

Taking the Land

Bible Passage: Joshua 10-11; 24

Key Passage: ⁵ Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; ⁶ in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight. **Proverbs 3:5-6**

Bottom Line: If God has promised it, I can count on it.

Big Picture Question: What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands.

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.*

LEADERNOTES:

CONTEXT

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 the kids you teach 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.

TEACHING FOCUS (Joshua 10-11; 24)

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. Our story is called "Taking the Land."

God's people needed His help to defeat their enemies, and God provided them with help in a spectacular way. **God made the sun stand still and gave His people victory.**

Isn't it wonderful to see God's faithfulness in story after story? No matter how unfaithful the people proved themselves to be, God remained faithful. He keeps all His promises.

God's promise to give the people a land of their own was finally fulfilled at the end of Joshua's life. God gave them victory in the land and let them experience peace after years of fighting. When we begin to understand how great and glorious God is, it makes sense that we would want to give God glory. **How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.**

TODAY'S TAKEAWAYS

- God fought for Joshua and the Israelites, saving them and giving them victory over their enemies.
- **God gave them the land just as He promised it.**
- **BL: If God has promised it, I can count on it.**
- I need to read my Bible to know what God has promised to do in me and through me.

Social: Providing Time for Fun Interaction (15 minutes)

Activities that encourage preschoolers to enter the classroom and begin engaging with peers and Small Group Leaders by providing age appropriate and hands on fun while introducing new concepts they will hear in the day's Bible story.

Prepare to offer the following activities to 3-, 4-, 5- year olds as they arrive.

Relay Stones

What you Need: 4 foam bowls, 2 plastic spoons, 24 "rocks"

What You Do:

- Form 2 teams.
- Line up teams at one end of the room.
- Place an empty bowl in front of each team.
- Place 2 bowls, each filled with 12 "Stones" at the other end of the room.
- Give the first child in each line a spoon.

- When you say go, direct her to walk to her team's bowl at the other end of the room, put a stone on her spoon, walk the stone on the spoon, back to her team's empty bowl, and drop it in.
- Then give the spoon to the next child in line.
- Guide preschoolers to continue until all 12 of their team's stones are in their bowl.
- The team that moves all their stones first wins.
- Encourage preschoolers to cheer on their team as they wait for their turn.
- If teams doesn't work best, you could just have one long line of kids.

What You Say:

"God used to stones to help His people remember Him and all that He did to get them to the promised land. We will spend the next weeks learning about this journey to the promised land. I pray that we all see God's power and learn to trust and obey Him more everyday.

Worship Time

Gather children on a rug or in a specific area of the classroom to tell the story. Some kids (especially the younger ones) may wander. That's okay. They're still listening and learning!

Play the DVD of All Star Kids worship (choose 1 song for today)

What You Say: "Way to go! You are such amazing singers. Now let's sit down to learn from the Bible today."

Story Time: Communicating God's Truth in Engaging Ways

Engage kids' hearts through a dynamic and interactive Bible story and prayer experience in a Large Group setting.

Bible Story

What You Need: Bible

What You Do: Place a bookmark at Joshua 10-11 in your Bible. Invite a preschooler to open it.

What You 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.

PLAY BIBLE STORY VIDEO

Talk about the Bible Story:

God was with Joshua and the Israelites as they took over the promised land. One day, five kings and their armies came to fight Gibeon. The people of Gibeon asked Joshua for help. God told Joshua, "Do not be afraid. They will not defeat you."

Joshua's soldiers caught the armies by surprise. Then Joshua said, "God, make the sun stand still!" And God did! God also made hailstones fall from the sky. God helped Joshua and the Israelites take the land He had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God fought for His people. When Joshua was old, he reminded the Israelites

of God's goodness and wrote down all of God's words. The people said, "We will worship only God."

Learn the Big Picture Question

What You Say: What does it mean to sin? To sin is to go against God and His commands. We show that we believe the truth about God by what we do and say. God is holy and good. It is right for us to love and obey Him.

Practice the Memory Verse

Open your Bible to Proverbs 3:5-6. Read the memory verse aloud several times.

What You 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.

Transition to small group.

Groups: Creating a Safe Place to Connect (25 minutes)

Create a safe place to connect through activities that are written to reach every learning style while reinforcing the Main Point that was introduced during the Bible Story and applying it to real life experiences. In addition, these activities provide preschoolers with an opportunity to build relationships with their Small Group Leader.

1. Trust in the Lord Craft

What you Need: "Magnet craft kits" (1 per kid), sharpie marker

What You Do:

- Give each kid a craft kit.
- They will put the stickers on their background to build a magnet that they can use for their refrigerator at home.
- Kids take the craft home at the end of group.

What You Say: "God made the sun stand still. God helped His people take the promised land. God always keeps His promises. Take this home to remember our memory verse during this series, and that God is always with us.

2. Practice signing the Memory Verse

What you need: Memory Verse Poster

What You Do:

- Show the poster to the kids
- As you say the words point to them on the poster
- Create simple hand motions to teach toddlers the memory verse. Sample hand motions include "**Trust in the Lord** (ASL sign – like pulling a rope) **with all your heart** (point to heart) **and lean not on your own understanding** (point to head); **in all your ways submit to him** (ASL sign for all- draw a circle around your hand), **and he will make your paths straight** (hold hands up like making a road). **Proverbs 3:5-6**

What You 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.

Pray and Dismiss:

What You need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Pray- " God 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.

What You Say: Tell parents something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session. Send home their magnets and tell families, we are talking about sin and that we can trust and obey God.