

LESSON 12 – JOB: A FATHER WHO PRAYED FOR HIS CHILDREN

JUNE 21, 2020

Background Scripture: Job 1

Lesson Passage: Job 1:1-5 (NASB)

Introduction: Job's home was certainly not a perfect home, but God testified to his faithfulness. The Bible points to prayer as one of Job's most faithful qualities. Job continually sought the Lord on his children's behalf with offerings and prayer. One might consider this a simple task if the family loves and serves God together. It doesn't say anything about the children's relationship with God. Job's wife is the only indicator we have of Job's family and she mocked Job's faithfulness ([Job 2:9](#)). But Job prayed often for his children whereas some fathers fail to intercede for their family until moved by a tragic event.

Job is best known for his patience in tribulation. However, he is also a role model for parents, especially fathers. He had ten children and prayed for each of them. The Bible offers many examples of fathers praying for their children, both born and unborn. King David fasted and prayed for a sick child ([2 Samuel 12:15-16](#)). He also prayed for his son Solomon to follow God's ways ([1 Chronicles 29:19](#)). Manoah prayed that God would direct him how to raise his unborn child ([Judges 13:8](#)). Read the account of the father in [Matthew 17:14-18](#). What did the father do to help his son? How could this be a picture of a father praying for his child?

Scripture Reference: Job 1:1-5 (NASB)

1 There was a man in the land of Uz whose name was Job; and that man was blameless, upright, fearing God and turning away from evil. 2 Seven sons and three daughters were born to him. 3 His possessions also were 7,000 sheep, 3,000 camels, 500 yoke of oxen, 500 female donkeys, and very many servants; and that man was the greatest of all the men of the east. 4 His sons used to go and hold a feast in the house of each one on his day, and they would send and invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them. 5 When the days of feasting had completed their cycle, Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This Job did continually.

Memory Verse: *5 When the days of feasting had completed their cycle, Job would send and consecrate them, rising up early in the morning and offering burnt offerings according to the number of them all; for Job said, "Perhaps my sons have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." Thus Job did continually.*

Topic Explored: "Job: A Father who Prayed for His Children" ~ Job consecrated his children. The word consecrate means "to set apart to something." In our case, as in Job's, it means set apart to God. Job interceded for each of his children because each child is unique. His children had different strengths and weaknesses, different struggles and temptations. So, he prayed for each of them according to their own needs. There's nothing wrong with praying general prayers for our children like for them to grow in Christlikeness. But, let's be specific. Job understood his children's potential to sin. This is why Job continually interceded before God for them. Let's also pray for our children that they may see the truth and beauty of the Lord Jesus Christ and give themselves to Him.

Lesson Focus: Job 1:1-5 (NASB)

Verses 1-3 ~ Job's character and reputation was spotless. He had a wonderful relationship with God and others. This was the foundation of his life that allowed him to sustain the future afflictions he would face. In those days, wealth was measured in land, animals and servants. Job was blessed with all three. His sheep provided food and clothing. The camels and donkeys provided transportation. The cattle provided food, milk, and labor. He needed many servants to take care of his ranch. He was the richest of the rich.

Verses 4-5 ~ Job had 7 sons and 3 daughters. They would get together, probably on birthdays, and have a party together. They enjoyed being together. Job would intercede to God for his children. They were the first thing on his mind in the morning. There is no indication that anything wicked was going on at the parties of Job's children. However, Job knew outward appearances can be deceiving, so he interceded on behalf of his children. Job prayed for their heart. Pray for your child's heart. Job's concern was that his children may have cursed God in their heart. He wished for his children to follow God. Pray that your children will do what God wants them to do. If you don't know what to pray for your children, pray that God's will be done in their life and that they would do God's will (See Matthew 6:10; Luke 22:42)

Job prayed for their relationship with God. The most important relationship our children will ever have is with God. Our prayer can't save our children. Salvation is personal. God has no grandchildren. But we can pray for them.

Job was a very rich man. But he did not allow his possessions to tempt him away from his relationship with God and responsibility to his family. Don't let the blessings distract you from the One who blessed. Also, it's important to realize that Job's children grew up in a good home with many blessings. It could be that they would see the blessings and forget God. Job did not allow all the blessings to lead him or his family away from God. The blessings brought them closer to God. Job knew that he couldn't be with his children all the time. As children grow up, they get out on their own and parents have little control over what happens to them. What can a parent do? We can pray for our children. Prayer goes where we cannot go. Prayer does what we cannot do. Prayer changes what we cannot change. As Job went to prayer, he set a godly example before his children. His morning sacrifice to God on their behalf impressed on his children the fear of God and the consequences of sin. He was a great example.

The irony is that in spite of all his prayers, his children all died in a severe storm (Job 1:18-19). Sometimes our prayers don't get answered the way we want them to. But that's what prayer is – asking. Sometimes God has a plan than we don't understand. This shouldn't stop us from praying. But we should always pray for God's will to be done for our children. We must trust Him.

Most parents want what is best for their children. We try to provide for all their needs and prepare them to face the world as adults. Send them to good schools and provide experiences that will enrich their lives. We want to protect them from any danger and deliver them from anything that would harm them. We will do anything for our children. But the best and most we can do for our children is pray for them – especially their relationship with God. All else is temporary. God is eternal. May we never become so pre-occupied with providing for the financial, athletic, and academic security of our children that we neglect the spiritual security that only God can give.

Let's talk about it. . .

How do you pray for your child(ren)?

Pray regularly. Bring every concern, dream, and desire about your child to God in fervent, persistent prayer. (Luke 18:1–8 contains a great parable on persistent prayer that must have been for parents of teenagers.)

Pray offensively. Before your child hits adolescence, pray for his peer group—that he will have at least one strong Christian buddy for the teenage years. Ask God to protect your child daily from others who would be an evil influence.

Pray defensively. Ask Him to remove friends of questionable character from our child's life. Pray also for that 'questionable friend'.

Pray intensely. Although fasting does not earn points with God, He, nonetheless, assumes in Scripture that we will fast and pray (Matthew 6:16–18) and promises to reward us if we do it correctly. Pray when God brings your child to mind. It may be at that very moment your child is facing a circumstance of critical importance.

Pray with your child. It's easy for prayer to become an exclusive dialogue—you and God. Pray with your child(ren). How thankful are we for our children? Let's praise and thank God for them daily! Let's also pray for them daily, interceding for them, setting them apart to God in prayer.

Making it personal:

- The sobering news about raising children is that we really have no ultimate control over whether our child will choose the narrow gate that leads to life (Matthew 7:14) or the wide gate that leads to destruction. The most powerful thing we can do for our kids is pray. Our prayers have a profound impact on our kids' lives.
- Our prayers for our children (and with our children!) are unimaginably significant. Through prayer, we get to partner with God in the work He is doing in the lives of our kids, all the while remembering that God has great plans for us in Christ – eternal and glorious plans! As we pray for our kids, we can trust that God has great plans for our kids in Christ. And not just temporal plans, but eternal plans.

Closing Prayer: *“Dear and Gracious Father, how grateful we are for the children with whom You have blessed us—both young and not so young! We pray for their safety and for God's peace to reign in their lives that they will come to know Him as the best Friend they will ever have! In Jesus' Name, we pray. Amen!”*