

CONFIDENTIAL

Scripture
Files



Week 4

BIBLE STORY

Job: Real or Fiction?

Job 1-42

TODAY'S TAKEAWAY

I should trust God even when I have a bad day.

APOLOGETICS QUESTION

Why were the 66 books chosen to be in the Bible?

SERIES MEMORIZATION GOAL

Kids will learn all 66 books of the Bible and be able to locate them in the Bible.

WEEKLY MEMORIZATION GOAL

Kids will learn the next five books of the Bible:
Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon.



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Large Group SKIT

OVERVIEW

The skits will require two people. One person will play himself or herself (the straight character), and the other person will play the funny character. It works best if you can find a person willing to commit to being the character for the entire series.

CHARACTER BIO

The character's name is Detective Anita Clue. If using a male for the character, Detective Cornelius Clue. Detective Anita is a true skeptic who is determined to find out if the Bible is the real deal, one question at a time. The case will be difficult to solve since Anita is easily distracted and forgetful. Consider putting your character in a trench coat, fedora, and sunglasses. Anita always carries her magnifying glass and her trusty brief case full of top secret files and "detective equipment." Optional: Set up a portion of your stage/room as Anita's office. The office could include a messy desk with files, stamps, a typewriter, magnifying glasses, Bibles, etc., a desk chair, filing cabinet, and a hat/coat rack.

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SKIT

- Leader:** *Walks out and Anita Clue is studying the Bible at her desk.*
Detective Clue, I see you are right on time today!
- Anita Clue:** I sure am! I don't have much time to talk today, so we are going to have to make this snappy!
- Leader:** Why don't you have much time today?
- Anita Clue:** I told you already, I'm the best detective at the agency, and I have lots of other cases going on at the same time as this one.
- Leader:** Wow! That must be stressful. Maybe you should just call this case closed. I mean we have answered a lot of your questions...
- Anita Clue:** Not so fast! I have many more questions to bring to you about this case. We are just getting started, and I will never rush closing a case, especially not one of this level of importance.
- Leader:** I guess you're right. This is a very important case, and we want to help you solve it!
- Anita Clue:** Great! Last week you did a great job of convincing me that the Bible really did come from God, but today I have a very important question to ask.
- Leader:** What is it? I am ready for anything!
- Anita Clue:** Here it is: Why were the 66 books chosen to be in the Bible?
- Leader:** This is a good one! The 66 books are also called the Canon. The Canon simply means the list of books recognized as written by God. God himself determined the Canon; the church only discovered it. If we believe that God inspired and gave the words to the authors to write, we must also believe that he directed the process of deciding which books would be included in the Bible.
- Anita Clue:** That's great, but how did they decide which books were inspired by God and should be included in the Bible?

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Leader: The people who were collecting the books would ask certain questions to determine whether or not a book should be included, just like you keep asking me questions! They would ask questions like: Was it written by a prophet, an apostle, or someone closely associated with God? Was the author confirmed by acts of God? Did the book's message tell the truth about God? Was it accepted by God's people? If the answer to those and many other questions was yes, it was chosen to be included.

Anita Clue: That doesn't sound like such a difficult process.

Leader: It was actually a very long and complicated process to get to the point where they knew, without a doubt, that a book should be included in the Bible.

Anita Clue: I can't even imagine being a part of the group that had to make that decision. I bet they had to do a lot of investigating.

Leader: Hey! That sounds a lot like your job!

Anita Clue: I guess you're right! Well, I've already come up with another question for next week, but alas, I must go! I have another investigation waiting for me... *runs out of the room.*

Leader: *Yelling after Detective Clue* Hey! What's the question? She never listens to me... *walks off the stage*

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Large Group Game: Bible Dice

SUPPLIES

- Two Jumbo Dice or DIY Dice out of small boxes
- Labels/Marker

SETUP

- If using Jumbo Dice, create labels for each of the six sides on one of the die: Old Testament, New Testament, Law, History, Poetry, Author. Put the labels on each side of one of the die. Create labels for the other die with actions: 10 jumping jacks, spin 7 times, 5 push-ups, hop 6 times, dance move, hop on one foot. Put the labels on each side of the other die.
- If using DIY Dice, use small boxes and write the categories on the boxes directly, using a large marker.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Go over the 22 books we have learned so far and remind the kids which are considered books of law (Genesis-Deuteronomy), history (Joshua-Esther), or poetry (Job-Song of Solomon).
2. Choose two kids to play and give each kid one dice.
3. When the leader says "Go," the kids will roll the die. They must answer, according to the category, while doing the action before the other kid. I.e. Dice says History and 5 push-ups – The kids must say a book of history and perform 5 push-ups.
Dice says Author and spin 7 times –The kids must say a book of the Bible and its author and spin 7 times.
4. Keep playing, choosing two new kids for each round.

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Large Group Message

SUPPLIES

- A Bible in your preferred version (This curriculum primarily uses the NLT version and occasionally NIV.)
- White board/poster board
- Marker
- Nice Robe
- Flashy ring, necklace, crown, anything that would make someone appear to be rich
- Fake money
- Blindfold
- Two pieces of candy/small prizes

INTRODUCTION

Last week we learned about the twelve books of history found in the Old Testament. Can anyone tell me what those twelve books are? **Allow kids to respond. If they can't answer, help them or have all the kids say them with you.** Great news! This week we are only learning about five new books, called the books of poetry. **Have all kids say the books with you: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Solomon.** The last seventeen books we have learned about were all about history and the people of Israel. We are switching gears this week as we learn about the books of poetry which are more about individual people and the human heart. They are

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poetical in form, but they are about real human experiences.

Let's take a look at each of these books to find out what they are about, when they were written, and who wrote them.

JOB = Blessing through Suffering (more in the message)

Job is the oldest book in the Bible written around 2000 B.C. The author is unknown, but some believe that it was written by Job, Moses, or Solomon at a much later date.

PSALMS = Praise through Prayer

Psalms is really five books rolled into one that goes along with the books of the law, Genesis-Deuteronomy. Psalms was written around 1000 B.C., with David writing most of the Psalms and several other authors writing the rest.

PROVERBS = Wisdom

Proverbs are short sayings that speak the truth. The book was written between 950-700 B.C. by Solomon.

ECCLESIASTES = Search for Purpose

In Ecclesiastes, a main theme is that life without God has no meaning. Ecclesiastes was written around 931 B.C. by Solomon in his old age, likely right before he died.

SONG OF SOLOMON (SONGS) = Love Song

Song of Solomon, also known as Song of Songs, was written around 965 B.C., most likely by Solomon as well, but when he was still young.

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BIBLE STORY

Today we are going to take a look at the first book of poetry, Job. It's a pretty long book with 42 chapters, and it's all about one guy named Job. We are going to look at the highlights of Job's life and learn about how he was able to remain faithful to God through some pretty bad days.

Turn with me to Job 1. **Allow the kids time to do so.**

I need a volunteer to come up and play Job. **Choose a kid to play Job. Put the robe and accessories on him as you talk about him.** Let's read Job 1:1-3 to learn a little more about the main character in this book: "There once was a man named Job who lived in the land of Uz. He was blameless—a man of complete integrity. He feared God and stayed away from evil. He had seven sons and three daughters. He owned 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 teams of oxen, and 500 female donkeys. He also had many servants. He was, in fact, the richest person in that entire area." Wow! Job sounds like a pretty big deal! **Walk over to the white board and go back over all of the children and things Job had, writing them down on the board.** On top of all the children and animals Job had, he was the richest guy around. **Hand Job some fake money.** Don't get too jealous just yet. Things were about to take a turn for the worst for Job!

One day, Satan came to God to talk about Job. That's definitely not good. Let's check out their conversation in Job 1:7-12: "Satan answered the Lord, 'I have been patrolling the earth, watching everything that's going on.' Then the Lord asked Satan, 'Have you noticed my servant Job? He is the finest man in all the earth. He is blameless—a man of complete integrity. He fears God and stays away from evil.' Satan replied to the Lord, 'Yes, but Job has good reason to fear God. You have always put a wall of protection around him and his home and his property. You have made him prosper in everything he does. Look how rich he is! But reach out and

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take away everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face!' 'All right, you may test him,' the Lord said to Satan. 'Do whatever you want with everything he possesses, but don't harm him physically.' So Satan left the Lord's presence."

God was so confident in Job's faithfulness to Him that he believed there was nothing Satan could do to turn him away from trusting in Him. Things quickly turned bad for Job. One day, all of Job's sons and daughters were having a party at the oldest brother's house. A messenger came to Job to tell him that some bad people came and took all of his oxen and donkeys and killed all the people who took care of them. **Go over to the white board and cross out the oxen and donkeys.** At the same time, another messenger arrived with more bad news for Job. He said that fire had fallen from heaven and burned up all his sheep and shepherd. **Go over to the white board and cross out the sheep.** A third messenger showed up with even more bad news. He said that someone else had come and stolen Job's camels. **Go over to the white board and cross out the camels.** A fourth messenger showed up with the worst news yet. He said that the house of his oldest son had collapsed with all of his children inside. **Go over to the white board and cross out Job's kids.**

After all this happened to Job, he tore his robe because he was very sad have Job look sad, but he also fell to the ground and worshipped God! **Have job fall to his knees and worship.** Job 1:22 says, "In all of this, Job did not sin by blaming God." Job had been through a lot, but he still trusted in God.

Satan again came to God and asked God to allow him to test Job one more time. The Bible says that Satan struck Job with terrible boils from head to foot! Boils are red and painful lumps. Not fun at all! **Have Job scratch himself and look in pain.** At this point, even Job's wife said that he should give up. She said, "Curse God and die." However Job responded in Job 2:10, "'You talk like a foolish woman. Should we accept only good things from the hand of God and never anything bad?' So in all this, Job said nothing wrong." After this there are about 39 chapters of Job going

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back and forth arguing with his friends about whether or not he had sinned enough to deserve what had happened to him.

Finally, in chapter 42 we see things turn around for the better for Job. God speaks to Job and his friends and tells Job to pray for forgiveness for his friends not speaking the truth about Job or God. **Have Job kneel down to pray.** After Job prayed for his friends, something amazing happened! God gave him twice as much of everything he had before! **Go over to the board and write 2x big on top of everything on the board.** Job 42:12-13 says, "So the LORD blessed Job in the second half of his life even more than in the beginning. For now he had 14,000 sheep, 6,000 camels, 1,000 teams of oxen, and 1,000 female donkeys. He also gave Job seven more sons and three more daughters." Let's give a hand for our Job today! **Allow the kid to go back to his seat.**

Many people believe that Job was not a real person. They think Job's life is more like a parable, or a story you read in a storybook that teaches you something. They don't believe that all of that destruction and hardship could happen all in one day. However, we believe Job was absolutely a real person. Why? Well, Job is mentioned three other times outside of the book of Job, and every time he is considered a real, historical person. One of those times is found in James 5:10-11: "For examples of patience in suffering, dear brothers and sisters, look at the prophets who spoke in the name of the Lord. We give great honor to those who endure under suffering. For instance, you know about Job, a man of great endurance. You can see how the Lord was kind to him at the end, for the Lord is full of tenderness and mercy." Those verses definitely speak of a real, living, breathing person.

Job had way more than a bad day! Basically everything Job cared about was taken from him. He had painful boils all over his body, and even his friends and wife told him to stop trusting in God. Through all of that, Job remained faithful to God and continued to trust Him.

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LIFE APPLICATION/OBJECT LESSON

I need a volunteer to come up and help me. **Choose a volunteer to come up to the front of the room.** Would you trust me if I offered you this piece of candy? **Allow kid to respond and take the candy. Blindfold the kid while you talk.** It's easy to trust someone when we can see what they are offering us and we know it's good. However, bad days can blind us. They make it hard for us to trust anyone, especially God. **Offer another piece of candy to the kid, but this time they can't see what it is.** Was it easier to trust me when you could see what I was offering you? **Allow kid to respond and take off their blindfold. The kid can now have a seat.** God has a plan for each of us, and He wants to give us good things. Sometimes it can be hard to believe that when we face bad days and hard times. What is our takeaway? **Allow a kid to respond.** That's right! I should trust God even when I have a bad day. Being a Christian doesn't mean everything will always be easy for us, but it does mean we will always have Someone we can trust and turn to when we have a bad day.

Let's take a moment, just like Job did, to worship and praise God, even if we are in the middle of a bad day.

Optional: Offer a prayer of salvation for any kids who have not accepted Jesus into their lives.

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Large Group Review Questions

1. What is the Scripture Files series about?
Answer: Investigating God's Word and learning about truths found in every section of the Bible.
2. What are the five books of Old Testament poetry? |
Answer: Job, Psalms, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, and Song of Solomon (Songs)
3. What is another name for the 66 books included in the Bible?
Answer: The Canon
4. What happened when Job chose to trust in God and prayed for his friends?
Answer: God blessed him with twice as much of everything he had before the test.
5. What is Today's Takeaway?
Answer: I should trust God even when I have a bad day.

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Small Group Discussion Questions

1. What is one new thing you learned about the Bible today?
2. Why do you think God allowed Satan to test Job in such a big way?
3. Do you believe things should always be easy and good for Christians?
Why or why not?
4. Is it harder for you to trust God when you are having a bad day?
Optional: The leader can share an example of something hard they have had to go through and how God helped them. Keep the example age-appropriate to the kids in the group.
5. Have kids look up these verses and discuss them as a group.
John 14:27, Psalm 34:17-18, 2 Corinthians 12:9-10

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Small Group Game: Bible Ball

SUPPLIES

- Large ball(s) or beach ball(s)
- Black permanent marker

SETUP

- Divide your ball into five sections using the permanent marker. Write Old, New, Law, History, and Poetry in each of the five sections.

HOW TO PLAY

1. Everyone can play. If you have a bigger group you may want to have multiple balls and split the group into smaller groups to engage all of the kids.
2. Go over the books we have learned so far and which ones are considered law (Genesis-Deuteronomy), History (Joshua-Esther), and Poetry (Job-Song of Solomon).
3. Have the kids get into a circle or circles with some space between each of the kids.
4. Give the ball to one of the kids and have them pass it to another kid in the circle. Whatever section of the ball his right hand lands on, he must say a book from that section of the Bible. I.e. His hand lands on Law, he would say Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, or Deuteronomy.
5. Keep playing, making sure everyone gets a chance to catch the ball at least once.