Preschool–Grade 6

Job Trusts God

Sunday School Lesson for 3rd to 5th Grade, 45–60 minutes

Main point: Job trusted God in hard times. He worshipped when he lost almost everything, he did not blame God, he prayed for his friends, and God blessed him in the end.
Bible passage: Job 1–2 and Job 42. Read them before class.
Memory verse: "And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." *Job 1:21 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each child (or one for every two children), a whiteboard or large paper, a marker, 5 sheets of paper, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: write the memory verse on the board. Write its five parts on the 5 sheets of paper, one part on each (see part 4).

1. Opening game: Thumbs Up, Thumbs Down (5–10 minutes)

Read out good and hard things, and kids show a thumbs up or a thumbs down: "You get a day off school." "Your game gets rained out." "Your best friend moves away." "You find the money you lost." Then ask: *When do people usually thank God? Is it harder to trust God on thumbs-down days? Why?* Say: "Today we will meet a man who had the worst thumbs-down day you can imagine, and what he did next surprised everyone."

2. Bible story: Job Trusts God (15 minutes)

Kids open their Bibles to Job 1. When you reach a **Look up** line, a child finds the verse and reads it out loud. Tell the rest in your own words.

A man who feared God. Look up Job 1:1. (**Perfect and upright** means he lived a whole, honest life; **eschewed evil** means he turned away from evil.) Job had seven sons and three daughters, 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen (pairs) and 500 she asses, and a very great household (1:2–3). After his children's feasts, Job rose up early and offered burnt offerings for each of them, "It may be that my sons have sinned" (1:4–5).

What Satan said. The Bible shows us something Job never saw. Satan came before the LORD (1:6). **Look up Job 1:8.** Satan said, "Doth Job fear God for nought?" (**for nought** means for nothing). God had put a **hedge**, a fence of protection, around Job and blessed him; take it away, Satan said, and Job would curse God to His face (1:9–11). God allowed Satan to touch all that Job had, but not Job himself (1:12).

One sad day. Messengers came one after another. Raiders called Sabeans took the oxen and asses, fire fell from heaven and burned up the sheep, Chaldeans took the camels, and servants were killed; each time only one servant escaped to tell Job (1:14–17). Then a great wind struck the house where Job's sons and daughters were eating together, and it fell on them, and they died (1:18–19).

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Job worshipped. Job tore his **mantle**, his robe, and shaved his head, signs of great sorrow, and fell down on the ground and worshipped (1:20). **Look up Job 1:21. Look up Job 1:22.** (**Charged God foolishly** means blamed God or said God did wrong.)

Sores and ashes. Satan came before the LORD again. God said Job "still he holdeth fast his integrity" (2:3); **integrity** means being true to God all the way through. God allowed Satan to touch Job's body, but said, "save his life" (2:6). Job was covered with **sore boils** from the soles of his feet to the top of his head. He took a **potsherd**, a piece of broken pottery, to scrape himself, and sat down among the ashes (2:7–8). His wife told him to curse God and die (2:9). **Look up Job 2:10.** (Here **evil** means trouble and hard things.)

Three friends. Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar came to mourn with Job and comfort him. When they saw him from far off, they did not know him. They wept, and sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and none spake a word, "for they saw that his grief was very great" (2:11–13). After that, Job and his friends talked for a long time (chapters 3–37), and then the LORD spoke to Job (chapters 38–41). Job answered, "I know that thou canst do every thing" (42:2).

Twice as much. The LORD told Eliphaz that he and his two friends had "not spoken of me the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath." They were to bring an offering, and Job would pray for them (42:7–8). **Look up Job 42:10.** (**Turned the captivity** means turned his trouble around and set him free from it.) Job's brothers, sisters and old friends came, ate with him in his house and comforted him (42:11). **Look up Job 42:12.** Job had seven sons and three daughters again, named Jemima, Kezia and Keren-happuch (42:13–14). He lived 140 more years and saw four generations (42:16).

3. Questions to ask (10 minutes)

Thinking questions (no single right answer; let kids talk)

1. Satan said Job only feared God because of what God gave him (1:9–11). Why do you love God?
2. Job worshipped right after the worst day of his life (1:20). Why is it hard to praise God when things go wrong?
3. Job's friends sat with him for seven days without talking (2:13). How can you be a good friend to someone who is hurting?
4. Job prayed for the friends who had said wrong things about God (42:8, 42:10). Why is that hard to do?
5. Job never knew about what happened in 1:6–12. What can we do when we don't know why something hard is happening?

Recall questions

1. How many sons and daughters did Job have? *(Seven sons and three daughters, Job 1:2)*
2. What did Job's three friends do for seven days and seven nights? *(Sat with him on the ground and didn't say a word, 2:13)*
3. How many sheep did Job have at the end? *(Fourteen thousand, twice as many as before, 42:12)*

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4. Memory verse: Line Up the Verse (5 minutes)

Explain the words: **naked came I out of my mother's womb** means "I had nothing when I was born"; **naked shall I return thither** means "I will take nothing with me at the end of my life"; **the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away** means everything Job had came from God; **blessed be** means "praise be." Read the verse on the board together. Then give the 5 sheets (*And said, Naked came I out of my mother's womb, / and naked shall I return thither: / the LORD gave, and the LORD hath taken away; / blessed be the name of the LORD. / Job 1:21*) to five kids in mixed-up order. The class tells them how to line up in the right order and reads it. Erase the board and play again with five new kids.

5. What this means for us (5 minutes)

Say: "Job trusted God in his hardest days, and God blessed him in the end. God loves you. The Bible says: 'For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). That means all of us have done wrong, and none of us is as good as God. Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, which means the one God came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Christ died for our sins, was buried, and rose again the third day (1 Corinthians 15:3–4). How do we obey the gospel? 'Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost.' (Acts 2:38, KJV) To **repent** means to turn away from sin; our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are **buried with Jesus in baptism**, all the way under the water, in Jesus' name. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we come up to live a new life (Romans 6:4; Acts 22:16). And God fills us with the **Holy Ghost**, and we speak with other tongues as the Spirit gives the words (Acts 2:4). The Bible calls this being born again (John 3:5)."

Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

This week: when something goes wrong, tell God about it honestly, and then praise Him anyway, like Job did. Pray for someone who is having a hard time.

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6. Activity: Bible Look-Up Race (10–15 minutes)

Kids work in pairs with one Bible. Read a reference and a question. The first pair to find the verse and read the answer out loud wins the point.

1. Job 1:1: In what land did Job live? *(The land of Uz)*
2. Job 1:3: How many camels did Job have at first? *(Three thousand)*
3. Job 1:5: When did Job get up to offer offerings for his children? *(Early in the morning)*
4. Job 2:8: What did Job sit down among? *(The ashes)*
5. Job 2:11: What were the names of Job's three friends? *(Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar)*
6. Job 2:13: How long did they sit with Job? *(Seven days and seven nights)*
7. Job 42:14: What were the names of Job's daughters? *(Jemima, Kezia and Keren-happuch)*
8. Job 42:16: How many years did Job live after this? *(An hundred and forty, 140)*

7. Prayer

"Dear God, everything we have comes from You. Help us trust You and praise You on good days and hard days. Help us be good friends to people who are hurting, and to pray for others like Job did. Thank You for loving us and coming to save us in Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a child asks why God let Satan do this: stay with what the Bible says. God set limits on what Satan could do (Job 1:12; 2:6). Job was never told about 1:6–12, and the Bible doesn't give every reason. We know Job trusted God and God blessed him in the end, and "the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy" (James 5:11). Don't add reasons.
If a child asks about Job's wife (2:9): the Bible gives only her words and Job's answer (2:10). Don't add to it.
If a child has lost someone they love: listen kindly, keep it gentle, and let the parents know.
Left out on purpose: the long talks in chapters 3–41, Job's words in 42:3–6, and the gifts Job's family brought (42:11). Read Job 1–2 and Job 42 yourself before class.

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