

Job's First Test

Job 1:6-22

MEMORY VERSE

JOB 1:22

"In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong."

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

A small slip of paper, a pencil and a balloon for each child.

Red, green and white construction paper, scissors, glue sticks and markers.

Several blindfolds (socks or old pieces of cloth).

ATTENTION GETTER!

Stomp the Snake!

We will learn in our lesson today that Satan will try to destroy us if he has the opportunity. But he can only do what God allows him to do. This activity will help us to remember that with God's power we can stomp on our enemy – Satan.

Luke 10:18-19 says, "And He said to them, 'I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven. Behold, I give you the authority to trample on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall by any means hurt you.'" Give each child a small slip of paper, a pencil and a balloon. Tell the children to write one of the following words on the paper: "snake," "scorpions," or "enemy's power." Have them roll up the paper and insert them into the balloons. You will need to assist younger children with spelling. Blow up the balloons and tie them off.

Have the children take off their shoes. Next, throw the balloons into the middle of the floor. Allow the children to pop as many balloons as they can by stomping on them. Use this to introduce today's lesson. Have the children clean up the room together.

LESSON TIME!

Have you ever seen the damage that can be caused by a hurricane or a flood? Maybe you have seen on a television news show how bad these storms can be. People's lives are many times turned upside-down when faced with a flood or hurricane. However, like Jesus' parable about the wise person who builds their house upon a rock, we see that those homes with a good foundation are the ones left standing.

For any building the foundation is critical. It must be deep enough and solid enough to withstand the structural stresses placed upon it. Our lives are like buildings and we need a good foundation that will help us stand firm when trials come against us. If we are on shaky ground, we will crumble.

Job was a man with a solid foundation because his foundation was built on God. He would have to face some fiery trials that would forever change his life. Through it all Job remained faithful to God. Because his life was built on God, he endured the hard times and lived a life that pleased God. **Faithfulness pleases God.**

JOB 1:6-7

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan also came among them.

And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

The beginning of our lesson starts before the throne of God with all the angels presenting themselves before the Lord. God is Creator of all the angels, both good and bad, they are under His power and authority. We see here that Satan is allowed to come before the Lord.

As we study the life of Job, we need to remember that God is sitting on the heavenly throne. All power and authority belong to Him and nothing happens beyond His control. In reality, only God knows exactly why things happen as they do, and we must submit to Him as our Sovereign Lord. Job has no idea what is going to happen to him, but God has a plan for his life, to give him a future and a hope (Jeremiah 29:11).

Satan was originally an angel of God, but became corrupt through his own pride. Satan has been evil since his rebellion against God, working as an adversary and accuser of God's people (1 John 3:8, 1 Peter 5:8-9). He tries to hinder God's work in people, but he is limited by God's power and can do only what he is permitted to do (2 Timothy 2:23-26). His response to the Lord's question tells us that Satan is real and active on earth. Knowing this about Satan should cause us to remain close to the One who is greater than Satan. God is greater than Satan.

JOB 1:8

Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil?"

The Lord gets Satan's attention by asking him if he has considered His servant Job. Job was a special person because there was no one on earth like him. Satan has been given a level of dominion over much of the world, but God pointed out that Satan had not yet dominated His faithful servant Job.

God loved Job. He was a blameless and an upright man who feared God, having nothing to do with evil. God called Job, His servant. This was a great honor, which placed Job in the same company as Moses and King David, whom He also called servants (Numbers 12:7-8, 2 Samuel 7:5). **Faithfulness pleases God.**

Those who are servants of God serve Him with their whole lives. Nothing in this world has a hold on their hearts to take the place of God in their lives. God is first in their lives and they are faithful to Him in all they do. God is pleased with us when we are faithful to bring honor and glory to Him with our lives.

Would God call you His servant? Have you given God control of your life? If you are His servant, do you please Him? If not, you can change that right now. Surrender your heart and give God control of your life today. A life put in God's hands will be truly blessed. Your faithfulness blesses Him. **Faithfulness pleases God.**

If we are going to be God's servant, we need to follow Job's example of faithfulness. It was simple obedience to God. Living a blameless life, and walking upright before others, Job was a model of trust and obedience to God. We too can live as a blessing to God and others; the choice is ours. God will take notice of your faithfulness, as He did with Job.

JOB 1:9-12

So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Does Job fear God for nothing?"

"Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land."

"But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person." So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD.

Satan didn't waste any time to accuse Job's motives. He couldn't deny that he was a righteous man, but he attacks his motives, saying Job was righteous only because he had no reason to turn against God. Job was a very wealthy man and Satan wanted to prove that Job worshipped God not out of love, but because God paid him well. Satan hoped that Job would turn away from God and curse Him.

Satan accused Job of having selfish motives in serving God. Could that be true of us? Are we following God because everything is going well or because we're getting what we want? Satan had questioned Job's motives, but we need to also question our own motives in living a life of faithfulness to God. We need to serve God out of love from our heart, as an expression of worship to Him.

Satan challenges God by suggesting that if He removed the hedge of protection around Job and removed everything that he owned, then Job would curse Him. Not only was Satan accusing Job's faithfulness, he was attacking the integrity of God, suggesting that the only way He can get people to worship Him is to promise them wealth. God knew Job's heart. By allowing Satan to attack Job, He could use Job to silence Satan and at the same time, deepen Job's relationship with Him. If you abandon yourself to God, God will never abandon you.

As we read about this conversation in heaven, we need to remember that it is God who is in control. He gives permission to Satan to do anything that he would like with everything that Job

possess, but he is not to harm him. God always puts limitations on what Satan can do, but given the opportunity he will come against us. Job, a righteous man who had been greatly blessed, was a perfect target for Satan. Any person who is committed to God can expect Satan's attacks. Satan, who hates God, hates God's people as well. But because Satan can do nothing without God's permission, God's people can overcome his attacks through God's power.

Hitting the Bull's Eye

This craft will help us to remember that even though the enemy may try to throw some fiery darts at us, we don't have to worry because Jesus is at the center of our hearts. You will need red, green and white construction paper, scissors, glue sticks and markers.

Cut out various size rings to make a target. Alternate between red and white construction paper. The rings should be approximately 1" wide. Each ring will be smaller until you reach the center. You may want to do the cutting before the start of class (you will need enough for each child in your class). Using a green sheet of construction paper as a background, allow the children to glue rings, alternating color to make a target. In the center of the target have the children cut out a heart shape and glue it. In the heart write Job 1:22 (today's memory verse). Allow the children to decorate their craft if they would like.

Remind the children that even though Satan shot some very bad darts at Job, he still trusted in the Lord. When we have Jesus and His word in our hearts we can withstand any darts that Satan might try to shoot at us.

JOB 1:13-19

Now there was a day when his sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house;

and a messenger came to Job and said, "The oxen were plowing and the donkeys feeding beside them,

"when the Sabeans raided them and took them away; indeed they have killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The fire of God fell from heaven and burned up the sheep and the servants, and consumed them; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "The Chaldeans formed three bands, raided the camels and took them away, yes, and killed the servants with the edge of the sword; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

While he was still speaking, another also came and said, "Your sons and daughters were eating and drinking wine in their oldest brother's house,

"and suddenly a great wind came from across the wilderness and struck the four corners of the house, and it fell on the young people, and they are dead; and I alone have escaped to tell you!"

Satan began his assault very quickly. While Job's sons and daughters were dining at the oldest brother's house, out of nowhere, tragedy struck. Satan was allowed to use both human and natural forces to assault Job's family and possessions. Job, while still stunned with news of one loss, was suddenly stunned with another.

Satan used wicked men to carry out his wicked scheme. Like puppets over the hand of Satan, they stole everything that Job possessed, while slaughtering his servants. Their attacks were swift and brutal. Worst of all, his ten children whom he dearly loved, were killed by a great wind. In a short period of time, Job had fallen from wealth and prosperity to grief and poverty. Would his faithfulness to God turn to bitterness?

There is an age-old question, "Why do bad things happen to good people?" It's hard to understand why good people have to go through terrible trials. Job, of all people, didn't deserve such calamity, yet it happened to him. But it is God who designs what we go through and we decide how we go through it. If God is for us it doesn't matter who is against us. As a child of God, we can trust that we are in good hands with someone who loves us very much.

JOB 1:20-21

Then Job arose, tore his robe, and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

And he said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."

Job was struck with overwhelming grief. The children whom he loved so much were now dead. Job tore his robe to express the deep pain in his heart and shaved his head to show his sorrow and remorse for his great loss. He sensed his need to go to God in prayer and fell to the ground in humble worship.

This emotional display didn't mean that Job had lost his faith in God, but it showed how much he loved his family. Instead of turning away from God in adversity, he turned to God in adoration. **Faithfulness pleases God.** Job knew that if he had nothing left but God, God was enough.

Job had lost his possessions and family, but he remained faithful toward God by acknowledging His sovereign authority over everything He had given him. Job passed and proved that people can love God for who He is, not for what He gives. Job's amazing response showed Satan was totally wrong in predicting that Job would curse God.

JOB 1:22

In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

What a beautiful testimony of someone who has gone through a terrible tragedy and through it all remained faithful. Job did not sin or speak evil against his loving Creator. His humble worship at the moment of great loss and intense grief verified God's words about Job's faithfulness and godly character. **Faithfulness pleases God.**

Job shows us that we need a good foundation of faith in God. With Jesus in your life, you will have a strong foundation to withstand any trial that comes your way. God may not always give us answers when we are wondering what is going on, but He always gives us the grace to go through it. We can rely on His strength and power in our life to overcome life trials.

God was pleased with Job's faithfulness. Is He pleased with yours? Do you live a life of complete surrender to His will for your life? If we realize that hardships may be our heavenly Father's wise plan for our lives, we will not be surprised and shocked when painful difficulty or tragedy occurs. Though we may be put to the test, we can go through it with confidence, knowing that God will never abandon us. We can ask for wisdom and the strength to do what He wants us to do.

In all this, Job remained faithful to God. He was God's faithful servant in the bad times, as well as the good. Let us choose to honor God with our life and be found as a faithful servant unto Him. May the Lord be honored to call you His good and faithful servant. **Faithfulness pleases God.**

Twirl & Trust

We can learn from Job that we need to trust in God, no matter what may be happening in our lives. Job put his faith in God even when he couldn't see what God was doing in his life.

You will need several blindfolds for this game (socks or old pieces of cloth). Have the children form pairs and have the pairs decide which child will be blindfolded first. Have them put the blindfold on. Have the pairs link arms back-to-back and line up at one end of the classroom. Tell partners that on "go," they must race to the opposite wall and back by spinning around in circles. Tell the seeing partners that they are responsible to help their partner go in the right direction.

Have the partners race and declare a winner. Allow the rest of the children to go and then switch roles if you would like to. Have the children gather together afterwards. Explain that sometimes it is hard to trust God to lead us. Things in life can sometimes be scary. But we can trust in God no matter what. Just like you had to trust in your partner to get you to the other side of the room and back you can trust God to get you through difficult times.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to be faithful to the Lord in all they do, in the good times and the bad times. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so