

# Job Remains Faithful in Suffering

Job 1:1–2:10; 42:1-6, 10-17



**Worship Theme:**



God is with us when we hurt.

**Weaving Faith Into Life:**



Children will praise God for his presence in hard times.

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<b>1</b> Let's Praise God! <i>(up to 25 minutes)</i>	<b>Sing</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• "Nothing Could Keep Me From You"</li> <li>• "His Great Love" (Romans 5:8)</li> <li>• "No, Not One"</li> <li>• "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah"</li> <li>• "My Hope Is in the Lord"</li> <li>• "God's Love Is Always There"</li> </ul>	<b>KidsOwn Worship Kit:</b> <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i> <b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Video equipment, crepe-paper streamers, masking tape, markers, paper, scissors, bowl

**Preschool**

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<b>2</b> Let's Learn the Point! <i>(up to 25 minutes)</i>	<b>God Is With Us</b> Use cookies to tell the Bible story.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> 10 teddy bear-shaped cookies, several animal cookies, and a handful of cereal per child; paper plates; napkins; bowls
	<b>* When We Hurt</b> Name times when they hurt.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Ball
	<b>He Sticks With Us</b> Learn a rhyme about how God is with us when we hurt.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> 1 adhesive bandage and 2 Jesus stickers per child

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<b>2</b> Let's Learn the Point! <i>(up to 25 minutes)</i>	<b>* "Job's Really Rotten, Really Stinky, Really Awful Day"</b> Watch a video that tells the story of Job.	<b>KidsOwn Worship Kit:</b> <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i> <b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Video equipment
	<b>Tangles to Triumph</b> See a pattern come from a tangled mess.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Poster board, marker, yarn, scissors
	<b>* God Squad</b> Form rescue squads to help hurting kids.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> 1 name badge per child, marker

Session Sequence	What Children Will Do	Supplies
<b>3</b> Let's Pray! <i>(up to 10 minutes)</i>	<b>The Offering</b> Offer their gifts to God.	<b>KidsOwn Worship Kit:</b> <i>KidsOwn Worship DVD</i> <b>Classroom Supplies:</b> Offering bowls, video equipment
	<b>Prayer Requests</b> Pray for each other, friends, and family members.	
	<b>Balloon Praises</b> Bat around praises to God.	<b>Classroom Supplies:</b> 1 balloon per 4 or 5 kids

\* Starred activities can be used successfully with preschool and elementary children together. Customize your session to fit your needs. You can separate preschoolers and elementary children for Section 2. Or, if you keep the children all together for the entire worship session, we suggest you choose from the starred activities.

# *Job Remains Faithful in Suffering*

*Job 1:1–2:10; 42:1-6, 10-17*

A brief summary of the book of Job may be helpful before examining these particular passages. Satan came before God and claimed that Job, a righteous and wealthy man, remained faithful to God only because he had been blessed by God. Satan suggested that Job would reject God if all Job had was taken from him. God allowed the test, and Job was stripped of everything: his wealth, his family, and his health. Three friends tried to comfort him but, because they were sure that suffering comes from God as punishment for wrongdoing, ended up criticizing him instead. All the while, Job insisted on his innocence and refused to turn against God. In the end, God appeared to Job and chastised Job as well as his three friends for the fallacies in their arguments. He helped Job understand that God's ways are beyond human comprehension and that we have no right or reason to criticize anything God does or allows.

It is not known when Job lived, but many factors indicate that he lived during the time of Israel's patriarchs. Job was an extremely wealthy man with a lot to lose. In fact, he was the wealthiest man in the entire region.

When Job lost his family, he didn't hesitate to express his grief. He didn't lose his faith in God, but he expressed human emotions. And his words indicated that he knew God was in charge and was worthy of praise even in the midst of suffering. Even when he lost his health, Job "did not sin in what he said" (Job 2:10). He simply questioned why God would allow such suffering to be inflicted on an innocent man. He wanted to know why it seemed God had turned

against him.

After the three friends' arguments failed to sufficiently explain the reasons for Job's trials, God spoke to Job, answering Job's questions with a series of questions that underlined how little Job knew about God (Job 38–41). Job had begun to question God's righteousness and love. God silenced those doubts, but he also made it clear that he owed no one an explanation for the reasons for Job's suffering.

After God had finished speaking, Job admitted that his complaints against God were grounded in ignorance. Realizing that God had not turned against him, Job was willing to accept that God had a reason for allowing him to suffer, even though God never revealed that reason. Job was relieved to discover that God still cared about him and was with him through all he had endured. And the restoration of Job's wealth along with the blessing of a new family demonstrated to Job that God had not abandoned him.

## ***Devotion for Leaders***

Everyone experiences suffering. In a growing relationship with Jesus, we suffer differently because God brings hope to the hurting.

**Weaving Faith Into Your Life:** In Job 42:1-6, Job moves to a deeper level of experiencing God and responds to God with worship. This week, identify an area of pain in your life. Reflect on this loss or disappointment, and ask God to use it to reveal more of himself to you. As you experience the hope of Christ, respond to him with heartfelt worship.

## Why We Worship for Leaders

Of all the characters in the Bible, Job sets the most stunning example of faithfulness to God in times of tragedy. When he had lost everything, even his children, Job realized that he could have hope because he still had God. In the face of his most horrific losses, Job knew that God's character doesn't change. He ripped his robes and worshipped God, saying, "The Lord gave and the Lord has taken away; may the name of the Lord be praised."

We worship God for who he is, not for his blessings or apparent lack of them. We worship God because he is good all the time. And today we worship God as Job did, because he is with us when we hurt.

## Easy Prep for Leaders

### Let's Praise God!

- Make sure your video equipment is ready.
- Place a table near the entrance to the worship area. Tape a 24-inch length of masking tape near the front edge of the table. Stock the table with scissors, various colors of crepe-paper streamers, and markers in various colors.

**"Job's Really Rotten, Really Stinky, Really Awful Day"**—Watch "Job's Really Rotten, Really Stinky, Really Awful Day" at least once before the worship session.

**Tangles to Triumph**—Cut several 8-foot lengths of yarn and knot the ends of each. On a sheet of poster board, poke holes about 2 inches apart so they outline a large circle. Try to have at least one hole for each child. On the backside of the poster, draw a smiley face in the center of the circle of holes.

**God Squad**—Make one set of name badges for every five kids. Each set needs a badge labeled with one of the following words: *Hurting*, *Hugger*, *Listener*, *Encourager*, and *Helper*. Have extra badges and a marker on hand to make adjustments after kids form their groups.

**Balloon Praises**—Blow up one balloon for every four or five children.

**Preschool Activities**—Refer to the preschool pages for preparations.

## 1 Let's Praise God!

Play KidsOwn Worship music videos as children arrive. Greet everyone by name and say, "Welcome." Ask one or two helpers to stand at the table to guide kids in measuring and cutting two streamers the length of the masking-tape strip. Invite children to use markers to decorate the streamers. When everyone has arrived,

**Say** **Welcome, everyone! God is good all the time, and that's good news! It's especially good news at times when we hurt. We can go to God boldly with our hurt.**

**That's what we're worshipping God for today. Let's stand and use the streamers you made when you came in. Fold your streamers in half. Now hold one in each hand on the fold, and wave the streamers as we sing our song. Spread out a little bit**

so you won't hit anyone with your streamers.



Sing "Nothing Could Keep Me From You."

**Say** Put your streamers down now. We'll use them again in a little while. Today we're going to learn about a good man named Job who stuck with God even though some terrible things happened to him. His story teaches us that God is with us when we hurt. Sometimes bad things happen to us that shake our faith and make us wonder about God.

- Ask**
- Has something ever happened to you that made you wonder if God really cared about you, but you stuck with God anyway? Tell us about it. (I had to move to a foster home; my dad died suddenly; my friends suddenly stopped liking me.)
  - How can bad times teach us to walk in faith? (They can remind us to trust God; they can make us pray more.)

**Say** Close your eyes, spin around in place two times, and then stop. (Pause.) Does anyone feel a little dizzy? Sometimes our feelings about God are like that. Our emotions feel "dizzy" when things happen that we don't understand. But that's the time to hang on to God and believe that he is with you. Hug yourself right now, real big—that's how God feels about you! Let's worship him for being with us when we hurt.



Sing "His Great Love" (Romans 5:8).

**Say** Praising God honors him. There's something else that honors God. The Bible tells us that we should "act justly," "love mercy," and "walk humbly" with our God. That's what God does. He acts justly, which means he's fair. He treats us with mercy, which means he's kind and forgiving. He walks humbly, which means he is not proud and boastful. Let's sing the next song as a prayer to tell God there's no one as great as him.



Sing "No, Not One."

**Say** Close your eyes again for a moment. Think about something in your life that hurts right now. Maybe a friend said something bad about you this week that isn't true. Maybe you played badly at your last game. Maybe someone you know is getting a divorce. If you're not hurting about something right now, think of someone you know who is. (Pause.) Now lift that situation or person up to the Lord. (Pause.) As we sing, let's call out to God and ask him to guide us.



Sing "Guide Me, O Thou Great Jehovah."



**Say** ▶ **Something wonderful happens when we trust God during hurting times. Isaiah 40:31 says that God will renew our strength. That means he gives us hope so we can feel as strong as eagles flying high.** Fold a piece of white paper in half lengthwise. Hold the bottom crease and move it through the air so the sides flap like a bird.

**Then something happens and we feel hurt again.**

Hold the paper on the fold as you cut out half a heart shape, but don't open the paper up. Show children the teardrop shape (see illustration).

**Say** ▶ **See this teardrop? Sometimes we have tears from the things that hurt us. But God is with us.** Open the heart.

**We can always have hope in God! Let's sing about that.**

▶ Sing "My Hope Is in the Lord."

**Say** ▶ **God promises to be with us when we hurt. Think of people God has helped. They could be people in the Bible or people you know. When the bowl comes to you, call out a name or say it silently and put your streamers in the bowl. Whether you call out a name or say it silently, God will hear you. God hears your heart because his love is always there.** Pass a bowl around. If your group is large, use several bowls.

▶ Sing "God's Love Is Always There."

**Pray** ▶ **God, thank you for being with us when we hurt. I ask you, Lord, to touch the heart of anyone here today who is hurting. Help us all feel your presence right now. You care about us and love us. We thank you for that, Jesus. In your name we pray, amen.**

## 2 Let's Learn the Point!

### Preschool Activities, pages 171-172

At this time, have the preschool leader invite the preschoolers to go to their own room for this section of activities. Tear out the Preschool Activities page, and give it to the preschool leader. Have the preschool leader bring the preschoolers back to participate in Let's Pray! with the older children. If you prefer to keep all the children together, do the starred (\*) activities. They will work well with both elementary and preschool children.

### Elementary Activities

#### \* "Job's Really Rotten, Really Stinky, Really Awful Day"

 Show the video "Job's Really Rotten, Really Stinky, Really Awful Day." After the video,

- Ask**
- **What made Job's day really rotten, really stinky, and really awful?** (Everything was taken away from him; he was sad; his family and animals died.)
  - **How did Job respond to God when he lost everything?** (He still praised God; he cried out to God.)
  - **Have you ever felt as if everything in your life was going wrong?** (Yes, lots of bad things happened to my family and me recently; no, sometimes bad things happen, but not everything at once.)
  - **What does this Bible story teach us about God?** (God gives us hope; we can trust God.)
  - **How can we apply these sessions to our own lives?** (When we're hurting or sad, we can turn to God; we shouldn't turn away from God when bad things happen.)

**Say** Job could have been angry with God. He didn't know that Satan asked God for permission to take everything away. Job never stopped believing that God was with him through his hurting times. That honored God. And God honored Job in return by giving him back more than he had in the first place.

### Tangles to Triumph

Hold up the poster board with the smiley face toward you so kids can't see it. If you want, ask two volunteers to hold the board up while you lead the activity. Push one of the lengths of yarn through a hole from your side (the smiley-face side).

**Say** We're learning from Job that God is with us when we hurt. Job hurt because he lost his kids, all his animals were killed, and his body broke out with sores all over. That's a tragedy! But Job

(continued on page 173)

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## Worship Theme:



God is with us when we hurt.

## Easy Prep for Leaders

**God Is With Us**—Put each of the snack items in a separate bowl near you but out of children’s reach.

**He Sticks With Us**—You’ll need one adhesive bandage and two “Jesus” stickers for each child. (If you can’t find stickers of Jesus, use cross or heart stickers to represent him.)

## Using Theo

Consider using Theophilus the FaithRetriever puppet today in these ways:

- Have Theo lead the preschoolers from the main worship area to the preschool room.
- Have Theo start the ball rolling in the “When We Hurt” activity.
- See the KidsOwn Worship Kit for a puppet skit written for today’s worship session.



## God Is With Us

**Say** Hello, preschoolers! I’m so glad you’re here today. We’ll tell our Bible story with cookies! Do you like cookies? So do I! Let’s begin.

Give each child a paper plate.

**Say** Job was a good man. He loved God very much. God blessed Job and gave him seven sons and three daughters. How many is that? Yes, it’s 10 children. Let’s count out 10 children, and put them on our plates. But don’t eat the “children” until we’re all finished with our story. Set out the bowl of teddy bear-shaped cookies, and help children count out 10 to put on their plates. Encourage older preschoolers to help the younger ones count.

**God also gave Job lots of animals.** Quickly give each child a small handful of animal cookies.

**Do you think Job only loved God because of the good things God gave him? No way! That would be like saying you only love your mom or dad because they buy you presents. One day, terrible things happened to Job. All his children and animals died! His house burned down, and he got very, very sick.**

**Let’s cover our plates with our napkins to show that Job lost everything.** Cover the plates. Poor

**Job. Cry the way you would if you were Job. He was sad.**

- Ask**
- Has a sad thing ever happened to you? What was it?
  - What do you think Job did?

**Say** Job didn’t say, “I hate you God; you’re mean!” He said, “I still love God. I will praise his name forever.” Job trusted God even when he lost everything. Let’s say, “Good job, Job!”

**Guess what God did for Job. He gave him more stuff than before!** Have children take the napkins off the plates and put them on their laps. Quickly toss a handful of cereal on each child’s plate. **He gave him 10 more children and lots and lots of animals! Job was glad he trusted God to be with him when he hurt. Let’s hold hands around the table now and thank God for being with us when we hurt, just as he was for Job. Then let’s eat!**

## ALLERGY ALERT



Be aware that some children have food allergies that can be dangerous. Know your children, and consult with parents about allergies their children may have. Also be sure to carefully read food labels as hidden ingredients can cause allergy-related problems.

## \* *When We Hurt*

Have the children sit on the floor in a circle and hold the ball.

**Say** Job learned that God is with us when we hurt. Let's play a game to remind us of that. When the ball rolls to you, catch it and tell us one thing that hurts. It might be a bee sting or that your pet died. Maybe a friend moved away, or someone won't share with you. Name something that hurts you. Then I'll tell you who to roll the ball to next.

Name something that hurts you, and then roll the ball to a child. After he or she names something that hurts, tell that child who to roll the ball to. By naming the children yourself, you can make sure everyone gets a turn.

**Say** Those are things that hurt us. But God is with us when we hurt, just as he was with Job. Let's tell God thank you for being with us, just as Job did.

Roll the ball to children again. Have each child say, "God is with me when I hurt," or just "God is with me."

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## *He Sticks With Us*

**Say** God is with us even though we can't see him. Let's put a sticker inside one of our shoes where we won't be able to see it. Then later we'll check to see if it's still there. Help children remove a shoe, put one sticker in it, and put the shoe back on.

**Ask** • What are some ways God shows his love for us when we hurt?

• How can we help others when they hurt?

**Say** We can't see God, and we can't always feel him, but he is with us anyway. He does kind things for us. He gives us moms and dads to comfort us when we get hurt. Give yourself a hug the way your mom or dad would. (Pause.)

God gives us friends to care about us. Turn to the person next to you and shake that person's hand to show that you'll be a friend. (Pause.)

God gives us songs and stories, pets and kisses, and lots more things to make our hearts happy. Let's learn a rhyme to remind us that God is with us when we hurt. It goes like this:

God is with us when we're hurt and sad.

God is with us when we're glad and mad.

Help us, Lord, to learn today:

You're never gone; you're with us every day.

Have the children say the rhyme with you a few times. Then give each child an adhesive bandage to put on his or her shirt front. Add a Jesus sticker to the center of each child's bandage.

**Say** The special sticker on your bandage is to remind you that God is with us when we hurt. When you go home, be sure to tell everyone. Remember when you put a sticker inside your shoe? Do you think it's still there? Let's see if you're right. Have children check inside their shoes. Yes, it's been there the whole time! That's just like God. He's with us when we hurt, even though we can't see him.

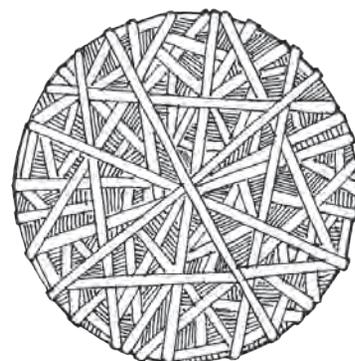
(continued from page 170)

**triumphed. He trusted God when he hurt. Let's do the same thing. Think of something that has hurt you in the past or hurts you right now. Come up one at a time and name something that's hurtful or confusing to you. Then push the yarn through any hole in the circle. We'll weave a circle of hurting things.**

Kids can put the yarn through any hole and crisscross the circle randomly. But as you pass the yarn back through another hole from your side, follow the outline of the circle. (Don't crisscross the circle.) See the illustrations in the margin. Kids will create a confusing pattern on their side, while you outline a clean circle on your side, which you don't want them to see yet. When you run out of yarn, attach another length and continue.

Continue until everyone has had a chance to name a hurtful circumstance.

**Say** **Sometimes when we're hurting, our lives feel all tangled and confused. Our lives might feel like this weaving looks. But God is with us when we hurt, even when we don't realize it. God will always make everything come out right in the end, just as I was guiding the yarn without you seeing it.** Turn the poster over so kids can see the other side. **God will make sense of your life if you trust him to be with you when you hurt.**



### \* *God Squad*

Have kids form as many groups of five as possible. If there are extras, you can have extra kids become the sixth members in some of the groups and duplicate some roles, or you can have kids form a group of less than five and eliminate some of the roles.

**Say** **We all go through hurtful times. We might feel sad or angry or lonely. We might hurt physically because we're sick. We can even hurt spiritually when we're not sure if God loves us.**

**Jesus can't be here physically to hold us or hug us when we hurt. So he often uses us to do that for each other. That's what the term *body of Christ* means. We're his body, doing what he would do if he were here. Your team is a God Squad, and you're going to practice ways to help others when they hurt.**

Pass out a set of name badges to each group, and have each person put one on so that everyone can see it.

**Say** **Your name badge tells what your job on the God Squad is. If you're wearing the badge that says "Hurting," your job is to describe to your group something someone might be hurting about. You might say your friend just moved away or your pet has died. You can talk about something that's true in your life, or you can make something up. Then the others in the group should think of ways to help Hurting feel better. If you're a Helper, think of a way to help the Hurting person. If you're an Encourager, say something to cheer the Hurting person up. Talk together about what you'll do, then you'll act it out for the rest of the groups.**

Give kids several minutes to form their plan. Then have the groups take turns acting out their helping situations for each other.

**Say** Great job, everyone! Remember that God is with you when you hurt. You can help others, just as he helps you. This week, try to use one of the things you just saw to help someone who's hurting. Be sure to tell people that God is with them when they hurt.

## 3 Let's Pray!

### *The Offering*

**Say** As we give our offerings today, let's tell God thank you for being with you when you hurt. Talk to God silently about your concerns as you wait for the offering bowl to come to you.

 Play "My Hope Is in the Lord" while you take the offering.

### *Prayer Requests*

**Say** Let's spend some time praying for each other. We'll ask God to help those we know who are hurting. If you have a prayer request for yourself, a friend, or family member, raise your hand.

Have the children request prayers for themselves, their friends, or their family members. After someone has shared a prayer request with the group, ask for a volunteer to pray for that person. Then go on to the next prayer request.

Pray for several minutes.

### *Balloon Praises*

Have kids form groups of four or five, and have groups stand in circles. Make sure older kids are with the younger ones. Give each group a blown-up balloon.

**Say** We've named lots of times and situations when we're hurting. Let's praise God in a fun way for being with us when we hurt. Think of a short praise phrase of one or two words that your group can say, such as, "Thanks, God" or "Praise you" or "Love you."

Give kids a moment to think of something, and then have each group tell what their phrase will be. Make sure every group has a different phrase. Have kids bat a balloon to one another in the groups. Each time someone bats the balloon, he or she should say the praise phrase. Children will be praising God at the same time but with different words. Direct kids to start out softly and slowly, and then increase in volume and speed until the room is filled with praises.

**Pray** God, you are so good to us. You always love us. You're with us when we hurt. We're so very blessed to have a God like you. There is none other who's better or more perfect. We thank you and love you for taking such good care of us. In Jesus' name, amen.

#### **Worship Leader Tip**

To avoid choking hazards, be sure to pick up pieces of any broken balloons promptly. Some balloons contain latex.