

**Lesson Plans that Work**  
**Year B –Proper 25**  
**Lesson Plans for Younger Children**  
*Revised Common Lectionary Old Testament Readings – Track One*

**Scripture: Job 42:1-6, 10-17**

**Background**

For months now, we have been coming to church and seeing our altars dressed in green. As Godly Play calls it: the season after Pentecost is the “long green, growing season” of the church year. Try as we might, it’s just not as exciting as other seasons. We aren’t waiting for a messiah to be born. We aren’t walking towards the light of Easter. In the season after Pentecost we run the risk of becoming complacent and loosing sight of the big picture. It’s like that in life sometimes too. When time is passing and everything in life is going “just fine” we might take for granted the goodness that surrounds us. Oftentimes, we long for more exciting times to come. Life just as it is feels like a let down and we desire for the excitement of our friends lives. We are shaken from the complacency when something extreme happens: the loss of a pet, going on a trip, making a new friend, or just having a bad day can all shake us free and remind us to call out to God.

**A Notation for This Week’s Hebrew Scripture Reading**

Job has a lesson to teach us about complacency as well. For the past few weeks we’ve learned about Job’s suffering and have walked with Job as he continued to praise God despite of the hardships he faced. Sometimes Job felt let down by God, but he always returned to praise. Now, as we are coming near to the end of the long green season, we also come to the end of Job’s trials. Job has two choices in front of him: to curse God for all of the pain in his life or to praise God for staying with him through his trials and seeing him safely to the other side. Which would you choose?

**Theme: Praising God Always**

**Before Class:**

- Review the end of Job 41 so you have some context for today’s scripture conversation between God and Job.
- Ask your rector or the head of the pastoral care team for a list of people from your church who are elderly, sick, or homebound and who might like to receive a gift from the Sunday school. Plan for one gift by each student.
- Gather card making supplies
  - Construction paper
  - Construction Paper Hearts (precut)
  - Glue Sticks
  - Crayons
  - Stickers
  - Markers for Adult Helpers

**Beginning:** Have the children come in and sit in a circle. Ask them if any of them remember a time when they fell down and hurt themselves. Ask them what made it better? Did a parent kiss the booboo to make the hurt go away? Did someone give them hug?

**Opening Prayer:** Thank you, God, for helping our hurts go away. Help us to remember how much you love us, always. Amen.

**The Story: Job 42:1-6, 10-17** Ask the children if they remember learning about Job over the past couple of weeks. If not, remind them. “Who did Job ask to make his troubles better?” Now ask them, “Do you think God can sometimes be like our parents and can help our hurts go away?”

Well, God did make Job’s pain go away. And that is what our story is about today.

Job was very mad because so many things were going wrong. Job called out to God and said, “Why do all these bad things keep happening to me?! Don’t you love me? I have prayed and I have told other people all about you and I have done everything I can, but I still feel like you are far away, God. Why won’t you Help?”

And God heard Job’s cry and answered him. God reminded Job of all of the love God had for the whole world. God told Job that it made him sad to see Job sad.

Job was so glad to hear God’s voice. Job said to God, “I am sorry I asked if you love me. I KNOW you love me and want what is best for me. I will praise you always, in good times and in bad times. God, thank you for all you do for me. Please take care of my friends. Amen.”

When God heard Job’s prayer, God sent Job many blessings. God sent Job all of the animals he would ever need for his farm. God sent Job a loving wife and they had many children who all grew up praising God.

Job lived for a very long time and every day of his life, happy days and sad days alike, Job praised God.

**Reflection Questions:**

- I wonder if anything in this story surprised you.
- I wonder why God blessed Job with so many things.
- I wonder how Job felt in the beginning of the story.
- I wonder how God felt when Job was mad with God.
- I wonder how you would feel if you were Job.
- I wonder what this story teaches us.

**Activity:** Sometimes when we are having a hard time it can be difficult to remember that God is with us. Job needed God to remind him that God was there and that God loved him before Job was able to raise his hands in praise. Today for our activity, we will make pictures for some of the elderly and homebound from our church to remind them that God loves them and is with them.

Ask the children if they know what it feels like to feel lonely. Talk with the children about loneliness and brainstorm a list of things that we can do to help people who are feeling lonely.

As the children continue making suggestions, help steer them towards the idea of reaching out to people who are having a hard time.

**Activity Questions:**

- I wonder what you would want someone to say to you if you were home or in the hospital sick.
- I wonder what Job would say to someone who was feeling alone or scared.

After this introduction, give each child the name of a person from your church for whom they will be making a picture. Then, spread out the supplies and show them a sample picture. The finished craft will be a piece of paper with a construction paper heart in the middle. On each paper, a child (with help) or an adult should write: God Loves You! The children can decorate the paper with drawing and stickers. As you work on the pictures remind them that they will be sending their pictures to someone who is in need.

**Getting Closure:** Have each child share his or her picture with the class.

**Closing Prayer:** Thank you God for always staying with us, in good times and bad. Today we pray especially for *(insert names of people to who you are sending pictures.)* Help them to know you are with them always. Amen.

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