



Job Remains Faithful in Suffering

Job 1:1–2:10; 42:1-6, 10-17



Bible Point: God brings us hope when we're hurting.



Key Verse: "Those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint" (Isaiah 40:31).

Use the following activities to further the application of this week's lesson in the lives of your family members.

Discussion Starters

Preschoolers

- What do you do when you feel sad inside? Why?
- Why does God help us when we're unhappy?

Elementary Students

- When you hurt inside, how do you treat God? Why?
- When we are hurting and ask God to help us, will we always see things improve right away? Why or why not?

Youth

- Why do people often choose to trust in themselves and become angry at God when their circumstances become difficult?
- What can you learn from suffering? What have you already learned? Is what you have learned true?

Talk Topics

- Discuss a time when one of you became angry at God.
- Talk about why it's important to keep trusting God even when you are hurting and things don't seem to be improving.
- Talk about why it's important to keep obeying God even when we feel overwhelmed by difficulties.
- Talk about how, if you were God, you might feel when your people are hurting, but they keep trying to ease their pain on their own without asking you for help.

Through the Week

During devotional times, use the following passages to read and discover additional biblical insights about suffering.

Monday—1 Peter 4:16

Tuesday—Romans 8:18

Wednesday—2 Timothy 1:8

Thursday—Romans 5:3-4

Friday—1 Corinthians 10:13

Saturday—Romans 12:12

Daily Challenges®

Choose one or more of these activities to do this week:

- Where have you been most susceptible to trials or temptations in the past? Commit to staying away from areas where those situations are most likely, and to praying for those areas of your life daily. Ask for God's special strength, and find someone who will help you be accountable. You might be sitting with him or her right now.
- Maybe you know someone going through some of the same trials you have. Give that person a call or spend time with him or her. Listen to his or her feelings and experiences—how is it like what you went through, and how is it different? Share how God met you in your suffering, and offer to be available to help him or her through it as well.
- Adopt a group of persecuted Christians. Search the Web, talk to missionaries, and read up on the persecuted church today (www.persecution.com is a good place to start). Identify a specific group of Christians who are facing persecution for their faith and what you can do to support them through prayer and other practical ideas.
- Doing something "fun" relating to suffering is a tall order. In part, that's because suffering is probably one of the most difficult subjects for young children to understand. If your children are young, you may want to simplify the topic by referring to it as "when something makes you sad." As a family, talk about the things that you have suffered or are suffering—the things that make you sad. Have children draw pictures to depict the situations. Share briefly how God can use sad times to teach us important things and that sometimes we don't know why we have to endure sad times. Then form a circle around the pictures, and pray together for patience, understanding, and a renewed sense of hope whenever you face suffering. Keep watch for the end to specific difficult situations so you can help children see how something good can come out of suffering.