

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 (enough for each child), scissors, glue sticks, and markers.

Several blindfolds (socks or old pieces of cloth).

ATTENTION GETTER!

Stomp the Snake!

Satan desires to destroy us; 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 throw the balloons into the middle of the floor. Allow the children to pop as many balloons as they can by stomping on them. Ask the children to help clean up the room.

LESSON TIME!

Have you ever seen the damage that can be caused by a hurricane or a flood? Perhaps, you have seen the destruction these storms can cause on a television news show. Things can get “turned upside down” in a flood or hurricane. However, like Jesus’ parable about the wise person who builds their house upon a rock, houses with strong foundations withstand storms. The foundation of any building is critical. It must be deep enough and solid enough to withstand the structural stresses placed upon it.

In our last lesson, we introduced Job. Job was blameless, upright; he feared God and shunned evil. His heart and mind were fixed on following God and His ways. He had a good foundation, like the wise man who built his house upon the rock. This good foundation would be necessary as he faced the storms ahead.

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 angels are presenting themselves before the throne of God. God allowed Satan to come before Him. Satan, originally an important angel of God, became corrupt through his own pride and rebelled against God. As an adversary to God, Satan seeks to keep people from God’s salvation through Jesus Christ and to hinder God’s children (1 Peter 5:8-9). He has been called the accuser of God’s people (Revelation 12:10). Though Satan tries to hinder God’s work, he remains limited by God’s power and can do only what he is permitted to do.

Satan's 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 God, for God is greater. 1 John 4:4 states, "You are of God, little children, and have overcome them, because He who is in you is greater than he who is in the world."

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 asks Satan if he has considered His servant Job. Job, a man of deep godly character, stood out among the people of earth. Note: God called Job, His servant--Job had purposed in his heart to walk in submission to God, following all His ways. It was quite an honor to be called God's servant, putting 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.**

Would God call you His servant? Have you given God control of your life? If you are His servant, you will desire to please Him. May we commit this day to serve God with our whole hearts.

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 had considered Job. In fact, the word "considered" in Hebrew is actually a military term, one a general would use to describe his careful study of the enemy in order to develop a strategy whereby he might attack and destroy. Satan had not only considered Job, but had carefully studied Job. He accused Job's motives. Satan could not deny that he was a righteous man, but Satan concluded that he was righteous only because he had no reason to turn against God. Job was a wealthy man. Satan desired to prove that Job worshipped God not out of love, but because God blessed Him greatly.

Satan suggested that God remove the hedge of protection around Job, surmising that if he were allowed to destroy everything Job owned, surely Job would curse God. Not only was Satan accusing Job of unfaithfulness, 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 silence Satan, and at the same time, deepen Job's relationship with Him.

It is good to note there was a hedge around Job! God was in control. God puts limitations on what Satan can do. Satan was given permission to do what he desired with Job's possessions, but he was not to harm him.

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, just as God put a hedge around Job, God has a hedge around us. Satan can do nothing without God's permission, and we can overcome his attacks through God's power.

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 are getting what we want? May we examine ourselves. May we serve God out of a genuine love and adoration for who He is, not the benefits He gives.

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 do not 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.

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. Satan used 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. A great wind struck the house where Job's beloved sons and daughters were dining; all were killed when the house

collapsed. 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?

The age-old question arises, "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, did not 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. We can rest on what we do understand. God loves us! God is for us! If God is for us, it does not matter who is against us (Roman 8:31). All things are working together for God's good purpose in our lives (Romans 8:28).

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.

Instead of turning away from God in adversity, he turned to God in adoration. **Faithfulness pleases God.** Job knew he had nothing left but God, and God would be enough for him.

Job had lost his possessions and family, but he remained faithful toward God. He acknowledged God was the Giver; it was His also to remove. Job passed the test and proved that people can love God for who He is, not for what He gives. Job's response proved Satan was totally wrong. He did not curse God; he acknowledged God as worthy of His praise.

JOB 1:22

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

Job's testimony brought glory to God! Through this terrible tragedy, he 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.**

Quite a test Job underwent! How will we stand when put to the test? May we give good attention to our foundation and be fully anchored in the Lord and His Word. When the storms of life hit us and we do not understand; may we fall back on what we do understand—God loves us; He is for us. May we fix our eyes on Him and remain steady through life's hardships and trials. Romans 8:37 states, "Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us." With God's help, we like Job, can be more than a conqueror! We can remain faithful and bring glory to 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 could not 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 on the blindfold. 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 the good times and the bad times. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.