Preschool–Grade 6

Job Trusts God

Sunday School Lesson for Preteens (Ages 11–12), 45–60 minutes

Main point: God is worthy of worship for who He is, not only for what He gives. Job lost almost everything, was never told why, and still blessed the name of the LORD, and God showed him mercy in the end (James 5:11).
Bible passage: Job 1–2 and Job 42. Students read Job 1:6–12, 1:20–22 and 42:10–13 out loud themselves.
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)* and "Behold, we count them happy which endure. Ye have heard of the patience of Job, and have seen the end of the Lord; that the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy." *James 5:11 (KJV)*
You need: a Bible for each student, paper or a notebook and a pen for each student, a whiteboard and a marker, and one take-home sheet for each student.
Before class: read Job 1–2 and Job 42, and James 5:11. Write both memory verses on the board. Decide who reads which verses.

1. Opening game: For Nothing? (5–10 minutes)

Ask: *Would you stay friends with someone who could never give you anything: no rides, no snacks, no invitations? Why do people follow God?* Let students give honest answers. Then say: "In today's story, someone asked a question about Job: 'Doth Job fear God for nought?' That means, 'Does Job serve God for nothing?' Job's life answered that question."

2. Bible story: Students Read It (15 minutes)

Tell the beginning in your own words: Job lived in the land of Uz. He "was perfect and upright, and one that feared God, and eschewed evil" (Job 1:1). He had seven sons and three daughters, 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen and 500 she asses, the greatest of all the men of the east (1:2–3). He rose early to offer burnt offerings for each of his children. "Thus did Job continually" (1:5).

Read out loud: Job 1:6–12. Old words in this passage:

- **Whence comest thou?** (1:7): Where have you come from? **to and fro**: back and forth
- **Hast thou considered** (1:8): have you noticed, thought about; **escheweth evil**: turns away from evil
- **for nought** (1:9): for nothing; **an hedge** (1:10): a fence of protection; **substance**: everything he owned
- **put forth thine hand** (1:11): reach out and strike; **curse thee to thy face**: speak against you openly

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Tell the middle part in your own words: In one day, messengers came one after another. Sabeans took the oxen and asses, fire fell from heaven on the sheep, Chaldeans took the camels, and servants were killed with the sword; each time one servant escaped to tell Job (1:13–17). Then a great wind struck the house where his sons and daughters were feasting, and it fell on the young people, and they died (1:18–19).
Teacher note: tell 1:13–19 plainly and gently, without added detail. If a student has lost someone, be kind and tell the parents.

Read out loud: Job 1:20–22. Old words: **rent his mantle** (1:20): tore his robe, a sign of grief; **thither** (1:21): there, back to where I came from; **charged God foolishly** (1:22): blamed God, accused Him of wrong.

Tell the next part: Satan came before the LORD again. God said Job "still he holdeth fast his integrity" (2:3). Satan said a man will give anything for his life; touch his body, and he will curse God (2:4–5). God allowed it, but said, "save his life" (2:6). Job was struck with sore boils from head to foot and sat among the ashes, scraping himself with a potsherd, a piece of broken pottery (2:7–8). His wife said, "Dost thou still retain thine integrity? curse God, and die" (2:9). Job answered, "shall we receive good at the hand of God, and shall we not receive evil?" (2:10). Eliphaz, Bildad and Zophar came to mourn with him and comfort him, and sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights without a word, "for they saw that his grief was very great" (2:11–13). Then come long speeches (chapters 3–37), and the LORD answers Job (chapters 38–41). Job said, "I know that thou canst do every thing" (42:2). The LORD told Eliphaz that he and his two friends had not spoken of Him "the thing that is right, as my servant Job hath," and sent them to Job with an offering, and Job prayed for them (42:7–9).

Read out loud: Job 42:10–13. Old words in this passage:

- **turned the captivity of Job** (42:10): turned his trouble around, set him free from it
- **his acquaintance** (42:11): people who knew him; **bemoaned him**: shared his sorrow
- **the evil that the LORD had brought upon him** (42:11): here **evil** means trouble and hard things, as in 2:10
- **the latter end** (42:12): the last part of his life

Tell the end: His daughters were named Jemima, Kezia and Keren-happuch, and their father gave them an inheritance with their brothers (42:14–15). Job lived 140 more years and saw four generations, and died "old and full of days" (42:16–17).
Teacher note: if students ask how 1:12 and 42:11 fit together, stay with the text: Satan struck (1:12; 2:7), and God was over it all and set the limits (1:12; 2:6). Job received it from God's hand without blaming Him (1:21–22; 2:10). Don't go further than the Bible does.

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3. Questions to ask (15 minutes)

1. "Doth Job fear God for nought?" (1:9). What was Satan really accusing Job of? Is it a fair question to ask ourselves?
2. Job never knew about 1:6–12. How does it change the story that we know and he didn't?
3. Job tore his robe and fell on the ground, and he worshipped (1:20). Can grieving and worshipping happen at the same time?
4. "In all this Job sinned not, nor charged God foolishly" (1:22). What is the difference between telling God you're hurting and blaming God?
5. Job's friends did best in the seven days they sat in silence (2:13). What helps a hurting friend, and what doesn't?
6. The LORD turned Job's captivity "when he prayed for his friends" (42:10). What does it look like to pray for people who have hurt us?

4. Memory verse (5 minutes)

Old words in Job 1:21: **naked came I out of my mother's womb** means "I had nothing when I was born"; **return thither** means go back, with nothing; **blessed be** means "praise be." Old words in James 5:11: **we count them happy which endure** means we call those blessed who keep going through hard times; **the end of the Lord** means how the Lord brought Job's story to its end; **very pitiful** means full of pity and compassion (not "pitiful" the way we use it today); **tender mercy** means gentle kindness. Read both verses together. Then students cover one phrase at a time and quiz a partner. Say Job 1:21 this week; keep working on James 5:11 next week too.

5. What this means for us (5–10 minutes)

Say: "James says 'the Lord is very pitiful, and of tender mercy' (James 5:11, KJV). God loves you, and 'all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God' (Romans 3:23, KJV). Jesus is God manifest in the flesh, the one God who came as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). 'Christ died for our sins according to the scriptures; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day according to the scriptures' (1 Corinthians 15:3–4, KJV). We obey the gospel the way Peter preached it: '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) We **repent**, turning from sin, and our old self dies (Romans 6:6). We are buried with Jesus by baptism in His name, all the way under the water. **Remission** means our sins are washed away, and we rise to walk in newness of life, a brand-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 utterance, which means as He gives the words (Acts 2:4). Jesus called this being born of water and of the Spirit (John 3:5)."
Pray with the students, 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.

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6. Activity: Journal (10 minutes)

Each student writes privately. No one has to share. Write these three prompts on the board:

1. What is something hard I am going through, or have gone through? Write to God about it honestly.
2. Do I love God for what He gives me, or for who He is? How can I tell?
3. Who is someone I need to pray for, even if they have hurt me? Write a short prayer for them.
   If there is time, invite a few volunteers to share one sentence.

This week: when something goes wrong, tell God honestly how you feel, and then say Job 1:21 as your answer. Pray every day for one person who is hurting.

7. Prayer

"Dear God, everything we have comes from You, and You are worthy of our worship for who You are. When we don't understand what is happening, help us trust You like Job did. Teach us to be good friends to people who are hurting, and to pray for others. Thank You for loving us and making a way to save us through Jesus. In Jesus' name, amen."

If a student asks why God allowed it: the Bible tells us what Satan said and that God set limits (1:12; 2:6), and it shows Job's faith and God's mercy at the end (42:10–12; James 5:11). It doesn't give every reason. Don't fill the gap with guesses.
Left out on purpose: the long speeches in chapters 3–41 and Job's words in 42:3–6 are only mentioned. Students may read Job 38–42 on their own.

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