



Grace Church Elementary

Camp Grace

LESSON 44

3rd and 4th Grade

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

Bible Character(s): Job

Scripture Reference: Job 1-2, 42



Personal Preparation: Before this weekend, please read through Job 1-2 and 42.

These chapters reveal Job as a righteous, wealthy man who trusted and worshiped God even through devastating losses. More importantly, we see that God is sovereign and that Job's holiness is more important to God than his comfort or happiness. God calls us to trust in Him during times of loss and grief as well as joy and security. Ultimately, God is more concerned with our heart attitudes than with our physical circumstances.

Have you ever felt like Job? How do you respond to pain in your life? Is your focus to have a comfortable life or to be like Christ? Meditate on 1 Peter 4:12-13 as you study Job this week.

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Get To Know You Bingo

Supplies:

Bingo cards

Markers

Hand out bingo cards and bingo markers to each child. Explain to the campers that as you call out each square on the bingo card, if that square is true for them, they can cover it with a marker. When a camper has bingo, they can share each square they covered. Start over and play again. Feel free to award winners with a piece of candy.



BIG GROUP TIME - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts – fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

*Take your cabin flag to Big Group.

The Bridge to Small Group

Today we will learn about Job and how we can trust God during tough times. God desires for our hearts to be His. He is more concerned with our heart condition than our happiness. We can trust in Him because He is sovereign and He is good. He sent His Son, Jesus, to die for us.



SMALL GROUP TIME - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn from Big Group? What did you learn from Jimmy Joe? (God allows bad things to happen to people; we can have faith in God's love for us and trust in Him through the tough times even when we do not understand why they happen; God has a plan for us.) **What was one thing that stood out to you from Big Group?**

In our last lesson, we learned about Esther. **What did Esther have to choose to do?** (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.

Blessings and Trials



The purpose is to outline Job's life.

Supplies:

Pictures of Job's blessings (1 set per bin)

Red X cards to cover the blessings (1 set per bin)

You will read through the scripture passages below and, after the first section, you'll have the campers put the pictures of Job's blessings out on the table. As you read on, to the part when the messengers bring the bad news, have campers place a red card over the blessing 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 did 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 was "blameless – a man of complete integrity. He feared God and stayed away from evil."

Let's continue reading the Bible to see how Satan was 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. 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 place a red card 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 a camper put a red card over the oxen and the donkeys.)

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 a camper put a red card over the sheep.)

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 a camper put a red card over the camels and the "many servants.")

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 a camper put a red card over the sons and the daughters.)

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 lost everything. How does it make you feel that God allowed Job to lose everything he had? (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.

Job's Responses



The purpose is to discuss Job's heart and actions during blessings and trials.

Supplies:

Heart with verses (1 per camper)

Have the campers color and cut out their hearts with the verses.

Tie It Together

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 responded with praise. At the beginning of chapter 1, we read that Job "feared God and stayed away from evil." At this point, Job trusted that God was in control even though he was sad and upset.

He trusted that his suffering was a part of God's plan. Out of Job's heart came praise for God because Job believed that God was in control, even when he was 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 continued. Satan came back to God and God gave Satan permission to touch Job, but not to kill him. Job's body was covered with painful boils. Job lost his children and everything he owned, then he became sick and miserable. Job's wife was angry at God. She could not understand why Job, a good man who trusted in God, would have to suffer like this. She did not understand why Job continued to love the Lord, and she said Job should "curse God and die."

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

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.

God's Plan



The purpose is to discuss why God allowed Job to suffer.

Supplies:

White board with dry erase markers

Write James 1:2-4 on the white board. Read and discuss the verse with the campers.

Tie It Together

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.

Suffering for Salvation



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

Supplies:

Story guide (1 per bin)

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

Tie It Together

 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 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 Both



The purpose is to reinforce God's characteristics for the campers, and stress that we can and should trust God even when we are suffering.

Supplies:

White board with dry erase markers

Work with your students to compile a list of God's attributes.

Tie It Together

 God is sovereign and He is 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.

Wrapping Up...

Let's read the Bible in Job 42:12-16 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 blessed Job at the end of his life after years of suffering. We also know how our life 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 life! 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 Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. 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 family is going through (new school, illness, etc).



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