

Righteous Job Fears God

Job 1:1-5

MEMORY VERSE

JOB 1:1

“There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Masking tape.

A large paper bag (grocery bag), a small lunch paper bag, scrap paper, and a marker.

Poster board, enough copies of the enclosed template for each child to have a cut out person, aluminum foil, yarn or ribbon, red construction paper, and markers.

ATTENTION GETTER!

Walking in Holiness

You will need masking tape for this activity. In today’s lesson, we will look at Job’s life prior to the hard trials that he suffered. He was a righteous man, with a foundation in holiness which helped him to stand strong when the storms came. Sometimes the road that we are on can wind in a lot of directions and become very difficult, but we can make it when our eyes are on Jesus.

With masking tape, make a trail (a line of masking tape) for the children to walk on. Weave and loop around and zigzag across the room. Make it join ends so that it is continuous. Split the children into two even teams. Start at opposite sides of the room with each team. When you say, “go,” each team should start. They need to go in opposite directions (they should end up going toward each other as they loop around. Explain to the children that their feet cannot step down anywhere except upon the line. If they cross

paths make sure the boys say excuse me and allow the girls to go first (they should not bump into each other as long as you make areas that cross over in your trail). If someone's foot comes off of the taped line have them start over. Once both groups make a complete circle and get back to their side of the room, ask all the children to sit in a circle.

Introduce the children to today's theme (refer to brief introduction above). You can ask them discussion questions like, "Was it easy to go down the trail? Did you hit any obstacles? Was it straight or winding? Was it easy to fall off the trail." Use these questions to make applications about walking in holiness. Some things you share may include, "When we walk in holiness, it is not always easy." "It can be easy to hit obstacles or fall off the trail." "But, Jesus promises to help us as we give our lives to Him."

LESSON TIME!

Job was a righteous man, yet God allowed his peaceful and prosperous life to be shaken in a big way. Job asked a question—one that has troubled many—"Why?" Why do the righteous suffer?

The book of Job begins the "Hebrew poetry" section of the Bible, which includes Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Song of Solomon and Ecclesiastes. It is, perhaps, the oldest book of the Bible, thought to date back to the time of Abraham. (Although, Genesis, written later, records man's history from the beginning.)

Again, Job was a "righteous" man. His strong foundation—built on making good choices—would be important as he would need to wither some very "severe" storms up ahead. As we seek to live our lives in a right relationship with God, building a strong foundation, let us consider some of the characteristics of Job. **God is concerned about how we live.**

JOB 1:1

There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil.

Job lived in the land of Uz. The location of Uz is not exactly known; many people believe that it might be somewhere near modern day Damascus in Syria.

Job was a man who loved God—blameless, upright (righteous), and one who feared God and shunned evil. Job was blameless. He was careful in his actions. Those around Job could not find fault with him.

The Bible says we are to be “blameless,” above the reproach and accusation of those around us. Philippians 2:15 states: “...that you may become blameless and harmless, children of God without fault in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation, among whom you shine as lights in the world,...”

Job was upright—a righteous man. To be righteous is to live in a “right” relationship with God. God was first in Job’s life. Job “feared God and shunned evil.” He had the proper respect for God. To “fear God” is to include Him in everything one thinks and does. When he thought about how he wanted to live his life, he considered what God would think about his decisions. He avoided evil, staying as far away from it as possible.

What a great lesson for our lives! We, also, should fear God (give Him proper respect) and avoid evil. Do we include God in all of our decisions? Do we stay away from places, people, or things that would draw us into sin? In fact, we should run away from anything that draws us into evil.

Job was not perfect—the Bible is clear that “all have sinned and fallen short of the glory of God.” In Old Testament times, God’s people would offer sacrifices to cover their sins, looking forward to the redemption that was to come in Christ Jesus. As Christians, our sins have been forgiven through faith in Jesus Christ. God now works in us, enabling us to do what we cannot do in our own strength by the power of His Holy Spirit. Through the help of the Holy Spirit, we can live an “upright” life—a life well pleasing to God. **God is concerned about how we live.**

JOB 1:2

And seven sons and three daughters were born to him.

Job had a family—a large family with 10 children. Notice, it is listed before any of his other possessions. The Bible says that children are a blessing from the Lord, a reward (Psalm 127).

JOB 1:3

Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East.

Job was a very rich man. Around the time of the patriarchs—Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—one was considered very wealthy if they had a lot of sheep, camels, or oxen. Most likely, there were many people he employed.

Job was considered the greatest of all of the people of the East! It seemed like life was perfect for Job.

Paper Bag Target

You will need a large paper bag (grocery bag), and a small lunch paper bag, scrap paper, and a marker. On the large bag, write, "God and Me," and on the smaller bag write, "Me." Pass out several pieces of scrap paper to the children. Have the children write "blessings" on the pieces of paper. You can include peace, joy, love, respect, friends, safety, etc. Have each child wad up each paper into a small ball.

In the center of the room make a 3' circle using masking tape. Choose two volunteers to stand in the circle. One child will hold the "God and me" bag and the other will hold the "Me" bag. Have everyone else sit around the sides of the room.

When you say it is time, have each child try to throw their blessings towards the center circle. The two children in the center will each try to catch the wads of paper. Take turns until all of the children have thrown their papers. When everyone is done take a count to see how many blessings the "God and Me" bag caught and how many the "Me" bag caught.

Explain to the children that God desires to bless us; when we have a relationship with Him, we can "catch" more blessings. But, if we are only concerned about ourselves; we will not be able to receive the blessings that God has for us.

JOB 1:4-5

And his sons would go and feast in their houses, each on his appointed day, and would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

So it was, when the days of feasting had run their course, that Job would send and sanctify them, and he would rise early in the morning and offer burnt offerings according to the number of them all. For Job said, "It may be that my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did regularly.

Job's children did a lot of "celebrating." They would have feasts and invite one another to their feasts to enjoy their wealth and luxury together. Job was a concerned father and feared that his sons could be acting inappropriately.

Job is a good example of a godly parent taking responsibility for his family. God desires that parents be concerned about the spiritual well being of their children.

So, Job loved God and served God. He loved his family and took seriously his role as a father, praying and interceding for his children. He was wealthy and had a good reputation throughout the land. All was going well for this righteous man! Yet, the road will turn. Much suffering lies ahead.

The question of suffering is a difficult one. But, it is sure that ease and security are not always the best things for us! Though we may not know what God is doing and why when we must suffer, certain facts remain sure. God loves us! His thoughts toward us are only good (Jeremiah 29:11). He works all things together for good to those who love God (Romans 8:28). He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5).

May we, as Job, have a solid foundation—living a life that is blameless, upright, fearing God, and shunning evil—so when the storms come, we will remain strong, for our course is set and our eyes are fixed on Jesus.

Psalm 1 describes a man whose foundation is solid, one whose delight is in the law of the Lord: "...He shall be like a tree planted by rivers of water, that brings forth its fruit in its season, whose leaf also shall not wither..." Jesus also describes a man who, being both a hearer and doer of His Word, can withstand the storms of life: "He is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when the flood arose, the stream beat vehemently against that house, and could not shake it, for it was founded on the rock" (Luke 6:48). **God is concerned about how we live.**

Shining For Jesus

You will need poster board, enough copies of the "Shining for Jesus" template for each child to have a cut out person, aluminum foil, yarn or ribbon, red construction paper, and markers.

Cut out the person outline from the template. Use that to trace onto poster board. Cut out the person shape from the poster board. Using two pieces of aluminum foil, wrap it around the person. Make sure to keep the shiny side out. Next, cut hearts large enough to cover the chest of the person cut out. Do this out of red construction paper. Glue the heart onto the person. Write in the memory verse, theme or just, "I Want to Shine for Jesus!" and put their name under it.

Using a hole punch, punch a hole at the top of the person cut out. Use a piece of ribbon or yarn large enough to make a necklace. String it through the hole in the cut out, and tie it in a knot to make a loop.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to let God, by the power of His Spirit, enable them to live a life that is blameless, upright, fearing Him, and avoiding evil. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.

