Lesson Plans That Work: Lesson Plans for Older Children
Proper 22 (B)
Old Testament: Job 1:1; 2:1-10

BACKGROUND
Today's reading is the first of four from the Book of Job. Job is a very faithful servant of God's and he is tested by Satan in this series. This series highlights themes of justice and suffering. The Book of Job takes place during 5th or 4th century BCE. In this series God shows divine ways beyond human understanding. The issue at hand between God and Satan is the suffering of innocent people. Job's friends believe that suffering only follows sin. Job does not curse God after the many calamities caused in Job's life due to Satan being allowed to test his faith in God. Job decides that he needs to confront God to ask him why he is allowing this to happen. God's answers are beyond Job's and any human's comprehension.

A NOTATION FOR THIS WEEK'S READING
God and Satan are looking to solve a dispute between themselves when God shows Job to Satan and tells him that he is a very faithful servant of God's. God allows Satan to wreak havoc on Job's life in order to show Satan just how faith filled Job is. Satan believes that Job will turn against God in his misery. Job gets sores all over his body and his family loses what many would see as favored (by God) status. Job's wife questions his continued faithfulness toward God. Job speaks harshly to his family about his continued faith in God. Job believes that in order to be a true believer and follower of God one must take the good as well as the bad.

THEME
Having Faith through Good and Bad

BEFORE CLASS
Gather the supplies you will need for the activities. You will need copies of the scripture for each child.

- FAITH with Leaves: Leaves, pine needles, grass, small things found in your natural setting, glue, Large paper with the word FAITH printed on it (one per child)
- FAITH Cut-Out: Large paper with the word FAITH printed on it (one per child), glue, crayons, markers, decorations (bling, glitter), scissors

BEGINNING
Invite the children to gather and ask: What does it mean to be full of faith? What are some things that you trust God to do for you?

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OPENING PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, for your servant Job. Guide us in our faith as do we our best to honor you. Help us to be as faith filled as Job. In your name we pray, Amen.

THE STORY: JOB 1:1; 2:1-10

Today's Old Testament reading allows us to ponder the question: Why are we faithful? Job is a dedicated servant of God. He is blameless and upright, he is fearful of God, and he turns from evil, as an honest person. Job's misfortunes come from a wager between God and Satan. The Satan portrayed in the Old Testament is not the evil, demonic character like the one we see in the New Testament. The Old Testament Satan is more a prosecuting attorney or even a Devil's advocate character. Satan wants to know if Job's faith is genuine and disinterested. Job gets a skin disease and has his health taken away from him. Job's livestock, children, and servants are either killed or removed from him. After all this has happened to Job and his family, Job's wife questions his continued dedication to God and Job tells her that he believes that being faith filled toward God means accepting both the good and the bad. Satan thought God was over estimating Job but indeed God was correct. Job does not lose his faith in God.

Invite the children to go around the room and each read one sentence from the reading. The lesson reads like a story. Help the children define some of the more difficult vocabulary in the reading. Encourage them to talk about how they would feel in this scenario.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

- I wonder if you would continue to believe in God's goodness with sores all over your body?
- I wonder if you know a person that is like Job, completely faith-filled. Can you tell us about that person?

ACTIVITIES

FAITH with Leaves

Encourage each child to make a design with leaves (or other things found in your natural setting) on a large sheet of paper that spells out the word FAITH. Have the children write names of people that have taught them about their faith on the paper. They should take this home and place it in a visible place to help to remind them about their faith.

FAITH Cut-Out

Encourage each child to decorate a FAITH cut-out to take home. They can use crayons or markers, words or drawings to express themselves and what their faith looks like to them. Have the children write names of people that have taught them about their faith on the paper.

GETTING CLOSURE

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Gather together and ask: How do you honor God every day? How could you be more like Job?

CLOSING PRAYER

Thank you, Lord, for all you share with us. Help us to see all that we can be and to share our love for you with others. In your name we pray, Amen.

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