

Big Problems!

Job 1:1-2:10

Big Idea : God allowed Satan to take away all the good things in Job's life to prove that Job loved God for who he is and not what he had given him.

Aim : To teach that God is in control of all things; we can be confident that he will look after us even when life is difficult.

Series Context

The Series Context and Series Overview on page 3 provide important information to help you understand the purpose of this series and how the lessons relate to one another.



Leader's Study Notes

Read Job 1:1-2:10 noting Satan's power and authority compared to God's.

Use the following notes to help you think about the passage in more detail.

The book of Job opens with a prologue (1:1-2:13), setting the stage and introducing the main characters. This introduction can be broken down into five scenes – three on earth and two in heaven. Those on earth remain unaware of what is going on in heaven behind the scenes; only we, the readers, are given insight into why Job suffers.

1:1-5 These verses leave no doubt that Job was a righteous man, blessed by God and 'innocent' (blameless). He lived in Uz (Edom) and worshipped God, even acting as priest for his family.

1:6-12 'Angels' refers to God's heavenly servants (cf. Isaiah 6:1-2). The name 'Satan' means adversary or accuser. God's question does not suggest a lack of knowledge, but rather provides an opportunity for Satan to speak, just as God did for Adam in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:9).

Satan's accusation is based on God's protection and blessing; Satan did not doubt Job's goodness, but rather his motivation for worshipping God. He claimed that if Job's life were more difficult, he would have less reason to love God. Satan, however, could do nothing without God's permission. God allowed him to take away anything belonging to Job, but placed strict limits on Satan's power.

1:13-22 Of the four disasters that struck Job, two are natural and two are caused by men. They came from every side – Sabaeans from the South, Chaldeans from the North, lightning (fire from the sky) to the West and a mighty wind from the East. (These directions are inferred from what is known about the region at that time.)

Job's response rightly declares God's sovereignty in all of these events, though he is careful not to sin by blaming God. Job didn't simply accept what had happened as inescapable, but something God had allowed. He trusted God even while he experienced real pain and sorrow (1:20).

2:1-6 Having failed to cause Job to sin in his suffering, Satan returned to God with a second challenge. If God removed his protection from the man and took away his health, Satan believed that Job would then turn on God.

2:7-10 The ash-heap outside the city where Job went to mourn is a picture of his isolation and grief. Whether Job's wife spoke out of hatred of God or because she wanted Job's pain to end is unclear. Job reminded her of God's right to give and to take away, again disproving Satan's claims.

Job responded to his suffering in two ways: by trusting God and with sorrow. Although these may appear contradictory, they must be held together. If we do not trust God in our suffering we will find ourselves hopeless; if we do not feel the pain of suffering we will soon become hardened and loveless. The true Christian response to suffering will involve both of these and, like Job, can even lead us to worship.

Permission Granted

Choose two children to complete a task

Give each child a jug of water and five cups placed in a line on a tray.

They need to fill each cup to the brim without it overflowing.

Whenever you say 'freeze' they must obey and hold the position they are in even if they are still pouring!

When you say 'go' they continue the race to fill the rest of the cups.

The tray will catch some of the overflowing water, but don't make the 'freeze' time too long or the trays will also overflow.

Ask the children which child they think obeyed your instructions the best? They may say the child who didn't spill any water and came closest to filling the cups. Did that child listen when you told them to freeze and to go? Today's true story from the Bible is about someone who was in charge of everything and someone who could only act when they had permission.

Four corners

Before the lesson print out the pictures on page 14 and cut as marked. Place one picture in each of the four corners of the room. Play some music for the children to move around to. When the music stops the leader counts down from three while the children choose a picture to stand under. The leader then points to one of the categories without looking and says e.g. "Job lost all his camels" or "Job's sheep were taken". Any children who are standing in the corner with the named picture are out for one round and have to stand by the leader on the 'ash heap'. Start the music again and continue the game.

Remind the children that in today's true story from the Bible Job lost everything that he had. Can the children remember what he lost/what was taken? [Oxen, donkeys, servants, sheep, camels, house, children, health.] Can they remember what Job did and said when this happened?

Ten Pin Bowling Game (to be played as a family)

Need:

- - 10 children's pins (i.e. plastic) (anything that can be knocked down)
- - tennis balls
- - 10 stickers or labels that can be taped to each pin with the following words or pictures, one per sticker/label: *Job, Job's son, Job's daughter, Job's servants, Job's sheep, Job's oxen, Job's camels, Job's donkeys*

Aim: to knock down as many pins as you can, but leave the Job pin standing.

Points...

- One point for every pin knocked down.
- Five bonus points if the Job pin is left standing.

To play:

- Face the stickers/labels forward.
- Place the Job pin at the back in the middle to make it harder to knock him down.
- Children take it in turns to knock pins down.
- keep a tally of each child's score (see above for how to score points).
- You may like to have the top four scorers play again to see who is the champion bowler.

Conclusion:

- *Bad things happened to Job again and again and again.*
- *One by one, everything was taken away from Job.*
- *In the end he'd lost almost everything.*
- *But Job did not get angry with God.*
- *Job knew that, whatever happened, God is always right and God is always good.*



Activity

For 3-7s – choose either Activity A (pages 15 and 16) or Activity B (page 17).

Activity A – Print pages 15 (one copy for each child) and 16 (one copy for every two children) onto paper.

Before the lesson cut out the triangles and the main square. Use a paperclip to keep one set of four triangles and one square together for each child.

The children colour in the pictures then fold inwards along the dashed lines on the square so that the corners all meet in the middle.

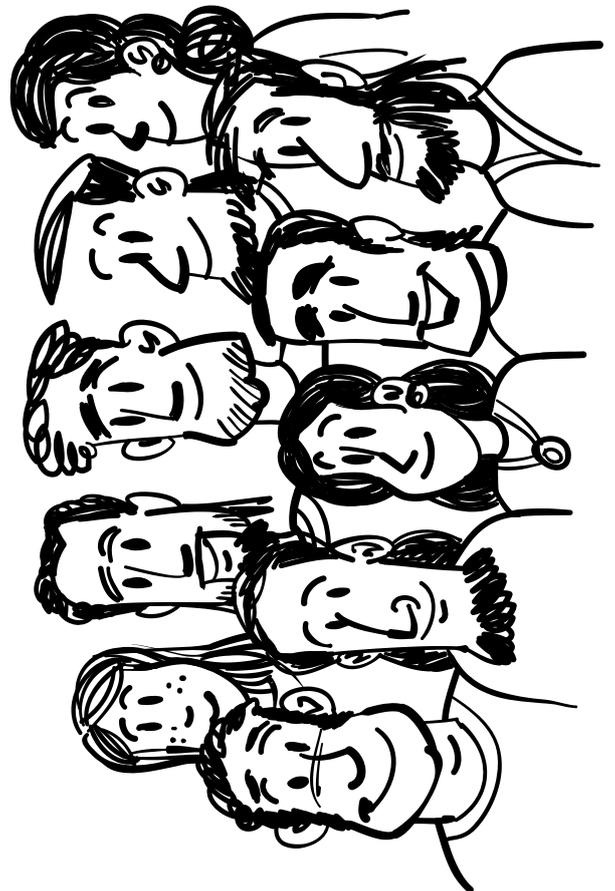
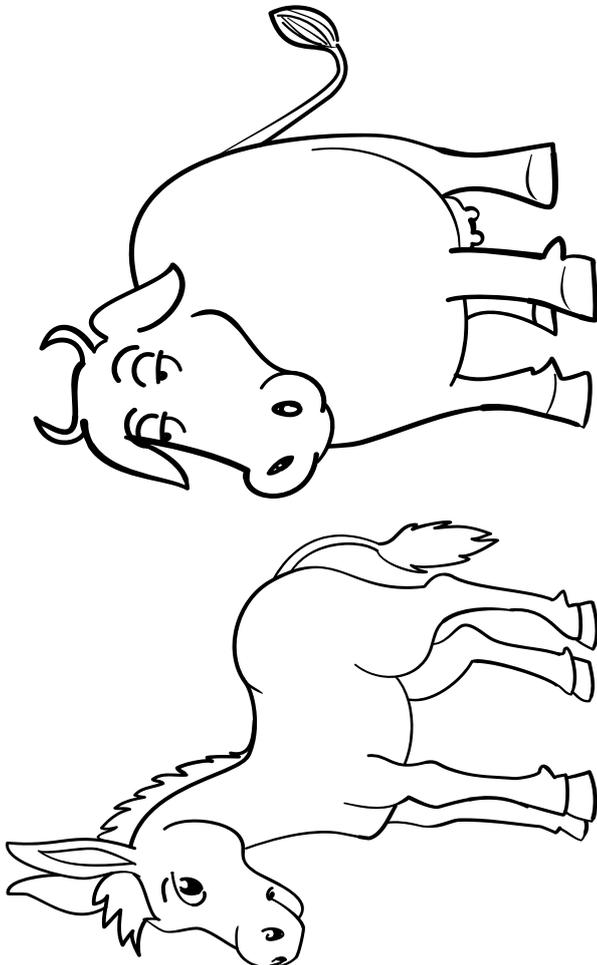
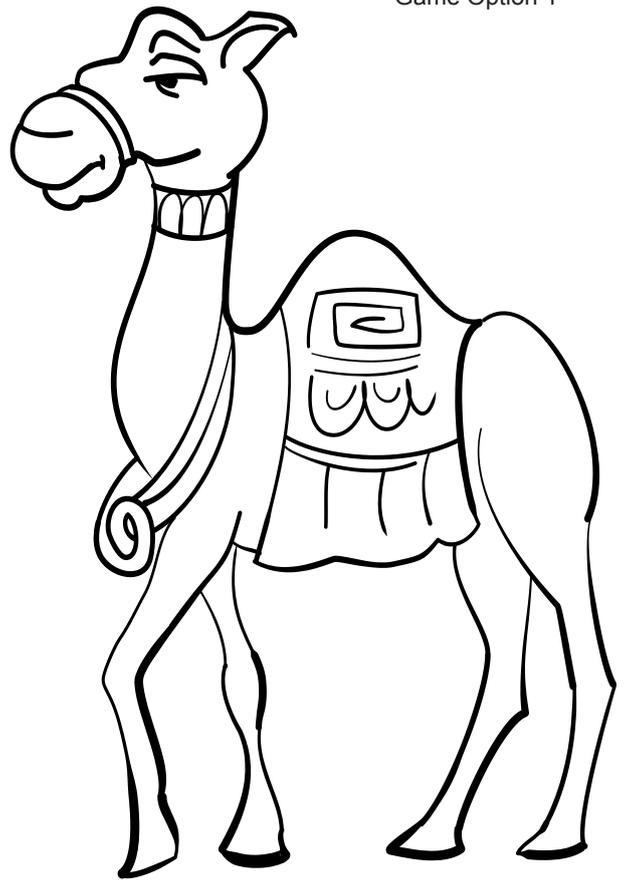
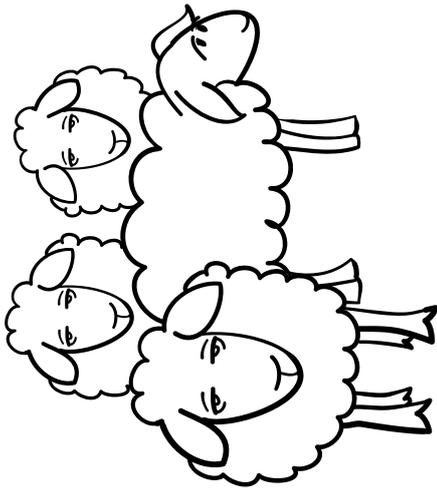
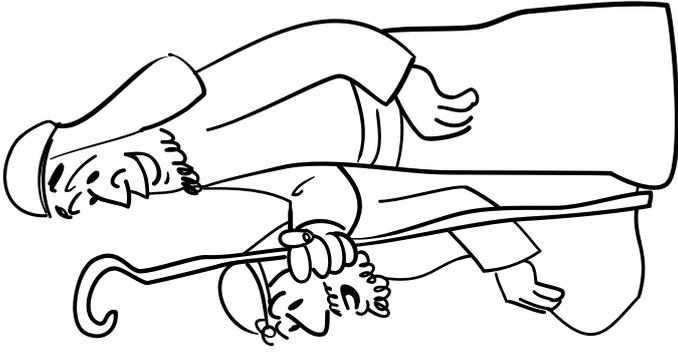
Help them to match the pictures on the triangles to the consequences in the messengers' speech bubbles inside the square. Glue the triangles to the outside of the folds in the correct order. The letters will help you to identify where each goes – N (north), E (east) S (south) and W (west).

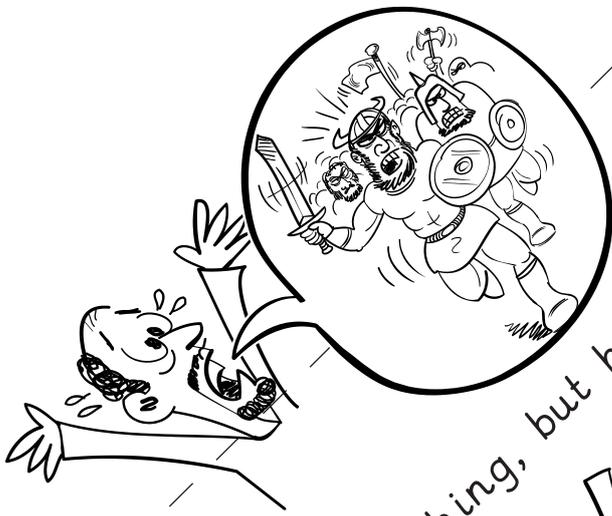
Talk about how Job lost everything that was precious to him and what happened to each of them – lift the flaps to find out. How did Job respond to what had happened? Remind the children that Job trusted God and knew that he was in control of everything.

Activity B – Print page 17 onto paper or card (one copy for every child).

The children colour in the picture of Job and the speech bubbles. Help them to cut out the triangles from each side of the page and fold inwards along the dashed lines.

Remind the children that Job lost everything that was precious to him. It looked like he was all alone. Open the flaps to reveal what was going on behind the scenes – God was in control of everything that happened. He looked after Job and Job trusted him. We can trust God to look after us even when we find life hard.



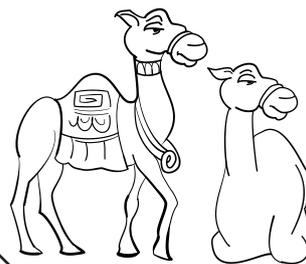


Job lost everything, but he
still trusted God. (1)

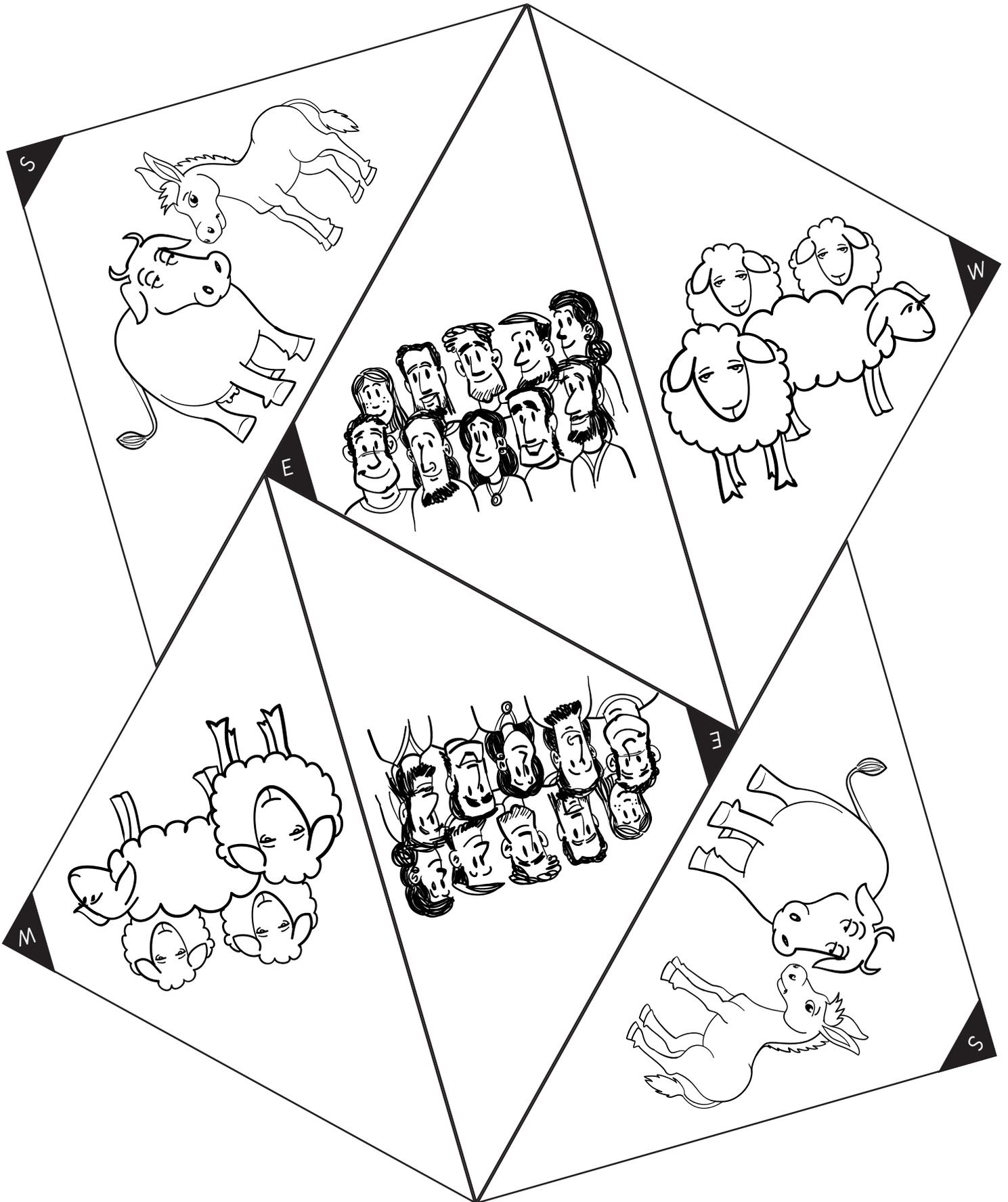
Job 1:1 - 2:10



God had blessed Job with many good things.
Lift the flaps to see how they were taken away.



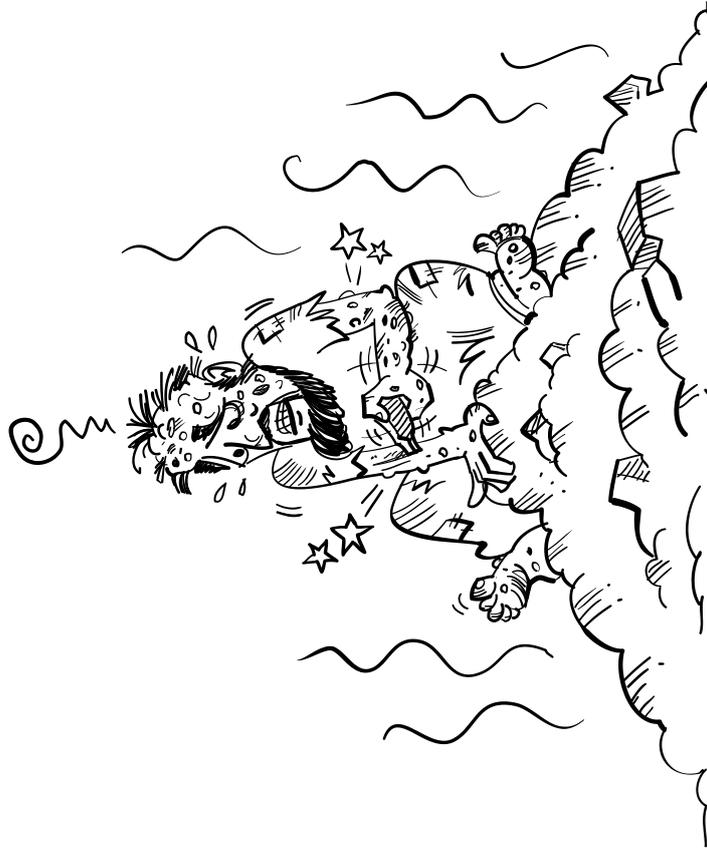
N



Do not
kill Job



God did not
allow Satan to
kill Job when he
made him very
unwell.



Job lost everything, but he
still trusted God.

Job 1:1 - 2:10

Do not
harm Job



God did not
allow Satan
to harm Job
when he took
away everything
precious to him.