



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

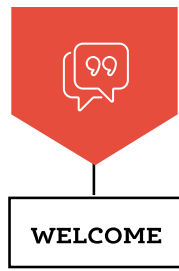
demonstrate a man who, in the big picture, was unshakable in his relationship with God. Though he had high and low moments during the trial, Job was fully restored to God. Like Job, our faithfulness does not mean that there won't be moments of struggle or slipping, but it does mean that overall, our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



## 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? ”

### 2 SESSION STARTER

#### 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.

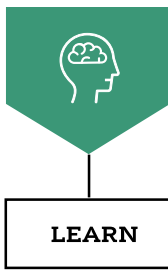
**SAY** “ In the Bible story we will hear today, a man named Job learned that God is all three of those things! He can do anything, He is in charge of everything, and He always does the right thing. No one is like Him! ”

#### 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. ”



## 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.

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. ”

## Small Group Discussion/Questions

### 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.)

### 2 GROUP DISCUSSION

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.)