

Session 19

Job, God, and the hippo and crocodile

Text: Job 40 and 41

Materials:

- ⊗ Animal names and/or images on pieces of paper
- ⊗ Combinations of 3 animal names (for each group) on pieces of paper
- ⊗ “Memory” or “Snap” animal cards
- ⊗ The questions in the “Word” section, printed, ready to be put up
- ⊗ 1 wooden peg
- ⊗ 1 small piece of green construction paper
- ⊗ 2 googly craft eyes
- ⊗ 1 green pipe cleaner
- ⊗ Green paint
- ⊗ Scissors
- ⊗ Glue

WELCOME

Guess which animal I am: (This game works better with large groups and only requires a bit of preparation.) Everyone gets an animal’s name or picture on a small piece of paper, but they may not let anyone else see or know what they got. Then, everyone must walk or move and make the sound of their animals, until all the animals of a group have found each other. Make sure you do not use the hippo or crocodile in this game.

Monster animals: (Play in groups, requires no preparation.) Divide up into groups. Each group then gets three animals which they have to put together and portray as one big animal, such as an ostrich, a whale, and a lion. The others then need to guess this “monster animal”.

Snap or memory cards: (Play in groups, requires no preparation.) Play snap or a memory game with animal cards, or with the animal names.

WORSHIP

Sing: “He’s got the whole world in His hands”

“He made the stars to shine”

Use the snap cards or images of animals cut from magazines to think about God’s creating power, or different characteristics of God. Use things like the lamb, lion, goat, eagle, elephant, hen, and dove.

Sing the theme song and do the settle down ritual.

WORD

Job was a man who lived many, many years ago. We read his story in the Old Testament, in the book of his name.

Things went very badly for Job. He had a big family that he loved very much, and a nice farm with lots of animals. Suddenly, his whole family (except his wife) all died, and all the animals on his farm died too. To top it all, he later became sick. Things were very bad for him, and he had many questions.

Let different children stick up the different questions:

- ? Why do bad things happen to me?
- ? Why is everything so bad?
- ? Where is God when it hurts?
- ? Does God even care about me?
- ? Can God help me?
- ? Does God love me at all?

God then reminded Job about who He is by telling Job about two of the Amazing Animals He had made.

The first amazing animal lives in water, but ... (adapted from Job 41:1-16)

"You can't pull in this animal with a fish-hook or tie down its tongue with a rope. You can't put a cord through its nose or pierce its jaw with a hook. It won't beg for mercy or speak to you with gentle words. You can't make a pet of it like a bird or put in on a leash. You can't trade it or sell it to merchants. You can't pierce it with harpoons or spears. If you lay a hand on it, you will remember the struggle and never do it again! Any hope of subduing it is false; the mere sight of it is overpowering. You can't strip off its outer coat or penetrate its double coat of armour. Its pride is its rows of shields tightly sealed together; each is so close to the next that no air can pass between. They are joined fast to one another; they cling together and cannot be parted."

What animal is this? Yes, it is of course a **crocodile!**

The second amazing animal we are talking about also lives in water and is described like this: (adapted from Job 40:15-24)

"It eats grass like an ox. It is so strong and has such powerful muscles! Its tail sways like a cedar; the sinews of its thighs are close-knit. Its bones are tubes of bronze, its limbs like rods of iron. It ranks first among the works of God, yet its Maker can approach it with his sword. The hills bring it their produce, and all the wild animals play nearby. Under the lotus plant it lies, hidden among the reeds in the marsh. A raging river does not alarm it; it is secure. Can anyone capture it by the eyes, or trap it and pierce its nose?"

What animal is this? Yes, it is of course a **hippopotamus.**

God reminds Job how strong and amazing these two animals are. Why, though, would he tell Job about this? God comforts Job by saying that He, as God, is much more amazing and more powerful than these animals. He is the great, strong Creator who knows everything. Even though Job feels small and like he has given up, he belongs to God. Even though Job doesn't understand everything, and doesn't have all the answers to his questions, God promised him that He knows how Job feels. God holds everything in his hands, and is even holding Job tightly, through all his problems and pain.

So, every time Job remembers these animals, the hippo and the crocodile, he can remember that God is stronger than both! And so, Job, and us today, can trust God and know that he cares for us!

The children now get a chance to reflect on the story:

1. I wonder which animal you would rather be: a crocodile or a hippo.
2. I wonder what Job thought when God told him the story of the crocodile and hippo.
3. I wonder if you have ever asked the same questions as Job.
4. I wonder how you would feel if you also remember that God is stronger and bigger than the crocodile and hippo.

WORKING AND PLAYING TIME

- ◆ Hippo made out of paper plates
- ◆ Crocodile made out of a clothing peg

(Use the photos as guidelines.)

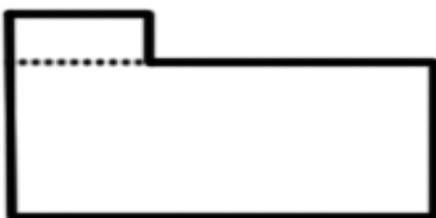
End off with the prayer of **blessing.**



Instructions for the paper plate hippo:

Draw the head (p 4) and mouth (top of p 5) onto paper plates and cut out. Fold the mouth over and glue it to the head. Use the insert at the bottom of p 5 as a guide to see where to draw the nostrils.

Cut out 4 teeth (template below). Roll up each tooth, glue the short sides and fold the tab to the back. Glue the tab to the hippo's mouth. (Use the photos as guidelines.)



Template for tooth

