



Taking the Land

Bible Passage: Joshua 10-11, 24

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

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**

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.*

10 Minutes SOCIAL: SETTING THE TONE OF THE EXPERIENCE

Remember This

What You Need: dry erase board, dry erase marker and eraser, paper, tape

What You Do:

- Write a 10 digit number on a dry erase board. (example: 5553017838, you can use phone numbers)
- Guide kids to read the number aloud one time together.
- Then tape paper over the number to conceal it and challenge kids to say the number from memory.
- Uncover the number and allow them to read the number 2 more times.
- Cover the number.
- Ask volunteers to recite the number.
- Erase the number and write 5 random words.
- Invite kids to read the words once.
- Then cover them and challenge kids to recite the words.
- Uncover the words so kids can read them 2 more times.
- Cover the words and ask volunteers to recite them.
- Repeat as time allows.
- Ask kids to tell you the number you gave them earlier. And then the words.

What You Say "This is not a test, but it sure helps us see how fast we learn something right? Studies show that when you read something for the first time, you remember 10-25 percent of it. When you read it 2-3 times, you remember 90 percent of it. Repetition helps us remember! In our stories coming up we are going to look at the Israelites moving into the promised land. God is keeping His promises but the people are having a hard time remembering God's promise and following Him. Let's see what is going on today.

10 Minutes Worship: CELEBRATING WHAT GOD IS DOING

SONGS, OFFERING AND PRAYER

15 Minutes LARGE GROUP: COMMUNICATING GOD'S TRUTH IN ENGAGING WAYS

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.

25 Minutes SMALL GROUPS: CREATING A SAFE PLACE TO CONNECT

Discussion Questions:

1. 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)
2. 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)
3. 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.
4. 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.
5. 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.

Activity: Proverbs 3:5-6 Art



What You Need: Shrink Paper Art (1 copy per kid), colored pencils, ziptop bags, Shrink Paper Baking Labels

What You Do:

- Each kids will get a shrink art paper with the Memory Verse on it.
- They will color around the Memory Verse as you talk about the discussion questions for today.
- As they are coloring ask them how they have seen our Memory Verse work in their lives? Encourage kids to respond with encouragement for their peers and share a time where you had to lean on God and not yourself.
- Kids will put their art in the ziptop bag when they are done and stick a sticker on the bag for instructions on how to bake them. They should shrink to the size of a business card so they can put it in a wallet or attach to their backpack as reminder that God is always with us.

What You Say After you bake this paper in the oven, you can find some string to attach it to your backpack or sports bag. 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. **BL- If God has promised it, I can count on it.**

Activity: Memory Verse Activity

What You Need: Memory Verse Poster, Memory Verse Puzzle (printed and cut apart- 1 set per group)

What You Do:

- Review the Memory Verse as a group together out loud a few times.
- Lay the Memory Verse Puzzle on the floor/table face down.
- Take turns picking up a card at a time and putting the puzzle together.
- Keep going until all of the puzzle is together.
- Read the verse together one more time.

What You Say " Our memory verse reminds us that we need to trust God. He knows better than we do about everything! This passage warns us against trusting our own understanding. God leads us to righteousness in Jesus. Trusting in ourselves for righteousness is sin. God provided a way out of that sin, it is through believing in His Son, Jesus.

Pray and Dismiss:

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Say:

"God, Thank You for all You do for us. Thank You for remaining faithful all the time. You keep Your promises to us just as You kept them to the Israelites in the past. Help us trust You each day and glorify You all the time. Amen. "

5 Minutes HOME: PROMPTING ACTION BEYOND THE EXPERIENCE

As adults arrive to pick up, encourage your kids to tell their parents about our Big Picture Questions. What does it mean to sin? To sin is to think, speak, or behave in any way that goes against God and His commands. **BL- If God promised it, I can count on it.**