



HUMAN SUFFERING

Please note that this teaching text has not been proofed.

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson #1

APPROVED BY GOD

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Probably the oldest book of the Bible is Job. There is no mention of the Jewish Law in Job. Therefore the book must have been written before God gave the Law. After his calamities recorded in Job, chapter 1, Job lived 140 years. (See Job 42:16.) So he may have died at about age 200. This corresponds to the ages of men in the book of Genesis. Thus Job could have lived around the time of Abraham or Jacob.

The book of Job teaches us how one man suffered. From Job's experiences, we learn this: we are to trust God in suffering.

There are additional reasons for the suffering of Christian believers. For example: God sometimes sends suffering to chasten (discipline) His own (1 Corinthians 11:28-30). Suffering may be for our instruction (2 Corinthians 12:7-10). Suffering is part of the learning process. By it, a believer is prepared to share God's holiness (Hebrews 12:8-10). Suffering is proof of God's genuine love for His children (Hebrews 12:6, 8). Suffering can be for a testimony to others

(John 9:3). Suffering is the result of the battle between Satan and God (Job 1:1-2:13). Suffering comes because of the fall (Romans 8:20-23).

God's purpose always is to conform us to the image of His Son. His ways are right even though we may not understand them. (See Romans 8:28-29; Hebrews 12:11.) If we suffer with Christ, we shall also reign with Him (2 Timothy 2:12). Glorious truth!

On each of four posters, print one of Job's characteristics. (See Job 1:1-8.) Whenever one of these attributes is mentioned, display appropriate poster.

1. Job was BLAMELESS.
2. Job was UPRIGHT.
3. Job FEARED GOD.
4. Job TURNED FROM EVIL.

This lesson includes excellent material on each of these four subjects. You know your students. Therefore you will know how much to stress each character trait.

Scripture to be studied: Job 1:1-5, 8; verses cited in lesson

The aim of the lesson: To show that God approved of Job.

What your students should know: They can be acceptable to God.

What your students should feel: A desire to be approved by God.

What your students should do: Read the Bible and pray each day (2 Timothy 2:15; 1 Thessalonians 5:17-18).

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. Job's reputation in Uz (Job 1:3).
2. Job's family (Job 1:2, 4-5).
3. God's opinion of Job (Job 1:1, 8).
4. God's opinion of us (Verses cited in lesson).

The verse to be memorized:

Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him. (James 1:12)

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

The Bible word "tempt" means to *try, test, prove, or to lure to evil*. In James 1:2, 12, "temptation" refers to being *tested*. A test is intended to prove the quality of one's character. The person who stands the test receives a "crown of life" (James 1:12). This is one of the rewards for the Christian.

God allowed Job to be tested. And he allows us to have testings. To persevere under testing, is to be assured of eternal reward.

THE LESSON

Close your eyes for a moment. Think of someone you know who very much loves the Lord. Open your eyes. Now mention one word which describes that person. (Encourage response.)