

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.

TEACH THE STORY
(15–20 MINUTES)
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EXPERIENCE THE STORY
(25–30 MINUTES)
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REVIEW THE STORY
(10+ MINUTES)
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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.

TEACH the Story



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KEY PASSAGE: Colossians 1:16b

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

Welcome and worship with song

- “Firm Foundation” song
- “My Father’s World” song

Greet preschoolers with a smile. As preschoolers arrive, sing an action song such as “Firm Foundation” to engage them and help them feel welcomed. Begin worship by leading preschoolers in the theme song, “My Father’s World.”

Watch or tell the Bible story

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

Remove everything from the room for today’s teaching (any props, posters chairs, and decor).

SAY • Our room looks different than normal, doesn’t it? That’s because everything is gone! This is what happened to a man named Job a long time ago. Nearly everything Job owned and loved was taken away from him, including his children, servants, and animals. This made Job sad.

Open your Bible to the Book of Job. Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Practice the key passage and a Bible skill

- Bible
- Key Passage Poster
- “Key Passage Marker” printable
- “All Things” song

Place the key passage marker at Colossians 1:16b. Invite a few volunteers to come up one at a time and open your Bible to the key passage.

SAY • God created everything through Jesus and for Jesus.

Even the things we own and love belong to God. Job learned this after everything was taken away from him. Job realized God is much greater than people and we can always trust God because God is good.

Sing the key passage song “All Things” together.

Learn the big picture question and answer

SAY • *Who is God? God is our Creator and King.* Job did not understand why everything was taken away. But Job realized ***God is our Creator and King.*** God is in charge of everything He has made. People cannot always understand what God is doing, but we can trust God to always do the best thing.

• Big Picture Question Poster

Respond through song and prayer

SAY • Through his suffering and pain, **Job learned that God is always good.** Job learned that sometimes we suffer even when it doesn’t make sense. 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.

Sing “My Father’s World” and “God Gives Us Everything We Need” as preschoolers move with the music. Prepare for prayer by singing “I Am With You.” You may also collect an offering.

SAY • God, thank You for reminding us that everything we have really belongs to You. We know that sometimes we will suffer for reasons we do not understand, but we can always trust You. You are King of the world You have made, and You are good. Amen.

• Story Point Poster
• “My Father’s World” song
• “God Gives Us Everything We Need” song
• “I Am With You” song
• offering basket

Transition to experience the story

• countdown video (optional)

EXPERIENCE the Story



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

LOW PREP

Suggestions:

- A kitten or a lion?
- A bulldozer or a bicycle?
- A gopher or a gorilla?
- Humans or God?

Decide what is stronger

Ask the preschoolers which is stronger between two words. If they think the first word is stronger, they will move to the front of the room. If they think the second word is stronger, they will move to the back.

SAY • Job learned that God is stronger and wiser than anyone else. **Job learned that God is always good too. *Who is God? God is our Creator and King,*** and everything we own belongs to Him.

LOW PREP

Sing “God Is So Good”

Lead preschoolers in singing the song, “God Is So Good.” If you are unfamiliar with the lyrics or tune, look them up online before the session.

SAY • People cannot always understand what God is doing, but people can always trust God. **Job learned that God is always good.** 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.

- toy doctor kits
- red dot stickers

Tip: Lead preschoolers to place the stickers on smooth skin that will not pull when the stickers are removed.

Play out Job’s sickness

Set out toy doctor kits. Provide red dot stickers for preschoolers to stick on their arms and legs like sores. Invite preschoolers to play out being sick. After a few minutes,

guide them to carefully pull off the stickers to remind children that God healed Job.

SAY • *Who is God? God is Creator and King.* God reminded Job that He knew how the world worked best, so Job could always trust Him. God was with Job when He suffered. **Job learned that God is always good.**

Look at amazing creatures

Print images or use a mobile device to show images and fun facts about creatures mentioned in the Bible story and others. Suggestions include a horse, eagle, crocodile, camel, chimpanzee, or dolphin. Read parts of Job 38–39.

- images and facts about animals
- Bible

SAY • *Who is God? God is our Creator and King.* God made all the animals on our planet, including the mighty ones like the horse and crocodile. Job realized that God was mightier than any of the animals He had made. God is great, strong, and wise.

Make cards for suffering people

Set out construction paper, markers, stickers, scissors, and glue sticks. Lead preschoolers to make cards for suffering people such as a family in your congregation going through a hard time, residents in a nursing home, or shut-ins.

- construction paper
- markers
- stickers
- blunt-tipped scissors
- glue sticks

SAY • *Job learned that God is always good.* Suffering is something many people face everyday. One of the ways God uses suffering for good is by using believers to love and encourage one another through suffering. Let's pray that the people who receive these cards will be encouraged that God loves them and is good.

Transition to review the story

- countdown video (optional)

REVIEW the Story



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

Review

Point to the giant timeline as you review today's Bible story.

Ask the following review questions:

- Bible
- Bible Story Picture Poster
- Giant Timeline
- Story Point Poster
- Big Picture Question Poster
- Key Passage Poster
- "My Father's World" song (optional)
- "All Things" song (optional)

1. What sad things happened to Job? (*Robbers stole the animals on his farm. His children died in a storm. He became sick with sores all over his body.*)
2. Who came to visit Job? (*his friends*)
3. How did God come talk to Job? (*in a whirlwind*)
4. ***Who is God? God is our Creator and King.***
5. What belongs to God? (*Everything in creation belongs to God.*)
6. What did Job learn? (**Job learned that God is always good.**)

SAY • Job lost his children, his animals, and his health—one right after the other. Job was sick, sad, and confused. Job's friends told him God was punishing him, but Job didn't understand why. Elihu reminded Job that ***God is our Creator and King*** who always does what is best. Everything in heaven and on earth belongs to Him. Job realized that God is greater than any human or creature and that he could trust God. **Job learned that God is always good.**

Sing the theme song, "My Father's World" or the key passage song, "All Things."

Pray

Invite preschoolers to tell you any prayer requests they have.

SAY • God, thank You for reminding us that You are mighty, strong, and wise. You know what's best for us, and we can always trust You even when we don't understand what is happening. Job suffered a lot, but You were always with him and taught him about Yourself. Help us remember You are with us when we suffer too. Amen.



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 Rigneys as they get used to their new home.

• “Rigney Family Prayer Card” printable

Play a review game

Set the Bible story picture posters on the floor in a grid pattern. Make a tape line a few feet away from the pictures. Guide preschoolers to take turns tossing a beanbag toward the pictures. Ask a preschooler to tell you something about the Bible story closest to the beanbag. Review the Bible stories as needed.

SAY • All of these stories show us that ***God is our Creator and King.*** Can you answer the big picture question, ***Who is God? God is our Creator and King.***

• Bible Story Picture Posters for Unit 1
• tape
• beanbag