

Session 1

Job

Children hear the story of Job

Scripture: Job 1, 2 and 42

Supplies:

- Black dustbin bags
- Clothing for the 3 characters: (This must be practised before the session to work well)
Job: torn clothing and baby powder in his hair
Friend of Job's wife: dressed like a fancy Biblical woman
Bible writer: Bible character clothing
- Scroll: rolled up piece of A3/A4 paper (story can be copied on it)
- Colouring picture of Job
- Colour paper
- Copies of adult handprint on A4
- Paint
- Pieces of broken tiles or porcelain
- Glue and permanent marker/s



Welcome

Turn: Divide into groups. Dress 1 child from each group in a black dustbin bag. Cut a hole in the bag for the child's head. The rest of the group have to tear the bag into pieces within 45 seconds.



Worship

Settle down ritual: Let the children close their eyes. Ask them to just look/focus on the light and dark patterns inside their eyelids. After 10 seconds, say in a calm voice: "God's light is always shining in the light and dark parts of your life. Ask the Lord to show the dark things in your life to you and help you to take it away." Wait a few more seconds and then say: "Amen."



Word

Three characters tell Job's story: A friend of Job's wife, Job, and then the Bible writer who gives the story some perspective.

The friend of Job's wife:

"Let me tell you. You will not believe what happened! I just knew it was too good to be true. The happiness of Job and his family was in vain, so-called good people. I thought Mrs. Job was my friend.

They were rich, very rich. They didn't know the ends of their treasures. Seven thousand sheep, three thousand

camels, five hundred oxen, five hundred donkeys and who knows how many slaves. She probably never worked. The children were invited to every party. Job made sacrifices just in case his children did something wrong. But I knew things couldn't stay this way forever, and I was right. He lost everything: his children, animals, slaves and then he fell very ill. I refuse to set foot in that house. What if I get infected? Mrs. Job always told me how happily married they were, but now she feels angry and disheartened and Job is sitting on the rubbish dump. Let that be a lesson to you! You never know with people. You think they are good people but then you realize they were probably hiding their trickery all along. I am not hiding anything; I say it as it is, I am just honest."

(Stand aside)

Job:

"Oh dear.... How long still?! It does not make sense. I can't even eat because of the pain. I can't stop groaning. Everything I was afraid of happened to me. I don't know what this all means. Everyone says it is punishment because I did something wrong. I know I didn't do anything wrong. After my children died, some of my cattle were stolen and whatever was still left got struck by lightning. All my workers, my poor workers were killed by the Chaldeans *(Job cries)*.

My friends were so good to me; they came to sit with me when I fell ill. They sat here for a week and wept with me. It was better when they just sat with me, but now it is terrible because now they are preaching to me. They say I am lying when I say I did nothing wrong. My wife, my dear wife with whom I was so happy, now says I need to curse God. But how can I? He is the Almighty. Just look at all the wonders He has done. How can I not love Him? He is so fantastic! My times with God were the best times in my life. Everybody mocks me; youngsters, old people, strangers and crooks. How can this be? If only God wants to talk to me so that I can understand."

(Job cries).

The Bible writer *(scroll in his hand, opens up the scroll and pretends to read)*

It is so sad that people don't understand what happened to Job. Everybody thought they knew what happened, but that is not true. Only God knew. This is what happened: One day the devil stood before God and said: 'I have been all across the world!' God said: 'Then you would've seen Job. He is the best man on earth. He is genuine and he believes in Me.' Satan answered: 'Yes! Just because You made him rich. You help him with all he does. I know that if he suffers, he will stop believing. He will curse You in Your face!' God said: 'No! Not Job, he will stay committed, even if I give him to you, you will not be able to stop him from loving me.'

Satan brought all these disasters over Job, first his children, then animals and workers. But Job never stopped believing.

Satan saw that he was going to lose this battle. Job was too committed. He then got permission to make Job very ill. Poor Job, it was very difficult. His friends and wife did not understand that he was a good man. His friends judged him and his wife told him to curse God. Everywhere people spoke badly of Job. He was alone. Nobody cared for him anymore.

Satan realised that he was still losing. There was no way that he could get Job to curse God. God started to talk to Job. He helped Job to see that He was still big, mighty and loving. Just to hear God's voice was wonderful to Job. Job understood that he was only human; small, weak and sinful while God was so big and powerful that he made the stars, planets, sea, mountains, horses and birds. Job felt close to God again and that gave him strength to keep on going. God healed Job and blessed him with 7 sons and 3 beautiful daughters. Job had twice as many animals as before. Job knew how big God was and he treated everyone with respect, especially his daughters. In those days, people left their inheritance to their sons only, but Job left his to all his children equally, both sons and daughters. God was right, Job was genuine. Job didn't just believe in God because God helped him. He was really a friend of God. He loved God for who God was.

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder if you have ever been very ill before.
2. I wonder how it feels when something gets taken away from you.
3. I wonder what you do if someone you love goes away.
4. I wonder if you know that God loves you and wants to be good to you.



Working and Playing

- “Mosaics”: Use torn pieces of paper to “colour” the picture of Job by sticking pieces of paper on instead of just colouring the picture. (It reminds us of the broken pottery pieces.)
- Handprints: An adult’s handprint on an A4 paper with the words: “My hand is safe in God’s hand” in the space where the child’s print would be. Put the children’s hands in paint and press their hand on their paper.
- Give older children a piece of broken tile or porcelain. Let them think about something in their life that hurts them. They can even write it on one side of the tile with a permanent marker. Then stick or write John 10:28 on it: “No one will snatch them out of my hand.”
- Colouring picture



Closing prayer to end the session

“God chooses you to help people who are suffering, no matter who you are. Go, don’t be afraid. The Lord is with you.”

