WEEK 2
LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

We can show God's love in small ways.

BIBLE

Job and His Friends: Job 2:11–13; 16:1–5; Hebrews 4:12–16

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Trips are always better with friends or loved ones because they help us pass the time or give us advice when we need it. This week, we'll hear about Job, his friends, and the way they showed love and care for Job as he was experiencing some turbulence in his journey. Their presence in this difficult moment helps us discover how **we can show God's love in small ways.**

WHAT? What are we talking about today?

ACTIVITY | Airline Logos

- INSTRUCTIONS: *For this activity, you will need construction paper and crayons or colored pencils. To play, have kids fold simple paper planes like this and decorate them by drawing stripes and creating their own airline logos, which can be as simple as writing their names on the wings.*
- If we're going to fly to Uz, we're going to need airplanes. Here's your chance to start your own airline! We're going to create a logo, a symbol that we can recognize. A logo might feel like a small thing, but it makes a big statement up in the skies.
- What are some logos that you know?
- Today's Bible story is about how a group of friends did something very small to help their friend in a big way.

ACTIVITY | Paper Plane Race

- *INSTRUCTIONS: For this activity, you will need construction paper and tape. To play, have kids each fold a paper airplane or use the ones they made in the "Airline Logos" activity. Using tape on the floor, create a runway with two or more lanes (depending on how many kids and space you have), along with a starting line. Then, have one kid per lane line up at the start and throw their paper planes as far as they can. Whoever gets their plane the farthest wins that round. Winners from each round compete against each other until there is one winner left.*
- That was amazing! Did you notice that sometimes, your planes would fly off course and go onto another runway or cross paths with another plane? That would be dangerous in real life. With real airplanes, everyone has to take turns and use the runway one at a time—just like we take turns and are kind to one another when we're going down a slide or taking a drink from the water fountain.
- Today's Bible story is similarly about how a little kindness went a long way... maybe even further than your plane can fly!

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QUESTION | What small things bring you comfort?

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Ask the following question. You can have every kid shout their answer but then ask a few kids to share their answers with everyone. Comment briefly on their answers—and have fun with this!*
- When you travel, there are all kinds of small things you encounter! When you fly, you have to take small containers of toothpaste or shampoo. The airplane bathroom is also very small. If you're watching something, it's usually on a small screen.
- But the size of something doesn't mean it's not important. You'll notice that sometimes, it's the small things that make us happy or feel safe.
- What is your favorite "small thing" you have that brings you comfort?

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

SCRIPTURE | Job 2:11–13; 16:1–5 (Job and His Friends)

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Read the passage and retell the Bible story using the Scripture segments and talking points provided below.*
- Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to *Along the Way* Air! So glad you could join us on our flight today to Uz. We'll be taking off shortly, so please make sure your carry-on bag is stowed securely overhead or underneath the seat in front of you. Turn off your phones and all electronic devices or set them to airplane mode.
    - In case of an emergency, life jackets are provided under your seats. At this time, for your safety, please take a look around you and locate your nearest emergency exit.
    - *Point with two fingers on each hand to pretend exits up and down the aisle and on sides of the "plane."*
    - Also, in case of an emergency, please remain calm. Things may not go as planned sometimes... like what happened with Job from the Bible.
- Does anyone remember what happened to Job?
    - Job was just living the good life, following and obeying God, then boom. One day, everything changed. He lost his family, his belongings, and his health.
    - But through it all, he didn't blame God. He trusted God was with him. And so were his friends.
- Let's read Job 2:11.
    - Wow, these are good friends. Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar knew their friend was going through tough times and decided together to go to Job.
    - Do you have friends who would come to comfort you?
    - Are you a friend who would go to comfort your friends?
    - When we think of comfort, we might think of someone giving us a hug, a mug of hot cocoa, or wrapping a blanket around us. Job's friends comforted him in a different way.
- Let's read Job 2:12–13.
    - When his friends approached Job and saw how sick and sad he looked, they all cried and tore their robes to show how sad they were, too. And then, they did something incredibly simple and small to show their love to Job and comfort him: they sat with him for seven days and nights. They didn't buy him anything or sing him a song. They just sat with him.
    - Has anyone ever sat with you to let you know they care? And did it comfort you?
    - Sometimes, you can show love to someone by just being there for them in times of trouble and doing little things to show you care. And Job's friends did that. At first, anyway.
- *Have kids pretend their flight is getting bumpy by shaking around in their seats.*

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    - Ladies and gentlemen, we are experiencing some turbulence. Please return to your seats and fasten your seatbelts.
    - Later on, Job's friends started to speak. But when they spoke, they weren't words of comfort. They each took turns to explain why Job was going through such a tough time. They even said maybe Job did something wrong so God was punishing him. This was the opposite of comfort for Job!
- Let's read Job 16:1–5.
    - Job was probably very grateful when his friends joined him and sat with him. But then when they opened their mouths, they turned out to be *"miserable comforters."* He told them that if their roles were reversed, he would have encouraged them and helped them feel better, not do what they were doing.
    - Job's friends were better comforters when they didn't say anything at all! It's a reminder for us all that when it comes to comforting others, we don't have to overthink it. Sitting with them can do more to help our friends sometimes.
- Speaking of sitting, please remain in your seats and keep your seatbelts fastened at all times while the plane is in motion. We're in for a bumpy ride through some turbulence!

BIG IDEA | We can show God's love in small ways.

- INSTRUCTIONS: Introduce the kids to today's Big Idea.
- Remember that even though Job's friends knew what Job was struggling with, there are plenty of times that we are in places and situations where we have no idea what the people around us are going through—like when you are on a plane with a bunch of other passengers. Your kindness in *those* moments could change someone's day. We can show God's love in small ways!

SCRIPTURE | Hebrews 4:12–16

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Read the passage out loud or invite a volunteer to read for the group.*
- The reason why our words may not help in certain situations is that it's hard for us to know exactly what someone else is going through. But God does. This passage reminds us that God knows everything because *"nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight,"* including our thoughts and emotions.
- Jesus, even though he is God's son, was human once. If there's anyone who could understand everything we're going through, it's Jesus! The Bible tells us that Jesus experienced great joy as well as great sadness while he was on Earth. Jesus even wept! That's why this Bible passage describes Jesus as a "high priest" who can sit with us and understand all of our emotions, even our sadness.
- Jesus is kind of like our life jacket. When we feel like we are overwhelmed by our emotions, we can trust Jesus to carry all of us through. Knowing Jesus is our life jacket, we can *"approach God's throne of grace with confidence,"*and trust we'll be in a safe place and even find some comfort. That means when someone else needs our comfort, one of the biggest "small" things we can do is pray for Jesus to be their life jacket, too.
- This passage reminds us that we can show God's love in small ways.

VIDEO | Teaching Video (Week 2)

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Play this week's episode of Grow TV. (https://vimeo.com/928571582/71be09bef4) If you're short on time, show the illustrated Bible story video. (https://vimeo.com/996231660/169c208163)*

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

REFLECTION | What If

- INSTRUCTIONS: *Dim the lights in your space and invite kids to close their eyes.*

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- What if you were one of Job's friends?
- How might you have felt seeing your friend go through a hard time?
- What words would you have wanted to give him?
- How else might you have comforted him?
- Unexpected things happen in life sometimes. They could happen to us, someone close to us, or even people we don't know on the other side of the world. We may not know how to help any of these people but we can start small.
- When you're hurting, what are the things that bring you comfort?
- God made everything, including all the small things that comfort us when we are sad or hurting. Comfort can come from a pet, a stuffie, a favorite food, or a friend. You can be the one to bring comfort to others in simple and small ways—draw a picture or play a video game with them. Maybe the best small thing you could do is to pray to God to be with them.
- Think about someone who needs your help or comfort right now. It can be someone close to you or just things going on in our world. Take some time to pray for them right now. We can show God's love in small ways.

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 showing us your great love in so many ways—the biggest way being your son, Jesus. You always show up for us and help us when we need it most. Help us know we can show your love to others in small ways. Amen.

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