

# JOB



## THINK ABOUT IT:

Why doesn't God stop bad things from happening to good people?

## Introduction

Have the children think of their worst day ever. What happened? How did they feel?

Say, "Sometimes bad things happen in our lives, even when we haven't done anything wrong! We have two choices when bad things happen. We can either let those bad experiences make us bitter (extremely sad), or we can trust God and use those bad experiences to learn something and be a better person for it."

## Message

1. Hold up half a lemon and say, "Today we're going to try to answer the question, 'Why doesn't God stop bad things from happening to good people?' The juice from this lemon is sour and will represent bad things."
2. Say, "We're going to hear about a person in the Bible named Job. He was a person who trusted God. But as we'll hear in the story, bad things happened to him. Every time you hear something bad happen, I want you to say 'Awe, man!' and I'll add another squeeze of lemon to the pitcher."
3. Read, or have a volunteer read, the story of Job. When something bad happens to Job, pause to let the children react, then squeeze some lemon juice into the pitcher.

## Story of Job

One day, God asked Satan if he had noticed a man named Job. God said that there was no one on Earth like Job. God was pleased with Job because he loved and obeyed God. Satan said, "That's just because he's rich. You gave him everything that a man could ever want. I bet if his stuff was taken away,



## SCRIPTURE

Job 1-3  
Job 19  
Job 29-31  
Job 38-42:8  
Job 42:9-17  
Job 2:9-10



## MATERIALS

- Bible for each small group leader
- 1 cup sugar
- Small cup for each child
- 5 lemons, cut in half
- Pitcher of water
- Spoon for stirring
- Visual - Job and friends \*

\* Available in the Member Toolbox



## PREPARATION

- Write the *Think About It* question on the board
- Bookmark the Bible verses
- Fill the pitcher with water

**IDEA!**

Have an adult take a sip of the unsweetened lemonade to show just how bitter it really is!

**EXTRA TIME**

- If the children are comfortable sharing, ask them what they have learned from some bad experiences they have had.
- Share an experience where you trusted God in a difficult circumstance, something from creation that begins with the letter "A." The next child says something that starts with the letter "B." Continue until you get to "Z."

he would turn against You!" God knew Job's heart, but He allowed Satan to test him anyway. God allowed Satan to take everything away from Job.

Suddenly, one of Job's servants came rushing in with bad news. "Your servants were plowing with your oxen while your donkeys were grazing nearby when your enemies attacked. They've stolen all your oxen and donkeys. Then they killed all of your servants. I am the only one that survived."

Job turned toward his wife, but before he could even say anything, another servant came running in. "There's been another attack Job! More of your enemies have swooped in and stolen all of your camels. They killed the servants that were tending them, and I alone survived."

"Oh, no," Job said as he and his wife burst into tears. They were just wiping their eyes when another servant came rushing in. "Bad news, Job! There was a lightning storm. It struck your fields and started a fire. We lost all of your sheep and the servants that were caring for them. I am the only one that survived."

The servant turned toward the door, just in time to bump into another servant rushing in. "Job! I have terrible news. All of your sons and daughters were together enjoying a meal when a tornado touched down and leveled the house. Job, I am so sorry; they were all killed. The servants were killed, too. I was the only one that survived the storm."

Job was devastated. He tore off his robe and shaved his head in grief. Then he got down on his knees and prayed to God, just like he always did. Job knew that every good thing in life had been given to him by God. Job also believed everything he had was God's to take away, so he did not turn his back on God. God was pleased with Job. He pointed down toward Earth and said to Satan, "Have you seen my servant Job? Even though everything was taken from him, he still loves and obeys Me." Satan folded his arms and said, "Yes, but I bet if you took his health away from him, Job would turn against you. He only serves you because he is healthy."

So God allowed Satan to test Job a second time, but Satan was not allowed to take Job's life. (Show the visual of Job and friends). This time, horrible sores broke out all over Job's body. His friends believed Job must certainly have done something really bad to make God so angry. They shook their fingers at him and told him to ask God for forgiveness, because they believed God was punishing him. Even Job's wife said that he should just give up and die as she walked away. Job had lost everything. First his wealth, then his children, then his health, and finally his closest friends and his wife had turned against him. Job was very sad, but he did not give up. He did not turn away from God, and God was pleased with Job. He healed him and blessed him again with more sons and daughters. Then God gave Job twice as much wealth as he had before.

4. After the story is completed, ask, "What do you think this lemonade tastes like? Bitter or sweet?" (*bitter*)

5. Say, “No one wants to drink bitter lemonade, but that is exactly what we do when we let all the bad things that happen to us get us down.”
6. Ask, “What’s missing that would make this bitter lemonade sweet?” (*sugar*)
7. As you add in the cup of sugar say, “The sugar is like trusting God. When we trust Him with everything that happens in our lives, God doesn’t stop bad things from happening because He can use the bad parts to make something good, just like He did in Job’s life. You’ll talk more about this in small group.”
8. Pour a small amount of lemonade for each child to drink during small group time.

## **Dig Deeper in Small Groups**

1. Read Job 2:9-10.
2. Ask, “What did Job’s wife want him to do?” (*curse God*)
3. Ask, “What did Job say we needed to accept from God?” (*both good and evil*)
4. Ask, “Which is easier to accept, good or evil? Why?”
5. Ask, “What can you do when you are in a bad situation?” (*pray, think of what God wants you to learn, praise*)
6. Ask, “Why doesn’t God stop bad things from happening?” (*God is glorified in our weaknesses, sometimes He has a lesson we need to learn, we need to trust Him*)
7. Pray. Take a moment to thank God for all the things that happen in our lives, the good and the bad, and ask Him to help us trust Him no matter what.