

Family Lesson 44

Principle: Facing tough times, even when we're living right.

Bible Character(s): Job

Scripture Reference: Job 1-2, 42

1. Worship - Gather your family and play the [worship video](#) found on the curriculum resource page. Have fun, sing loudly, and follow along with the motions!

2. Skit Video - Watch the [skit video](#) with your family to hear a special message about what you will be learning this weekend.

3. Bible Lesson - Read through the lesson with your family. The bold font is meant to be read aloud along with the Scripture references.

Bible Lesson

In our last lesson, we learned about Esther. What choice did Esther have to make? (Esther had to choose to trust God and obey him.) How did God use her? (God had a plan for her, and he used her to save the Israelites from death.) God has a plan for us too, and we are here to fulfill his purpose.

Today, we are going to learn about a man named Job, who loved and served God. We are going to study God's plan for Job and how Job responded to suffering.

The purpose is to outline Job's life while you read the story with your child.

Supplies: (Found on the [Kids Resource Page](#).)
Pictures of Job's blessings

Read through the scripture passages below, and after the first section, have your child put the pictures of Job's blessings out on the table. As you read the part when the messengers bring the bad news, have your child draw an X over the blessing or turn it over to signify it was taken away.

Does anyone know what sovereign means? (Allow responses.) Sovereign means to be in control of all things. God is sovereign. Nothing happens without God allowing it to happen. He is in control of everything. He was in control of Job's life.

Let's begin reading the Bible in Job 1 [NLT].

Job 1:1-3

¹ There once was a man named Job who lived in the land of Uz. He was blameless—a man of complete integrity. He feared God and stayed away from evil. ² He had seven sons and three daughters. ³ He owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 teams of oxen, and 500 female donkeys. He also had many servants. He was, in fact, the richest person in that entire area.

What kinds of blessings does Job have in his life? (Allow responses.) Let's put these pictures of Job's blessings on the table to look at while we continue to read. Remember, Job is "blameless – a man of complete integrity. He feared God and stayed away from evil."

Let's continue reading the Bible to see how Satan is allowed to bring suffering into Job's life.

Job 1:6-12

⁶ One day the members of the heavenly court came to present themselves before the Lord, and the Accuser, Satan, came with them. ⁷ "Where have you come from?" the Lord asked Satan.

Satan answered the Lord, "I have been patrolling the earth, watching everything that's going on."

⁸ Then the Lord asked Satan, "Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil."

⁹ Satan replied to the Lord, “Yes, but Job has good reason to fear God. ¹⁰ You have always put a wall of protection around him and his home and his property. You have made him prosper in everything he does. Look how rich he is! ¹¹ But reach out and take away everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face!”

¹² “All right, you may test him,” the Lord said to Satan. “Do whatever you want with everything he possesses, but don’t harm him physically.” So Satan left the Lord’s presence.

What did we learn about God’s character at the beginning of the lesson? (Allow responses.) **God is sovereign. Nothing can happen without God allowing it to happen. God allows Satan to test Job, but verse 11 shows us that God set limits on Satan. We can find comfort in the fact that God limits Satan’s power and that God has ultimate control and is more powerful than Satan. When we learned about Esther, we saw her go through some hard things. God had a plan for her; he was in control of everything that happened in her life and used her to fulfill his good purpose.**

Let’s see how God does this in Job’s life. We will draw an X over any of Job’s blessings that are taken away from him. Let’s continue reading the Bible.

Job 1:13-22

¹³ One day when Job’s sons and daughters were feasting at the oldest brother’s house, ¹⁴ a messenger arrived at Job’s home with this news: “Your oxen were plowing, with the donkeys feeding beside them, ¹⁵ when the Sabeans raided us. They stole all the animals and killed all the farmhands. I am the only one who escaped to tell you.” (Have your child draw an X or turn over the oxen and the donkeys card.)

¹⁶ While he was still speaking, another messenger arrived with this news: “The fire of God has fallen from heaven and burned up your sheep and all the shepherds. I am the only one who escaped to tell you.” (Have your child draw an X or turn over the sheep card.)

¹⁷ While he was still speaking, a third messenger arrived with this news: “Three bands of Chaldean raiders have stolen your camels and killed your servants. I am the only one who escaped to tell you.” (Have your child draw an X or turn over the camels and the many servants card.)

¹⁸ While he was still speaking, another messenger arrived with this news: “Your sons and daughters were feasting in their oldest brother’s home. ¹⁹ Suddenly, a powerful wind swept in from the wilderness and hit the house on all sides. The house collapsed, and all your children are dead. I am the only one who escaped to tell you.” (Have your child draw an X or turn over the sons and the daughters card.)

²⁰ Job stood up and tore his robe in grief. Then he shaved his head and fell to the ground to worship. ²¹ He said, “I came naked from my mother’s womb, and I will be naked when I leave. The Lord gave me what I had, and the Lord has taken it away. Praise the name of the Lord!” ²² In all of this, Job did not sin by blaming God.

Job loses everything. How does it make you feel that God allows Job to lose everything he has? (Allow responses.) **Remember, God is sovereign. He is in control of everything and he has a plan for each of us, including Job. God allowed Satan to take these things away from Job.**

Can you imagine what it would be like to lose everything you have: your house, your clothes, your toys, your family? How would you respond if you lost everything? (Allow responses.) **Job responds with praise. At the beginning of chapter 1, we read that Job “feared God and stayed away from evil.” At this point, Job trusts that God is in control even though he is sad and upset. He trusts that his suffering is a part of God’s plan. Out of Job’s heart comes praise for God because Job believes that God is in control, even when he is suffering. God has a plan for each of you as well. We can trust God even when things are difficult or sad.**

In chapter 2, Job's suffering continues. Satan comes back to God and God gives Satan permission to touch Job, but not to kill him. Job's body is covered with painful boils. Job loses his children and everything he owns, then he becomes sick and miserable. Job's wife is angry at God. She cannot understand why Job, a good man who trusts in God, has to suffer like this. She does not understand why Job continues to love the Lord, and she says Job should "curse God and die."

Let's read the Bible to see how Job responds.

Job 2:10

¹⁰ But Job replied, "You talk like a foolish woman. Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?" So in all this, Job said nothing wrong.

Do you find yourself asking why God allowed Job to suffer? (Allow responses.)

Let's take a closer look at what the Bible says about suffering.

James 1:2-4

² Dear brothers and sisters, when troubles of any kind come your way, consider it an opportunity for great joy. ³ For you know that when your faith is tested, your endurance has a chance to grow. ⁴ So let it grow, for when your endurance is fully developed, you will be perfect and complete, needing nothing.

This verse says that when we face trials or suffering, our faith is being tested. As we trust God during times of pain or loss, the Bible says we become more like God. Our relationship with the Lord becomes stronger. He wants us to depend on him and trust in him completely. Even though Job lost his children, his things, and his health, he grew in his relationship with God. He brought glory to God. God allowed Job to go through hard times so that he would grow to be like Jesus.

Let's look at another person who suffered.

The purpose is to see how Jesus' suffering resulted in our salvation.

Supplies: (Found on the [Kids Resource Page](#).)
Story guide

Use the guide to show your child that Jesus suffered even though he was perfect and did not sin. Talk them through Jesus' sufferings and the end result of those sufferings.

Job went through some hard times even though he was living the way God wanted him to live. Job was not perfect, but he was following God with all of his heart. Can you think of someone you have heard about in the Bible who was perfect? (Allow responses.) Jesus was perfect. He did not sin at all, yet he went through a lot of suffering as well. God allowed this suffering in Jesus' life because he loves us and this was the only way that we could be saved from death for our sins. Jesus suffered and died so that we can live. God's purpose was fulfilled through Jesus' suffering. The end result of suffering was joy and life.

God is sovereign and good. Because of these things, we can trust God completely, even when we do not understand why we are suffering. We know that God loves us so much that he was willing to let his Son Jesus suffer and die for us. We know that we can trust that he will use our suffering to fulfill his plan as well.

Let's read the Bible in Job 42:12-17 to see how Job's life ends.

¹² So the Lord blessed Job in the second half of his life even more than in the beginning. For now he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 teams of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. ¹³ He also gave Job seven more sons and three more daughters. ¹⁴ He named his first daughter Jemimah, the second Keziah, and the third Keren-happuch. ¹⁵ In all the land no women were as lovely as the daughters of Job. And their father put them into his will along with their brothers.

¹⁶ Job lived 140 years after that, living to see four generations of his children and

grandchildren. ¹⁷ Then he died, an old man who had lived a long, full life.

God blesses Job at the end of his life after years of suffering. We also know how our lives will end. If we believe that Jesus died on the cross for us, then we know that when we die, we will live with him in heaven. We know what blessings God gives us at the end of our lives! Even though we must go through hard times here on earth, we know that one day we will live with Jesus and never have to suffer again.

Prayer

Spend some time in prayer to close the lesson. Ask God to help you trust in him during hard times, knowing that his plan is best. Specifically, ask your campers if there are any hard times they or their families are going through (new school, illness, etc).

