



Date: _____
Series: Discovery Digs
Summer Year 4, Lesson 13

Job Learns to Trust God

Take Home Point: *Trust God...even when life doesn't seem fair

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

Bible Event: The Book of Job

Key Verse: Isaiah 55:8-9, "My thoughts are not your thoughts, and my ways are not your ways," declares the LORD. "Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts are higher than your thoughts."

We will help kids know:

- The Bible event of Job who questioned God with, "Why is God making all these bad things happen to me?"
- We can trust God even when life doesn't seem fair.
- God gives us more than what we deserve through the grace that is ours in Christ.




We will help kids feel:

- Challenged as they wrestle with the deep questions of what God is doing when life doesn't seem fair.
- Secure that even when they face suffering, God still loves and cares for them.

We will help kids do:

- Share times of pain, hurt or suffering.
- Make a craft reminding them God's ways are not always understood, but they can always trust him.

THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
Small Group Warm-Up 	3	Kids talk about times when they were sick or injured and how they can relate to God's perspective.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • bag of Hershey's kisses
Large Group 	4 8 10 14	<p>Overview</p> <p>Puppet Presentation: "Jerry Dude Gets Bummed Out" - Jerry is going through some difficult times and wonders why God is allowing it.</p> <p>Dramatic Storytelling: This is the Bible event of Job and how he learned of God's power and grace.</p> <p>Puppet Conclusion: "Jerry Dude Gets Bummed Out" – Jerry learns when bad things happen, we can always know that God is right there with us. We can trust him because he loves us and gave his Son, Jesus, for us.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jerry puppet • bandage wrap • tub of sand • Bible • key with discovery point • two robes or sheets • sign with "Job" printed on it • ten one dollar bills or play money • child figurines: seven boys and three girls if possible • slime or play dough
Small Group Application 	4	Kids make a project to remind them to trust God in all circumstances even when they don't know why they are experiencing hard times?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • photo copies of the circles with verse in two different colors-one set per child (p. 14-15) • brad fastener per child • pen/pencil • scissors

Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes



Purpose: *Get pointed in the right direction!* Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

Supplies: Small bag of candy such as Hershey Kisses.

Show bag of candy and say.

We often get rewards when we do things that are good just like we have consequences when we do things that are bad. For today, each person who shares a little bit about himself or herself, will receive a reward. Please tell about a time when you were really sick or injured. Perhaps it was an accident or maybe an illness that made you go to the hospital. Each person who shares will receive a reward.

Give each child a piece of candy as they share a story.

Thank you for doing a great job of sharing. Let's just imagine that while we were discussing, someone broke our rules and interrupted. That would be rude and disrespectful. They would probably get punished with a timeout. And, if they were in school they may miss their recess. Or, if this happened at home, one might get another consequence or lose a privilege.

We all know how it works in life. Sometimes, we are rewarded for doing well and punished for doing something bad. Is that how God treats us? Think back to when you were sick or you had an accident. Was God punishing you for something you did wrong? What do you think? I'll give you four choices as an answer. Choose one.

After kids have chosen, discuss answer(s) accordingly.

- 1. Maybe God was punishing you for something you did that was wrong. Why did that suffering happen?** *(Just because something bad happens doesn't mean God is punishing you, but it might mean God is trying to get your attention.)*
- 2. It couldn't be that he was punishing you because God never punishes people for wrong things that they do.** *(God sometimes does punish people.)*
- 3. God doesn't have power to control things like sickness and accidents so they just happen.** *(God is in control.)*

4. **God is all-powerful and does have control over sickness and accidents but sometimes he still lets it happen and sometimes we don't know why.** *(God does have control but he allows things to happen and it is not for punishing people).*

Today we will discover the truth: ****Trust God...even when life doesn't seem fair.***

Large Group Overview: 20-30 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

Puppet Presentation: “Jerry Dude Gets Bummed Out” - Jerry is going through some difficult times and wonders why God is allowing it.

Dramatic Storytelling: This is the Bible event of Job and how he learned of God's power and grace.

Puppet Conclusion: “Jerry Dude Gets Bummed Out” – Jerry learns when bad things happen, we can always know that God is right there with us. We can trust him because he loves us and gave his Son Jesus for us.

Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



Purpose: *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.

Observation Questions: What happened?

Have kids refer to the book of Job in their Bibles.

Why did God let Satan attack Job? *(Job 1:6-12. Satan accused Job of having faith only because his life was easy.)*

Did Job curse God when he lost everything? *(Job 1:20-22. No. He bowed down and worshiped God.)*

What did Job's friends believe about the many troubles that had fallen on Job? (*Job 4:1-21. They believed it must be punishment for something Job had done.*)

What did Job realize at the end about God's wisdom? (*Job 42:1-6. Job knows God can do everything and that no plan of God's can be ruined or stopped.*)

Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?

When do you think Job felt closest to God? When he had everything or when he was suffering? How can our suffering bring us closer to God? (*We look to him and depend on him more.*)

What can we learn from Job's life? (**Trust God...even when life doesn't seem fair.*)

How did Job's suffering bring him closer to God? Discuss.

Application Questions: What does this mean to me?

Just like Job's suffering brought him closer to God, our suffering can bring us closer to God. When we learn to trust God even when life doesn't seem fair, we grow in faith.

Satan could *not* do anything to Job without God's permission. Likewise, nothing can happen to us without God's permission.

Our key verse today from Isaiah 55:8-9 says, "*My thoughts are not your thoughts, and my ways are not your ways,*" declares the LORD. "*Just as the heavens are higher than the earth, so my ways are higher than your ways, and my thoughts are higher than your thoughts.*"

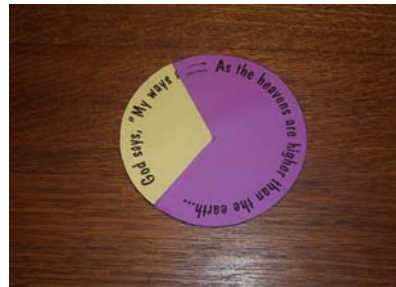
We cannot always understand God's ways, but we can trust that he loves us and wants what is best for us even if it doesn't make sense. We can trust God because he loves us and gave his Son Jesus for us.

Application Activity:

Supplies needed: photo copies of the circles with verse in two different colors and a brad fastener for each student, pen/pencil, scissors

Pass out supplies. Have kids cut out the paper circles and cut to the center along the dotted line on each circle. Attach the circles together by pushing the brad fastener

through the center of both, so the second phrase of the verse slides through the slit of the first phrase circle.



Kids can then continue sliding the circles around until the whole second phrase is read also.

Discuss the following while working on craft.

How can these verses help when we don't know why bad things happen?

This craft will remind you to keep both of these truths close to your heart especially when life doesn't seem fair.

Closing Prayer:

Thank and praise God that he is the Almighty Creator and knows all. He loves us and sent his Son to take away our sins. Ask for faith to **trust God ... even when life doesn't seem fair.*

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Large Group Presentation

Job Can Trust God

Discovery Digs – Dramatic Storytelling

The theme for this series is "Discovery Digs." Two presenters play the role of explorers searching through the sands of time for lessons from God's story in the Bible. The characters' or story tellers' are Dr. C. M. Goofagain and Dr. Turner Round (Dr. G and Dr. T, for short). We suggest that both characters develop their own personality, accent and costume. Both are archeologists and historians. Both know the Bible events enough to tell them well. Since they are presenting to kids, it's helpful to note that "overacting" works well with kids! Exaggerate expressions of surprise, exhortation or puzzlement.

Dr. C. M. Goofagain and Dr. Turner Round search through the "Sands of Time" and through the pages of the Bible for a special discovery each week. These are Bible truths that students not only discover, but truths that they put into practice. The Bible events are not told as exact readings of the Bible but are paraphrased. Still, it is a good idea to have a Bible in hand so that students can see the source. They might use a clipboard to hold their script, though it looks like archeologist's notes.

Each week a student is brought forward to pull a special key out of the "Sands of Time"—a key that has a clue to the discovery of the day. It is helpful for the characters to use a dry paint brush to brush off the sand from objects pulled from the sand. There is special humor as the archeologists first put their hands in the sand to pull out a rather surprising or intimidating object. This creates just a bit more suspense for the student who then goes searching for the key. Then the characters tell their story in creative fashion using the student volunteer or perhaps the entire audience.

The puppet for this series is Gordy's cousin, Jerry, the surfer dude. He speaks in surfer dude language. He came in to town for summer vacation and likes to come to Kingdom Quest, especially since they play in the sand a bit. He serves as the one to start and close the large group presentation. He interacts with Dr. Goofagain and Dr. Turner, whom he calls Dr. G and Dr. T. The presenter's lines are labeled: Dr._____. (Both characters can be used in all presentations, but in the case of unavailable volunteers or a smaller congregation, one individual would be sufficient, as well. Fill in with whichever character is available this week.)

Props:

- *tub of sand, at least six inches deep. Label it "Sands of Time"*
- *key with discovery point – "Trust God ... even when life doesn't seem fair."*
- *two robes or sheets with wholes cut out for arms*
- *sign with "Job" printed on it*
- *10-one dollar bills or play money*
- *child figurines, 7 boys and 3 girls if possible*
- *slime or play dough*
- *Bible*

Jerry Dude Gets Bummed Out

Puppet Presentation

Dr.____: **Welcome to Kingdom Quest, kids. Have you seen Jerry Dude around? Let's see if he is in. Jerry Dude, are you there? Do you want to come out?**

Jerry: Like, bummer dude. No way!

Dr.____: **What's up Jerry? Come on out.**

Jerry: I'm deeply bummed, man. I don't want to see any of my dudes.

Dr.____: **Well, Jerry, please come out and talk to us about it.**

Jerry appears with a bandage wrap on his arm.

Dr.____: **Jerry Dude, what happened?**

Jerry: Like, total wipe out, man. I launched the wheels of my bike and got this totally gnarly scrape on my arm.

Dr. ____: **And that's why you are so bummed out? I'm sorry.**

Jerry: Nah, Doc, it's far more bodacious and worse than that.

Dr.____: **Worse?**

Jerry: Chyaa-a. My dog ran away, too.

Dr.____: **I hope you find your dog.**

Jerry: I've got to find him. I travel back to California (*or Hawaii*) next week. I'm worried that I won't have my dog with me.

Dr.____: **That is a bummer.**

Jerry: It even gets worse than that. My dad got a new job. So, when I go back home, we will move and I won't have any friends at all. Totally bogus, man.

Dr.____: **I can see why you are so bummed out.**

Jerry: There is one other thing.

Dr.____: **What's that?**

Jerry: Why is God making all these bad things happen to me? He must really not like me.

Dr.____: **Boy and girls, do you think that is right? No.**

Jerry: What do you mean? Why would all these bad things happen to me unless God was like, miffed at me.

Dr.____: **Well, God *does* allow bad things to happen to us at times, but that doesn't always mean that he is miffed at us. But what it does mean is that we need to trust him even when life doesn't seem fair. Let's see if there is anything in the Sands of Time to help.**

Pull the key from the sand with today's Bible point attached and read to children.

Jerry: So how can anyone trust God when life doesn't seem fair?

Dr.____: **This is something that God will ask all of us to do. There is a book in the Bible about a man named Job who learned to do that. Would you like to hear his story?**

Jerry: Well, I have a feeling you are going to tell me whether I like it or not.

Dr. ____: **You are right, Jerry Dude, but I think it will help. Listen as we tell you the story of Job.**

Job Can Trust God

Dramatic Storytelling

Have one of the Discovery Digs character tell the story like a narrator while the other character passes out the props (like dollar bills) and plays the part of other people using voice inflections.

Pick a volunteer from the audience to come on stage. Put the robe and sign on him/her.

Dr.____: **The Bible tells of an honest and innocent man. His name was Job. Job was also a very rich man. Each dollar I hand out represents Job's riches. Job had five hundred teams of oxen.**

Hand the volunteer a dollar.

Dr.____: **Job had five hundred donkeys.**

Hand the volunteer a dollar.

Dr.____: **He had lots of servants.**

Hand the volunteer a dollar.

Dr.____: **He owned seven thousand sheep.**

Hand the volunteer a dollar.

Dr.____: **And, he owned three thousand camels, each with two humps.**

Hand the volunteer a dollar.

Dr.____: **Job was blessed with seven sons and three daughters.**

Hand the volunteer the children figurines.

Dr.____: **Job loved God with all of his heart. He wanted to please God. He prayed to God and offered sacrifices. He honored God and stayed away from evil. God loved Job and blessed him. One day Satan appeared before God.**

Have someone off stage do the voice of God and of Satan in two distinct voices and inflection.

Offstage voice uses satanic voice inflection.

Satan said, “Job serves and loves God because his life is easy, blessed and full of riches. He has no reason to fear God. If you take away what he has and bring him suffering, Job will turn away from you.”

Dr.____: **God knew Satan was wrong.**

Off stage voice uses God’s voice inflection of authority and power.

God said, “Satan you can test my servant Job, but you cannot harm him.”

Dr.____: **So Satan did just that. He sent Job a lot of trouble. This is the first of Job’s troubles. A messenger came to Job with bad news.**

Dr.____: Use a voice of extreme sorrow and alarm. ***“All of your oxen and donkey were stolen and many servants were killed.”***

Take two of the dollar bills from the volunteer.

Dr.____: **Another messenger brought more bad news.**

Dr.____: Use a voice of extreme sorrow and alarm. ***“Lightening has killed all the sheep and more servants.”***

Take two more dollar bills.

Dr.____: **Then another messenger arrived.**

Dr.____: Use a voice of extreme sorrow and alarm. ***“All of your camels were stolen and more servants were killed.”***

Take away the last dollar bill.

Dr.____: There was even more bad news. Another messenger arrived.

Dr.____: Use a voice of extreme sorrow and alarm. ***While your children were feasting, a great wind blew the walls of the house down and all of your children are dead.***

Take away the children figurines.

Dr.____: Now, do you remember who did this to Job? Yes, Satan. Satan was trying to prove that Job only loved and served God because he had such a good life and no troubles.

Dr.____: ***What did Job do now that all of his animals, servants and children were gone?***

Dr.____: Job was so sad at the news that he tore his robe and shaved his head to show how sad he was.

Tear the Job volunteer's robe and put on a bald wig or shower cap.

Dr.____: Even though Job was very sad, he did not blame or turn away from God. He continued to worship God.

Have volunteer get on knees and pray.

Dr.____: Satan was not finished causing trouble for Job. Satan caused Job's skin to be covered with big, ugly sores.

Put green slime or red play-dough on the robe of volunteer.

Dr.____: The sores were very painful. Even his own wife wished he would die.

Dr.____: Use a female voice inflection. ***“Give up, curse God and die.”***

Dr.____: In Job's time, many people believed trouble was sent from God as punishment. Remember, God did not send the troubles. Satan did. Job never believed God sent all the trouble because Job knew he was honest, innocent and obeyed and loved God.

Job had three friends. They came to comfort him. When they saw how miserable he was they thought surely God was punishing Job for terrible sins. Job knew his friends were wrong.

However, Job did not know why all these things were happening to him. So Job asked God.

Dr.____: *God why are you doing this to me? It isn't fair. I've done nothing to deserve this kind of treatment. God why don't you answer me?*

Dr.____: God did answer Job. What do you think he said? Do you think he gave an explanation for why the bad things happened? No, he did not. Instead, he answered Job's question with many questions. God said something like this.

Off stage voice use God's voice inflection of authority and power.

"You are a man and you think you know so much. I will ask you questions and you teach me. Where were you when I created the earth? Tell me how I did it if you know so much. Who was it that filled the seas with water and spread the clouds in the sky? Where were you when I gave orders to the sun and told it to raise everyday? So tell me if you are so smart how big is the earth? Where is the place that light lives? You must know because you've lived such a long time. So tell me if you will, how did I make the rain or the grass to grow? How did I hang the stars in the sky or spread the lightening to flash across the land? Tell me if you are so smart. Can you see where the mountain goats live when they give birth to their young and when the ostrich flaps its wings in joy? Are you the one who gives strength to the horse or sets the eagle high in the sky? If you are the one who is so smart, tell me how you do this? Do you understand my ways? Will you correct me for what I do? Will you argue with me the Almighty One?"

Dr.____: How would you answer if you were Job? Job humbled himself before God and said a prayer.

Have volunteer kneel.

Dr.____: *I repent. I take back what I said and how I challenged you by saying you are not fair. For now I know that you are God and I cannot understand all of your ways. But, I can trust you for who you are. You are God the one I serve.*

Dr.____: The Lord then restored Job. He healed him of his disease and he began to give him more blessing than he had before.

Take off the robe with slime on it and give Job a new robe.

He gave Job more sheep and goats, more camels, oxen and donkeys.

Hand volunteer ten dollar bills.

Dr.____: He had more children, seven sons and three daughters.

Hand volunteer children figurines.

Dr.____: God blessed Job again after he went through so much suffering. He lived 140 more years. Job learned to **trust God even when life didn't seem fair.*

Jerry Dude Gets Bummed Out

Puppet Conclusion

Jerry: Like bummer to the max, dude.

Dr.____: What do you mean?

Jerry: That Job was really maxed out. Lots of bad stuff really happened to him.

Dr.____: Yes, but what did he end up doing?

Jerry: He ended up trusting God even when life didn't seem fair.

Dr.____: And, God blessed him so much. Do you know that God can bless us no matter what?

Jerry: How does he do that?

Dr.____: Even when bad things happen, we can always know that God loves us because he gave his Son Jesus for us.

Jerry: How does that help?

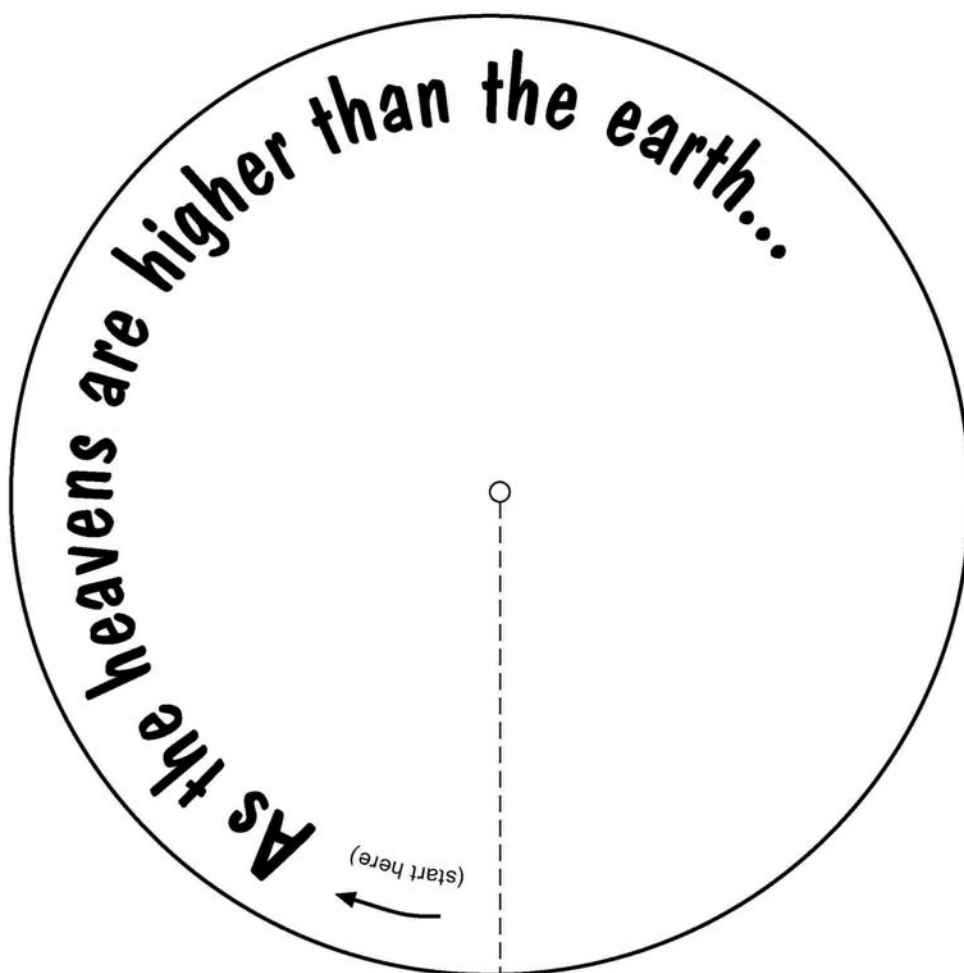
Dr.____: Well, because when we trust Jesus, we have God's forgiveness and his acceptance. God is our friend. Because of Jesus, we can trust God no matter what.

Jerry: Totally awesome, dude.

Dr.____: So, will you say a closing prayer?

Jerry: Gnarly, man. Dear God, sometimes bad things happen and I don't understand, but I will still trust you. Thank you for sending Jesus. Thank you for loving us no matter what. Thank you for letting Jesus live in our lives. So now, help me find my dog and find new friends when I move. Amen.

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