

Unit 3: God's Rescue Plan

Unit Description: God's solution for sin, which He promised in Eden, became clearer when God made a covenant with Abraham. God promised to bring the Rescuer through Abraham's family. This family was far from perfect and endured great adversity, but through it all, God remained faithful, revealing that nothing could stop His plan.

Big Picture Question: Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside of God's good plan.



SESSION 1: God Made a Covenant with Abraham
Genesis 12–20



SESSION 2: Melchizedek Blessed Abraham
Genesis 14; Hebrews 5; 7



SESSION 3: God Provided Isaac
Genesis 21–22



SESSION 4: God Changed Jacob
Genesis 25–33



SESSION 5: God Had a Plan for Joseph
Genesis 37–50



SESSION 6: God Controls Everything
Job



UNIT 3 | SESSION 6

GOD CONTROLS EVERYTHING

JOB

KEY PASSAGE:

Psalm 135:5-6

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside of God's good plan.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

Job learned that God is all-powerful, sovereign, and good. When we face suffering, we can hope in God. God sent Jesus, the only truly innocent One, to suffer and die so that everyone who trusts in Him can have forgiveness and eternal life.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

In research, there is a common practice used to measure data: the pretest and posttest. The pretest is a baseline, assessing the state of something prior to experimental factors being introduced. As is suggested by the name, this happens prior to the experiment.

The posttest is a comparison, designed to compare the outcome of the experiment to the pretest results in order to assess change. As the name suggests, the posttest comes after the experiment.

In the life of Job, we find a man who goes through the most traumatic experiences imaginable. Job lost his kids, his wealth, his career, and his friends. His sheep even burned up! (It's true, read Job 1:16.) Job's life was turned upside down. His joy was low and his sorrow was high.

It's fascinating to look at Job's life before and after this series of trials. Prior to Job's losing all he had, Job is described as blameless and upright, fearing God and turning away from evil. He had great spiritual fortitude and great material wealth.

Following his extended trial, Job repented of his wavering trust in God. Job was restored to God, and God restored his wealth to a greater degree than before.

The pretest and posttest of Job's journey

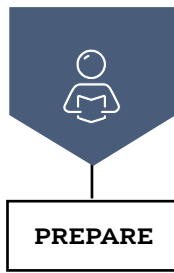
demonstrate a man who, in the big picture, was unshakable in his relationship with God. Though he had high and low moments during the trial, Job was fully restored to God. Like Job, our faithfulness does not mean that there won't be moments of struggle or slipping, but it does mean that overall, our faith in God remains and grows.

If you aren't in the midst of a trial, know that God is strengthening your trust in Him so that when difficulty does come—and it will—your pretest shows a strong faith that can endure. And if you are in the midst of great challenges right now, strive to endure so that a posttest might demonstrate that your love and trust of God has remained and even increased.

Trials are inevitable. Trust in God, who controls everything. Anticipate that trials will come, and aim for growth on the other side.

TERMS TO KNOW

Sovereignty: God's unlimited power and authority. God is able to control all things and accomplish whatever He pleases.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- “Top Five” activity page

Session Starter (Option 2)

- sticky notes



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- countdown video

Big Picture Question

- Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- “God Controls Everything” video
- Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- “Unit 3, Session 6” questions from kids video

Missions Moment

- “Sharing in Mexico” missions video

Key Passage Activity

- Key Passage Poster
- “For I Know (Psalm 135:5-6)” song
- dry erase board or large sheet of paper
- worship song of your choice (optional)



LOVE

Review & Bible Skills

- Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- world map



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- dry erase board or poster board
- world map

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- large roll of black paper
- 3-by-3-inch white paper squares

Journal and Prayer

- Journal Page
- “Questions from God” activity page



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “ Think about a time something went wrong. How did you react? Has your reaction to frustration or disappointment changed as you’ve gotten older? Why or why not? ”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “Top Five” on the activity page. Kids should draw or write five things that are most important to them.

SAY “ What five things are most important to you? [Allow kids to respond.] How would you feel if all those things were taken away? In today’s Bible story, a man named Job lost many very important things. We’ll find out what happened to him. ”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: DESIGN A HERO



Provide paper and colored pencils. Instruct each kid to draw a picture of their own new superhero. What special abilities would the superhero have? What would the hero’s name be?

Discuss which of these powers would be most valuable: being able to do anything, being in charge of everything, or being able to always do the right thing.

Invite kids to share their drawings with the group.

SAY “ In the Bible story we will hear today, a man named Job learned that God is all three of those things! He can do anything, He is in charge of everything, and He always does the right thing. No one is like Him! ”

OPTION 2: WISE OR FOOLISH ADVICE

Give each kid two sticky notes. Ask them to write two pieces of good advice they have given or received. (Example: Tell the truth.) Collect the notes. Read a scenario from the list below and read two or three notes of advice. Ask the kids to evaluate whether each one is wise advice or foolish advice for that situation.

1. You borrowed your friend’s pencil and lost it.
2. You failed your math test.
3. You saw someone being mean to a kid at the park.
4. Your friend looks angry.

SAY “ Some of the advice seemed foolish because you didn’t know the situation when you wrote down your advice. In today’s Bible story, Job’s friends didn’t understand the whole situation when they tried to give him advice about God. Some of it was good, but most of it was foolish. ”

Transition from **WELCOME** to **LEARN**





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “ Welcome! It’s so good to see you. If you brought your Bible, hold it up. [Provide Bibles for kids who need one.] Can anyone tell me what the Bible is about? [Allow kids to respond.] The Bible is God’s Word. It tells us the wonderful story of God’s plan to rescue sinners.

The Bible tells us what is true about God and about ourselves. One truth we see in God’s Word and in the world around us is this: God controls everything. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY “ God is sovereign. That means that He has unlimited power and authority. This is what our big picture question tells us. Say it with me: **Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside of God’s good plan.**

This big picture question reflects a big truth we will see over and over again in the Bible. Nothing happens just by chance. God controls everything. This is comforting to us because He is good. ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “ We’ve been talking a lot about ways God worked in people’s lives in the Old Testament to carry out His good plan. God chose Abraham and made a covenant with him. God promised to give him land and a family. He promised to bless all the world through Abraham’s family.

We followed the story through Abraham’s son Isaac and then his son Jacob. God changed Jacob’s name to Israel, and this family formed God’s people—the nation of Israel. We will hear about these Israelites throughout the rest of the Old Testament. In each of these stories, we’ve seen God in control.

We will hear more about the Israelites next time. The story we will hear today took place around the time of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. It is a story that teaches us even more about God’s control over everything. Let’s check it out. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to the Book of Job. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Controls Everything.” Use the bolded text to retell or review the story.

GOD CONTROLS EVERYTHING

“**Job** (JOHB) was a wealthy man who **loved God and wanted to follow God’s plan**. Job was honest. He feared God and turned away from evil. **One day, God’s enemy, Satan, went to God**. God told Satan, “No one else on earth is like Job.”

“Job only follows You because You protect him and bless him,” Satan said. “If You take away everything Job has, he won’t follow You anymore.”

So God gave Satan permission to take away everything Job had, but Satan was not allowed to hurt Job. Satan sent men to steal Job’s animals. He caused Job’s children to die. In one day, Job lost everything. Job was very sad, but he still followed God.

Satan came to God again. He said, “If Job gets sick, he will not praise You anymore.” So **God gave Satan permission to make Job sick, but God did not let Satan kill Job**. Satan covered Job’s skin with painful sores.

“Do you still have faith in God?” Job’s wife asked. “Curse God and die!”

“That’s foolish,” Job said. “How can we accept good things from God and not trouble?”

Then **three of Job’s friends visited Job**. Their names were Eliphaz (EL ih faz), Bildad (BIL dad), and Zophar (ZOH fahr). **They said, “Job, if you do what is right and stop sinning, God will give you back everything you lost.”**

“I haven’t done anything wrong,” Job said. Job wished he had someone to talk to God for him. He wanted answers; he didn’t understand why he was suffering. Had God made a mistake?

Then a man named Elihu (ih LIGH hyoo) came to Job. “God is greater than man,” Elihu **explained. “God always does what is right.”**

Finally, God spoke to Job through a whirlwind. “Were you there when I made the earth?” God asked. “Are you the one who told the sea where to stop? Did you decide when the sun would rise or when snow would fall? **Did you put the stars in the sky? Can you tell the eagles when to fly in the sky?”**

Job could not completely understand God’s plans, but he could trust God. God is all-powerful, sovereign, and good. Job was sorry for doubting God. God gave Job back everything he had lost—and so much more.

Christ Connection: Job learned that God is all-powerful, sovereign, and good. When

STORYTELLING TIPS

Use props: Show props for what Job had (figures for family members, stuffed animals for livestock, bandages for health, and so on). Remove the items as they were taken from Job.

Vary your tone: Speak boldly when telling the words that God spoke. Use pauses for emphasis around dialogue.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

we face suffering, we can hope in God. God sent Jesus, the only truly innocent One, to suffer and die so that everyone who trusts in Him can have forgiveness and eternal life. ”

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “Wow, what a story. Job’s story starts with Satan approaching God. Satan is an enemy of God. He is against everything that God is for. He doesn’t want us to follow God or love Him.

Now, why did Satan target Job? Look at Job 1:8. [Choose a volunteer to read the verse aloud.] Is it surprising that God pointed out Job to Satan? Job was faithful to God, but Satan claimed that Job only followed God because of God’s blessings—Job’s home, his animals, his family, and his health. So God allowed Satan to take all that away from Job, but God did not allow Satan to hurt Job. Satan cannot do anything without God’s permission. Satan’s power is limited. He does not have authority over all things. He could only act as God allowed. God controls everything.

So Job lost all he had and got sick. What advice did Job’s wife give him? Look at Job 2:9. [Choose a volunteer to read the verse aloud.] Job’s wife had lost everything along with Job. She was hurting too. She had a hard time imagining life ever getting any better.

Job responded differently though. Job was hurting, but he wanted to be faithful even in his suffering. Trusting God doesn’t mean you go through suffering with a smile and pretend it doesn’t hurt. Job wanted to trust God, but he started to doubt and believe God had made a mistake. Job talked with his friends. He told God how he was feeling. He asked questions.

God met with Job, speaking to him through a whirlwind. God draws near to comfort us when we suffer. When Job realized that God controls everything, he confessed his misunderstanding. Look at Job 42:1-3. [Choose a volunteer to read the passage aloud.] We can’t always see or understand the bigger picture, but God does and we can trust Him. He knows how life works best, and He works in and through all things. God is aware of everything happening in our lives. He is near, even when we cannot sense His presence. **Who is in control of everything? God is in control of everything in heaven and on earth. Nothing is outside of God’s good plan.** ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “Job learned that God is all-powerful, sovereign, and good. When we face suffering, we can hope in God. God sent Jesus, the only truly innocent One, to suffer and die so that everyone who trusts in Him can have forgiveness and eternal life. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the guide provided to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 3, Session 6” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. Why doesn’t God explain what is happening in the world when we don’t understand it?



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

2. What could you say to encourage a friend or family member who is going through a difficult time?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY “ A small team of missionaries is working to share the good news of Jesus in Mexico City—one of the world’s largest cities. We can be a part of their work by praying for them, giving to missions offerings, and maybe even going! ”

Play the missions video. Ask a volunteer to pray for unbelievers in Mexico City to hear the good news and trust in Jesus. Pray also for any missionaries your church supports.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Form two or more teams. Instruct teams to stand at one side of the room across from a dry erase board or large sheet of paper. Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 135:5-6 together two or three times. Then remove or cover the poster.

Give each team a marker. When you say go, the first player in each line should run to the board and write the first word of the key passage. She will return the marker to her team, and the next player will run to the board and write the next word, and so on until teams finish writing the key passage and reference.

SAY “ When you go through suffering, say these words to yourself. Read them in the Bible. Share them with a friend who is struggling. God is in control. ”

Lead kids to sing “For I Know (Psalm 135:5-6).” You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

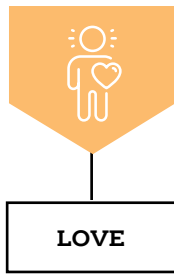
7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning from **LEARN** to **LOVE**.

SAY “ Lord God, we confess that when life is hard, we sometimes forget You. We might even doubt that You care about us. Help us to trust in You. Thank You for giving us Your Word to teach us that You are in control and do everything for Your glory and our good. Help us to follow You faithfully. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Mediterranean Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to the Book of Job. Explain that the events in the Book of Job likely took place around the time of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Say that Job lived in the land of Uz, in the northern part of the Arabian Peninsula. Point to the area of H9 on the map.

Consider comparing the Old Testament Mediterranean Map to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the areas in and around modern-day Saudi Arabia.) Choose a volunteer to read aloud Job 40:1-4.

SAY “ Job didn’t understand why God allowed his suffering, but he recognized God’s greatness and control over everything. The Bible teaches us what God is like and tells us everything we need to know about Him. These truths help us correctly view and understand the world. ”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “ Why did Job choose to trust God? ”

Lead kids to recognize that Job understood everything he had was a gift from God. God had been kind to Job and provided his home, his family, and his health. Job knew that God gives good gifts and has the right to take them away. He gives us Himself and promises to never leave us.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 37:25-26.)

SAY “ How can we remember the ‘bigger picture’ when we face suffering? ”

Assure kids that sometimes when we are hurting, we have a hard time imagining life ever getting better. When we lift our eyes to Jesus—through prayer, worship, or Bible reading—we remember that God controls everything. We can encourage others who are hurting to look to God as well.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 121:1.)

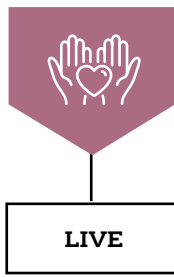
SAY “ How does Jesus give us hope in hard times? ”

Remind kids that Jesus came to earth as the only truly innocent One. He never sinned, yet He suffered by dying on the cross for our sins. We trust God’s promise that one day Jesus will return and wipe away every tear from our eyes. He will put an end to sin, suffering, and death. We have hope knowing suffering on earth is temporary. One day, we will live with God and have true life and joy forever.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 12:12.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: PRAY FOR CENTRAL AMERICA



Draw three columns on a dry erase board or poster board. List Central American countries in the middle column: Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama. Considering pointing out the countries on a world map.

Form two groups. Ask one group to think of ways to pray for the people of Central America and write them in the left column. Ask the second group to write prayers for missionaries in the right column. Remind kids that praying is an important way we are a part of God's mission to tell all nations about Him. Take time to pray for people in Central America, using the requests on the board. Encourage each kid to choose a Central American country and commit to praying for the people there.

SAY “ God is great and in control! He is also close to us. God created people to have a relationship with Him, and we can help make Him known in all the world. ”

OPTION 2: BIGGER PICTURE MOSAIC

Give each kid a 3-by-3-inch square of white paper. Supply colored pencils or markers and invite kids to each draw a design on the square. Suggest kids use several colors and draw something that reminds them of the Bible story.

After a few minutes, lead kids to arrange the squares on a large piece of black paper. Provide glue for kids to fix each square into position. Hang the mosaic in your room as a reminder that God sees the bigger picture and controls everything.

SAY “ For every one thing we understand God is doing in our lives, He is doing ten thousand more things that we may not understand, or even know about! God controls everything. He sees the big picture. God is all-powerful, sovereign, and good. We can trust Him. ”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray, acknowledging God's good and complete control over everything. Ask Him to comfort and draw near to those who are suffering. As time allows, lead kids to complete “Questions from God” on the activity page.



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 3 • Session 6

GOD CONTROLS EVERYTHING

Job

WHO IS IN CONTROL OF EVERYTHING? GOD IS IN CONTROL OF EVERYTHING IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH. NOTHING IS OUTSIDE OF GOD'S GOOD PLAN.

Job loved God and wanted to follow God's plan. One day, God's enemy, Satan, went to God.

"Job only follows You because You protect him and bless him," Satan said. "If You take away everything Job has, he won't follow You anymore."

So God gave Satan permission to take away everything Job had, but Satan was not allowed to hurt Job. Satan sent men to steal Job's animals. He caused Job's children to die. In one day, Job lost everything. Job was very sad, but he still followed God.

Satan came to God again. God gave Satan permission to make Job sick, but God did not let Satan kill Job.

Three of Job's friends visited Job. They said, "Job, if you do what is right and stop sinning, God will give you back everything you lost."

"I haven't done anything wrong," Job said. Then a man named Elihu explained, "God always does what is right."

Finally, God spoke to Job through a whirlwind. "Were you there when I made the earth? Did you put the stars in the sky? Can you tell the eagles when to fly?" Job could not completely understand God's plans, but he could trust God. God is all-powerful, sovereign, and good. Job was sorry for doubting God. God gave Job back everything he had lost—and so much more.

Christ Connection: Job learned that God is all-powerful, sovereign, and good. When we face suffering, we can hope in God. God sent Jesus, the only truly innocent One, to suffer and die so that everyone who trusts in Him can have forgiveness and eternal life.

FOLD

Top Five | Draw or write five things that are most important to you.



Questions from God | Use the words from the word bank to fill in the questions God asked Job. Find the verse in your Bible to check your work.

Were you there when I made the _____ ? (Job 38:5)

Are you the one who told the _____ where to stop? (Job 38:8,11)

Did you decide when the _____ would rise or when _____ would fall? (Job 38:12,22)

Did you put the _____ in the sky? (Job 38:31-32)

Can you tell the _____ when to fly in the sky? (Job 39:27)

WORD BANK

eagles
earth
sea
snow
stars
sun