

Job and His Ultimate Rotten Day

Job is a book of suffering. We find a man who is very wealthy who loses everything; his sons and daughters, his servants and his livestock. He has friends, but they are of no comfort. Through it all he still has the faith and trust in God to say, “though He slay me, yet will I trust Him.”

Say it! Play it! Pray it!

Objectives:	<p>Play out the Role of Job and his ultimate rotten day. Gain insight into your own faith. Have fun with your family.</p> <p>As with any play acting, please prepare yourself with prayer. Because of the extreme physical and mental trauma that Job experienced, this play may be quite distressful. Especially for younger children. Be prepared to reassure them of yours and God’s love. And, remind them that God will not allow us to be tempted beyond what we are able.</p>
Number of Players:	4 or more (narrator, Job, God, Job’s wife, Job’s 3 friends (Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar - you can have one person play all three), Satan
Length:	30 minutes - 1 hour
Set up:	<p>You can get as elaborate as you like.</p> <p>As the Narrator is reading, the separate characters should act out what is being said and dramatize how these events make them feel.</p>
Props:	Have a separate area that is Job’s house and another area for the court of the Lord. Dolls and stuffed animals to be used as the property of Job.

Narrator: There was a man in the land of Uz, whose name was Job; and that man was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil. And seven sons and three daughters were born to him. Also, his possessions were seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen, five hundred female donkeys, and a very large household, so that this man was the greatest of all the people of the East.

Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord and Satan also came among them. And the Lord said to Satan,

God: From where do you come?

Satan: From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.

God: 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?

Satan: Does Job fear God for nothing? Have You not made a hedge around him, around his household, and around all that he has on every side? You have blessed the work of his hands, and his possessions have increased in the land. But now, stretch out Your hand and touch all that he has, and he will surely curse You to Your face!

God: Behold, all that he has is in your power; only do not lay a hand on his person.

Narrator: So Satan went out from the presence of the Lord. Four rapid-fire disasters destroy Job's livestock, servants and kids. Only four servants survive. (Satan should snatch all of Job's property - dolls and stuffed animals)

Then Job arose, tore his robe and shaved his head; and he fell to the ground and worshiped.

Job: Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I shall return there. The Lord gave, and the Lord has taken away; Blessed be the name of the Lord.

Narrator: In all this Job did not sin nor charge God with wrong.

Again there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the Lord, and Satan came also among them to present himself before the Lord.

God: From where do you come?

Satan: From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.

God: I see you have been studying my servant Job. 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.

Satan: Skin for skin! Yes, all that a man has will he give for his life. But stretch out Your hand now, and touch his bone and his flesh, and he will surely curse You to Your face!

God: Behold, he is in your hand, but spare his life.

Narrator: Job gets painful boils from the sole of his foot to the crown of his head. He took a pottery shard and scraped his boils as he sat in the midst of ashes. His body was clothed with worms and scabs. His skin was broken and festering. His bones were in pain and never let him rest. His skin grew black and peeled and his body burnt with fever. He had night mares that terrified him.

Job's Wife (to Job): Do you still hold fast to your integrity? Curse God and die!

Job: You speak as one of the foolish women speaks. Shall we indeed accept good from God, and shall we not accept adversity?

Narrator: In all this Job did not sin with his lips.

Now when Job's three friends heard of all this adversity that had come upon him, each one came from his own place; Eliphaz the Temanite, Bildad the Shuhite and Zophar the Naamathite. For they had made an appointment together to come and mourn with him, and comfort him. They sat on the ground for seven days and no one spoke a word to him. After this Job opened his mouth...

Job: May the day perish on which I was born, and the night in which it was said, "A male child is conceived."

Eliphaz: You have sinned and God is punishing you. Who ever perished being innocent?

Job: Oh, that my grief were fully weighed, and my calamity laid with it on the scales! For then it would be heavier than the sand of the sea; Therefore my words have been rash.

Bildad: You are a hypocrite and your kids were killed for their sins.

Job: My soul loathes my life; I will give free course to my complaint, I will speak in the bitterness of my soul I will say to God, 'Do not condemn me; show me why You contend with me. Does it

seem good to You that You should oppress, that You should despise the work of Your hands, and smile on the counsel of the wicked?’

Hold your peace with me, and let me speak, then let come on me what may! Though He slay me, yet will I trust Him. Even so, I will defend my own ways before Him. He also shall be my salvation, for a hypocrite could not come before Him.

Eliphaz: Should a wise man answer with empty knowledge, and fill himself with the East wind? Your iniquity teaches your mouth and you choose the tongue of the crafty.

Job: I have heard many such things; Miserable comforters are you all! Shall your words of wind have no end? Or what provokes you that you answer? Oh, that my words were written! Oh, that they were inscribed in a book! That they were engraved on a rock with an iron pen and lead, forever! For I know that my Redeemer lives and He shall stand at last on the earth and after my skin is destroyed, this I know, that in my flesh I shall see God, Whom I shall see for myself, and my eyes shall behold, and not another. How my heart yearns within me!

Eliphaz: Your wickedness is great and your iniquity without end. You have taken pledges from your brother for no reason and stripped the naked of their clothing. You have not given the weary water to drink, and you have withheld bread from the hungry. You have sent widows away empty, and the strength of the fatherless you have crushed. That is why these problems have come upon you.

Job: Even today my complaint is bitter; My hand is listless because of my groaning. Oh, that I knew where I might find Him, that I might come to His seat! I would present my case before Him, and fill my mouth with arguments. Look, I go forward, but He is not there, and backward, but I cannot perceive Him; When He works on the left hand, I cannot behold Him; When He turns to the right hand I cannot see Him. But He knows the way that I take; When He tests me, I shall come forth as gold.

Narrator: Finally Satan is silenced. Although Job is left with nothing, he continues to follow God. Then the Lord answered Job out of the whirlwind, and said:

God: Who is this who darkens counsel by words without knowledge? Now prepare yourself like a man; I will question you, and you shall answer Me. Where were you when I laid the foundations of the earth? Tell Me, if you have understanding. Who determined its measurements? Surely you know! Or who stretched the line upon it?

Job: Behold, I am vile; What shall I answer You? I lay my hand over my mouth. Once I have spoken, but I will not answer; Yes, twice, but I will proceed no further. I know that You can do everything and that no purpose of Yours can be withheld from You. You asked, ‘Who is this who hides counsel without knowledge?’ Therefore I have uttered what I did not understand, things too wonderful for me, which I did not know. Listen, please, and let me speak; You said, ‘I will question you, and you shall answer Me.’ I have heard of You by the hearing of the ear, but now my eye sees You. Therefore I abhor myself, and repent in dust and ashes.

Narrator: And the Lord restored Job’s losses when he prayed for his friends. Indeed the Lord gave Job twice as much as he had before. And after this Job lived one hundred and forty years, and saw his children and grandchildren for four generations.



FAMILY STUDY

Discussion: Have each person share how it felt to them to play the role they did and what insights they gained about the people they played, God's character and their own life.

Questions to consider: Why do you think that Satan wanted to destroy Job? What kind of friends, counselors did Job have? And what about his wife, was she a helpmate to him? What can you learn about how to be a friend and a spouse from these people in Job's life? What spiritual battles are you experiencing in your life? How can we be supportive and help each other through spiritual warfare and trials?

Prayer: Close in prayer thanking God for His provision and for all that you have learned and the fun you had with your family.