

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

DATE: November 6, 2016

SUBJECT: GOD'S CALLING IN THE OLD TESTAMENT: God Called Job

SCRIPTURE: Job 1:1-22; 2:1-10; 23:10; 27:5-6; 42:1-17

AIM: To help the children see that when we are tested or when we go through difficulties, it does not mean that God hates us or wants to make us suffer. Rather, we need to believe that God's heart is always good toward us and He wants us to know *Him* better and to know *ourselves* better.

MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM: Romans 8:28 (And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are called according to His purpose.); Jeremiah 29:11a-12 (For I know the thoughts that I think about you, declares Jehovah, thoughts of peace and not for evil,...Then you will call upon Me and come and pray to Me, and I will listen to you;); Romans 8:31m (...God is for us,...); Proverbs 3:5 (Trust in Jehovah with all your heart, And do not rely on your own understanding;)

SUGGESTED SONGS: 25 (I Believe God); 93 (Jesus Loves the Little Children); 52 (God Is Always Near Me); 92 (Jesus Loves Even Me); 32 (Trust In The Lord); 24 (He's Able); 33 (When Your Fears Grow Mountain High); 172 (Why Worry When You Can Pray); 6722 (We have a Father); 3738 (Jesus Loves Me, This I Know)

CRAFT IDEA: Cut out a large paper person and glue on extra long paper arms. On the heart of the person, paste on the words "God loves us SOOOOOOOO much!"

APPROACH:(1) Ask the children to describe a difficulty they have faced, e.g., sickness or death of someone close to them, injury, failure at school or in extracurricular activity, etc. How did they feel about the suffering? (2) Ask the children why they are given tests in school and ask them to name some benefits to both the student and the teacher.

CONTENT:

A long time ago, there was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job. This man was perfect and upright, honorable and respectable. He feared God and turned away from evil. Job had many children: seven sons and three daughters. He also owned a lot: seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys and many, many servants. He was greater than all the sons of the east.

Job loved God's Word (Job 23:12) and was precious in God's eyes. Jehovah God Himself even boasted to Satan that there was none like His servant Job in the whole earth. Satan mocked God's boast by telling God that Job only feared God because God blessed him. Satan told God that if all of Job's blessings were removed, Job would curse God to His face.

To prove Job's preciousness, God tested Job by allowing Satan to cause him suffering in two stages:

- **First,** Job's possessions (sheep, camels, oxen, donkeys, servants) were taken away. Also, the dearest things to Job were destroyed: his seven sons and three daughters died when a great wind came and caused the house they were in to collapse. Despite this seemingly unimaginable sequence of events, Job did not sin. He did not blame or curse God as Satan said he would. Rather, he worshipped God and said, "Naked I came out of my mother's womb, / And naked I will return there. / Jehovah gives and Jehovah takes away; / Blessed be the name of Jehovah" (Job 1:20-21).

- **Second**, Job was later tested even more intensely when his own body was struck with severe boils, a painful skin infection, from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head (Job 2:7). When tempted by his wife to curse God and die to end his misery, Job again passed the test and answered, “You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Should we receive the good from God but not receive the ill?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips (Job 2:10).

However, as time passed and Job’s sufferings continued, he began to weaken and to complain to God that he was suffering unfairly. His friends told him that God was punishing him because he must have sinned. Job protested by declaring that he had not sinned (27:5-6) and then boasted of all of his goodness and greatness.

Eventually, after some time, God appeared to His dear servant Job. The long trial was over. The test had done its perfect work. God revealed to Job that He did not test Job because he had sinned, but so that Job would know both God and himself more deeply. In God’s presence, Job felt very sorry for the proud, self-righteous, self-justifying attitude he expressed toward God during his suffering. Job sincerely repented before the Lord and realized that he was not as good a man as he originally thought he was. God had purified and refined his dear servant, Job, and he came forth as gold (23:10).

After the test was over, God blessed Job with twice as much as he had before. He had twice the riches, a new family and even lived to see four generations of his descendants. More importantly, he now knew himself more truly, and he knew His God as never before.

SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM: *Please pray and fellowship over which applications to cover. Please do not feel obligated to cover all the suggested applications.*

As those who love God, we shouldn’t think that our lives will always be smooth. When things do not go well or do not go our way, we should remember that:

- **God’s heart is always good towards us.** We should not always think God is angry with us or is punishing us. If we did something wrong, we might be punished. But suffering does not always mean we did something wrong. God loves each of us very much and just wants us to come close to Him, pray to Him, and know Him better.
- **Our attitude toward God should always be good.** Job never cursed God. We should not blame God for causing us to suffer or for not allowing things to go our way; rather we should always love Him. The Bible tells us that **all things work together for good to those who love God.** This does not mean that if we love God, everything will go our way; rather it means that God will arrange our circumstances so that we can know Him and know ourselves better. All of these experiences will enable us to be more useful to God in the future.
- **He is wise and all-knowing** and sees and understands things far better than we do. Sometimes we are very short sighted, but God knows what is best for us in the long run.
- **God has given us parents to guide us.** Even though sometimes we may not agree with our parents’ decisions, guidance, or discipline over us, we should trust and respect their judgment.

Adapted from the Church in New York City’s Children’s Meeting lessons: 11/14/93; 11/07/99; 11/6/05; 11/6/11