



Helping Kids Understand Pain and Suffering God's Way

When Life Hurts but God Is Still Good

Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Describe how Job trusted God even when life was hard.
2. Explain that God's goodness never changes, even when we face pain or loss.
3. Identify ways they can trust God in their own difficult times.

Scripture Focus

- "The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD." (Job 1:21, *ESV*)
- "The LORD is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit." (Psalm 34:18, *ESV*)

Lesson Flow (25 min)

1. Connect (3 min)

- **Opening Thought:** Ask: "Have you ever had a bad day when everything seemed to go wrong? What helped you get through it?"
- **Assessment:** Teacher observes student attentiveness and willingness to share.

2. Teach (7 min)

- **Bible Story:** Read or retell the story of Job (Job 1-2; 38-42)

Job was a man who loved and obeyed God. He had a big family, many animals, and everything he needed. But one day, everything changed. His animals were stolen, his servants were hurt, and his children all died in a storm. Then Job became very sick, covered with painful sores.

Job's friends came to visit, but instead of helping, they told him he must have done something wrong. Job knew that wasn't true. He didn't understand why this was happening, but he still chose to trust God. He said, "The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD."

For a long time, Job waited and wondered. Then God spoke from a whirlwind and reminded Job that He made everything—the stars, the oceans, and all living things. God's wisdom was far greater than Job could see. Job realized that even when life hurts, God is still good and always in control. In the end, God healed Job and blessed him again.

- **Discussion Questions:**

1. What hard things happened to Job?
2. How did Job show his faith in God during his suffering?
3. What do we learn about God's goodness from Job's story?

- **Explain:**

- God didn't cause Job's pain, but He used it to show that His goodness and power never change.
- When we trust God through hard times, He strengthens our faith and helps us grow closer to Him.

- **Assessment:** Teacher checks understanding through answers and engagement.

3. Model (7 min)

- **Teacher shares:** a time when this truth has been real in your life. Be honest and simple so kids see that trusting God through pain is something we all learn.
- **Student activity:** Invite students to act out or draw short "Job moments"—times when someone stays kind, prays, or keeps trusting God during something difficult.
- **Assessment:** Teacher notes engagement and ability to apply trust in God to examples.

4. Pray (2-3 min)

- *"Dear God, thank You that You are always good, even when life is hard. Help us trust You when we don't understand and remember that You are close to us when we're sad. In Jesus' name, amen."*
- **Assessment:** Teacher observes participation and reverence during prayer.

5. Closing/Reflection (5 min)

- **Key Takeaway:** God makes every hard thing part of His good plan.
- **Student Reflection:** Ask students to think of one hard thing they've faced and one way they've seen God's goodness through it. Allow time for reflection or journaling.
- **Teacher Closes:** Remind students that trusting God doesn't mean pretending life isn't painful—it means believing He is still good and will never leave them.
- **Assessment:** Teacher observes thoughtful participation and understanding.

Optional Extension: Independent Practice

- Write or draw a **"Faith Through the Storm"** page showing what they can do when life feels hard. Display their work as a reminder that God brings hope from hard times.