

Job Fears God

Overview

Materials You'll Need

- foam or paper door hangers
- glitter markers
- washable markers
- scraps
- glue
- scissors



Scriptures

Job 1, 2, 42

Bible Truth Objective(s)

God wants us to fear and worship Him wholeheartedly even when bad things happen to us

Behavioral Objective(s)

To fear God and trust that He will take care of us; to do what is right even when things don't seem to go the way we want them to

Memory Verse

"You shall fear the Lord your God."
(Deut 6:13)



Bible Knowledge

Job

Job lived in ancient times, possibly as a contemporary of Abraham. Some of the details in the book of Job that support this are: 1) Job's wealth is measured in livestock (1:3). 2) Job offered sacrifices to God himself, indicating the lack of a priesthood (1:5). 3) Job's life-span is consistent with that of the patriarchs (42:16).

The opening verse in the text indicates that Job lived in the land of Uz, though its exact location is unknown. Because Job 1:3 records that Job was the greatest of all the people of the East, it can be concluded that he lived east of the Jordan river, possibly near Edom.

In the first two chapters of Job, the events unfold quickly to present the context for the dialogue for the rest of the book. We also see a glimpse of the spiritual world.

God takes the initiative by pointing out that Job is a blameless, upright man who fears God and shuns evil. Satan points out all the blessings Job has received. He challenges God by stating that if Job

lost everything he had, he would curse God to His face. God then gives Satan limited permission to test Job. Satan quickly destroys everything Job has, including his children and livestock. What is Job's reaction? Instead of cursing God, he worships Him.

While Job maintains his integrity, Satan holds onto his theory that all people are self-centered. This time, Satan asks for and receives permission from God to test Job by having access to his body. Job suffers terrible physical pain in the form of boils. Even Job's wife urges him to curse God and die. His three friends come to supposedly comfort him but instead accuse him of sinning. Yet throughout all this, Job still worships God.

Job was tested bitterly. With a life formerly filled with prestige and possessions, he was suddenly assaulted on every side, devastated, and stripped down to his foundation. But because Job's life was built around God, he endured. After the first test, the Scriptures say that Job did not sin by charging God with wrongdoing (1:22). After his wife rebuked him, he still did not sin through his words (2:10). Surely it was not easy, but Job did what was right. God Himself pronounced Job righteous and restored Job's losses by blessing him with twice as much as he had before (42:10-13).



Understanding Your Students

Children at this age will not be too worried that something awful might happen to them; at least not to the point that it might cause them stress. After all, in their world, everything is carefree. Their needs are met and if terrible things do happen to them, they often have family members to guide them through those tough times. However, this lesson does remind us that bad things can happen to good people, and that negative situations are not always punishments from God (e.g. a death in the family, natural disasters, famine). Therefore, we should all learn from Job's example in the story. The fact that Job honored, feared, and trusted God through good and bad is a key message that should be repeated to the students. Let us continuously remind them that he was restored in the end because of his fear and loyalty to God.

Encourage responses and reflections throughout the story-telling. Stop at critical points in the story and ask questions such as:

"How would you feel if you were Job?"

"What would you say if you were praying to God?"

"What would you say to Job if you were his friend?"

We should try our best to have the students verbally come to the conclusion that we should always trust and fear God, even when life situations are tough. God loves and cares for those who remain loyal to Him, and He will restore them when the trials are through.

It will also help the students to discuss real-life examples. For instance, what might they feel if their pet passed away unexpectedly? Or if their home were damaged in a wild fire? Or if someone they know got into an accident and is hurt? What could they say to God during these times? How can they show they are still faithful to God, no matter what? It is important to shield our students from unnecessary stress and pain. But when they do come upon difficult situations, we must also be honest and help them understand that God is always with them, even though it may not seem like it at the time. If they trust in Him, in the end they will be restored, just as Job was.



Vocabulary

Treasure

to value something highly

Messenger

a person who brings news

Terrible

very serious or bad

Suffer

to be in a lot of pain

Sores

spots on the body that hurt or itch; they are sometimes filled with water



Before You Teach

Job, a wealthy and upright man, suddenly lost all his possessions, his children, and his health. In a blink of an eye, the most respected man in his land became a worthless person. Job was attacked by Satan, and all that he had was taken away from him. He didn't understand why he was suffering, but it hurt.

Many times, unexpected and unwanted things may happen in our lives. Just like Job, we may feel a sense of loss and disappointment, and wonder why things happen the way they do. We may begin to ask God, "Why? Why would God allow His children to suffer?" We must remember that those who love God, or whom God loves, are not exempt from trou-

ble. Although we may not be able to understand fully the pain we sometimes experience and the reasons for those sufferings, it can lead us to rediscover God. For Job, he finally learned that when nothing else was left, he had God, and that was more than enough. Through suffering, we learn that God is enough for our lives and our future. We must love God regardless of the blessings we receive or the sufferings that come upon us. Trials and tests are difficult, but the result is often a deeper relationship with God. With this in mind, let us stop and reflect on our journey of faith. As we think about Job's story of suffering and revival of faith, we should give thanks and all glory to our almighty God for all that He has done for us.



Bible Story

Boys and girls, can you think of something or someone that you love a lot? This can be a person, a toy, a pet, or even a book that you treasure. If you lost that person or thing, you would probably feel very sad. Raise your hand when you have something in mind to share with us (wait a few seconds for students to come up with something). Now, please turn to your neighbor and tell him or her what it is that you love and why you might feel sad or even angry if you lost it or didn't have it anymore. (Give students a minute or two to share with their neighbor. Bring them back to you by asking if anyone wants to share what their neighbor just told them. Listen to what they have to say and acknowledge their feelings of loss. Also be ready to share your own story if none of the students have anything to share.) Isn't it awful to lose something that you love and treasure dearly? Our Bible story today is about a man who lost everything he had, including the people he loved. Let's see how he acted after all the terrible things happened to him.

Job Has a Good Life

A long time ago, there was a man named Job. He was a very rich man. He owned 500 oxen, 500 donkeys, 7000 sheep, and 3000 camels. Back then, if a person owned a lot of animals, it meant he was very rich. Job was probably the richest man in the land. Job was a very happy man too because he had a big family. He had seven sons, three daughters, and many servants to take care of his family and his animals. Job was very kind to his people. He also worshiped God with all his heart. He did not forget about God, even if he was busy looking after his animals and family. He always obeyed God and God was very pleased with him. That's why God blessed him with even more animals and a good life.

Satan Wants to Destroy Job

Even though Job was happy and God was happy with him, there was someone who was not happy with Job. Do you know who that was? (Pause here to allow students to answer the question.) Yes, Satan. Satan didn't think that Job was really someone who loved God. Satan told God that Job was so good

because God had taken such good care of Job and given him such a good life.

"If you take away everything Job has, he will not do what you want anymore," Satan told God. But God knew Job would always obey Him no matter what happened.

So God said to Satan, "All that Job has is in your power, but do not hurt him."

God told Satan that he could do whatever he wanted with Job's things. But he could not hurt Job.

Boys and girls, what do you think is going to happen next? What can Satan do to Job to make him turn away from God? (Allow time for students to predict the plot.) Do you think Job is going to be happy about what is going to happen to him?

Job Loses Everything

One day when Job was at his house, a messenger came to tell him that his 500 oxen and 500 donkeys had all been stolen. The servants who were looking after the animals were killed by the people who came to steal the oxen and donkeys. Then another messenger came to tell Job that lightning had struck the sheep and killed all 7,000 of them, as well as the servants who were watching them. While that messenger was speaking, another servant came to tell Job that his 3,000 camels had been stolen too, and those servants who were with the camels were killed. Finally, one more servant came running in to break the most terrible news to Job. He told Job that all his sons and daughters had been killed when a great wind struck the house they were in and it fell on top of them.

Poor Job! He heard a lot of sad news. One minute he had everything and the next minute he had nothing. Before the servants came to tell him anything, Job was the richest man in the land. But after hearing all the messengers, Job knew he had lost everything. Satan was sure that Job would leave God after all these bad things happened to him. That was Satan's plan. What do you think Job did after all these terrible things happened to him? (Allow time for students to share their answers.) Job was very sad that he had lost all his children and the animals at the same time. But he knew that everything happened for a reason. Even though he didn't understand it, Job did not blame God. He wasn't upset with God at all. Instead, he prayed to God and worshiped Him with all his heart.

Satan Asks God Again

Satan was not happy to see Job still worshipping God after losing everything he owned. Satan thought that Job would have stopped believing in God by now. He was wrong!

God said to Satan, "Do you see Job? Even after all that you have done to him, he still loves Me and worships Me."

Satan said to God, "That is because he only lost his things. But stretch out Your hand now, touch his bone and his flesh, and he will not love you anymore." Satan was telling God that Job still loved God because he only lost his things. His body was not hurt or in pain. Satan was sure that if Job was in a lot of pain, he would forget about God.

God told Satan, "Do what you want, but do not kill him."

So Satan gave Job terrible sores called boils. They were all over his body, from the top of his head to the tip of his toes. He was covered in sores. They itched and hurt. He was hurting so much that his wife said to him, "Why don't you just blame this on God and forget about Him?"

Job's friends came to see him too and told him that he must have done something wrong. God was punishing him by letting him get so sick.

Job didn't really know why he was suffering, but he knew God cared for him and he told them, "God

gave me everything and He can take everything away if He wants to. Even if I am in pain I will still worship Him!"

Job Does What Is Right

Satan was wrong. He thought he could get Job to turn away from God, to stop worshipping Him, by making him very sick. But Job chose to do what was right even when it was hard. God was very pleased with Job. After losing his animals, his children, and being very sick, God made Job better and blessed him with even more than he had before. Job was rich again. He had twice as many oxen, donkeys, sheep, and camels. Job was happy again too because God gave him seven more sons and three more daughters as well as many servants to take care of his family and animals. Job lived to be a very old man.

Boys and girls, some people might not love God anymore after all these terrible things happen to them because they think that God doesn't love them. But God loves us no matter what. Job knew God loved Him so he never left God, even when terrible things were happening to him. Satan wanted him to leave God but Job did what was right. Let's learn from Job, and try our best to do the right thing no matter how hard it is.



Check For Understanding

1. **Did Job worship God?** (Yes, he did.)
2. **What did Satan do to Job the first time?** (Satan destroyed everything Job had including all his sons and daughters.)
3. **What did Job do when the messengers told him all the sad news?** (He was sad, but he still worshiped God with all his heart.)
4. **What did Satan do to Job the second time?** (Satan struck Job with boils all over his body.)

5. **What did Job's wife say to him?** (She told him to forget about God.)
6. **What did Job's friends say to him?** (They thought Job had sinned and God was punishing him.)
6. **What did Job do even when he was feeling horrible?** (He worshiped God. Job knew that God had given him everything and He could take everything away if He wanted to.)
7. **How did God bless Job later?** (God blessed Job with twice as many animals as before, and gave him ten more children. He also lived to an old age.)



Life Application Story

Praying for Others

One Saturday afternoon after RE class, Julie went to find her parents in the chapel. She knew it was time to go home. As she walked to the chapel, she noticed her friend Joshua sitting on the stairway all by himself. He was staring at his shoes and twirling one of the shoelaces. He looked very sad.

Julie waved to him and said, "Hi Joshua, what's up? Are you okay?"

"Yes, I'm okay, I guess. But my grandpa isn't doing so well."

"What happened?" asked Julie.

"My grandpa is sick. An ambulance came to the house and took him to the hospital two days ago. He is still at the hospital. My parents don't know if he is going to get better soon," Joshua replied.

"Oh, no. I hope your grandpa is okay," Julie said, trying her best to comfort Joshua.

"I don't know what to do. Grandpa has had heart problems before," Joshua told Julie.

Julie walked onto the stairway and sat by Joshua.

"You know, Joshua, why didn't you say anything in class just now? We can pray for your grandpa together," Julie said.

"I don't know...I just didn't feel like saying anything. I know God loves us and takes good care of us. But why is it that my grandpa still got sick?" Joshua asked in a soft voice.

"Oh, Joshua, don't be sad. My parents always tell me to pray to God when things don't turn out the way I want them to or when I don't know what to do," Julie said. "Let's pray together for your grandpa."

Joshua looked up and nodded his head. "Can you pray with me?"

"No problem!" Julie said as she went with Joshua back to their classroom.

Their teacher, Mrs. Chen, was still in the classroom when they walked in. Julie told her about Joshua's grandpa and that they were going to pray together in the classroom. Mrs. Chen put her hand on Joshua's shoulder and said, "I'll pray with you too. Our almighty God will be able to help your

grandpa and comfort your heart. Let's pray."

That afternoon, all three of them prayed for a long time. After the prayer, Mrs. Chen also asked some more church brothers and sisters to pray for Joshua's grandpa. Then they went home. Julie felt good that she had prayed with Joshua to ask God for help.

The next day, Julie called Joshua to see how he was doing. Joshua sounded much better this time.

He said, "You know what Julie? Our prayer really worked! My dad said that Grandpa would be all right. He just has to stay in the hospital two more days, and he can come home! Thank you for reminding me to pray and praying with me, Julie!"

"I am glad I prayed with you," Julie replied.

"And do you know what else happened? A lot of other people called my house to ask about my grandpa. At first, I didn't really want to talk about it but it feels really good when so many people care about our family," Joshua said happily.

"What Mrs. Chen said after our prayer was right. God really does care about us, no matter what is happening to us," Julie said.

"And from now on, I won't forget to pray to God, even when things aren't going so great."

Questions to Think About

1. **What happened that made Joshua sad?** (Joshua's grandpa was sent to the hospital because of heart problems.)
2. **What did Julie encourage Joshua to do when he told her about his grandpa?** (Julie invited Joshua to pray to God.)
3. **What did Joshua say to Julie when she called him the next day?** (God listened to their prayer. Joshua's grandpa was better.)
4. **Have you ever prayed for others who needed God's help? Invite the students to share their experiences.** (Students' responses may vary.)
5. **What can we do when things are going well in our lives? What can we do when things are not going well in our lives?** (We can pray to God no matter what is happening. When things are going well, we can give thanks to God. When things are not going well, God will hear our prayer and give us peace.)



Activity 1

What Did Job Lose?

Look at Job in the middle. Starting at Job, draw lines to the things he lost.



Activity 2

Who Is Fearing God?

Look at each picture. What should each child do to show he or she is fearing God? Circle the right answer.

Someone is invited to a party on Saturday.

1. Fear God and go to church.
2. Forget God and go to the party.

Halloween is coming up.

1. Fear God and stay at home.
2. Forget God and go trick-or-treating.

A student sees money on the table.

1. Fear God and not take the money.
2. Forget God and keep the money.



Activity 3

Memory Verse Door Hanger

Materials:

1. foam or paper door hangers (can be purchased at craft stores, or teacher can make them out of heavy cardboard)
2. glitter markers
3. washable markers
4. scraps
5. glue
6. scissors

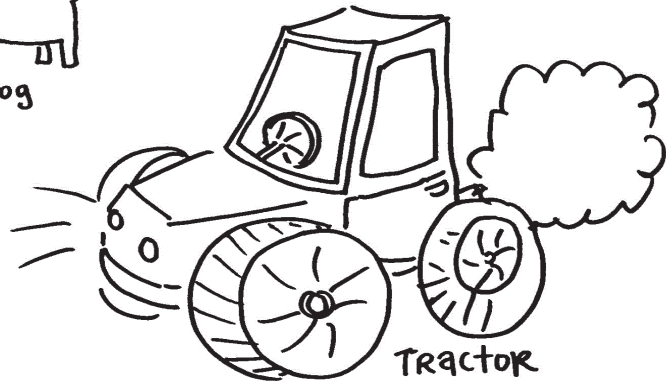
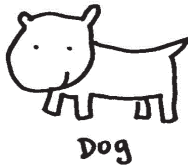
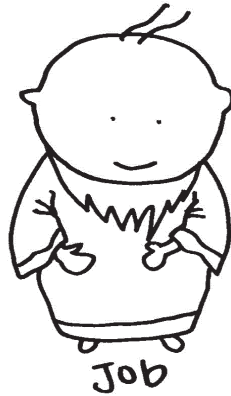
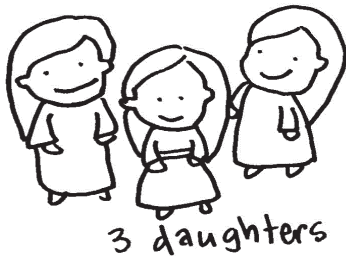
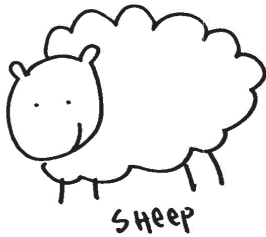
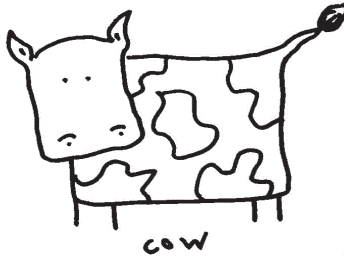
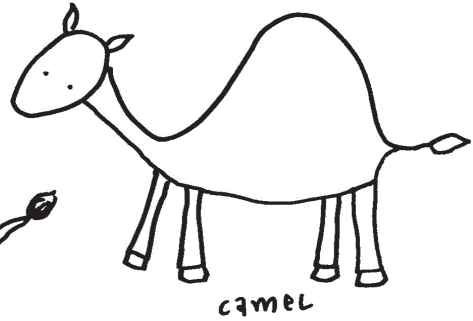
Directions:

1. Give each student one door hanger.
2. Help them write down the memory verse from today's lesson.
3. Allow the students to decorate the remaining space on the door hanger.
4. Encourage them to hang their work on their door to remind them to fear the Lord. Take a few moments to discuss in concrete terms what it means for them to fear God.

Activity 1:1

What Did Job Lose?

Look at Job in the middle.
Starting from Job, draw lines to the things he lost.



Activity 1:2

Who Is Fearing God?

Look at each picture. What should each child do to show he or she is fearing God? Circle the right answer.



1. Fear God and go to church.
2. Forget God and go to the party.



1. Fear God and stay at home.
2. Forget God and go trick-or-treating.



1. Fear God and not take the money.
2. Forget God and keep the money.