



UNIT 3 | SESSION 4

Splash 12/29/24

THE SUFFERING OF JOB

JOB



KEY PASSAGE: Genesis 50:20

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside of God's good plan.

CHRIST CONNECTION: In his suffering, Job recognized that God is all-powerful and good. When we face suffering, we can hope in God. God sent Jesus, the only truly innocent One, to suffer and die so that everyone who trusts in Him can have forgiveness and eternal life.

STORY POINT: God is good even in suffering.



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

Job's story is an impactful passage on human suffering and God's sovereign goodness that transcends any circumstance. The book of Job shares of a God-fearing, virtuous man who continually turned from evil. Though he was not sinless, Job was counted righteous by his faith in God until the end.

How does Job respond when unexpected suffering comes to him? How does Job's story encourage us in our own suffering?

In the beginning of Job, we see an interaction between Satan and God, in which the Creator allows Satan to test Job to see if he would continue to follow God amidst suffering. Job would lose his sheep, camels, servants, and children. In response to this loss, Job worshiped God and refused to blame Him. Next, Job would become afflicted by painful boils. Despite Job's tragic sufferings, he refused to speak ill of God, even when his own wife told him to give up his faith.

In the following chapters, Job wrestled with his experiences in suffering, as his three friends tried in vain to comfort and help him in his pain. They could not fathom that Job's suffering did not result from sin. However, another voice, that of Elihu, spoke into Job's circumstances with true wisdom: God is greater than man, holy, and just; only He is righteous and sinless.

God met Job amidst his questions, reminding him of man's place within His created universe. Though people are unworthy of God's goodness, the Creator delights in showcasing His glory to the ones He has made. After Job prayed for his friends, his fortune was not only restored, but it was doubled.

Although God allowed Job to suffer, His hand was there to guide him, and His comfort remained by his side. What we glean from Job's story is that God's righteousness is so much greater than our own, that He is worthy of worship despite our circumstances. In 2 Corinthians 4:17, Paul declared that "our momentary light affliction is producing for us an absolutely incomparable eternal weight of glory."

There is only one truly righteous person who suffered unjustly: Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Help kids see that God is good, and His full worthiness is displayed in Jesus, the only truly righteous One. By faith in His finished work on the cross, we are counted as righteous and granted eternal hope. Pray for the children in your group to experience God's goodness and place their faith in Him alone.



PREPARE

THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



WELCOME

10–15 MINUTES

Greet kids and open the session



LEARN

25–30 MINUTES

Teach kids the story of the gospel



LOVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to love the God of the gospel



LIVE

15–20 MINUTES

Lead kids to live out the mission of the gospel



PREPARE

PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ "Job Word Search" activity page

Session Starter (Option 1)

- ☐ various items such as a stuffed animal, a toy, a marker, a coloring book, socks, etc.



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set (optional)



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ jars or cups, 1 per kid
- ☐ ribbon
- ☐ stickers
- ☐ craft sticks, 5 per kid

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ "Job Matching Game" printable, 1 per pair
- ☐ plastic bags, 1 per pair

Reflection and Prayer

- ☐ Bible Story Coloring Page (optional)



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video
- ☐ Story Point Poster

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ "The Suffering of Job" video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- ☐ "Unit 3, Session 4" Questions from Kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ cups of water
- ☐ watercolor paints
- ☐ paintbrushes

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ "God Planned It for Good (Genesis 50:20)" song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

| **SAY** 🗨️ Have you ever lost something special to you before? How did it make you feel? 🗨️

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Job Word Search” activity page.

| **SAY** 🗨️ In today’s story, we will hear how a man named Job lost many things he loved. We’ll also learn that God is always good, even in Job’s suffering. 🗨️

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: WHAT’S GONE?

Place a chair at the front of the room, facing the wall. Under the chair, place several different items such as a stuffed animal, a toy, a marker, a coloring book, socks, etc. Gather the kids to sit on the floor in front of the items. Prompt kids to look at the items and study what is all present. Choose one kid to sit in the chair and direct him to close his eyes. Remove one of the items from under the chair and hide it. Direct the kid in the chair to open his eyes and look at the items. Challenge him to guess what item is missing. If he cannot determine the missing item, allow the other kids to help him. Repeat as time allows, choosing a different kid each time to sit in the chair and guess the missing item.

| **SAY** 🗨️ In today’s story, we’ll see how a man named Job had many wonderful gifts taken from him. He suffered greatly, but God was still in control. Let’s learn how **GOD IS GOOD EVEN IN SUFFERING.** 🗨️

☐ OPTION 2: GREATER IN POWER



Prompt kids to think about animals or natural events that are powerful such as lions, tornadoes, crocodiles, hurricanes, gorillas, etc. Then compare created things and invite kids to decide what they think is greater in power. If kids pick the first item, tell them to clap. If they pick the second item, tell them to stomp their feet. Consider using the following examples or create your own:

- Eagle or penguin
- Hurricane or tornado
- Lion or tiger
- Blue whale or great white shark
- Grizzly bear or elephant

| **SAY** 🗨️ God has created many powerful things. But nothing is as powerful as God. God’s power is so great that He is in control of all things—hurricanes, suffering, and Satan. Today, we will see how God reminded a man named Job that He was in control of everything in heaven and earth. We’ll see how God told Job that even though bad things happened, God was still good and all-powerful. 🗨️

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)



Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hi, kids! I am so glad you are here! My name is [your name], and today we get to study a story from the Bible together. If you have a Bible with you, will you take it out and place it in your lap? [Distribute Bibles to kids who need one.]



Today, we will be in a new book of the Bible called Job. This book tells us about a man named Job and how he learned that **GOD IS GOOD EVEN IN SUFFERING.** [Display the Story Point Poster.] We'll see that God is great, powerful, and good even when we may face bad times. God loves us and wants us to trust Him no matter what we face. As we get ready to hear our Bible story, let's ask God to help our hearts trust Him and His Word. [Invite kids to pray with you.] ”

Worship

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)



Display the Big Picture Question Poster.

SAY “What is the big picture question we have been learning? [Allow responses.] **Who is in control?** [Allow responses.] **God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside of God's good plan.**



When we face hard times, it may be hard to trust God. But our big picture question reminds us that God is always in control. When something happens that makes us sad or leaves us feeling like we don't understand, we can remind ourselves that God is good and that His plans cannot be stopped—no matter what we face. Today, we'll see how God was in control of Job's life and reminded Job that He is all-powerful. ”

* The Name of Jesus

* offering

* Living Hope

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)



Show the Giant Timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “As we have learned about the lives of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph, we have seen that no matter what happened God was always in control. Even when Abraham didn't always understand God's plans or Jacob deceived his brother or Joseph was sold as a slave, God's good plans were always being accomplished. Through the brokenness of sinful people, God was working His plan to build a family who would one day bring forth the Messiah—Jesus Christ. Today's story about Job is no different. While Job experienced great suffering, God was still in control and His plans were for good. ”



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story



1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Job. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “The Suffering of Job.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

THE SUFFERING OF JOB

“Job was a good man who worshiped God and turned away from evil. He had many children, servants, and animals. One day, God’s enemy, Satan, came to God. God said, ‘Have you seen Job? He is a good man who loves Me and turns away from evil.’”

Satan said, “Job only worships You because of how much You have blessed him! If you take away all You have given him, he won’t worship You anymore.” God gave Satan permission to cause suffering in Job’s life.

Satan sent men to take away Job’s oxen and camels. He sent fire from heaven that killed Job’s sheep. Job’s children and servants died as well. **Job lost everything in one day. Job was very sad, but he still worshiped God.**

Satan went to God again. “If Job also became sick, he won’t worship You anymore.” So God allowed Satan to harm Job’s body as well. Satan caused Job to have painful sores all over his body!

Job’s wife said, “Why do you still hold fast to God? Curse God and die!”

Job responded, “Should we only accept good things from God, and not also bad things?”

Three friends came to Job. Their names were Eliphaz (EL ih faz), Bildad (BIL dad), and Zophar (ZOH fahr). **These friends thought that Job was being punished for hidden sin. They told him to stop sinning.**

“I haven’t done anything wrong!” Job said. Job began to wonder why God would allow him to suffer so much. Had God made a mistake?

Another man named Elihu (ih LIGH hyoo) came to Job. He reminded Job what was true about God: “God is greater than man. He always does what is right.”

Finally, God spoke to Job through a whirlwind. “Were you there when I made the earth?” God asked. “Can you control the stars or the lightning? Do you give the animals their food each day?”

Job realized that while he did not understand everything, he could trust God, who is all-powerful and completely good. Job was sorry he had doubted God.

God gave Job back everything he had lost and so much more.

Christ Connection: In his suffering, Job recognized that God is all-powerful and good. When we face suffering, we can hope in God. God sent Jesus, the only truly

STORYTELLING TIPS

Active listening:
Prompt kids to flex their arm muscles when you tell how God spoke to Job out of a whirlwind. Remind kids that God is all-powerful and good.

Say the story point:
Invite kids to say the story point as you describe Job’s suffering when his wife tells him to curse God, when his friends told him to stop sinning, and when God speaks to Job.



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

innocent One, to suffer and die so that everyone who trusts in Him can have forgiveness and eternal life. ”

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ God allowed Satan to take away many gifts in Job’s life. What were some of the gifts Job lost? [Allow responses.] He lost his animals, his servants, his children, and even his health. But Job continued to trust God and worship Him. Job never blamed God. God is always good and does what is right. Even if we face hard times, God can be trusted.

Job’s three friends blamed Job for his suffering. They told him to stop sinning. Job was a sinner but his sin didn’t cause his suffering. God told Satan that Job loved God and followed him. Even Job didn’t understand why God had allowed him to have so many terrible things happen to him. Who was the friend that told Job what was true about God? [Allow responses.] Elihu told Job that God is all-powerful and always does what is right. **GOD IS GOOD EVEN IN SUFFERING.** Even if we go through sad times, hard times, or times we don’t understand why things are happening, we can remember what is true about God and trust that He always loves us.

Then God spoke to Job. God told Job that He is the Creator who made all things. God made things we cannot even see, like the far places in the galaxy. God does things we cannot understand, like how He commands the eagle to soar. The whole world obeys Him. Who is in control? [Allow responses.] **God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside of God’s good plan.** He is greater than us and more powerful than anything.

In his suffering, Job recognized that God is all-powerful and good. When we face suffering, we can hope in God. God sent Jesus, the only truly innocent One, to suffer and die so that everyone who trusts in Him can have forgiveness and eternal life. ”

3 GOSPEL DISCUSSION

SAY “ God’s thoughts and ways are higher than our ways. God knew that we could not pay for our sins, so He made the perfect plan to send His only Son, Jesus, to take the punishment our sin deserves. God’s love and good plans for our lives are shown to us through Jesus. Have you trusted in Jesus? I would love to talk with you about how you can put your faith in Jesus and know that He has a good plan for you. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 3, Session 4” Questions from Kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How can we encourage our friends when they are having a bad day or going through a tough time?
2. How does Jesus’ suffering on the cross show us that God is all-powerful and good?



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

optional (no video)

SAY 🗣️ In the final years of the Enetes' full-time missionary work in Brazil, Crystal painted murals in Brazilian churches. The Enetes retired as full-time missionaries in 1958, but they returned to Brazil many more times to share the gospel. The Enetes loved the people of Brazil and wanted them to know the good plans God had for their lives through Jesus. 🙏

Provide each kid with a piece of paper, watercolor paint, and paintbrushes. Place cups of water at tables for kids to share. Invite kids to paint a "mural" to share about Jesus. Encourage kids to paint something that can help them tell others how Jesus loves them and is the only way to be saved from sins. Pray, giving thanks to God for missionaries who are following God's plan for their lives and telling others about Jesus. 🙏

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

* Show the Key Passage Poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Genesis 50:20 together.

SAY 🗣️ Job praised God because he understood that God is in control. God is in control of our lives, and He is always good! 🙏

Write a word or two of the key passage on individual piece of paper, including the reference. For larger groups, create additional sets of papers. Give each kid a paper and instruct kids to line up in the order of the key passage.

* Lead kids to sing "God Planned It for Good (Genesis 50:20)." You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY 🗣️ God, thank You for reminding us through the story of Job that You are good and all-powerful, even in suffering. We trust that just as You had a good plan for Job's life, You have a good plan for our lives too. Amen. 🙏

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Job. Explain that Job lived in a land called Uz. Tell kids that many Bible teachers believe that Job lived during the same time as Abraham but in a different part of the world.

Consider pointing out the possible location of Uz (H12) on the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Job 1:20-21 or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

SAY 🗨️ Job lost things that he loved. But even when Job suffered, he praised God. Job understood that he came into the world with nothing. Job was reminded that everything he had belonged to God, and God had the right to take it away. God is in control, even when we don't always understand His plans. But through Job's story we see that **GOD IS GOOD EVEN IN SUFFERING**. God never left Job. He wanted Job to understand that He is all-powerful, in control, just, and good. We can remember that no matter what we go through, God's good plans will always come true. 🙏

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

| **SAY** 🗨️ How is God with us when we go through a hard time? 🙏

Lead kids to recognize God's presence through His Word, through the Holy Spirit, and through fellow believers who offer comfort and encouragement. Tell kids that, in Jesus, God has promised to always be with us. Remind kids that suffering doesn't mean God has left us or that God is angry at us.

| **SAY** 🗨️ How did Jesus suffer? 🙏

Discuss how Jesus suffered for our sins on the cross. Tell kids that Jesus is the only One who has never sinned, and yet God's plan was for Him to die on the cross. Share that Jesus also suffered rejection, beatings, abandonment, and mocking. Remind kids that God's plans are always for our good, just as Jesus' death was God's plan to save people from sin.

| **SAY** 🗨️ How have friends encouraged you in a hard time? How can you encourage others? 🙏

Remind kids that Job's three friends weren't much of a comfort to Job. Invite kids to share how others have been kind to them, sat with them, or pointed them to God's Word when they faced difficulties. Remind them that God is present and working for our good and joy, even in times of trouble.

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





LIVE

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: GOD IS GOOD JARS

Before the session, gather jars or cups, ribbon, stickers, and five craft sticks for each kid. Distribute the items to each kid. Instruct kids to decorate their jars using the stickers and ribbon. Assist kids in tying ribbon around the lip of their jars or cups. Direct kids to write the following Bible references about God's goodness on their craft sticks: Psalm 145:9; Genesis 50:20; 1 Chronicles 16:34; James 1:17; 1 Peter 5:7.

Encourage kids to use their jars as a way to be reminded of God's goodness when they are going through a hard time. Tell kids that an adult can help them look up the passages and that they can read them together. Invite kids to pass their jars on to someone else when he or she may be in a challenging situation.

SAY **GOD IS GOOD EVEN IN SUFFERING.**

We never have to question whether God loves us or is working all things for good. God has shown how much He loves us through His Son, Jesus. Jesus suffered on the cross so that we can be forgiven of our sins. Jesus shows us just how good God is!

☐ OPTION 2: FIND THE MATCH



Before the session, print copies of the "Job Matching Game" printable for each pair of kids. Then cut out the cards on each printable and place each set in a plastic bag.

Form kids into pairs and give each pair a plastic bag of the game cards. Challenge kids to play a game of memory by laying the cards facedown in three rows of four. Tell pairs to take turns flipping one card over at a time to find a matching pair. If a kid finds a match, he gets another turn. If no match is found, the other kid receives a turn. The kid in each pair who finds the most matches wins. Play again as time allows.

SAY Even though Job suffered great loss, he learned that God is always in control. God spoke to Job from a whirlwind and reminded Job that He is the Creator and all things are under His rule. We can praise God that He is in control of all things because He is good and works everything for His good plan.

2 REFLECTION AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute a sheet of paper and pencil to each kid. Ask the kids to write about or draw a picture to answer the following questions:

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does this story teach me about myself?
- Who can I tell about this story?

Be sure to send the sheets home with the kids along with the activity pages so parents can continue to discuss the Bible story with their kids. If time remains, take prayer requests or allow kids to complete the Bible story coloring page. Pray for your group.