

— Stories from God's Word Series —

T Bible Treasures

I SAMUEL
to
MALACHI

Edited by Amber Bennett

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Introduction

Bible Treasures: 1 Samuel to Malachi is a children's Bible storybook written specifically for first graders, though children of many ages will enjoy the familiar stories and accompanying pictures. As the title implies, this book focuses on stories found within the books of 1 Samuel through Malachi. Characters such as Job, Samuel, David, Solomon, Elijah, Elisha, Jonah, Isaiah, Jeremiah, Daniel, Esther, Ezra, Nehemiah, and others are brought to life within these pages.

Bible Treasures is based on a thirty-six week school year. Each week consists of four Bible lessons and one review lesson. While this may seem like a lot of stories for young children, this format is intended to provide the children with a comprehensive, chronological overview of the Bible books of 1 Samuel through the major prophets and Jonah. The stories naturally follow one another and are short enough that they can easily be reread as often as your student desires and your time allows.

Each weekly lesson also includes questions about the Bible story, one thought question, a weekly Bible memory verse, and a question from *First Catechism* (copyright © 2003, Great Commission Publications). The story questions are easily answered in a few words. The thought questions are meant to promote thought and discussion between you and your student and may be done orally. The memory verses and catechism questions are meant to be memorized by your student in order to help hide God's Word and truth in his or her heart. Teachers and parents are encouraged to review the weekly Bible verse and appropriate catechism question each day to help their students memorize them more quickly.

A review lesson is provided at the end of each week. This lesson reviews the weekly Bible verse and catechism questions from the week. This review will also, as the weeks pass by, begin including catechism questions from previous lessons and from *Bible Treasures: Genesis through Ruth*. A fun activity, meant to help students review some of the week's Bible lessons, is also provided in the review lesson at the end of each week.

An answer key is provided at the end of this book. The answers correspond to the questions listed at the end of each Bible story, the weekly review questions, and activity questions, if applicable. No answers are provided for the thought questions, as they are meant merely to help guide discussion.

Amber Bennett



Unit 1

Job Is Tested

LESSON 1

Job's Wealth

Job 1:1–12

Before we learn about the kings of Israel, we need to look at an important man from the Old Testament. His name was Job, and he lived in a country called Uz.

Though we do not know very much about where or when Job lived, the Bible does tell us that Job was a righteous man. The word *righteous* means “acting in a right way and dealing fairly with others”; a righteous man loves God and seeks to obey all His commands. Job was a righteous man because he loved God very much and lived to serve Him. Job hated evil, and the Lord blessed him with great wealth and happiness.

God gave Job ten children, seven sons and three daughters. Job also had 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and a great house full of people. Job was the richest man alive in his country.

Job's sons regularly met together in each other's houses to eat and drink. They invited their sisters to come to the feasts, as well. Then Job would bless his children and, in case one of them had sinned before God, offer sacrifices for each one of them. Thus, Job was rich and happy in the life he lived before God.

Job's righteousness did not go unnoticed. God saw His faithful servant and was pleased with the way he lived. One day, “the sons of God came to present themselves before the LORD” (Job 1:6). This meant that God's angels came into His presence. Satan, the wicked angel who had fallen into sin, also came.

God asked Satan where he had come from. Satan answered that he had been coming and going across the face of the earth. Then the Lord asked Satan if he had noticed His servant Job. He told Satan that there was no one like Job, for he was blameless in all his doings. The word *blameless* means “no fault can be found”; this means that no one could find fault with anything Job said or did.

Satan had noticed Job. He thought Job only worshiped God because God protected him from evil and blessed him in everything he did. He told God, “But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!” (Job 1:11).

Then the Lord gave Satan permission to do whatever he wanted to Job, just as long as he did not hurt Job himself. So Satan went out from before the Lord.

Questions

- How many children did Job have? _____
- Who appeared before the Lord with the other angels? _____
- God gave Satan _____ to do whatever he wanted to Job.

Thought Question

Why do you think God might have given permission for Satan to hurt Job?

Catechism

Question 58: What must you do to be saved?

Answer 58: I must repent of my sin and believe in Christ as my Savior.

Memory Verse

2 Timothy 3:16

All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness.

To the Teacher : Take time to go over the meanings of the following italicized words from the verse: *inspiration* means “God breathed”—that is, God influenced the authors of Scripture as they wrote; *profitable* means “helpful, beneficial, useful”—that is, God's Word is very helpful. The next four words describe how God's Word is profitable: *doctrine* means “teaching, rules to be followed”; *reproof* means “judging, rebuking”; *correction* means “making or setting right”; *instruction* means “teaching what should be obeyed.”

LESSON 2

The Destruction of Job's Wealth

Job 1:13–22

One day, Job's sons and daughters had come together as they often did. They were eating and drinking in the house of their oldest brother.

That same day, a messenger came to Job and told him that the oxen had been out plowing. The donkeys were out with the oxen. Suddenly, a band of raiding warriors called Sabeans had come up. The Sabeans had taken all the oxen and all the donkeys. With swords, they had also killed all the servants who were there. The servant who came to tell Job what had happened was the only servant who survived.

While this first servant was still talking, a second servant ran up. He told Job that the fire of God had come down from heaven and burned up all Job's sheep along with all the servants who were watching them. This servant was the only one who escaped, and he had immediately come to tell Job what had happened.

Before the second servant was done talking, a third servant ran up to talk to Job. This one told Job that a band of Chaldeans had come and raided the camels and killed the servants. The camels were all gone, and the servants were dead.

Once again, only the servant who came to tell Job what had happened survived the attack.

This was all terrible; but while the third servant was speaking, a fourth came running to Job. He had the worst news of all, for all of Job's children were dead. A great wind had come up from the wilderness and struck the house where Job's children were eating and drinking. The house collapsed, and everyone inside died except for one servant who immediately came to tell Job the bad news.

Job stood up and tore his clothes. He shaved his head in a sign of mourning. Then he bowed down and worshiped God. He said, "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked shall I return there. The LORD gave, and the LORD has taken away; blessed be the name of the LORD" (Job 1:21).

Although Job was very sad, he did not blame the Lord for anything that had happened. He knew the Lord had given him everything he had, and he knew the Lord had the ability to take everything away. In all of this, Job did not sin against the Lord.

Questions

1. Job's sheep died when a great _____ from heaven burned them up.
2. Job's children died when a great _____ collapsed their house and killed them.
3. Job was very sad when he lost everything, but he _____ the Lord anyway.

Thought Questions

Everything we have was given to us by God. Does it make sense to say that we rely on God for our very lives? Do you know that God can take away anything He has given us at a moment's notice?

Catechism

Question 58: What must you do to be saved?

Answer 58: I must repent of my sin and believe in Christ as my Savior.

Memory Verse

2 Timothy 3:16

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LESSON 3

Job's Illness

Job 2:1-13

Another day came when the sons of God presented themselves before the Lord of heaven and earth. Once again, Satan was among them. He came before the Lord just as before.

Again, God asked Satan where he had been. And again, Satan answered that he had been coming and going on the earth. This time, God asked Satan, "Have you considered My servant Job, that there is none like him on the earth, a blameless and upright man, one who fears God and shuns evil? And still he holds fast to his integrity, although you incited Me against him, to destroy him without cause" (Job 2:3). This verse says that Job held fast to his *integrity*, which means that he faithfully held fast to what he knew was right and did not change.

Satan, however, was unimpressed with Job's faithfulness to God. He told God that Job was content to worship God as long as he himself was healthy. Satan said that if God would hurt Job himself, then the man would curse God to His face.

So God allowed Satan to continue to test Job. This time, Satan was allowed to do whatever he wanted to Job's physical body as long as he did not kill him.

Then Satan left God's presence. With very little left to take from Job, Satan struck the man with painful boils, which are sores that swell and become infected. From the top of his head to the bottoms of his feet, Job was covered with these

boils. He was so miserable that he sat in the middle of a pile of ashes and scraped at his skin with a broken piece of pottery.

When Job's wife saw all the terrible things that had happened to her husband, she became very angry. She told Job, "Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!" (Job 2:9).

Job, however, would not curse God. He warned his wife that speaking such things against God was foolish. He added, "Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?" (Job 2:10).

Once again, even though Job was in a great deal of pain, he was righteous and blameless in his words and actions. Job did not sin against God.

After this, three of Job's friends heard what had happened to Job. So they traveled to see him. Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite, and Zophar the Naamathite came to mourn with Job and to comfort him.

When they came close to their friend, they did not even recognize him. Then they tore their clothes and sprinkled dust on their heads in mourning with their friend. Finally, they sat down with Job for seven days and nights. During those seven days and nights, Job's friends did not speak a single word to him, for they saw that his grief was very great.

Questions

1. Satan was allowed to make Job _____ this time.
2. Job's wife told Job he should _____ God and die.
3. Three _____ came to visit Job.

Thought Question

What does it mean to "hold fast to your integrity"?

Catechism

Question 58: What must you do to be saved?

Answer 58: I must repent of my sin and believe in Christ as my Savior.

Memory Verse

2 Timothy 3:16

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LESSON 4

Job's Three Friends

Job 3:1–10:22

After the seven days and nights were over, Job began to speak. He cursed the day he was born, saying it would have been better if he had never been born at all. He wished he had died at birth instead of living a life so full of grief and pain. Job was so miserable that he wished he was dead.

Then Job's friend Eliphaz began to talk to Job. He thought that Job must have sinned to bring such terrible tragedies upon himself. He claimed that no one who was upright, or good, would be cut off and destroyed the way Job had been. He thought that only those who were wicked would be touched by trouble.

Eliphaz talked for a long time, warning Job of what happens to men who ignore God's judgment on sin. He told Job that if he would just find out what sin had caused his troubles and repent before God of that sin, then God would lift him up and deliver him from trouble.

Although much of what Eliphaz said sounded good and was even true, he did not understand God's workings as well as he thought he did. He also did not understand Job's true situation.

Job answered Eliphaz but continued to say that he was right.

He had not sinned. Instead, God was working in his life for other reasons. He said, "Oh ... that it would please God to crush me, that He would loose His hand and cut me off!" (Job 6:9). He also told Eliphaz to stop accusing him of sin. He wished for the kindness of friends instead of accusations.

Job made sure to tell his friends that he was innocent of sin. Then he began to cry out to God, asking what he had done.

After this, Job's second friend, Bildad, began to speak. He told Job that there must be sin in his life and that he must repent. He thought that if Job were truly righteous, then God would already have blessed him once again.

Once again, Job answered his friend. He knew that the Lord was mighty in all things and would punish the wicked. God's ways are not man's ways. He knew his troubles were coming from God, but he did not know why.

Mostly, Job did not understand why God, who had created him, would want to destroy him. He did not understand how his suffering could glorify God. He knew his troubles were not punishment for sin, but he did not understand why he was being troubled.

Questions

1. Job's friends thought his unconfessed _____ caused all his troubles.
2. Job disagreed with his friends because he said that he had not _____.
3. Job did not understand how his suffering could _____ God.

Thought Question

How might Job's suffering have brought glory to God?

Catechism

Question 58: What must you do to be saved?

Answer 58: I must repent of my sin and believe in Christ as my Savior.

Memory Verse

2 Timothy 3:16

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LESSON 5

Week 1 Review

Memory Verse

2 Timothy 3:16

Catechism

Question 1: Who made you?

Question 2: What else did God make?

Question 3: Why did God make you and all things?

Question 58: What must you do to be saved?

To the Teacher : The answers to catechism questions 1–3 are found on page 265.

Activity

Number the Order of Events

Number the parts of Job's story in order from one to four.

_____ Job's three friends come to visit.

_____ Job gets boils.

_____ Satan first appears before God.

_____ Job's children are killed.