



Mustard Seed Children's Ministry

Sunday School Lesson for April 9, 2006

"When All Seems Hopeless"

GOLDEN TEXT: "If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come" (Job 14:14).

SCRIPTURE LESSON TEXT: Job 14:1-2, 11-17; 32:6, 8; 34:12; 37:14, 22

JOB 14:1 Man that is born of a woman is of few days and full of trouble.

2 He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not.

11 As the waters fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up:

12 So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the heavens be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep.

13 O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and remember me!

14 If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come.

15 Thou shalt call, and I will answer thee: thou wilt have a desire to the work of thine hands.

16 For now thou numberest my steps: dost thou not watch over my sin?

17 My transgression is sealed up in a bag, and thou sewest up mine iniquity.

32:6 And Elihu the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said, I am young, and ye are very old; wherefore I was afraid, and durst not shew you mine opinion.

8 But there is a spirit in man: and the inspiration of the Almighty giveth them understanding.

34:12 Yea, surely God will not do wickedly, neither will the Almighty pervert judgment.

37:14 Hearken unto this, O Job: stand still, and consider the wondrous works of God.

22 Fair weather cometh out of the north: with God is terrible majesty.

THE OBJECT IN VIEW:

Teach that trust overcomes hopelessness.

TRUTHS TO STRESS:

- 1. God never promised life without problems.**
- 2. God will help us through problems.**
- 3. Trust in God helps us overcome problems.**

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS:

For Beginning the Lesson, bring small pieces of fruit and napkins. Write "TRUST" on the board.

For Helping to Remember, each child needs half a sheet of blue construction paper, a pencil, scissors, glue, and drinking straws or small twigs and copies of the crossword puzzle and word search.

BEGINNING THE LESSON:

The following is a good activity to introduce the concept of TRUST to children:

Please close your eyes and hold out one hand. (Place a piece of fruit on a napkin in each child's hand.) I have given you something good to eat. Please eat it now.

DISCUSSION:

Should you eat anything given to you if you do not know what it is? When can you eat something a person gives you? You can eat when you trust the person. (Point to board.) You know he would not give you anything that would hurt you.

Did you open your eyes before you put the food in your mouth? If you did, it shows you did not trust me.

There will be times when people will not be worthy of our trust, but we can always trust God.

LESSON BACKGROUND:

The Bible tells the story of many different men, women and children. One of these was a very rich man named Job. Job was a good man who served the Lord God and tried to live as God wished for him to live. He had a very good life, loved God and had nothing to do with evil. Satan believed that Job was good and served God because of all the blessings and riches that he had, but God believed that Job would still serve Him if these things were taken away. So Satan received permission to test Job to see if he would still serve and trust God.

In our lesson today, Job has lost everything - he is no longer rich and is sick with painful sores all over his body, and it seems hopeless. We learn from Job's story that serving God does not mean that we will never have problems. When we do have problems, we must learn to trust God and know that He is there to help us through the problems and to give us hope.

TELLING THE LESSON:

Job had hard tests to go through. It all seemed hopeless to him. He felt so bad that he wanted to die. He had to learn to trust God.

Turn to Job 14:1-2 to see how Job felt about all his troubles. (Read the verses silently and then out loud.)

1. What did Job say that life was full of? (Job 14:1)

Job said that life was full of "trouble." Everyone has troubles and problems during his life. Even if you are good and do the right things, you will have problems and tests. You must learn to just trust God to be with you and help you through any trouble and problems.

2. What two things did Job say we are like? (Job 14:2)

Job said that we are like flowers and shadows. Through his problems, Job was able to realize just how short life really is. Since we do not live forever, Job compares us to flowers that bloom and then die or shadows that you see when the sun is shining but that disappear when the sun goes down.

3. How are people like floodwaters? (Job 14:11-12)

Job thought that people were like floodwaters because the waters dry up and are gone, just like people die and are not seen on the earth again.

4. What did Job think was the answer to his problems? (Job 14:13-17)

Job wanted to die. He thought that it would be better to die and go to heaven with God than to deal with his problems and tests.

5. Who was Elihu and what does he tell Job? (Job 32:6, 8; 34:12; 37:14, 22)

Elihu was one of Job's friends. He tells Job that a correct response to suffering brings healing and recovery. God does no wrong to us. In our troubles and problems, we have to be still and think about God's great works. When all seems hopeless, we must not give up; we must trust that God will be with us.

TELLING HOW TO LIVE:

Job had to learn to trust God when he had problems. We too must learn to trust God. Everyone has trouble and problems during his life. You will too. We can find many other examples of people who have had problems; one example would be Fanny Crosby.

Fanny Crosby (1820-1915) was an American hymn writer who was blind from infancy, a student and teacher in the Institute for the Blind in New York and wrote thousands of hymns, including

Blessed Assurance, Near the Cross, Pass Me Not, Safe in the Arms of Jesus, Tho' Your Sins Be as Scarlet, To God Be the Glory, to name a few. Fanny had many problems. She was blind. Her father died. Her mother worked and had little time for her. But Fanny's story shows us that she trusted God despite her problems. As you listen to her story, listen for ways that show that she trusted God.

Fanny's grandmother taught her about God's great outdoors. She learned the names of the birds by their songs and the names of flowers by touch and smell. She and her grandmother sang hymns together and learned Bible verses. When she was ten years old, Fanny memorized the first four books of the New Testament, Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John.

As a child, Fanny Crosby wrote poems. At first they were very short poems. Later she wrote longer poems. Her poems were set to music. (Show one of her hymns. Read the first verse slowly as the children read along.)

Can you find another of Fanny Crosby's songs in your hymnal? (Give time for discovery.)

How did Fanny show that she trusted God? She learned Bible verses, she learned about God's world, she wrote poems, and she sang hymns.

HELPING TO REMEMBER:

The following activities can be used to help the children to remember the important points and details of Job's story and his struggles with trust and hope.

Instruct the children to fold the blue construction paper in half and print the word "TRUST" in large letters on one side. Have them cut straws or twigs to fit the lines that make up each letter. Cover the lines with glue and attach straws or twigs.

Have the children complete the crossword puzzle by filling in the select verses or answering key points from the lesson.

Have the children complete the word search using the list of words from the lesson.

EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT:

"If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my appointed time will I wait, till my change come" (Job 14:14).

When we die, our bodies stop working, but the soul inside lives forever. Believers live forever in heaven.

Jesus died to give victory over death. When Jesus comes back, He will give us new bodies. These new bodies will never wear out.

Everyone has a certain number of years to live (an appointed time). Some live to be old; some die young.

As Job goes through his troubles and learns to trust God, he also learns and realizes that the death of the body is not the end for believers. After our appointed time, a change takes place in our bodies, and we will live forever in heaven where there will be no more trouble and no more problems.

PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for all the good things in my life. Thank you for helping me through any problems or troubles. Help me to always trust your ways. In Jesus' name. Amen.

ANTICIPATING NEXT WEEK'S LESSON

Next week's lesson continues Job's story and shows God's power in creation. We are also reminded, as we remember and celebrate the resurrection of our Lord Jesus, that it was God's power that raised Jesus. Jesus was victorious over all troubles, including death.

To prepare for next week's lesson, *Christ Is Risen! (Easter)*, read Job 38:1, 4, 16-17, Job 42:1-2, 5; and Mark 16:1-7, 9-14, 20.

LESSON SUMMARIZED BY:

Renee Little renee@jesusisall.com

Have a blessed Palm Sunday!

ACTIVITY HANDOUT:

When All Seems Hopeless

ACROSS:

- 2** "So man lieth down, and riseth not: till the _____ be no more, they shall not awake, nor be raised out of their sleep." (Job 14:12)
- 3** "If a man die, shall he live again? all the days of my _____ time will I wait, till my change come." (Job 14:14)
- 5** " He cometh forth like a _____, and is cut down..." (Job 14:2)
- 8** "And _____ the son of Barachel the Buzite answered and said, I am young, and ye are very old; wherefore I was afraid, and durst not shew mine opinion." (Job 32:6)
- 9** "...he fleeth also as a _____, and continueth not." (Job 14:2)
- 10** "Man that is born of a woman is of few days, and full of _____." (Job 14:1)
- 11** "As the _____ fail from the sea, and the flood decayeth and drieth up:" (Job 14:11)

DOWN:

- 1** "My _____ is sealed up in a bag, and thou sewest up mine iniquity." (Job 14:17)
- 2** From the title of the lesson, Job seemed to be without this.
- 4** "...all the days of my appointed _____ will I wait, till my change come." (Job 14:14)
- 6** "O that thou wouldest hide me in the grave, that thou wouldest keep me secret, until thy wrath be past, that thou wouldest appoint me a set time, and _____ me!" (Job 14:13)
- 7** Job said that he would wait until this come. (Job 14:14)

WHEN ALL SEEMS HOPELESS

Job 14:1-2, 11-17

Job 32:6, 8; 34:12; 37:14,22

WORD SEARCH

A P P O I N T E D M E
W N E M I T O B J L S
A O R X Q D V M T R C
E P S H A D O W E A H
L I C E Z T S T K J A
I N S P I R A T I O N
H I O M T W A I T B G
U O F S C D G M U X E
Z N U M F L O W E R Y
C R L E L B U O R T P
T L H O P E L E S S O

TROUBLE

FLOWER

SHADOW

APPOINTED

ELIHU

JOB

HOPELESS

TIME

INSPIRATION

TRUST

WAIT

OPINION

CHANGE

WHEN ALL SEEMS HOPELESS

Job 14:1-2, 11-17

Job 32:6, 8; 34:12; 37:14,22

A P P O I N T E D M E
W N E M I T O B J L S
A O R X Q D V M T R C
E P S H A D O W E A H
L I C E Z T S T K J A
I N S P I R A T I O N
H I O M T W A I T B G
U O F S C D G M U X E
Z N U M F L O W E R Y
C R L E L B U O R T P
T L H O P E L E S S O

Courtesy of Calvary Chapel Children's Ministry. Used by permission.
<http://www3.calvarychapel.com/children/site/curriculum.htm>