WEEK 1
LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God is with me no matter what I go through.

BIBLE

Job is Tested: Job 1–2:10; Hebrews 2:5–12

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Our travel adventures can get off to a bumpy start with flight delays, flat tires, or lost luggage, but doesn't that just add to the story? This week, we'll take a look at the life of Job, whose life hit quite a few unexpected bumps. Despite the pain and moments of despair, Job modeled this theme throughout his life— **God is with me no matter what I go through.**

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | Pack Your Bags

- INSTRUCTIONS: *For this activity, tell the kids that you're going on a trip, but there's one problem -you can only bring a few things! Ask them to imagine they have a suitcase and let them decide what they would pack. Go around the room and have kids call out one thing they would bring. You can make it fun by giving them silly choices:*
- Would you pack a toothbrush or a basketball?
- Would you pack sunscreen or a giant teddy bear?
- Would you pack 10 pairs of socks or a beach ball?
- Would you pack your favorite toy or a swimsuit?
- Wow, great job packing your bags! It was a challenge to make sure you got all the essentials and make them fit. Are you sure we didn't forget anything?
- A cool thing that we can learn about God is that God is always with me, no matter where I am or where I am going.

POLL | Mode of Travel

- INSTRUCTIONS: *As you ask the following poll questions, have kids either go to the left or right of your space, acting out their choice of transportation as they travel.*
- If you were going on a long trip, would you rather travel by...
    - Car or Train?
    - Bus or Motorcycle?
    - Boat or Airplane?
    - Hot Air Balloon or RV?
- There are so many different ways to travel, but sometimes it's more about the experience along the way!

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- The man we'll hear about in today's Bible story doesn't go on a real journey... he actually stays pretty close to home. But, the journey he goes on in his relationship with God can help us learn things for our own journey.

SO WHAT? Why does it matter to God and to us?

SCRIPTURE | Job 1–2:10 (Job Is Tested)

- INSTRUCTIONS*: Read the passage and retell the Bible story using the Scripture segments and talking points provided below. If possible, project the provided "flight information" images on your phone. (https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fi/8kvbqiixmdvux2kualbjr/ScriptureSlides1_Elementary_GrowKids.pdf?rlkey=mopvgjph1jcy8jiyfk71enn3h&st=kp226owg&e=1&dl=0)*
- Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to *Along the Way* Air! In just a few minutes, we will begin the boarding process for Flight J12 with nonstop service to Uz. Looks like we are on schedule and the weather's looking great, too!
- *Show image 1.*
    - Before we board today, let me tell you a little about your destination, Uz. Why do I know about Uz? It's my *job* to know!
    - Speaking of *job,* there's a famous guy from there who spells his name the same way. But it's pronounced "*Joe-b".* Let me tell you a little more about Job from the book in the Bible that's all about him.
- Let's read Job 1:1–3.
    - Job loved God very much and he lived a pretty good life. He had a beautiful family, people who worked for him, and lot of land and animals. He was a pretty lucky guy.
    - Attention all passengers in the terminal for Flight J12 bound for Uz. It looks like we have been delayed due to a storm heading in. Thank you for your patience.
- *Show image 2.*
    - Job's life took a stormy turn, too. The Bible says that God and Satan had a conversation about Job. God was so pleased with Job because he was a righteous man. Satan was convinced that Job only loved God because God blessed him so much.
    - So Satan challenged God, thinking, surely if God took away Job's blessings, he wouldn't love God as much!
- Let's read Job 1:13–19.
    - How would you have reacted if these things happened to you? I would have been absolutely devastated.
    - Job was, too. He grieved everyone and everything he had lost. He could have asked how God could allow this to happen, but this is how he responded instead.
- Let's read Job 1:20–22.
    - In other words, Job never blamed God for what happened. In fact, Job's story is far from over.
    - Even when he got sick with painful sores all over his body, he refused to blame God. His wife couldn't understand why Job refused to get angry with God.
- Let's read Job 2:9–10.
    - Job was able to praise God when everything was going wrong because Job knew God was still with him no what what he went through.
    - Job knew that life is made up of detours, U-turns, and lots of unexpected delays, but none of this surprises God. God is always with us, even when we run into trouble.

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BIG IDEA | God is with me no matter what I go through.

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Write each word of the Big Idea on separate index cards. Prepare a small suitcase or duffel bag packed with clothes, toiletry bags, wallets, luggage organizers, and the like. Hide the index cards in between the items and in the bag compartments themselves, and invite kids to dig through the bag to find all the words. Once all the words are found, put them in order, and recite the Big Idea together.*
- Look, you discovered the Big Idea along the way!
- God is with me no matter what I go through.

VIDEO | A Clip of an Air Traffic Controller

- INSTRUCTIONS: *As a teaching tool, play a short clip (0:21-2:41) from this video about a pilot who passes out while flying a plane, or something similar. (https://www.youtube.com/watch?si=e8fReqEtuv8Sk-Sx&t=21&v=w2fQkJGbRcA&feature=youtu.be)*
- As you talk about belonging this week, remember that kids with disabilities face discrimination and exclusion regularly. Train your volunteers to treat kids with disabilities and non-disabled kids equally to close the gap between them and to foster an environment that includes and welcomes all kids. Make sure kids with disabilities are given a choice to participate in all the activities and sit out if needed.
- Can you imagine if you were in an airplane and the pilot passed out? And there was no one else to fly the plane but you–and you had never flown a plane before?
- Thankfully, there are people known as air traffic controllers at every airport. Their job is to talk to pilots and guide them to land their planes. In this situation, an air traffic controller had to guide a regular passenger—who had no experience at all—and help him to land a plane safely. The passenger didn't know what to do, but the air traffic controller was with him over the radio and guided him when he was in trouble.
- Just like the passenger must have been afraid, Job must have also been afraid when all the worst things happened to him. But he never gave up hope that God was always with him.
- We, too, can trust that God is with us no matter what we go through. God will help us through the times when we can't see or understand what's happening around us.
- When we're in trouble, we can each say: God is with me no matter what I go through.

SCRIPTURE | Hebrews 2:5–12

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Read the passage out loud or invite a volunteer to read for the group.*
- This passage reminds us that God was *"mindful"* of us and cared about us even though we are so small compared to how big God is. Yet, God loved us so much that Jesus came as a human and died on the cross for us. Jesus was made *"lower than angels for a little while"* so that he could take the punishment for our sins.
- Because of this, God makes us holy, and Jesus calls us his brothers and sisters! We are now part of God's family, which means God is always with us.
- Whenever you're going through a tough time or feel alone, remember that God made us a part of God's family. Job knew that God was always with him, and we can each have faith and say to ourselves that God is with me no matter what I go through.

VIDEO | Teaching Video (Week 1)

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Play this week's episode of Grow TV. (https://vimeo.com/928571330/593556aba6) If you're short on time, show the illustrated Bible story video. (https://vimeo.com/996231202/cb2bd2783d)*

NOW WHAT? What does God want us to do about it?

REFLECTION | What If

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- INSTRUCTIONS: *Dim the lights in your space and invite kids to close their eyes.*
- What if you were Job and you had lost everything?
- How would you feel? What would you want to do?
- Does anyone want to share how they would feel?
- Difficult things happen to everyone. But that doesn't make it any easier. And the truth is, sometimes we don't know why bad things happen. Sometimes parents get divorced, close friends move far away, or a loved one dies. The only comfort we may have in situations like these is that God will be with us through all of it.
- We learned in the Bible story that even through his bitter circumstances, Job never blamed God. In fact, he praised God.
- What are some ways we could show our thanks to God even when things are going wrong?
- Remember you are never alone. God never leaves us. Say it with me: God is with me no matter what I go through.

MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 121:8 (NIV)

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Learn the memory verse together using any combination of the resources provided: memory verse coloring page, sign language motions, or choose from this list of our favorite memorization techniques!*
- "The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."

PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for always being with us no matter what we're going through. Even when things might seem sad or scary, we can trust that you are there with us. Amen.

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