

May 24, 2020 PreK

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

Story Point: God made the sun stand still.

Key Passage/Memory Verse: “The Lord...will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. ” 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. God saved sinners by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross. Jesus gives us victory over sin and death.*

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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 preschooler 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.

*** BIBLE STORY:**

Turn to Joshua 10 with the help of your preschooler.

Say • The Bible is the true Word of God. Our story today is in the first part of the Bible—the Old Testament, and in the Book of Joshua, just like last week.

Remind children that all the stories in the Bible fit together to tell an even bigger story. The Bible tells us the big story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus.

Show the video or tell the Bible story using the provided storytelling tips. Use the bolded version of the Bible story for young preschoolers.

Taking the Land: *Joshua 10–11; 24*

God was with Joshua and the Israelites as they entered the promised land. The Israelites came to a place ruled by five kings. The kings were evil kings; they did not love God. **When the kings heard about Joshua and the Israelites, they were afraid.** They did not want to lose a battle against the Israelites. **So the kings made a plan. One king called to the other four kings in the land. He said to them, “Help me attack the people in the city of Gibeon. They are friends with Joshua and the people of Israel.” So the five kings went to Gibeon.**

The men of Gibeon sent a message to Joshua: “Friends, help us! Save us! The five kings and their armies are fighting with us.” So Joshua and his whole army went to help the people of Gibeon. The Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of the kings. I will help you win against them.”

When Joshua and his army got to the battle, the kings' armies were surprised! They did not know the Israelites were coming. **God confused the armies and helped the Israelites win the battle. The five kings' armies ran away, but God sent a hailstorm to stop them.**

The battle was not yet over. **Joshua and the Israelites needed more time to fight before the sun went down. Joshua prayed to God. He said, “God, please make the sun and the moon stand still in the sky.” The sun stood still and the moon stopped until Israel**

and Gibeon beat their enemies. The sun did not set for almost a full day! Nothing like that had ever happened before. Nothing like that has happened since then.

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 take over the land God had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.**

For many years, the people of Israel did not fight any battles. **God gave them peace and rest from their enemies.** 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: *Joshua’s name means “The Lord is salvation.” God fought for Joshua and the Israelites, saving them and giving them victory over their enemies. God saved sinners by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross. Jesus gives us victory over sin and death.*

SAY • The Israelites needed more time to fight before the sun went down. Joshua prayed, and **God made the sun stand still.** Joshua’s name means “The Lord is salvation.” God fought for Joshua and the Israelites, saving them and giving them victory over their enemies. God saved sinners by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross. Jesus gives us victory over sin and death.

KEY PASSAGE

Key Passage: “The Lord...will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. ”
Deuteronomy 31:8 ESV

SAY • **God made the sun stand still** so the Israelites could finish the battle. God was with them and did not abandon them. God will not abandon us either. He sent Jesus to give us victory over sin and death.

*** PRAYER**

*** ACTIVITIES:**

1. ACTIVITY PAGE & COLORING PAGE:

Lead preschoolers to color each space the appropriate color based on the number.
Comment when preschoolers see the crown emerge.

Say • Who typically wears a crown? In our Bible story today, there were five kings. These kings did not love God. Jesus is the only true and good King!

2. PLAY “SUN, STAND STILL”

Stand across the room holding a circle cut from yellow construction paper. Tell your preschooler that when you hold the sun up high, they can move toward you, but when you put the sun down, they must freeze in place. Allow the child to hold the sun for the next round.

Say • Joshua and his army needed more time to battle the kings and their armies. When **God made the sun stand still**, they were able to finish the battle. God fought for Joshua and the Israelites, saving them and giving them victory over their enemies. God saved sinners by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross. Jesus gives us victory over sin and death.

3. STAND STILL

See how long you can stand still in a certain position such as on one foot, holding both arms straight out, or on their tiptoes. Consider using a timer to record their time.

Say • Standing still can be hard. We get wobbly if we stand very long on one foot. We may need something to hold onto so we do not fall. In our Bible story today, God made the sun and moon stand still. God showed His power over creation when He answered Joshua's prayer to make the sun and moon stand still. **God made the sun stand still**. Nothing like that had ever happened before. Nothing like that has happened since then. God fought for the Israelites, saving them and giving them victory over their enemies. God saved sinners by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross. Jesus gives us victory over sin and death.

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- How many kings were there in our story? (*five*)
- Why did the kings attack Gibeon? (*Because the people of Gibeon were friends with Joshua and the Israelites*)
- What fell from the sky to first stop the five kings' armies? (*God sent a hailstorm*)
- What did Joshua ask God to make stand still so they could finish the battle? (*the sun and moon*)
- ***How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.***