

May 24 Elementary

Bible Passage: Taking the Land/ Joshua 10–11; 24

Story Point: God made the sun stand still.

Memory Verse: “It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed” Deuteronomy 31:8 ESV

Big Picture Question: How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.

Christ Connection: *Joshua’s name means “The Lord is salvation.” God fought for Joshua and the Israelites, saving them and giving them victory over their enemies. Sinners can look to God for victory over sin and death. God brought us salvation by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and rise again.*

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* **BIBLE STUDY TIPS FOR PARENTS:**

Parents- here’s a preview of what we’ll be studying in the Fall as church ☺

When Moses was the leader of Israel, God gave His people instructions about entering the promised land. Among those instructions was the command to drive out the nations living in the land of Canaan. (See Deut. 7.) These nations were corrupt, and God would judge them for their sin. (Lev. 18)

In the first battle, Israel marched around Jericho and the Lord gave them the city. As Israel moved to take the rest of the land, God pledged His presence to Joshua and reminded Israel of what He required: If you want to be successful in the land, you must obey Me. (See Josh. 1:7.) The Israelites learned from experience that disobedience to God would result in certain defeat, as Achan’s sin brought about their downfall during the battle of Ai. (Josh. 7)

During the battles the Israelites faced in Canaan, Joshua (whose name means “the Lord saves”) was not in charge; the Lord was. God determined whom Israel battled and how Israel would win. Joshua 10–11 describes Israel’s defeat of five kings who attacked Gibeon, an ally of Israel. Miraculously, God sent hailstones and stopped the sun. He gave Israel the victory. God was with Israel as they conquered the rest of the land. Then He gave His people years of peace and rest.

Help your kids see the bigger picture beyond Israel’s individual battles against the Canaanites. God was keeping His promise to give His people the land. God answered the prayers of His people. He

fought for Joshua and the Israelites, saving them and giving them victory over their enemies. God was glorified when His people loved and obeyed Him.

In the same way, God is glorified today when we love and obey Him. As sinners, we can look to God for victory over sin and death. Jesus defeated sin and death by dying on the cross and rising again.

***STORY:**

SAY • Two weeks ago, we talked about the first steps God's people took into the promised land. **God held back the Jordan River for His people to cross.** Then we learned about the battle they fought against Jericho. **God brought down the walls of Jericho** so His people could defeat their enemies. This week, we will learn about another large battle the Israelites fought against five kings and their armies. We will also see how God fulfilled His promise to give His people a land of their own.

Use the Bible storytelling tips below to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video, or both!

Taking the Land: Joshua 10–11; 24

God was with His people as they entered the promised land. Joshua and the Israelites had defeated the cities of Jericho and Ai (AY igh). They made peace with their neighbors, the people of Gibeon (GIB ih uhn). **One day, the Israelites came to a place ruled by five kings.** The kings did not love God or worship Him. They had heard about God's people and were afraid.

The king of Jerusalem called to the other four kings in the land. He said to them, "Help me attack Gibeon because it has made peace with Joshua and the people of Israel." So the five kings joined forces and went up with all their armies to fight against Gibeon.

The men of Gibeon sent a message to Joshua: "Help us! Save us! All the kings who live in this land are fighting against us." So Joshua and his whole army went to Gibeon to help them. The Lord said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of the kings, for I have handed them over to you. Not one of them will be able to stand against you."

Joshua and his army marched all night from where they were staying and they surprised the five kings' armies. **As the Israelites fought, God confused the kings' armies and helped Israel defeat their enemies. The five kings' armies fled. The Lord sent hail from the sky to stop them.**

The battle was not over. Joshua needed more time to fight before the sun went down. So Joshua prayed to God, "Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and moon, over the valley." The sun stood still and the moon stopped until Israel and Gibeon defeated the kings. The sun did not set for almost a full day. There has been no day like it before or since.

As the Israelites traveled in the promised land, they took over many other cities. God fought for His people and helped Joshua and the Israelites conquer the land God had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

God gave the Israelites peace and rest from their enemies for many years. When Joshua was old, he reminded the Israelites about all the great things God had done for them. The people said, "We will worship the Lord, because He is our God." Then Joshua died.

***Christ Connection:**

Christ Connection: Joshua's name means "The Lord is salvation." God fought for Joshua and the Israelites, saving them and giving them victory over their enemies. Sinners can look to God for victory over sin and death. God brought us salvation by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and rise again.

SAY Jesus conquered our biggest enemy when He rose from the grave. We can love and obey Him as the leader of our lives who brings us the victory.

***GOSPEL PLAN:**

(Included in the Activity Pages)

Ask kids if they have ever heard the word *gospel*. Clarify that the word *gospel* means "good news." It is the message about Christ, the kingdom of God, and salvation. Use the following guide to share the gospel with kids.

God rules. Explain to kids that the Bible tells us God created everything, and He is in charge of everything. Invite a volunteer to read Genesis 1:1 from the Bible. Read Revelation 4:11 or Colossians 1:16-17 aloud and explain what these verses mean.

We sinned. Tell kids that since the time of Adam and Eve, everyone has chosen to disobey God. (Romans 3:23) The Bible calls this sin. Because God is holy, God cannot be around sin. Sin separates us from God and deserves God's punishment of death. (Romans 6:23)

God provided. Choose a child to read John 3:16 aloud. Say that God sent His Son, Jesus, the perfect solution to our sin problem, to rescue us from the punishment we deserve. It's something we, as sinners, could never earn on our own. Jesus alone saves us. Read and explain Ephesians 2:8-9.

Jesus gives. Share with kids that Jesus lived a perfect life, died on the cross for our sins, and rose again. Because Jesus gave up His life for us, we can be welcomed into God's family for eternity. This is the best gift ever! Read Romans 5:8; 2 Corinthians 5:21; or 1 Peter 3:18.

We respond. Tell kids that they can respond to Jesus. Read Romans 10:9-10,13. Review these aspects of our response: Believe in your heart that Jesus alone saves you through what He's already done on the cross. Repent, turning from self and sin to Jesus. Tell God and others that your faith is in Jesus.

***PRAYER**

SAY • God, thank You for loving us more than we can ever imagine. Thank You for going ahead of us in difficult circumstances. Help us to always love You and obey You so that others can see You working in our lives. And thank You, most of all, for sending Your Son, Jesus, to win the victory over our sin. Amen.

***KEY PASSAGE / MEMORY VERSE:**

“It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed” Deuteronomy 31:8 ESV

SAY • Our key passage contains a very powerful message. God is with His people. He never leaves nor abandons them. When we have faith in Jesus, we can rest in that same promise. Through the Holy Spirit, God is with Christians all the time. He guides us to help us love and obey God more each day.

***DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

COMPREHENSION:

- How many kings decided to work together? (*five, Josh. 10:3-5*)
- Who did the five kings attack first? (*the people of Gibeon, allies of the Israelites; Josh. 10:5*)
- What did God throw at Israel’s enemies as they were running away? (*hail, Josh. 10:11*)
- What did Joshua ask God to do during the battle? (*to make the sun and moon stand still, Josh. 10:12*)
- How did God help the Israelites win? (*He confused the five kings’ armies, threw hailstones at them, and stopped the sun from setting to give the Israelites more time to win; Josh. 10:9-14*)
- What did Joshua say to the people before he died years later? (*He reminded them of all the wonderful things God had done for them and warned them to be faithful to God, Josh. 24:11-14*)

YOUNGER:

Open to Joshua 10-11;24 together. Help them use the table of contents to find Joshua 10–11; 24. Ask them which Old Testament division Joshua is in (*History*) and review that we use Bible divisions to help us organize similar books. You may also choose to discuss the other books in the History division, or the other divisions in the Old Testament.

Ask the following questions:

- How do you think the Israelites felt as they witnessed the daylight hours extended so long? *Guide kids to discuss the amazing feeling they likely had as they saw God so clearly answer Joshua’s prayer. Talk about other ways God miraculously provides for us.*
- Before Joshua died, he reminded the people about their covenant with God, just as Moses did before he died. Why do you think he did that? *Discuss the idea that it’s easy to say we trust God when we see amazing things, but over time we tend to forget. It is good for us to be reminded often of God’s goodness and faithfulness.*

- What can we do to help us remember God's goodness and faithfulness to us? *Discuss with the kids different ways believers remember God's goodness, such as taking the Lord's supper, keeping a prayer journal, and studying the Bible to remember His plans and words.*

Say • God made the sun stand still and gave His people victory. He is always faithful to keep His promises. He promised a Rescuer, and He gave us victory over sin and death through that Rescuer—Jesus.

OLDER:

Open Bibles to Joshua 10. Explain that today's Bible story comes from Joshua 10–11; 24. Challenge kids to name the five books of the Bible that come before Joshua. (*Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy*) Ask them how many they can name that come after Joshua. (*Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, and so on*)

Say •When the Israelites entered Canaan, they fought many battles to take over the promised land. The major battle in today's Bible story took place in Gibeon, a city north of Jerusalem. [*Point on the Old Testament Kingdoms Map to the area between Jerusalem and Bethel (H4).*] **God made the sun stand still and gave His people victory.**

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Joshua 10:42. Ask the following questions:

- What did Joshua do when he needed help in the battle? What do you do when you need help? *Lead kids to recall that Joshua prayed when he needed more time to fight before the sun went down. Encourage kids to share where they go for help. How often do they turn to God in prayer? Assure kids that we can pray to God anytime and anywhere.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 34:17.)
- God gave His people victory in a physical battle. In what way does God give us victory? *Prompt kids to identify our greatest enemies, sin and death. Help them recognize that sinners can look to God for victory over sin and death. People can't save themselves. God brought us salvation by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and rise again.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read 1 Cor. 15:57.)
- Does God always answer our prayers? Why or why not? *Emphasize that we don't see the big picture of our lives, but God does. He always acts according to what is for our good and His glory. Sometimes we need to wait awhile before God says yes to our prayer. Sometimes what is best for us is for God to say no to our request. Sometimes God says yes to our prayers. God loves us, and we can trust His perfect plans.* (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ps. 145:18-19.)

***ACTIVITIES:**

1. ACTIVITY PAGE & COLORING PAGE

Invite kids to complete the "Sun or Moon?" activity page. Kids will mark the words **sun** or **moon**, depending on which they would expect to see in the sky during each activity pictured.

Say •We've all seen the sun appear to move across the sky. When we can see the sun, we call it "day." When the sun is not visible, we call it "night." Today we heard about a time God caused the sun to appear stopped in the sky!

2. DEFEAT FIVE KINGS

SUPPLIES: painter tape or masking tape, marbles

Use tape to create an arena for a marbles game. Place five large marbles in the arena and scatter other marbles around them. Take turns flicking a large marble to try and knock the five large marbles out of the arena. After each turn, kids should retrieve the large marble they shot. The game ends when all five large marbles are knocked from the arena.

Say • That was a fun game. Knocking out those five larger marbles was a challenge, especially with the army of smaller marbles protecting them. Today we will learn about a time God's people faced five different kings and their armies. Let's learn more together!

3. SUNCATCHER CRAFT

SUPPLIES: contact paper, tissue paper (if you don't have contact paper, alternatively you can tape to a window in your house)

Carefully remove the back of a sheet of contact plastic. Direct them to stick bits of tissue paper to the contact plastic. Then, carefully peel the backing from a second sheet of contact plastic and place it over the tissue paper to seal in the colorful paper. Allow the kids to cut around the edges to create a shape if they would like. Then help them write the story point or big picture question on their suncatchers.

Say • You can place this beautiful suncatcher in a window where the sunlight can go through it to make beautifully colored shadows. When you see it, remember that God does amazing things, even stopping the sun, to help His people. He sent Jesus to die for our sin and make the way for us to live with Him forever. We can trust God to do what is best for us. That's why we glorify Him. ***How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him***

4. HAIL ON THE FIVE KINGS

SUPPLIES: 5 cups, ping pong balls

Say • While God's stopping the sun is very amazing, it's not the only way God showed His power in this story. He also sent hail on the five kings and their armies to help Joshua and the Israelites defeat them! Let's pretend these cups are the five kings and see how quickly we can use our "hail" to defeat them!

Place the five cups on the table and tape a line on the ground about 10 feet away. Form teams if you like. Use the stopwatch or timer to see how long it takes each team to knock all of the cups off of the table by throwing table tennis balls. Time to see how fast you can do this together or against each other. Continue play as time allows, and consider moving the line of tape back for a greater challenge. Another version would be to give 5 balls to each person (team). They can bounce the balls off the table to get INTO the cups. The first one to get all 5 balls into the cups is the winner.

SAY • Thinking about how powerful God is and how He chose me as His daughter/son makes me so happy. I know that God still loves me and has a plan for me. He can still use me to do great things for His glory!