

## WEEK 2 LESSON GUIDE



### BIG IDEA

We can show God's love in small ways.

### BIBLE

**Job And His Friends:** Job 2:11–13; 16:1–5;  
Hebrews 4:12–16

### ABOUT THIS WEEK

Trips are always better with friends or loved ones because they help us pass the time or give us advice when we need it. This week, we'll hear about Job, his friends, and the way they showed love and care for Job as he was experiencing some turbulence in his journey. Their presence in this difficult moment helps us discover how **we can show God's love in small ways.**

### LARGE GROUP TIME

Welcome back! Are you ready to continue our journey? Last week, we got delayed at the airport due to bad weather at our destination, the land of Uz, where a man named Job is from. It seems like things are clearing up. We'll be up in the air soon, and there will be so much to see, learn, and do along the way!

**WHAT?** *What are we talking about today?*

#### ACTIVITY | Airline Logos

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you will need construction paper and crayons or colored pencils. To play, have kids fold simple paper planes like [this](#) and decorate them by drawing stripes and creating their own airline logos, which can be as simple as writing their names on the wings.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Allow preteens to assist younger kids with activities that they may finish quickly, like paper airplane folding or putting the clothespin airplane craft together.
  - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Provide pre-folded paper airplanes to assist kids with time management and fine motor skills.
- If we're going to fly to Uz, we're going to need airplanes. Here's your chance to start your own airline! We're going to create a logo, a symbol that we can recognize. A logo might feel like a small thing, but it makes a big statement up in the skies.
- **What are some logos that you know?**
- *Today's Bible story is about how a group of friends did something very small to help their friend in a big way.*

#### ACTIVITY | Paper Plane Race

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you will need construction paper and tape. To play, have kids each fold a paper airplane or use the ones they made in the "Airline Logos" activity. Using tape on the floor, create a runway with two or more lanes (depending on how many kids and space you have), along with a starting line. Then, have one kid per lane line up at the start and throw their paper planes as far as they can. Whoever gets their

plane the farthest wins that round. Winners from each round compete against each other until there is one winner left.

- That was amazing! Did you notice that sometimes, your planes would fly off course and go onto another runway or cross paths with another plane? That would be dangerous in real life. With real airplanes, everyone has to take turns and use the runway one at a time—just like we take turns and are kind to one another when we're going down a slide or taking a drink from the water fountain.
- Today's Bible story is similarly about how a little kindness went a long way ... maybe even further than your plane can fly!

### QUESTION | What small things bring you comfort?

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Ask the following question. You can have every kid shout their answer but then ask a few kids to share their answers with everyone. Comment briefly on their answers—and have fun with this!
- When you travel, there are all kinds of small things you encounter! When you fly, you have to take small containers of toothpaste or shampoo. The airplane bathroom is also very small. If you're watching something, it's usually on a small screen.
- But the size of something doesn't mean it's not important. You'll notice that sometimes, it's the small things that make us happy or feel safe.
- **What is your favorite "small thing" you have that brings you comfort?**

**SO WHAT?** Why does it matter to God and to us?

### SCRIPTURE | Job 2:11–13; 16:1–5 (Job And His Friends)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up your chairs in the room like the inside of an airplane, with one aisle with rows of three chairs on each side or two aisles with each row having two chairs on the sides and four chairs in the middle. Feel free to dress up like a [flight attendant](#) for added fun
  - ✳ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Today's Bible story talks about Job's friends and how they interacted with Job. Kids with disabilities often do not have the skills to initiate or maintain social interactions. They may even need to be taught the importance of forming friendships explicitly. Whenever possible, discuss appropriate social interactions through modeling and role-playing.
- Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Along the Way Air! So glad you could join us on our flight today to Uz. We'll be taking off shortly, so please make sure your carry-on bag is stowed securely overhead or underneath the seat in front of you. Turn off your phones and all electronic devices or set them to airplane mode.
  - In case of an emergency, life jackets are provided under your seats. At this time, for your safety, please take a look around you and locate your nearest emergency exit. (*Point with two fingers on each hand to pretend exits up and down the aisle and on sides of the "plane."*)
  - Also, in case of an emergency, please remain calm. Things may not go as planned sometimes ... like what happened with Job from the Bible.
- **Does anyone remember what happened to Job?**
  - Job was just living the good life, following and obeying God, then boom. One day, everything changed. He lost his family, his belongings, and his health.
  - But through it all, he didn't blame God. He trusted God was with him. And so were his friends.
- **Let's read Job 2:11.**
  - Wow, these are good friends. Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar knew their friend was going through tough times and decided together to go to Job.
  - **Do you have friends who would come to comfort you?**

- **Are you a friend who would go to comfort your friends?**
- When we think of comfort, we might think of someone giving us a hug, a mug of hot cocoa, or wrapping a blanket around us. Job's friends comforted him in a different way.
- **Let's read Job 2:12–13.**
  - When his friends approached Job and saw how sick and sad he looked, they all cried and tore their robes to show how sad they were, too. And then, they did something incredibly simple and small to show their love to Job and comfort him: they sat with him for seven days and nights. They didn't buy him anything or sing him a song. They just sat with him.
  - **Has anyone ever sat with you to let you know they care? And did it comfort you?**
  - Sometimes, you can show love to someone by just being there for them in times of trouble and doing little things to show you care. And Job's friends did that. At first, anyway.
- *Have kids pretend their flight is getting bumpy by shaking around in their seats.*
  - Ladies and gentlemen, we are experiencing some turbulence. Please return to your seats and fasten your seatbelts.
  - Later on, Job's friends started to speak. But when they spoke, they weren't words of comfort. They each took turns to explain why Job was going through such a tough time. They even said maybe Job did something wrong so God was punishing him. This was the opposite of comfort for Job!
- **Let's read Job 16:1–5.**
  - Job was probably very grateful when his friends joined him and sat with him. But then when they opened their mouths, they turned out to be "miserable comforters." He told them that if their roles were reversed, he would have encouraged them and helped them feel better, not do what they were doing.
  - Job's friends were better comforters when they didn't say anything at all! It's a reminder for us all that when it comes to comforting others, we don't have to overthink it. Sitting with them can do more to help our friends sometimes.
- Speaking of sitting, please remain in your seats and keep your seatbelts fastened at all times while the plane is in motion. We're in for a bumpy ride through some turbulence!

### **BIG IDEA | We can show God's love in small ways.**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print out as many copies of the [life jacket printable](#) as you want to use for the reveal. Consider printing on yellow paper to add to the look. Fold each page on the dotted lines so that it looks like a life jacket. On the inside, write one or more words of the Big Idea. Using painter's tape, attach the "life jackets" underneath random chairs before kids arrive. Bring all the life jackets to the front and put them in order to reveal and recite the Big Idea. If you don't use chairs, use painter's tape to "fasten" the life jackets, pass them out to a few kids at the start of the Bible story and have them sit on them until the reveal.*
- On an airplane, the life jackets are stored under the seats. Let's check under our seats to see if there are any special words for us today.
- Remember that even though Job's friends knew what Job was struggling with, there are plenty of times that we are in places and situations where we have no idea what the people around us are going through—like when you are on a plane with a bunch of other passengers. Your kindness in those moments could change someone's day. **We can show God's love in small ways!**

### **VIDEO | A Clip from "Inside Out"**

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *SPass out small packs or cups of Goldfish crackers or other non-allergenic food items as in-flight snacks (like a small snack you would receive on a plane). As a teaching tool, play a [short clip](#) from Inside Out, or something like it, as their "in-flight entertainment." If possible, have kids all sit in small groups around a leader who can play the clip on their device. This helps create the idea of everyone being in a small*

space to watch the in-flight movie. We always suggest viewing the clip before hand to make sure you think it's a video that will be a good fit for your context! For more information on how to legally use copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)

- Passengers, I hope you enjoyed today's in-flight entertainment!
- In this clip, Bing Bong was sad because they destroyed the rocket he was going to use to take Riley to the moon. Then Joy tried to cheer him up by saying a lot of things, acting silly, and trying to be funny.
- **But did that work?**
- **Then, Sadness came up to Bing Bong, and what did she do?** Sadness sat with Bing Bong, listened to him talk about his feelings, and let him cry.
- **Did Bing Bong feel better after being with Sadness?**
- Just like Sadness came to Bing Bong to just sit with him, cry with him, and not force him to cheer up, Job's friends Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar did this for Job in the beginning.
- Sometimes, when someone is experiencing hardship, there are no amount of words or gestures that could help. They need to grieve and feel sad for a little while. Even though we might feel helpless on the sidelines, we can be a big help by crying with them, listening to what they're saying, or just simply sitting beside them and being there for them.
- **We can show God's love in small ways.**

## OBJECT LESSON | Quiet Bubbles

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Prepare one medium or large bubble wand and ask a volunteer to come up front to help demonstrate different ways to blow a bubble. If possible, provide bubble wands for everyone (or enough to be shared by two or three kids) and have them try as well.
  - ✳ **PRETEEN HACK:** Have preteens make their own bubble wands out of pipe cleaners. Challenge them to see who can blow the biggest bubble, then talk about what works or doesn't work when trying to blow a big bubble.
- Airplanes aren't the only way to fly. Some people fly in balloons that float slowly through the air. Let's imagine what that might look like using bubbles!
- But if I want to travel by bubble, I'd want the biggest bubble. How do I make big bubbles?
  - Dip the wand into the soap, then ask the volunteer to try blowing a bubble while making vocal sounds like humming, grunting, or whistling.
  - Hmm, blowing while making noise didn't produce large bubbles. Maybe I need to do it faster!
  - Have volunteer blow the bubble as fast as they can. Usually, this will result in bubbles that drift off or pop before they get very big.
  - That didn't really work either. What if we tried being making bubbles slow and steady without making extra noise?
  - Have volunteer blow slowly and deliberately, with no vocals. The bubble should grow large and float away gently.
- This reminds me of our Bible story, when Job's friends tried to talk to him and explain why he was going through a hard time.
  - Sometimes, when someone is sad, we might think that we need to say a lot of things to be helpful, but words don't always help. It was hard to blow a bubble when we made too much noise!
  - Or, we might think that we need to cheer them up, but we can't force someone to feel better. The bubbles popped when we rushed them.
  - It can be more helpful when we are gentle and don't say too much, like when we blew the biggest bubble.
- Sometimes just sitting quietly with someone and letting them know you are there shows the most love.
- **We can show God's love in small ways.**

## SCRIPTURE | Hebrews 4:12–16

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the passage out loud or invite a volunteer to read for the group. Prepare a snorkeling vest ([like this one](#)), or an [inflatable travel pillow](#) would work, too.
- The reason why our words may not help in certain situations is that it's hard for us to know exactly what someone else is going through. But God does. This passage reminds us that God knows everything because "nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight," including our thoughts and emotions.
- Jesus, even though he is God's son, was human once. If there's anyone who could understand everything we're going through, it's Jesus! The Bible tells us that Jesus experienced great joy as well as great sadness while he was on Earth. Jesus even wept! That's why this Bible passage describes
- Jesus as a "high priest" who can sit with us and understand all of our emotions, even our sadness.
- Jesus is kind of like our life jacket. When we feel like we are overwhelmed by our emotions, we can trust Jesus to carry all of us through. Knowing Jesus is our life jacket, we can "approach God's throne of grace with confidence," and trust we'll be in a safe place and even find some comfort. That means when someone else needs our comfort, one of the biggest "small" things we can do is pray for Jesus to be their life jacket, too.
- This passage reminds us that **we can show God's love in small ways.**

## VIDEO | *Along The Way*, Episode 2

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Play this week's episode of [Grow TV](#).

**NOW WHAT?** What does God want us to do about it?

## REFLECTION | What If

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Dim the lights in your space and invite kids to close their eyes. You could even pass out [eye masks](#) and have kids sit back in their chairs.
- **What if you were one of Job's friends?**
- **How might you have felt seeing your friend go through a hard time?**
- **What words would you have wanted to give him?**
- **How else might you have comforted him?**
- Unexpected things happen in life sometimes. They could happen to us, someone close to us, or even people we don't know on the other side of the world. We may not know how to help any of these people but we can start small.
- When you're hurting, what are the things that bring you comfort?
- God made everything, including all the small things that comfort us when we are sad or hurting. Comfort can come from a pet, a stuffie, a favorite food, or a friend. You can be the one to bring comfort to others in simple and small ways—draw a picture or play a video game with them. Maybe the best small thing you could do is to pray to God to be with them.
- Think about someone who needs your help or comfort right now. It can be someone close to you or just things going on in our world. Take some time to pray for them right now. **We can show God's love in small ways.**

## RESPONSE | Big Idea Passport

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Use the Big Idea passports you assembled last week. Make sure you have extra copies for kids who weren't here previously, and collect the passports back at the end. Consider using [visa stamps](#) or [stickers](#) to decorate the pages.
- When you travel, you'll need to have a passport. A passport shows who you are and what country you're

a citizen of. If you get into trouble along the way, you can use your passport to get help from your home country! Your passport can also remind you of all the places you've been and what you saw and experienced along the way!

- **Verify that all your information on the inside cover of your passport is correct, then turn to the second blank page.**
  - **Write today's Big Idea at the top of the page: We can show God's love in small ways.**
  - **Then write or draw one small way you can show God's love to someone this week.**
- These passports will not only remind us of Job's difficult journey but are great reminders to us of what God is teaching us along the way, too.

## MEMORY VERSE | Psalm 121:8 (NIV)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Learn the memory verse together using any combination of the resources provided: [memory verse coloring page](#), [sign language motions](#), or choose from [this list](#) of our favorite memorization techniques!
- **"The Lord will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore."**

## PRAYER

- Dear God, thank you for showing us your great love in so many ways—the biggest way being your son, Jesus. You always show up for us and help us when we need it most. Help us know we can show your love to others in small ways. Amen.

## SMALL GROUP TIME

## DISCUSSION

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**
  - **Why did Job's friends decide to get together?** *To go and sympathize with Job and comfort him.*
  - **What did Job's friends do when they saw what had happened to Job? Why do you think they did this?** *They wept aloud, tore their robes, and sprinkled dust on their heads. They sat on the ground with him for a week and did not say a word. To show that they were also sad about what happened to Job.*
  - **How did Job respond when his friends tried to explain the reasons for this suffering?** *He called them miserable comforters and said if he were them, he would try to comfort and encourage them.*
  - **Read Hebrews 4:15. How do you know Jesus understands everything you're going through?** *Jesus has experienced pain and suffering, too.*
- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**
  - **Can you think of a time when you were sad about something, and nothing that anyone said could cheer you up?**
  - **What do you think it means to show God's love to someone?**
  - **What are some ways that you can show God's love to someone who might be going through a hard time?**

## ACTIVITY | Clothespin Airplane

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you will need craft glue, a clothespin, two regular popsicle sticks, two mini popsicle sticks, and a button for each kid to build an airplane like [this](#). To make this airplane, use craft glue (or set up hot glue stations supervised by a leader) to attach the sticks and button to the clothespin. Have kids write the Big Idea or memory verse on a small piece of paper and clamp it with the pin.
  - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Add a painting element to this activity as a way for preteens to add more individuality to their craft.

✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Have kids complete [this](#) simpler foam airplane craft instead.

- Zoom around and look for all the small ways you can show God's love this week. **We can show God's love in small ways** because God shows us love every day. Use this airplane to hold onto what you learned today and to remind you of how God always holds onto you!