LESSON 11

JOB SUFFERS



Aim: **To teach the children that God does not always shelter innocent people from suffering, and that we may never know the reason why.**

Scripture Reading: **Job 2:1–13; 4:1–11**

Memory Verse: **Job 9:15**
"Though I were innocent, I could not answer him; I could only plead with my Judge for mercy."
Job 5:17
"Happy is the person whom God corrects! Do not resent it when He rebukes you."

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Ask the children to think of someone they know who suffers pain because of illness. Almost all of them probably will have an example to keep in mind. Some people's suffering makes them very bitter and unpleasant. Others seem to be able to draw on God's strength to endure their pain and so have a very close relationship with God.

MAIN POINTS OF TODAY'S TEACHING

1. Job suffered when all his children were killed and all his herds of animals were lost, but he did not become angry with God (1:22). **Show Picture 10.**
2. When Satan saw that Job still honoured God, he challenged God, "A man will give all he has for his own life … stretch out your hand and strike his flesh and bones, and he will surely curse you to your face." God allowed Satan to test Job even further, but he was to stop short of killing Job (2:1–6).
3. So Satan brought a terrible skin disease over Job. As Job sat among the ashes on the rubbish heap outside his house and scraped his sores with a piece of broken pottery, even his wife encouraged him to curse God and die. That way he would at least be free from his pain and misery. But Job refused. He would not take his own life because he knew the God he served was in control (2:6–10).
4. Three friends came to comfort him. Job looked so terrible that at first they did not recognise him. For seven days and seven nights they just sat with him in silence, which was a very good thing to do (2:11–13).
5. But then Job's friends began talking to him. They were convinced that he was suffering so much because he had done something very wicked and God was punishing him (4:1–11). **Show Picture 11.**

Look,Listen&Live_Book1.indd 30 2012/09/07 16:12 PM



NOTE: All of the speeches of Job and his friends are in the form of poetry in the original Hebrew.

6. However, Job knew that nothing of what was happening to him was the result of something wicked he had done. So he simply kept on turning to God (9:15).

Instil the Memory Verses

Our Response to the Story

Job was never told why God allowed him this suffering; it definitely was not some kind of punishment. In spite of never getting an answer, he let it draw him closer to God.

Over the past 40 years thousands of people in Africa – many of whom are Christians – have suffered war, famine and displacement from their homes. Despite this suffering, the Christian church in these areas has grown as never before.





Look,Listen&Live_Book1.indd 31 2012/09/07 16:12 PM