

SACRED STORY

THE STORY OF JOB

LESSON NOTES

**FOCUS: WISDOM ABOUT THE DEPTHS OF FAITH AND SUFFERING
(THE BOOK OF JOB)**

- SACRED STORY
- ENRICHMENT STORY

THE MATERIAL

- LOCATION: OLD TESTAMENT SACRED STORY SHELVES, BOTTOM SHELF, UNDER "DANIEL"
- PIECES: 2 6" SQUARES OF GREEN FELT, 1 6" SQUARE OF BROWN FELT, 1 6" SQUARE OF GREY FELT, 18 PEOPLE OF GOD (JOB, MRS. JOB, JOB'S 7 CHILDREN, 5 NEW CHILDREN, JOB'S 4 FRIENDS), PLASTIC CAMEL, SHEEP AND COW, WHIRLWIND (CLAY SHAPED TO LOOK LIKE A TORNADO OR FUNNEL CLOUD), FISH HOOK, 10" PIECE OF FISHING LINE
- CONTROL
- UNDERLAY: DARK BROWN FELT STRIP, 42" X 11"

BACKGROUND

Job is linked in general to the search of the people of God for the mystery of the presence of God. It is a kind of commentary on the whole journey. Jewish tradition recognizes three kinds of literature in the Jewish scriptures: *the law* (including its stories), *the prophets* and *the writings*. Job is from the writings. Among the writings are psalms, poetry, visions and other kinds of literature. Job is unique. It is a folktale layered with levels of literary meaning about God's presence despite our inability to understand that presence.

NOTES ON THE MATERIAL

Job's story sits on a deep wooden or wicker tray (12" x 8" x 3"). The story icon (5" x 2.5") is a whirlwind. It can be attached to the end or the side of the tray depending on the size of the shelves, the classroom or other considerations. The underlay is a

strip of dark brown felt, 42" x 11". Each object in the story is approximately the same size (no more than 4" high and 4" wide). The story calls for the following objects: two 6" squares of green felt, one 6" square of brown felt, one 6" square of grey felt, 18 People of God (Job, Mrs. Job, Job's seven children, five new children and Job's four friends), a camel, sheep and cow, a whirlwind, a fish hook, and a 10" length of fishing line.

A control for the lesson is folded and placed in the tray for the children to use to check their work. The sequence of the story is important because when you change the sequence, you change the story.

SPECIAL NOTES

The core stories about the People of God are placed on the top of the sacred story shelves. The enrichment stories about the key people in the core stories are placed on the lower shelves of the sacred story section in the room, under the core stories they enrich and extend (see diagram below).

When you introduce the story of Job, take care to set it in the larger context of the sacred story of which it is a part. You can accomplish this by:

- presenting the top shelf story the week before and then following up with this,
- presenting the top shelf story briefly on the same day you present this, or
- standing by the shelf and reminding the children of the top shelf story before bringing this one to the circle.

As you tell the story of his life place objects on the underlay to remind you of each important event. Unroll the underlay slowly, just enough for each object, as if you are unrolling a timeline. At the end of the wondering, carefully place each object back in the tray saying something about each event like, "Here are Job's friends," and so forth. Lastly, model how to roll the underlay back up and place it in the tray.

