

It's a job to be Job—Kids' lesson #18
Job 29:2a, James 4:8a

Hook: Have the kids stand in a line, side-by-side each other, locking arms. Then, on the opposite side of the room, you stand in front, facing the group. Tell the kids on the count of three that you want them to each take one step toward you as a group. Have your assistant join the line of kids to help them. After they take one step toward you, then you take a step toward them. Repeat this sequence until you are standing only an arm's length away from each other (Or, move even closer and give one of them a hug!). Then ask: "Did you notice, that as you came near to me, I came near to you?"

Book: We've learned a lot about Job and how hard his life had become. After a while, Job began to think that God wasn't there, watching over him anymore. Job said, "How I long for the years gone by when God took care of me." Job 29:2a. Isn't that sad? Job felt like God had left and was no longer taking care of him, but that wasn't true.

Look: The truth is, the Lord was still with Job. He never left him! And, God is always with you and me. He doesn't take a vacation from taking care of us! He never decides that He just doesn't want to be with us anymore. Sometimes, though, when life gets hard we can become like Job—discouraged and sad. We may doubt that God still loves us. When that happens we need to remember to come near to God (like we came near to each other) and not walk away from Him. We may not always understand why God allows difficult things to happen, but when we come near to Him, He comes near to us and that brings us comfort.

Took: We can "come near" to God in lots of ways. When we spend time with God, praying and listening to Him, we "come near." When we obey and confess our sins to God, we "come near." When we read or listen to His Word, we are also "coming near" to God. He never leaves us, but when we make the effort to come near to Him, He comes near to us every time! The Bible tells us that it is good to be near God. When we are near Him, we know Him better and He comforts us.

Bible Verse: "Come near to God and He will come near to you." James 4:8a

Prayer: "Lord, thank You for coming near to us and never, ever leaving us! Amen."

T.L.C.

(The Learning Continues—Job Lesson #18)



What We Learned: Job felt like God was no longer taking care of him, but that wasn't true. The truth is, the Lord never left him! God is always with us, too. Sometimes, though, when life gets hard we can become like Job—discouraged, sad and doubting God's love. When that happens we need to remember to come near to God. We "come near" to Him in lots of ways. When we spend time with God, praying and listening to Him, we "come near." When we obey and confess our sins to God, we "come near." When we read or listen to His Word, we are also "coming near" to God. He never leaves us, but when we make the effort to come near to Him, He comes near to us every time!



Memory Verse: "Come near to God and He will come near to you." James 4:8a



Parent/Child Activity: Stand across the room from your child, facing each other. Tell her on the count of three to take a step toward you. Then, take a step toward her. Repeat this sequence until you are standing so close that you can reach out and hug each other. Ask, "Did you notice, that as you came near to me, I came near to you? Isn't it wonderful that God doesn't move away from us? He moves toward us as we move toward Him!"



Daily Prayer: “Lord, thank You for coming near to us and never, ever leaving us! Amen.”