

Storyteller: This is a Story about a man named Job, a good man, who loved God did not do evil.

Story Materials

Job Icon set

Job 1.1, 6-12

Many years ago, a man named Job lived in the land of Uz. He was a truly good person, who respected God and refused to do evil.

One day, when the angels had gathered around the Lord, and Satan was there with them, the Lord asked, “Satan, where have you been?”

Satan replied, “I have been going all over the earth.”

Then the Lord asked, “What do you think of my servant Job? No one on earth is like him—he is a truly good person, who respects me and refuses to do evil.”

“Why shouldn’t he respect you?” Satan remarked. “You are like a wall protecting not only him, but his entire family and all his property. You make him successful in whatever he does, and his flocks and herds are everywhere. Try taking away everything he owns, and he will curse you to your face.”

The Lord replied, “All right, Satan, do what you want with anything that belongs to him, but don’t harm Job.”

Then Satan left.

Job’s sons and daughters were having a feast in the home of his oldest son, when someone rushed up to Job and said, “While your servants were plowing with your oxen, and your donkeys were nearby eating grass, a gang of Sabceans attacked and stole the oxen and donkeys! Your other servants were killed, and I was the only one who escaped to tell you.”

That servant was still speaking, when a second one came running up and saying, “God sent down a fire that killed your sheep and your servants. I am the only one who escaped to tell you.”

Before that servant finished speaking, a

Lay the first icon, “God argues with Satan”, in front of you.

One day, in the court of heaven the angels gathered around God, and Satan was with them. God asked him, “Satan, where have you been?”

Satan replied, “I have gone to and fro all over the earth.”

God asked him “Did you see my servant, Job, who loves me and does not do evil?”

“Why shouldn’t he love you,” said Satan. “You protect him and his family and all his property. You make him rich and successful. Try taking away his blessings, and he will curse you to your face!”

So God said, “Try it, Satan. Do what you want with all his blessings, but don’t touch Job himself.” And Satan left.

Lay the second icon, “Job loses Everything”, to the right of the first.

Robbers came onto Job’s farmland, and stole camels and his plowing animals. Fire fell from the sky and killed all his sheep. A mighty windstorm crushed his son’s house, and all his sons and daughters were killed.

Job was filled with sorrow. He said “we are born into this life with nothing; we take nothing with us when we die. The Lord gives, and the Lord takes away. Blessed is the name of the Lord”. And Job did not sin against God.

Lay the third icon, “God and Satan argue again”, to the right of the second.

Again, in the court of heaven the angels gathered around God, and Satan was with them and God said “Satan, where have you been?”

Satan replied, “I have gone to and fro all over the earth.”

third one raced up and said, “Three gangs of Chaldeans[e] attacked and stole your camels! All of your other servants were killed, and I am the only one who escaped to tell you.”

That servant was still speaking, when a fourth one dashed up and said, “Your children were having a feast and drinking wine at the home of your oldest son, 19 when suddenly a windstorm from the desert blew the house down, crushing all of your children. I am the only one who escaped to tell you.”

When Job heard this, he tore his clothes and shaved his head because of his great sorrow. He knelt on the ground, then worshiped God and said:

“We bring nothing at birth;
we take nothing
with us at death.

The Lord alone gives and takes.
Praise the name of the Lord!”

In spite of everything, Job did not sin or accuse God of doing wrong.

Attack on Job’s Health

One day the heavenly beings came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan also came among them to present himself before the Lord. The Lord said to Satan, “Where have you come from?” Satan answered the Lord, “From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking up and down on it.” The Lord said to Satan, “Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man who fears God and turns away from evil. He still persists in his integrity, although you incited me against him, to destroy him for no reason.” Then Satan answered the Lord, “Skin for skin! All that people have they will give to save their lives. But stretch out your hand now and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will curse you to your face.” The Lord said to Satan, “Very well, he is in your power; only spare his life.”

So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord, and inflicted loathsome sores on Job from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. Job took a potsherd with which to scrape himself, and sat among the ashes.

God asked him “Did you see my servant, Job? He loves me still, despite everything that has happened to him.”

Satan said, “If you let harm come to him, himself, then he will curse you to your face.”

So God said, “Try it, Satan. Do what you want with Job, but don't kill him.” And Satan left.

Lay the fourth icon, “Job is afflicted with sores”, to the right of the third.

Job became sick with a disease that made sores all over his body. He sat alone, and no-one looked after him, not even his wife. But Job said, “we accept the good things that come from God; should we not also accept the bad things that happen to us?” And Job did not sin against God.

Lay the fifth icon, “Job's Friends”, to the right of the fourth.

Job had three friends, named Eliphaz, Bildad, and Zophar. When they of all his troubles, they came to comfort him.

Each of his friends tried to think of what to say. They said “God doesn't punish people unless they sin. You must have sinned against God. If you repent, and confess your sin, then God will take all your suffering away”

But each time they said this, Job said “you are wrong. I haven't sinned against God.”

Lay the sixth icon, “Job's Complaint”, to the right of the fifth.

Finally Job said, “I have a bitter complaint: If only I knew where to find God, I would go and explain my troubles to God. I would listen to whatever God would tell me. God would not use god's great power to win the

argument with me. God would listen to my arguments, and judge that I have not sinned!”

Lay the seventh icon, “God Answers”, to the right of the sixth.

Suddenly, God spoke to Job out of a whirlwind:

“Who do you think you are? Do you really think you can argue against me? Were you there, when I was making the earth? Do you know how great it is? Do you know who laid its foundation, while the morning stars sang together for joy?

Then his wife said to him, “Do you still persist in your integrity? Curse God, and die.” 10 But he said to her, “You speak as any foolish woman would speak. Shall we receive the good at the hand of God, and not receive the bad?” In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Job’s Three Friends

Now when Job’s three friends heard of all these troubles that had come upon him, each of them set out from his home—Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite. They met together to go and console and comfort him. When they saw him from a distance, they did not recognize him, and they raised their voices and wept aloud; they tore their robes and threw dust in the air upon their heads. They sat with him on the ground seven days and seven nights, and no one spoke a word to him, for they saw that his suffering was very great.

Then Job answered:

“Today also my complaint is bitter;
his hand is heavy despite my groaning.

Oh, that I knew where I might find him,
that I might come even to his dwelling!

I would lay my case before him,
And fill my mouth with arguments.

I would learn what he would answer me,
and understand what he would say to me.

Would he contend with me in the
greatness of his power?
No; but he would give heed to me.

There an upright person could reason
with him,
and I should be acquitted forever by my
judge.

“If I go forward, he is not there;
or backward, I cannot perceive him;

on the left he hides, and I cannot behold
him;
turn to the right, but I cannot see him.

Then the Lord answered Job out of the
whirlwind:

“Who is this that darkens counsel by
words without knowledge?

Gird up your loins like a man,

Lay the eighth icon, “God Speaks to Job's Friends”, to the right of the seventh.

Then God turned to Job's friends, and said to them: “I am angry with you, because you did not speak the truth about me. You tried to explain me with your own foolishness. But I will forgive you because Job will pray for you.

Lay the ninth icon, “Job's Confession”, to the right of the eighth.

And Job answered God: “I know you can do all things, and your plans can never be ruined. I talked about things I did not know. I had heard about you, but now I have seen you for myself, and I am humble before you.

I will question you, and you shall declare to me.

“Where were you when I laid the foundation of the earth?
Tell me, if you have understanding.

Who determined its measurements—surely you know!
Or who stretched the line upon it?

On what were its bases sunk,
Or who laid its cornerstone

when the morning stars sang together
and all the heavenly beings shouted for joy?

42 Then Job answered the Lord:

“I know that you can do all things,
and that no purpose of yours can be thwarted.

‘Who is this that hides counsel without knowledge?’

Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand,
things too wonderful for me, which I did not know.

‘Hear, and I will speak;
will question you, and you declare to me.’

I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear,
But now my eye sees you;

therefore I despise myself,
and repent in dust and ashes.”