

=BOOKS OF THE BIBLE=

Lesson 18

Job

Objects to have:

Sign for today's Bible book: JOB

All About Job

A bulletin board or a flannelboard

These pictures: A man, with hair cut according to Bible standards

A sheep, a camel, an ox and a donkey

A lady, dressed according to Bible standards

Seven boys and three girls, dressed according to Bible standards

A big red heart

Two "speaking clouds"

A high brick or stone wall that is as long as the flannelboard or bulletin board, and higher than the tallest picture, with a gate in the wall.

Thumbtacks or map tacks

Your Bible.

Introducing the lesson:

(Review with the children the books of the Bible that have been studied thus far. If time permits at the close of the lesson, review main stories or contents of some of these books.)

Our Bible book for today has the name of a man in its title. Job is the man. (Put up the sign.) We have heard about other books that have men's names for their titles. Let's see if we can remember them. (Mention Joshua, Samuel, Ezra, Nehemiah.) Some books are named after ladies. (Mention Ruth and Esther.)

Telling the story:

Job was a wonderful man. (Place the figure of a man on the board.) All of us would have liked Job. It seemed that Job never did anything wrong. He did not like wrongdoing; he did not ever want to do wrong. He hated evil; he loved good. He loved God very much.

God blessed Job. God gave him 7,000 sheep (place one sheep on the board next to Job). Job had 3,000 camels. (Place the camel on the board.) He had some big strong oxen to do his work - 1,000 of them. (Place the ox on the board.) He also had some donkeys (put the donkey on the board) on which to ride, and which were used to carry things. He had 500 donkeys. Job was the richest man in his country.

Job was also very happy in that he had a pretty wife. (Place the lady on the board.) Job also had seven sons and three daughters. (Put these pictures on the board.) That family had everything that it could ever want, and they were happy because they loved God. (Place the big red heart in the corner of the board.) Job loved God very much. God blessed Job.

One day the devil was talking to God. Did you know that the devil talks to God? Yes, he does. Do you think that the devil says good things to God? He does not. Satan, the devil, never says anything good. He is always saying bad. He was saying to God (place a conversation cloud in the upper left-hand corner of the board), "Look at your servant Job. You say that he is a good man. You say that he loves You and serves You."

"Of course he does," said God. "Job, My servant, is an upright man. He loves to do good, and he hates evil."

Satan said to God, "Of course, Job loves You. Look at the big high wall You have built around him." (Place the wall on the board so that it covers Job, his wife, his children, his possessions.) Around everybody who trusts

Jesus, God has placed His protection. It's just like a giant wall around each one of us, but you can't see God's wall around us. Nothing and nobody can get through that wall to us unless God lets it happen. Neither Satan, nor people who follow Satan, nor accidents, nor sickness, nor anything can get to us unless God lets it. God has a good reason whenever He lets anything get to us. Isn't it wonderful to know how much God loves us and watches over us and cares for us?

God said to Satan, "All right, Satan, I'll let you take away everything that Job has. Then we'll just see if Job still loves Me." So, it was as if God opened a gate (do this with your "wall") to let Satan get at Job.

Job's sons and daughters grew up. All of them lived in separate houses of their own. One day Job's sons and daughters were all in the oldest boy's house. Job and Mrs. Job were not there. Just their children, who were grown-up, were there having a party. Job and Mrs. Job were at their own house.

After a while a messenger came running to Job. The messenger said, "The oxen were plowing in the field and the donkeys were all eating grass when suddenly an enemy came and with their swords killed all the oxen and all the donkeys." How terrible it must have been for Job to lose those 1,000 oxen and the 500 donkeys; he needed them to do his work. It would take a lot of money to buy that many animals again.

Suddenly another man came running up to Job, "Oh, Job, lightning has come from the sky; all your sheep have been killed!" Seven thousand sheep killed! Job then had not one sheep and not one ox and not one donkey.

While that messenger was still talking, another messenger ran up. He said, "Another band of soldiers has come. They have killed the servants who were watching all your camels, and they have taken all your camels away. The soldiers stole all your camels, Job, and they killed the servants who were watching the camels!"

What a shock to poor Job! One minute he was very, very rich because he owned thousands of animals; the next minute he was very, very poor because all his animals were gone, and some of his servants were dead.

Before that third messenger was finished, another messenger came. This one was crying and crying! "Job," the messenger cried, "your children were having a party together. Suddenly a storm like a tornado came, and it struck the house where they were. The house fell down on them all, and they are all dead."

What a terrible day for Job! Satan was causing it all, and Satan was watching. He was going to see if Job really loved God or if he loved God just because of the wonderful things and the wonderful children that God had given Job. Will Job now say, "I do not love God anymore because He has taken all my riches and my children away?" Listen.

Job was very sad, and he was crying, but he prayed. Then he said, "God gave me everything and everybody that I had. It's God's right to take them away if He wants to do that. I still love God. Blessed be His Name!" Job praised God! The Bible says that Job did not sin in all that he said and in the feeling that was in his heart.

Again Satan talked to God. The devil said, "All right, God, Job still says that he loves You, but he is still healthy; he is not sick. I am sure that if he got sick, he would not love You anymore."

God said to Satan, "All right, Satan, you may make Job sick, but do not kill him." Once again Satan was permitted by God to get at Job. He made Job very painfully sick. Job had great big sores all over his body, from the bottom of his feet to the very top of his head. The sores hurt! But, Job still loved God!

Then Job's wife came to talk with him: "Job, I cannot see how you can still love God. Why don't you just say that God is bad, and then you can die." What terrible advice for his wife to give! Job did not listen to his wife. Job still loved God, and he still praised Him. Even Job's friends tried to tell Job the wrong things. They told Job

that the reason he had lost everything and was so sick was that he was a terrible sinner. You and I know that was not the reason. God was just proving how much Job loved Him. Job showed everybody how much he still loved God.

After a while wonderful things started to happen to Job again. It was as if God had shut the gate in the wall around Job (shut your illustrated gate), and no bad thing could get to Job again. Job got well; he was not sick any longer. God started to give things back to Job. He gave him some sheep, some oxen, some camels and some donkeys. God kept giving them to Job and kept giving them, until Job had twice as many of everything as he had had before. Job then was twice as rich as he had ever been. One by one he got children until once more he had seven boys and three girls in his family. Job's friends were friendly toward Job. All was happiness. The end of Job's life was even better than the first part of his life had been. Job had proved that he loved God, and that he did not love God just for the things that God could give him. So God blessed him again, and even more than He had before!

How much do we love God? Do we trust Him? I trust Jesus! Trust Jesus! Trust God to know always what is best for you. If anything sad or hard happens to us, God is very close; He will always take care of us.

LEARN OUR BIBLE VERSE: Job 42:12, "So the LORD blessed the latter end of Job more than his beginning...."