Lesson Plans That Work: Lesson Plans for Younger 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

Prepare the supplies you will need for crafts.

- 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

Ask the children to gather and ask them: What are some things that you trust God to do?

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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.

Read the following verses with the children: **Younger Child Friendly Verses:** Job is one of God's most faithful servants. When Satan comes to speak with God, God points out Job to him. Satan believes that Job is only faithful to God because Job's life has been very blessed. Satan convinces God to allow him to make Job's life miserable in order to test his faithfulness. Even when Job experiences horrible sores all over his body and his wife questions why he continues to love God, Job remains faithful because he knows that he cannot only be faith filled when life is great; he must also be full of faith when life is difficult.

REFLECTION QUESTIONS

After you finish reading the verses, ask the student the following questions:

- I wonder what it would be like to have sores all over your body?
- I wonder if you could remain happy if God tested you?
- I wonder who you know that is like Job.

ACTIVITIES

FAITH with Leaves or Cut Out: Encourage each child to decorate the FAITH sign with leaves (or other things found in your natural setting) or other decorations you provided. You can help them write the names of people who they know that are full of faith. Invite them to take them home and display it where they can see it easily.

GETTING CLOSURE

Gather together and ask: I wonder how you talk to God each day? I wonder what we could learn from Job today?

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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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