Close

We have learned that in Bible times people bowed down and worshipped God. In the New Testament they also bowed before Jesus acknowledging his role as God’s Son. Today, we need to worship God and be thankful for what He has done for us. When we pray, we bow our heads to acknowledge our unworthiness and God’s worth. Each day this week, spend time expressing to God how much He means to you.

Go!



Facing Trials

OBJECT LESSON

Materials: 2 Balloons, Water, Candle, Matches

Quest Connection

Things were going really good in Job’s life and then God allowed him to be tested. Though he lost all things, because of His faith in God, he remained a man of integrity.

Procedure: Blow up each balloon. Fill one about 1/3 full of water and leave the other one with only air. **All of us face trials and temptations in our life. Things may go badly at home, we may get sick, we may get a poor grade in school or a number of other things but we can be assured that God will see us through the trails in our lives if we keep our eyes on Him and remember His promise to not give us anything more than we can handle.** Light a candle. **This candle represents the trials and troubles that come into our lives.** Bring out an inflated balloon. **This balloon can represent a person who doesn’t put faith in God’s ability to bring us through trials. Let’s see what happens when the trials come his/her way.** Put the balloon over the flame. It should explode right away. **The person going through trails with God was in pretty big trouble and wasn’t able to stand up under the pressure.** Now bring out the other balloon. **This balloon represents the person who has faith in God’s ability to see them through. The water in the balloon can represent faith. Let’s see what happens when it comes in contact with trials.** Hold the balloon over the flame. It should not be harmed. Practice this ahead of time to be sure that it works for you. **Although both of these balloons faced the same trial (the fire), the one with the water is the only one that came through without damage. That is how it is if we trust God and realize that He will bring us through the trials that we face in life.**

Close

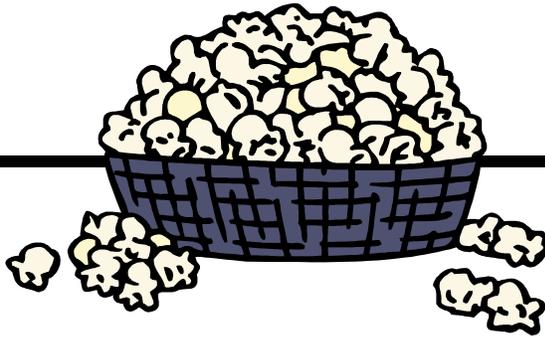
Job said, “The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away, may the name of the Lord be praised.” (1:21) As we go through our lives we need to remember that God has given us all that we have and if some of it is lost, we can still find reason to praise Him. This week try to find reasons to praise Him for special blessings.

Go!

Grow Close To God

GAME

Materials: Bowl of popcorn



Quest Connection

Job was a man who feared God and lived a pure life before him. In Job 42:5 we read, “My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.” It is important to know about God but far more important to KNOW God.

Procedure: Divide the group into two equal teams. Line them up about 10 feet apart or as far apart as you are able to do so in the space that you have. Give all the children on one team a piece of popcorn. When I say “go” I want you to toss your piece of popcorn to the person across the room from you. We will keep score to see how well you do. Those who are catching the popcorn may only do so with one hand. “Go.” Count the number of children who caught the corn and record it on the board. (If you have an extra child when you divided the teams up, they can be used as the recorder.) Give everyone who does not have a piece of popcorn a piece and then have them step forward one step. Continue doing this several times recording the number of catches each time. Soon the two teams will be very close together and can just drop the piece of popcorn into the other child’s hand. Our relationship with God is much like what we have just done. When we are not close to Him, it is hard to have a relationship with Him. But when we get closer and closer to Him, we can have a much closer relationship with Him. We can be like Job and not just know about Him but really KNOW Him. How do we get closer to God? (Allow time for answers which should include Reading the Bible, praying, listening to adults who share from God’s Word, etc.)

Close

Dear God, Help us to draw closer and closer to you as we study your Word. Help us, like Job, remain faithful when trials and troubles come our way. Amen.

Go!**Frame It****CRAFT**

Materials: Inexpensive picture frame per student (Dollar Store type or acrylic work well. Size to be determined by how large you wish to copy the verse), small items (silk flowers, seashells, buttons, pinecones, ribbon, etc.), glue, copy of Key Quest Verse (Teacher Resources)

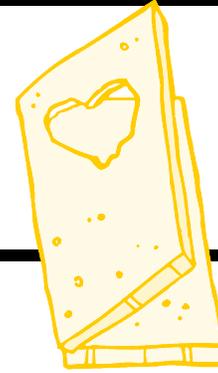
Quest Connection

We have learned in the story of Job that though God allowed many bad things to come his way, it did not break Job’s love for God. Our Verse for this lesson can be a constant reminder to us that God will not allow us to suffer beyond what we are able to handle and that as we suffer, He will provide us what is needed to see us through the trial.

Procedure: Give a picture frame to each student. Let them select what items they would like to use to decorate their frame. Use a heavy craft glue that will dry clear. Give one verse to each student. Copying them onto a nice paper stock will improve the quality of your plaque. If you use an acrylic frame, be sure that they decorate only around the edges so that the verse will show through. **Take the verse home and put it up where you will see it so that it will be a daily reminder of God’s presence with you.**

Close

Let’s share times when we felt God with us. Share a time when you especially felt God’s strength and presence in your life and then encourage the class to each share. You might have to ask them questions or mention things that you know they have gone through or are going through in their lives to help them see when God has helped them.

Go!**Prayer Cards****CRAFT/MINISTRY OUTREACH**

Materials: Card Stock in white or pale colors, glue, pens, stickers, Bible, Concordance

Quest Connection

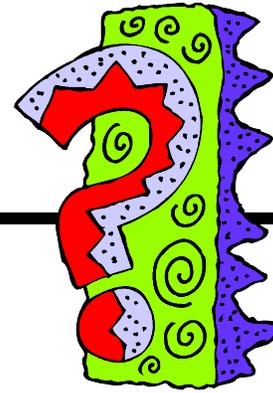
In the story of Job we saw that following his children's parties he offered prayers and made sacrifices for them in case they had cursed God in their hearts. At the end of the story we learn that after he prayed for his three friends, God restored possessions to him. Prayer should be an important part of our lives also. Not just prayers for ourselves but, as Job did, prayers for other people.

Procedure: Today we are going to make some prayer cards to let people know that we are praying for them. First let's make a list of some of the needs that you know about. Make a list so that everyone is sure to have someone to pray for. Cut as many 2 by 4 inch cards from the card stock as you desire. Have the class decorate the cards with personal artwork or add stickers of praying hands or people in prayer. Write the memory verse (or a prayer related verse they find in the concordance) on the card and then the sentence: "I'm praying for you." Students should sign the card and either give to or mail to someone that they are praying for. Be sure that if they are going to mail the cards you have envelopes and addresses for them. A stamp would probably also assure the job would be completed. **The Bible tells us in James 5:16b – "The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective."**

Close

Dear Father, Thank you that we can come to you in prayer and know that you will answer. We pray that this week you will hear our prayers for others and that you will meet the needs in their lives. Amen.

Go!



A “maze”ing

MEMORY VERSE GAME

Materials: Chalk or white board, Chalk, large piece of paper

Quest Connection

Our verse is a reminder to us of God’s presence with us. Today as we work on learning that verse, we will also play a little game to help us remember.

Procedure: Prior to class write the Bible verse on the board. Draw a maze under the verse with an arrow at the beginning and a heart at the end. Cover the maze with the large sheet of paper. Have the class read the verse together several times and then cover their eyes while you begin to erase several words from the verse leaving a blank space where the word was removed. Uncover the maze. **Who can tell me a word that I have removed?** If the child can give the word, they come to the board and add a line to begin going through the maze. Continue this until the class reaches the heart. **You have made it through the maze. The heart reminds me of the verse that says, “Thy Word have I hid in my heart.” (Psalm 119:11) As you grow and go through your life, this verse will be one that you will think of many times. What special promises God has given us through His Holy Word.**

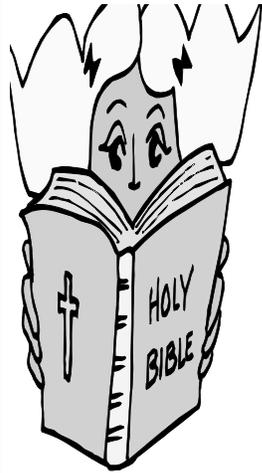
Close

In whatever you do this week, try to remember that anytime things come your way that tempt you to fight or say something bad about another, that just like Job faced many trials and did not sin, we can do that when we ask God to help us do the right thing.

Journal Page

Job says in Job 42: 5, “My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.”

We can “see” God as we draw close to Him. That can be done by reading the Bible, by praying, by memorizing Scripture, by listening as others share.



What verse have you read recently that helped you to understand God better?

What did you learn about God in the verse?

How will that change your behavior?

How has God answered a recent prayer of yours?

The Bible tells us in Hebrews 10:25, “Let us not give up meeting together ... but let us encourage one another.”

Who can you encourage this week? _____

How will you do it? _____

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

HOW WELL DID YOU LISTEN?

“In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was _____. This man was _____ and upright; he feared God and _____ evil.”

“He had seven _____ and three _____, and he owned _____ sheep, _____ camels, _____ yoke of oxen and _____ donkeys, and had a large number of _____.”

What four tests did he go through? 1) _____, 2) _____
_____ 3) _____ and 4) _____

What three things did Job do after he heard his family was dead? _____

“So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD and _____ Job with _____ from the soles of his _____ to the _____ of his _____.”

Who said, “Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die.” _____

What did Job’s friends want him to do? _____
Did he do it? _____ Why or why not? _____

How did God appear to Job? _____

Who said, “Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation?” _____

Who said, “My ears had heard of you but now my eyes have seen you.”? _____

What did God ask Job to do for the friends who had come to comfort him but really tried to convince him that he was getting what he deserved? _____

What did God do for Job after he came through his tests? _____

TEACHER RESOURCES

DIGGING DEEPER - Verses on Worship:

Genesis 24:26

Exodus 4:31

Exodus 12:27

Exodus 34:8

2 Samuel 12:20

1 Chronicles 29:30

2 Chronicles 29:20

Nehemiah 8:6

Psalms 95:6

Isaiah 45:22-23



Frame It: Verse

“No temptation has seized you except what is common to man. And God is faithful; he will not suffer you to be tempted beyond what you can bear. But when you are tempted, he will also provide a way out so that you can stand up under it.”

—1 Corinthians 10:13

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—1 Corinthians 10:13