

WEEK 1 LESSON GUIDE



BIG IDEA

God is with me no matter
what I go through.

BIBLE

Job Is Tested: Job 1–2:10; Hebrews 2:5–12

ABOUT THIS WEEK

Our travel adventures can get off to a bumpy start with flight delays, flat tires, or lost luggage, but doesn't that just add to the story? This week, we'll take a look at the life of Job, whose life hit quite a few unexpected bumps. Despite the pain and moments of despair, Job modeled this theme throughout his life— **God is with me no matter what I go through.**

LARGE GROUP TIME

Have you ever been traveling with your family and been scrunched in the back seat or waiting forever in line at the airport? You start complaining, and then you hear a grown-up say, "It's about the journey, not the destination." While we may get frustrated that we aren't at our destination, our Bible story for today is about a man who's about to start a pretty tough journey. As we hear about his journey, I wonder what we can learn with him along the way?

WHAT? *What are we talking about today?*

ACTIVITY | Pack Your Bags

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *For this activity, you'll need a suitcase (or a shoe box with travel tag stickers on it) for each team and items to pack, like mini toothpaste, toothbrushes, towels, travel-sized bottles to represent sunscreen, clothes (any t-shirts your church might have for volunteers), and some items that they don't need for travel (think oversized teddy bear, a basketball, a plant, party hats, beach ball, pool floaty). Provide enough items to make it a challenge. To play, divide kids into teams and place all the items in a pile. Then, have kids race to pack their team's suitcase with all the items they believe they need for a trip. Keep track of who finishes first and judge based on speed and neatness.*
 - ✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** *Level this up by making it into a relay race for preteens. Each team member will have to choose one item to go into their team's suitcase before they can tag the next person in.*
 - ✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** *Simplify this activity by taking a picture of all the items needed and not needed for travel. Show kids the picture and have them identify the things they think are needed for travel. They can circle them or just point them out.*
- Wow, great job packing your bags! It was a challenge to make sure you got all the essentials and make them fit. Are you sure we didn't forget anything?
- A cool thing that we can learn about God is that God is always with me, no matter where I am or where I am going.

- After some quick and panicked packing, I think we're ready to head to the airport. We wouldn't want to miss our flights!

ACTIVITY | Airport Race

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need to create two conveyor belts, each using the rolls of [garbage compactor bags](#) (secure them at the perforated places with black duct tape) spread out over the length of the two rectangular tables. To play, divide kids into two teams. When you say "go," the first player has to remove their shoes and place them at the end of the table, then run to the other side, pull the garbage bag toward them until the shoes reach them, put their shoes back on and get to the other side of the room. The next player can go as soon as the player before them puts on their shoes. The first team to get all players to the "gate" (the finish line) wins! For larger groups, choose a handful of volunteers to play this upfront and swap out players.
 - ✳ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Have a leader at the end of the table to help kids who may need assistance with putting their shoes back on.
- Phew! I thought we wouldn't make it to the plane on time, but we we did. Now, let's get ready to board the airplane and see what comes next along the way as we travel toward our destination.
- We might have a trip completely planned out and can guess everything that will happen next, but sometimes the most unexpected things happen along the way.

POLL | Mode Of Travel

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As you ask the following poll questions, have kids either go to the left or right of your space, acting out their choice of transportation as they travel.
- **If you were going on a long trip, would you rather travel by ...**
 - Car or Train?
 - Bus or Motorcycle?
 - Boat or Airplane?
 - Hot Air Balloon or RV?
- There are so many different ways to travel, but sometimes it's more about the experience along the way!
- The man we'll hear about in today's Bible story doesn't go on a real journey ... he actually stays pretty close to home. But, the journey he goes on in his relationship with God can help us learn things for our own journey.

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

SCRIPTURE | Job 1–2:10 (Job Is Tested)

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Set up your chairs in the room like the [airport gate waiting area](#) for the lesson. If possible, project the provided "flight information" [images](#) on your screen. Play an audio clip of airport background noises like [this](#). Feel free to dress up like a [flight attendant](#) for added fun!
- Ladies and gentlemen, welcome to Along the Way Air! In just a few minutes, we will begin the boarding process for Flight J12 with nonstop service to Uz. Looks like we are on schedule and the weather's looking great, too!
- Show image 1.
 - Before we board today, let me tell you a little about your destination, Uz. Why do I know about Uz? It's my *job* to know!
 - Speaking of job, there's a famous guy from there who spells his name the same way. But it's pronounced "Joe-b". Let me tell you a little more about Job from the book in the Bible that's all about him.
- **Let's read Job 1:1–3.**

- Job loved God very much and he lived a pretty good life. He had a beautiful family, people who worked for him, and lot of land and animals. He was a pretty lucky guy.
- Attention all passengers in the terminal for Flight J12 bound for Uz. It looks like we have been delayed due to a storm heading in. Thank you for your patience.
- *Show image 2.*
 - Job's life took a stormy turn, too. The Bible says that God and Satan had a conversation about Job. God was so pleased with Job because he was a righteous man. Satan was convinced that Job only loved God because God blessed him so much.
 - So Satan challenged God, thinking, surely if God took away Job's blessings, he wouldn't love God as much!
- **Let's read Job 1:13–19.**
 - **How would you have reacted if these things happened to you?** I would have been absolutely devastated.
 - Job was, too. He grieved everyone and everything he had lost. He could have asked how God could allow this to happen, but this is how he responded instead.
- **Let's read Job 1:20–22.**
 - In other words, Job never blamed God for what happened. In fact, Job's story is far from over.
 - Even when he got sick with painful sores all over his body, he refused to blame God. His wife couldn't understand why Job refused to get angry with God.
- **Let's read Job 2:9–10.**
 - Job was able to praise God when everything was going wrong because Job knew God was still with him no what what he went through.
 - Job knew that life is made up of detours, U-turns, and lots of unexpected delays, but none of this surprises God. God is always with us, even when we run into trouble.

BIG IDEA | God is with me no matter what I go through.

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Write each word of the Big Idea on separate index cards. Prepare a small suitcase or duffel bag packed with clothes, toiletry bags, wallets, luggage organizers, and the like. Hide the index cards in between the items and in the bag compartments themselves, and invite kids to dig through the bag to find all the words. Once all the words are found, put them in order, and recite the Big Idea together.
- Look, you discovered the Big Idea along the way!
- **God is with me no matter what I go through.**

VIDEO | A Clip Of An Air Traffic Controller

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** As a teaching tool, play a short clip (0:21-2:41) from this [video](#) about a pilot who passes out while flying a plane, or something similar. We always suggest viewing the clip beforehand to make sure you think it's a video that will be a good fit for your context! For more information on legally using copyrighted material for educational purposes, [read this!](#)
- Can you imagine if you were in an airplane and the pilot passed out? And there was no one else to fly the plane but you—and you had never flown a plane before?
- Thankfully, there are people known as air traffic controllers at every airport. Their job is to talk to pilots and guide them to land their planes. In this situation, an air traffic controller had to guide a regular passenger—who had no experience at all—and help him to land a plane safely. The passenger didn't know what to do, but the air traffic controller was with him over the radio and guided him when he was in trouble.
- Just like the passenger must have been afraid, Job must have also been afraid when all the worst things happened to him. But he never gave up hope that God was always with him.
- We, too, can trust that God is with us no matter what we go through. God will help us through the times when

we can't see or understand what's happening around us.

- When we're in trouble, we can each say: **God is with me no matter what I go through.**

ACTIVITY | Navigating The Fog

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you will need to set up the room with various safe obstacles such as pillows, beanbags, large stuffed animals, or other soft objects. To play, choose two volunteers to play the Navigator and the Pilot. Blindfold the pilot, then have the Navigator verbally guide them with clear instructions like "stop," "turn right," and "take two steps forward" to complete specific tasks like finding an object you've placed in the room, picking it up, or reaching a specific location in the room. The Navigator must give verbal cues only, with no touching.

✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Give kids toy planes, like [these](#) or [these](#), to fly around the room. You can include a brief portion where they follow your directional instructions.

- When pilots have to fly planes through the fog, they can't see where to land, so they need an air traffic controller to guide them..
- When we experience our own "fog" in life, like hard times when we can't understand what's happening, we have God as our navigator. God is always with us to guide us every step of the way—even when we can't see what's coming up next. God can see everything! We can always count on God because **God is with me no matter what I go through!**

SCRIPTURE | Hebrews 2:5–12

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** Read the passage out loud or invite a volunteer to read for the group.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** You can dive deeper into Scripture with your preteens. Treat the Secondary Scripture module like a concentrated Bible study, and invite kids to ask questions about the text. You might ask them what they think this passage has to do with today's Bible story and Big Idea before sharing the talking points provided.

- This passage reminds us that God was "mindful" of us and cared about us even though we are so small compared to how big God is. Yet, God loved us so much that Jesus came as a human and died on the cross for us. Jesus was made "lower than angels for a little while" so that he could take the punishment for our sins.
- Because of this, God makes us holy, and Jesus calls us his brothers and sisters! We are now part of God's family, which means God is always with us.
- Whenever you're going through a tough time or feel alone, remember that God made us a part of God's family. Job knew that God was always with him, and we can each have faith and say to ourselves that **God is with me no matter what I go through.**

VIDEO | Along The Way, Episode 1

- **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.

✂ **ACCESSIBILITY HACK:** Spontaneous communication may be difficult for some kids. They might need a few minutes of extra time to think about what they want to share, if at all. Remind them they are valued and loved, and that they don't need to share if they don't want to.

- **What if you were Job and you had lost everything?**
- **How would you feel? What would you want to do?**
- **Does anyone want to share how they would feel?**
- Difficult things happen to everyone. But that doesn't make it any easier. And the truth is, sometimes we don't know why bad things happen. Sometimes parents get divorced, close friends move far away, or a loved one dies. The only comfort we may have in situations like these is that God will be with us through all of it.
- We learned in the Bible story that even through his bitter circumstances, Job never blamed God. In fact, he praised God.
- **What are some ways we could show our thanks to God even when things are going wrong?**
- Remember you are never alone. God never leaves us. Say it with me: **God is with me no matter what I go through.**

RESPONSE | Big Idea Passport

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** *Print out the pages of the [printable](#) double-sided (consider printing on cardstock paper for more durability). Combine with an extra copy paper, fold in half, and staple along the spine. You will use these passports every week so make sure you collect them back at the end and have extra copies on hand for kids who are absent this week. 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!
- After you fill out your information on the inside cover of your passport, turn to the first blank page.
 - Write today's Big Idea at the top of the page: **God is with me no matter what I go through.**
 - Then write or draw about something tough that you or someone you know is going through.
 - **What can you do to remember that God is always with you (or them)?**
- Great! Now we have all of our passports ready for the trip. And since our real home country is heaven, we can turn to God whenever we need help along the way.

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 always being with us no matter what we're going through. Even when things might seem sad or scary, we can trust that you are there with us. Amen.

SMALL GROUP TIME

DISCUSSION

- **SCRIPTURE QUESTIONS**
 - **What were some of the things Job lost in today's Bible story?** *His family, his possessions, his health.*
 - **What did Job do after all the bad things happened to him?** *He praised God. He didn't blame God.*
 - **Why do you think Job wasn't angry with God?**
 - **Read Hebrews 2:11. How does this verse remind you that God is always with you?**

- **APPLICATION QUESTIONS**

- What are some feelings we might have when things happen that we can't explain?
- What can you do when you go through tough times because you know God is with you?
- How can you help a friend when they are going through a hard time?

ACTIVITY | Baggage Tags

- **INSTRUCTIONS:** For this activity, you'll need to give every kid an index card. To make the [baggage tags](#), have kids cut off the corners on one side of the card then hole punch the middle. Add [reinforcements](#) around the hole on both sides of the paper and loop yarn or string through it. On the blank side, kids can decorate however they'd like. On the back side with the lines, invite them to write the memory verse or Big Idea.

✂ **PRETEEN HACK:** Make miniature luggage bags like [this](#).

- As we go through life, we collect our own baggage—struggles, heartbreaks, and sadness. But just like we stow or check our baggage away when we board a flight, we can give our baggage to God. God understands our experiences and stays with us the whole time.
- Put your baggage tag on your bag or use it as a bookmark. Or you could you even gift it to someone who's going through a tough time. What a great reminder that **God is with me no matter what I go through.**