

## LEADER Bible Study

Why would we hear the story of Job while studying stories from Genesis? Most biblical authorities believe, based on subject matter and language, that Job was a contemporary to the patriarchs. Job fits chronologically into this period in history.

Job was a wealthy man who loved God. At the beginning of the book, God allows Satan to test Job's faithfulness. Job lost everything, and he asked God why these things were happening. God answered Job, and His response reveals that God alone is all-powerful, sovereign, and good.

"Have you ever in your life commanded the morning or assigned the dawn its place?" (Job 38:12). God has. He is all-powerful. "Does the eagle soar at your command?" (Job 39:27). It does at God's. He is sovereign. "Who provides the raven's food when its young cry out to God?" (Job 38:41). God provides. He is good.

Everyone suffers—those who follow God and those who don't. While the Book of Job speaks volumes to the problem of human suffering, it is also an important picture of how a suffering person should relate to God. Job didn't understand his suffering and he even doubted God, but Job's suffering ultimately brought him closer to God. God is always in control, even when His people can't see the reason behind the suffering God allows.

Job reminds us that following Jesus is worth it. God is good, present, and in control. We can trust Him even when we don't understand the pain we have to endure. At the cross, God used the ultimate pain to bring about the ultimate good: our future and final salvation from sin.

Before you teach, pray that the Holy Spirit would help preschoolers understand God's truth. Point preschoolers to the Suffering Servant, Jesus, who was truly innocent yet suffered greatly so that we could be brought closer to God in both our suffering and our joy.

# The BIBLE Story

## The Suffering of Job

*Job*

**Job (JOHB) was a man who loved God. But sad things began to happen to Job, and Job did not know why. Robbers stole the animals on his farm. Job's children died in a storm, and Job became sick with bad sores all over his body. He felt terrible!**

Job did not understand why these things happened. Job had been kind to people and had helped poor people. People in the city respected him, and he had given good advice to others. But after all these things happened to him, people made fun of Job and were mean to him.

**Three friends visited Job.**

They told Job to obey God and tell Him he was sorry for doing wrong things. **They said God was punishing Job for his sin.**

**"But I did not do anything wrong," Job said.** Job was tired and angry. **"I wish I could ask God some questions** and prove to Him that I have done what is right," he said.

Then another friend came along. His name was Elihu (ih LIGH hyoo). Elihu told Job's three friends that they were wrong. He said Job was wrong to complain that God was not treating him fairly.

**Then God came in a whirlwind to talk to Job. God asked Job a lot of questions: "Where were you when I created the earth? Can you**



measure how big it is? Can you send out lightning bolts? Do you make horses strong? Does an eagle build its nest where you say?"

God said, "I made the most powerful animal in the world. Can you capture it? Can you catch a crocodile?"

Job realized that God is much greater than people. God is mighty and strong and wise. He knows how the world works best. He is more powerful than anything scary. **People cannot always understand what God is doing, but people can always trust God. God is good.**

Job's story had a happy ending. **God healed Job, and Job became richer than he had been before. Job had more children. He lived a long and happy life and saw his children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren grow up.**

*Christ Connection: The story of Job reminds us of Jesus. Jesus is the only person who never sinned, but He suffered to take the punishment for our sin. Jesus comforts us when we suffer, and we can trust Him.*

## Bible Storytelling Tips

- **Invite a guest:**  
Invite a male guest to dress in Bible times clothing and tell the Bible story as a monologue from Job's perspective.
- **Use your voice:**  
Pause and allow for silence between paragraphs or scenes to emphasize the intensity of Job's situation.

# Finish the Pattern

**INSTRUCTIONS:** Circle the item that comes next to complete the pattern.



Preschool Activity Pages

Unit 1 • Session 6

**The Suffering of Job**

## BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Sad things happened to a man named Job, and he did not understand why.
- God talked to Job in a whirlwind.
- Job learned that God is always good.
- God gave back everything Job had lost and even more.

**KEY PASSAGE:** Colossians 1:16b

## BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

- Who is God? God is our Creator and King.

## FAMILY DISCUSSION STARTERS:

- How would you feel if difficult or sad things happened to you?
- Would God still be good if He had not healed Job and given him back what he lost?
- How do we know God is good even when sad things happen?

## FAMILY ACTIVITY:

- Identify a person or family in your church who is suffering. Pray for them. Find a tangible way to comfort them. You may send a card, perform an act of service, or give them a hug.



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