

Righteous Job Fears God

Job 1:1-5

MEMORY VERSE

JOB 1:1

“There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Masking tape.

A large paper bag (grocery bag), and a small lunch paper bag, scrap paper and a marker.

Poster board, enough copies of the enclosed template for each child to have a cut out person, aluminum foil, yarn or ribbon, red construction paper and markers.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Walking in Holiness

You will need masking tape for this activity. In today’s lesson we will look at Job’s life prior to the hard trials that he suffered. We will see that he was a righteous man. He had a foundation in holiness, which helped him to stand strong when the storms came. Sometimes the road that we are on can wind in a lot of directions and become very difficult, but we can make it when our eyes are on Jesus.

With masking tape, make a trail (a line of masking tape) for the children to walk on. Weave and loop around and zigzag across the room. Make it join ends so that it is continuous. Split the children into two even teams. Start at opposite sides of the room with each team. When you say, “go” each team should start. They need to go in opposite directions (they should end up going toward each other as they loop around. Explain to the children that their feet

cannot step down anywhere except upon the line. If they cross paths make sure the boys say excuse me and allow the girls to go first (they shouldn't bump into each other as long as you make areas that cross over in your trail). If someone's foot comes off of the taped line have them start over. Once both groups make a complete circle and get back to their side of the room have all of the children sit in a circle.

Introduce the children to today's theme (refer to brief introduction above). You can ask them discussion questions like, "Was it easy to go down the trail? Did you hit any obstacles? Was it straight or winding? Was it easy to fall off the trail." Use these questions to make applications about walking in holiness. Some things you share may include, "When we walk in holiness it isn't always easy." "It can be easy to hit obstacles or fall off the trail." "But Jesus promises to help us as we give our lives to Him."

LESSON TIME!

The interesting thing is that God allowed these things to happen in his life. Job had a question, "Why?" In the book of Job, we will learn much about why the righteous may suffer at times. We will grow in our understanding of the nature of God. We will also see Job, finally in the end, realizing that he must only trust in God for everything and not in his own righteousness. He repents and turns back to God, and then we see God blessing him greatly for the rest of his life.

The book of Job begins the "poetry" section of the Bible, which includes Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes. The book of Job is written in Hebrew and is written as poetry. It is a beautiful book and has a lot to teach us.

In our first lesson we are introduced to Job and his family. We see what his life was like before his suffering began. There are some valuable things we can learn from these first five verses. **God is concerned about how we live.**

JOB 1:1

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.

Here we are introduced to Job. We see that he lived in the land of Uz. We aren't really sure exactly where that is, but many people believe that it might be somewhere near modern day Damascus in Syria. You can look at a map to see where that may have been.

We see that Job was a man who loved God. His desire was to serve God in all of his ways. The first thing we see is that he is blameless. What this means is that others could look at his life and not be able to blame him for any sin. He was so careful about doing the right thing that no one could even make an accusation against him.

We also see that he was upright. This means that he lived his life doing what was right. He was a righteous man. This means that he was "right on." Does this mean that he was perfect? No way! All of us are born sinners before God, and we can never be righteous enough in ourselves to be saved. It will be interesting as we continue for the next few weeks in this book to see the lesson that God teaches Job about righteousness and true repentance.

Is God concerned about how we live? Absolutely! For us who are Christians, God has given us His Holy Spirit to help us to live a "right on" life. We should also be blameless and upright. Others who look at our lives should not see our selfishness, but should see Jesus living in us. **God is concerned about how we live.**

We also see that Job “feared God and shunned evil.” He had the proper respect for God. When he thought about how he wanted to live his life he considered what God would think about his decisions. To “fear God” is to include Him in everything we think and do. He also avoided evil. He wanted to stay as far away from it as possible.

What a great lesson for our lives! We also should fear God and avoid evil. Do we include God in all of our decisions? We should. We should also stay away from places, people, or things that would draw us into sin. In fact, we should run away from anything that draws us into evil. **God is concerned about how we live.**

JOB 1:2

And seven sons and three daughters were born to him.

We see here that Job had a family. Actually it was a rather large family with 10 children. How he must have loved his children. As we will see later he was very concerned about his children and their walk with the Lord.

For parents, their children give them so much joy. The Bible says that children are a blessing from the Lord, a reward (Psalm 127). Job’s family is the first thing listed of the things that he had. His family is listed before his possessions. As we will see later when Job loses everything he also will lose his family.

It must have been especially difficult for him to lose his family—those who meant so much to him! Yet, God was with him through it all. **God is concerned about how we live.**

JOB 1:3

Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large

household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East.

Job was a very rich man. He probably lived during the time of the Patriarchs. That means he lived about the same time as Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. People would consider you very rich at that time if you had a lot of sheep, camels or oxen. He was someone who probably employed a lot of other people.

Job was considered the greatest of all of the people of the East. Job had a lot of things. He had the life. Everything seemed to be going perfect for him.

Paper Bag Target

You will need a large paper bag (grocery bag), and a small lunch paper bag, scrap paper and a marker. On the large bag write, "God and Me" and on the smaller bag write, "Me." Pass out several pieces of scrap paper to the children. Have the children write "blessings" on the pieces of paper. You can include peace, joy, love, respect, friends, home, safety, honor, family, food, etc. Have each child wad up each paper into a small ball.

In the center of the room make a 3' circle using masking tape. Choose two volunteers to stand in the circle. One child will hold the "God and me" bag and the other will hold the "Me" bag. Have everyone else sit around the sides of the room.

When you say it is time, have each child try to throw their blessings towards the center circle. The two children in the center will each try to catch the wads of paper. Take turns until all of the children have thrown their papers. When everyone is done take a count to see how many blessings the "God and Me" bag caught and how many the "Me" bag caught.

Explain to the children that God desires to bless us and when we have a relationship with Him we can “catch” more blessings. But if we are only concerned about ourselves, we won’t be able to receive the blessings that God has for us.

JOB 1:4-5

And his sons would go and feast in their houses, each on his appointed day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did regularly.

We see that Job’s children would do a lot of celebrating. They would have feasts and invite one another to their feasts to enjoy their wealth and luxury together. Then we also see a concerned father.

When the feasts would end we see Job “sanctifying” them. That means that he wanted to make sure that they were “set apart” for God’s service. He would get up very early in the morning to offer burnt sacrifices on their behalf. He was concerned that maybe that they had committed some sin that they didn’t even realize.

What an influence godly parents have on their families! In our families God wants the parents to be concerned about the spiritual well being of their children. Job is a good example of a godly parent who is taking responsibility for his family.

So what happened? Everything seemed to be going so well for Job and his family. He loved God and served God. He obeyed God and raised his family the way that God wanted. God had blessed him and made him great. However, we will see in our coming lessons

that Job will enter into a time of great suffering. He is going to lose everything. How can that be? We will find out in coming lessons! **God is concerned about how we live.**

Shining For Jesus

This craft will help us to remember that we need to shine for Jesus. You will need poster board, enough copies of the “Shining for Jesus” template for each child to have a cut out person, aluminum foil, yarn or ribbon, red construction paper and markers.

Cut out the person outline from the template. Use that to trace onto poster board. Cut out the person shape from the poster board. Using two pieces of aluminum foil, wrap it around the person. Make sure to keep the shiny side out. Next cut hearts large enough to cover the chest of the person cut out. Do this out of red construction paper. Glue the heart onto the person. Write in the memory verse, theme or just, “I Want To Shine for Jesus!” and put their name under it.

Using a hole punch, punch a hole at the top of the person cut out. Use a piece of ribbon or yarn large enough to make a necklace. String it through the hole in the cut out and tie it in a knot to make a loop.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to live before the Lord, being blameless, upright, fearing Him and avoiding evil. Ask the Lord for His righteousness and help in living for Him. Don't rely on your own! If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.

