

Get Ready!

Bad Things Happen to Faithful People

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Text

Book of Job

Key Quest Verse

Since he himself has gone through suffering and temptation, he is able to help us when we are being tempted. Hebrews 2:18

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 students to:

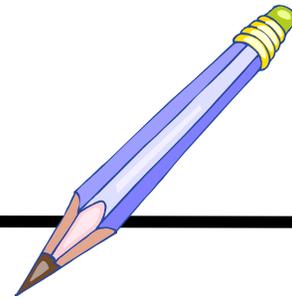
- Know:** That we can't escape trouble, but God never abandons us.
Feel: That something good can come out of difficult times.
Do: Embrace the blessings found only in the wounds.

Leader's Devotion

The Bible doesn't assume we will have trouble, it plainly tells us that difficulties will be a way of life for us during this present age. It is possible to profit from them. The point is not to pretend to be happy when we face pain, but to have a positive outlook because of what trials can produce in our life. We are to turn our hardships into times of learning. Tough times teach us patience.

We can't really know the depth of our character until we see how we react under pressure. It is easy to be kind to others when everything is going well, but can we still be kind when others are treating us unfairly? Or, when we feel our life of faithfulness is being ignored by God. God wants to make us mature and complete, not to keep us from all pain. Instead of complaining about our struggles, we should see them as opportunities for growth. Thank God for promising to be with us in rough times. Ask Him to help you solve your problems or to give you the strength to endure them. Then be patient. God will not leave you alone with your problems; He will stay close and help you grow.

Our suffering can make us more sensitive servants of God. People who know pain are able to reach out with compassion to others who hurt. If you have suffered, ask God how your experience can be used to help others.

*Get Set!***Option A**

Materials: 3x5 cards, pen/pencils

Have everyone write their name on one of the cards, fold it and put in a box. Stir the cards and pass the box. Have each one draw a card. Then, as each one reads the name they have drawn, give a “if I could” gift to that person and tell why. Note at the end, that nobody gave anyone difficult times.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

**Option B**

Materials: Chalkboard/overhead/paper

Make two categories on the board: “Things to do”, “Things not to do”. Have the students list things to do or not to do when someone is hurting or grieving. What kind of situations are the most difficult to address? Point out that sometimes, just being there and saying nothing is comfort enough.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Bible Story**

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

Job 1:1-5, 13-22 (NIV)

In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil. [2] He had seven sons and three daughters, [3] and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

[4] His sons used to take turns holding feasts in their homes, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. [5] When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would send and have them purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, “Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts.” This was Job’s regular custom.

[13] One day when Job’s sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, [14] a messenger came to Job and said, “The oxen were plowing and the donkeys were grazing nearby, [15] and the Sabeans attacked and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to you!”

[16] While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The fire of God fell from the sky and burned up the sheep and the servants, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

[17] While he was still speaking, another messenger came and said, “The Chaldeans formed three raiding parties and swept down on your camels and carried them off. They put the servants to the sword, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

[18] While he was still speaking, yet another messenger came and said, “Your sons and daughters were feasting and drinking wine at the oldest brother’s house, [19] when suddenly a mighty wind swept in from the desert and struck the four corners of the house. It collapsed on them and they are dead, and I am the only one who has escaped to tell you!”

[20] At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship [21] and said: “Naked I came from my mother’s womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised.”

[22] In all this, Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing.

Go!**Cream Works****GAME**

Materials: Foamy style shaving cream, towels, large bowl of water

Quest Connection

It is unrealistic to expect a life without trouble. We suffer because we live in a sin-cursed world. Sometimes we suffer because of something we did, but we all suffer because of Adam's sin.

Procedure: Divide the students up into two groups. Tell the students you are going to have a contest to see how little of the shaving cream they have remaining on their hands after they pass it around their team. Give one person in each group a grapefruit amount of shaving cream. Let them pass it from team member to team member trying to scrape off as much as possible from their hands during the pass. At the end have everybody hold up their hands. Declare a winner. Note that everybody will have some residue of the shaving cream left. Let them wash their hands and dry them.

Discuss the following questions:

How is the shaving cream like the difficulties of life?

Is it possible to avoid suffering?

What are some ways to handle problems?

How can suffering help our spiritual growth?

Close

Have each team pray together for the disappointments they face. Encourage them to ask God for the strength to deal with their disappointments in positive ways.

Go!

The End

VIDEO

Materials: TV/VCR/DVD & movie “The End”



Quest Connection

How do you handle life’s problems and who do you blame for them? Sometimes people make promises to God that they forget when the problem passes.

Procedure: The Movie: (comedy)

Wendell Sony Lawson (Burt Reynolds) finds out he has a terminal condition. He makes several failed attempts at suicide finally ending up in a mental health facility. He meets Marlon Borunki (Dom DeLuise) who decides to try and help Wendell complete the job. Deciding that Marlon is not going to get it done, Wendell comes to the beach to swim out into the ocean to “End it all”. The movie ends with him having an impassioned soliloquy to God.

This Clip: (about 7 minutes)

START: The final clip of the movie—at the beach.

STOP: When the movie ends.

Discuss the following questions:

Who is to blame for the problems we encounter in our life?

Is it acceptable to bargain with God – if He will get us out of the present situation, we will do?

Is suicide a natural thought for the solution to our problems?

Is suicide a solution? Who gets hurt in a suicide?

Close

Write Job 1:22 on the board. Have the students think of a present difficult situation they are facing. Have them copy the verse replacing their name for Job’s. Is this statement true of you. Close in prayer asking for God’s help.

Go!



Lemons

FOOD

Materials: Lemons: The more bruises, spots and wrinkles the better. You may have to get some lemons ahead of time and “help” them age a little.

Quest Connection

Sometimes we focus on our own problems as if we were the only ones to suffer. Jesus went through suffering for our benefit. It is through the suffering of Jesus that we can claim the promises of help during our times of distress.

Procedure: Divide the students into small clusters. Give each group a lemon.

Other Scripture: Have them read Isaiah 53.

Discuss the questions:

“How does your lemon represent the idea of the Messiah or the suffering servant as presented by Isaiah?” Have them pass the lemon around from member to member and share the first thing that comes to mind. After about 7 minutes, bring the group to order to discuss their thoughts. After a few minutes ask them how Jesus handled suffering? Is there anybody else in your life that has suffered inconveniences so your situation would be better?

Close

Cut the lemons and notice the aroma that fills the room. When we come through suffering, we can give a rich fragrance that can benefit others. Treat everybody to a glass of lemonade.

Go!

Taking Time

GAME

Materials: None



Quest Connection

When we are so focused on our troubles, we don't notice the hardships of others. Job's friends offered him lots of inappropriate advice, but at least they were there! It is possible to be so self-centered that we do not respond to our friends during their times of tragedy.

Procedure: Divide the students in two or more groups. See which group can complete the following activities first.

Take off your shoes and line them up in order of size, smallest to largest.

Find out which person in your group has the next birthday, and sing "Happy Birthday" to them two times.

What is the right answer to $3 \times 4 - 2 + 10 \times 2 \times 6 - 20 \times 16 =$. (3520)

Write down 5 one-syllable words that rhyme with king (swing, fling, ring, ding, sing, ping, etc.)

Line up and sing the chorus of "Jesus Loves Me" with the first person singing one word, the second person singing the second word and so on until you're finished.

Discuss the Questions:

1. We can be quick with a game, but why are we frequently so slow to help somebody during their difficult times?

Do/did you have anyone to help you endure your suffering?

How did they help you?

What did it do for your relationship with them?

Have you "been there" for somebody else?

Should you "be there" for somebody right now?

Close

Praying is one of the most important things we can do for each other. When was the last time you prayed for someone in this group? Take time to pray together for each individual repeating their name out loud.

Go!



Facing Trials

OBJECT LESSON

Materials: 2 balloons, water, candle, matches

Quest Connection

Things were going really well 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 trials 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.

Journal Page

Everybody goes through difficult personal tragedies. What has been the most difficult for you to handle? Do you feel that Hebrews 2:18 – Since he himself has gone through suffering and temptation, he is able to help us when we are tempted – was true for you? Express to God your feelings about His presence during that time.

What is your pain quotient? Everybody has some degree of discomfort in his or her life. We don't get along with everybody or have ideal situations. On the following graph, plot the amount of pain you are experiencing right now in each of the three areas. The bottom or 1 being the lowest and the top or 10 being the highest. The rankings will change, sometimes as often as day to day.

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| YOUR FAMILY | YOUR FRIENDS | SCHOOL |
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What is your total? _____.

In comparison to the rest of the class, do you think you are (circle one):

BELOW AVERAGE AVERAGE ABOVE AVERAGE

Remember, we all suffer. Suffering is a **normal** part of life.

OUCH! THAT HURTS!

When pain and suffering come into our life, we may have a wide range of emotions and reactions. Sometimes our whole life seems jumbled. Job, his wife and his three friends displayed a number of responses to his condition. See if you can unscramble their responses. They are all taken from the first three chapters of Job using the NIV. If you need a clue, Scripture references for each one are given at the bottom of the page.

MIXED EMOTIONS

1. PHRWOSI _____
2. GETNIYTIR _____
3. ESRUC _____
4. SMAHZEITPY _____
5. EPEW _____
6. RISHPE _____
7. EELSAP _____
8. YRMISE _____
9. GNISIHG _____
10. SNAORG _____
11. OILRUT _____

ANSWERS:

- 1) 1:20 2) 2:3 3) 2:9 4) 2:12 5) 2:12 6) 3:11 7) 3:13 8) 3:20 9) 3:24
10) 3:24 11) 3:26

What Shape Am I In?

We are not all perfectly shaped individuals nor are we all in perfect shape emotionally, mentally or spiritually. Cut apart the shapes below and arrange them to express how you feel about your spiritual life right now.

