

Job's Second Test

Job 2:1-10

MEMORY VERSE

JOB 2:10

“Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Burlap, scissors, small red dot stickers like those used in offices, fire place ashes in a small, sealed container and a broken piece of pottery or tile (anything with a rough edge can be substituted).

Two pairs of adult shoes with laces.

Light colored construction paper, markers, burlap, glue, scissors, and black confetti.

ATTENTION GETTER!

(Note: This demonstration jumps ahead in the story, revealing the condition Job will find himself in. You may want to consider presenting it before or in place of the “Walking In Someone Else’s Shoes” game.)

Oh No! I’m Job!

Job will experience another huge trial. He will lose his good health! Job remained strong in his faith, even though he did not understand.

Prior to class, gather some burlap, scissors, small red dot stickers like those used in offices, fire place ashes in a small, sealed container and a broken piece of pottery or tile (anything with a rough edge can be substituted). Get a fairly large piece of burlap and cut a hole in the center so the children can have it drape over them. These will be visual demonstrations of today’s lesson

Explain to the children that they are going to have an opportunity to see what it must have been like to be Job. Have a volunteer put on the burlap outer garment or have them pass a piece of burlap around to rub on their face. Talk about how rough it feels. Show them the box of ashes and explain that they would put the ashes in their hair as a sign of mourning. (Do not really put the ashes in their hair--just use it for demonstration purposes only,) Next, place some red dot office stickers on the volunteer's face, hands and arms to demonstrate boils. Then show them what it may have been like to scrape those boils with broken pottery. Be careful and do not allow the children to scrape each other with the pottery.

Give other children an opportunity to be Job if they would like. Remind the children of today's theme: **God wants us to trust Him even when we do not understand.**

LESSON TIME!

Job had been hit hard. He lost everything—all his possessions and even his beloved children. Do you remember? Satan had accused Job before God. Satan had surmised that Job loved and served God only because of God's blessings upon him. God gave Satan permission to try to prove his theory, only not to harm his life. Job passed the test! Though Satan's attacks were overwhelming, Job did not "sin nor charge God with wrong."

Satan was not content to realize his defeat, however. Job would now face another test. The story continues back in the heavenly scene, as Satan once more presents himself before God.

JOB 2:1-3

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the LORD.

And the LORD said to Satan, "From where do you come?" So Satan answered the LORD and said, "From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it."

Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause."

Again, God asked where Satan had been. His answer was the same—walking to and fro and back and forth on the earth. 1 Peter 5:8 exhorts, "Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour." In other words, Satan is looking all over this world for people that he can deceive and destroy. We must sober (alert) and vigilant (watchful). We must not be taken off guard!

God's response gives us a picture, once more, of Job's godly character. He had remained steadfast through the big test. He was blameless, upright, and a man who feared God and hated evil. He had held fast to his integrity. Job was the same in his poverty as he was in his prosperity.

God had seen Satan's attempt to destroy Job. God accuses Satan of trying to incite God to turn against Job and trying to destroy him for no reason. When we think that God does not know or see what is happening to us, we must remember Job. God loves us deeply and watches us continually. Nothing slips past Him concerning us. Satan does not trick Him.

Think of how it must have blessed God to see Job's steadfastness in his faith. In 1 Peter 1:7 we read, "...that the trial of your faith being much more precious than of gold that perishes, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honor and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (1 Peter 1:7). **God wants us to trust Him even when we do not understand.**

JOB 2:4-6

So Satan answered the LORD and said, "Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has he will give for his life.

"But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!"

And the LORD said to Satan, "Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life."

Satan shows his awareness of human nature. Self-love and self-preservation are very strong in the heart of man. Job had stood strong through the loss of all his possessions including his family; however, Satan theorized Job would react differently if it were his own life that was endangered, if his good health were taken away. Satan then presents the challenge to test Job's integrity once more: "But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!" God responded, "...He is in your hand; but spare his life."

Note, once more: Satan needed God's permission to harm Job. God places restrictions and limitations on the activity of Satan. God will not allow us to be tempted above that which we can endure (1 Corinthians 10:13).

JOB 2:7-8

So Satan went out from the presence of the LORD, and struck Job with painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head.

And he took for himself a potsherd with which to scrape himself while he sat in the midst of the ashes.

Satan now attacked Job by giving him sore boils all over his body, a terrible inflammation on his skin. Boils go down into the nerves, causing a great deal of pain. One boil is extremely painful; imagine how it would feel having them all over your body. He could not find any comfortable position, even lying down was painful.

Job scraped himself with a potsherd, a piece of broken pitcher. He was probably scratching the sores for some type of relief. Only his wife remained to be of assistance.

Walking In Someone Else's Shoes

This is a relay race game. You will need two pairs of adult shoes with laces. Form two even teams and have the children take off their shoes. Have them line up side by side at one end of the room. At the other end of the room, place the two pairs of adult shoes. When you say, "go" have the first person in each team walk (no running!) to the other end of the classroom and put on the shoes. After they have put on the shoes, they will walk back to their teams, their back to the original place, and take off shoes. The next team player now goes.

Continue until all of the children have had a turn. Keep in mind that you may have to assist the younger children with tying shoes. Have your aide assist.

After the game is played and a winning team is declared gather the children together. Ask them how easy it was to walk in someone else's shoes. It isn't always as easy as we think. Ask the children to respond to the questions, "What do you think it would be like to walk in Job's shoes? Do you think it would be easy or difficult?" We need to be sensitive to what others are going through.

JOB 2:9-10

Then his wife said to him, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!"

But he said to her, "You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Remember, when Job lost everything, his wife lost everything also. Her wealth was gone, her children were dead, and now she sees her husband suffering horribly. She and Job were going through great and severe testing—Job, even more so, since he became personally afflicted—yet, their reactions were quite different. Job's wife told him to just give up on God and die.

Perhaps, her love for Job prompted her to want to see an immediate end to his suffering. Whatever the reason, she had lost sight of God's great love and the hope we have in him. Unbelief and doubt had filled her mind. She now became a burden to Job, rather than a comfort. Severe trouble and trials will either make one bitter or better. Job's wife became bitter; Job became better. It is good that Job did not listen to his wife's foolish counsel. He argued, "Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?"

Through all this adversity, Job remained steadfast. We read, “In all this did not Job sin with his lips.” The Bible tells us, “Out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks” (Matthew 12:34). Job’s heart was fixed, trusting in the Lord; his steadfast relationship with God was reflected in what he said and what he did not say with his lips. It is often our lips that are first to sin. Satan’s strategy against Job failed.

Let us examine our own hearts. How would or do we respond to difficult trials. The Bible says, “If you faint in the day of adversity, your strength is small (Proverbs 24:10). We are not to give up when the first sign of difficulty comes our way. Let us ask the Lord to make us men and women of steadfast, unwavering faith. **God wants us to trust Him even when we do not understand.**

The Bible says, “Many are the afflictions of the righteous, but the Lord delivers him out of them all” (Psalm 34:19). Job was prepared to accept affliction as well as blessing from the hand of the Lord. God uses trials for many good purposes in our life. As one commentator said, “God works through trials, because trials work!” The testing of our faith can silence Satan, bring glory to God, deepen our faith and commitment, give us a heart-felt compassion for others who suffer, and more.

Again, though we may not understand why we must suffer, we can fall back on what we do understand. We can be confident of God’s love—we can know His thoughts towards us are good (Jeremiah 29:11), we can be sure He will never leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5), and we can “know that all things work together for the good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to His purpose” (Romans 8:28). **God wants us to trust Him even when we do not understand.**

Sackcloth and Ashes

For this craft, you will need light colored construction paper, markers, burlap, glue, scissors and black confetti. The children will be making pictures of Job in sackcloth and ashes.

Have the children cut out a shape of a robe from the burlap. Glue this shape onto a sheet of light colored construction paper. Have the children draw the head, hands and feet of Job in relation to the piece of burlap. Next, use the black confetti to represent ashes and glue it all around the feet of Job. Allow the children to use markers or crayons to color the rest of the picture.

At the top of the picture, have the children write out the theme or the memory verse. Use this as an opportunity to discuss the application of today's lesson. We can trust in God even when we do not understand the things that are happening in our lives.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to trust in the Lord even when we do not understand what He is doing. May we believe He has everything under control even in time of difficult trial. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the Gospel, give them opportunity.