



UNIT 8 | SESSION 2

GOD GAVE THE PEOPLE THE LAND

JOSHUA 7-11

KEY PASSAGE:

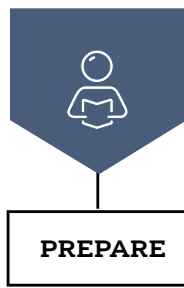
Psalm 77:14

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.

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.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

In today’s story, we see that God fights for His people and gives them peace and rest. We live in a world filled with conflict and pain. We desperately want peace. The reality is that true peace doesn’t come from any amount of solitude or self-confidence; we need true peace that comes from being forgiven. Peace comes as we trust in the finished work of Jesus. His forgiveness, not our own effort, brings us lasting peace.

Read the words of the apostle Paul in Ephesians 2:12-14. In a world of conflict, Christ is our hope. In a world filled with division, He is our peace. This peace and hope Paul speaks of are available to us when we place our trust in Christ alone for our salvation. This is a continual, daily dying to self so that we may live in Christ.

What is so interesting about the section of Scripture your kids will be learning about today is that it shows us that we humans have not changed and God has not changed. Israel obeyed God at Jericho, and God fought for His people. They enjoyed good success.

Next, they went up against a smaller city and relied on their own strength rather than seeking God’s strength. They disobeyed and took things devoted to God and fought a battle at Ai without consulting God and His

plan. Their lives were filled with disunity. Sin is the reason our world is in disunity. The lie we believe is that sin is personal and doesn’t affect anyone else. Sin is the rejection of God Himself and the placing of our trust in things He has made. The sin of one Israelite—Achan—affected him, his family, and the whole nation.

Joshua’s response was right. He humbled himself, appealed to God’s covenant-keeping power, and responded with obedience when God spoke to him.

When we sin, we must recognize the damage that it creates in our lives and in the world. Our response must not be to cover it up but to run to Christ because He is our hope, our life, and our peace.

Dwell on these words from theologian Charles Spurgeon: “My faith rests not upon what I am or shall be or feel or know, but in what Christ is, in what He has done, and in what He is now doing for me. Hallelujah!”

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Enemies Israel battled:

- Philistines (1 Sam. 17)
- Jerichoans (Josh. 6)
- Five kings (Josh. 10)
- Canaanites (Judg. 4)
- Midianites (Judg. 7)
- Babylonians (2 Kings 25)



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “Have you ever run out of time when working on a task or assignment? In today’s Bible story, something like that happened to the Israelites. They began to run out of daylight before finishing an important battle. What do you think they did?”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “A Long Day” on the activity page.

SAY “This activity led you through your daily routine. At the end of a long day, you may want to sleep. Today, we will learn about a time Joshua wanted a long, hard day to last just a little longer.”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

OPTION 1: CATCH THE SUN

Tear various sizes of tissue paper. Cut two identical pieces of clear contact plastic. These should be about the size of a regular sheet of printer paper. Remove the backing from one contact plastic sheet, revealing the sticky side. Lay the contact plastic sticky side-up on a flat surface. If needed, put tape under the four corners of the contact plastic to keep it flat and taut. Invite kids to stick tissue paper onto the contact plastic to cover it. Pieces may overlap. Peel the second sheet of contact plastic and place it over the first one, sticky side-down. Press firmly to seal. Invite kids to use the scissors to cut various shapes from the page. Consider adhering the shapes to a window to watch the sun shine through.

SAY “During today’s Bible story, you’ll hear about a time when the sun stood still. This was a miracle—something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.”

OPTION 2: “SAVE US” FREEZE TAG



Select a kid to be It. She will chase other kids to tag them. When tagged, players must freeze and call out, “Help us! Save us!” Other players may unfreeze them by tagging frozen players and saying, “The Lord fights for Israel!” Continue play as time allows.

SAY “To be unfrozen, you needed help! During today’s Bible story, we will learn that the Gibeonites needed help from the Israelites. How do you think God’s people responded?”



LEARN

THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Joshua 7–11. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “God Gave the People the Land.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

GOD GAVE THE PEOPLE THE LAND

“**God was with His people when they entered the promised land.** Joshua and the Israelites defeated the cities of Jericho and Ai (AY igh). They **made peace with the people of Gibeon** (GIB ih uhn).

Then **one day, a king called to four other kings.** These kings did not love God or worship Him, but **they had heard about God’s people and they were afraid.** **The first king said, “Gibeon made peace with Joshua and the Israelites. Help me attack Gibeon.”** So **the five kings joined forces** and went up with all their armies to fight against Gibeon.

Soon **the men of Gibeon sent a message** to Joshua: **“Help us! Save us! All the kings in this land are fighting against us!”**

So Joshua and his whole army went to help Gibeon. **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 and 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, but God sent hail to stop them.

The battle wasn’t over yet. **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 for almost a full day.** Israel and Gibeon defeated the five kings.

As the Israelites traveled in the promised land, they took over many other cities. **God fought for His people and helped them conquer the land** God had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. Then for many years, **God gave the Israelites peace and rest** from their enemies.

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. ”

STORYTELLING TIPS

Reenact the story: Tell today’s Bible story using the kids to reenact the scenes. Select five kings and assign several kids to be in their armies. The rest of the kids can represent Joshua, the Israelites, and the Gibeonites.

Turn off the lights Joshua and the people surprised the five kings by marching at night. Turn a few of the lights off while the kids act out the Bible story. Make sure there is enough light so everyone stays safe.

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Do you remember all the way back in Genesis, when God promised Abraham a large family and land of their own? God kept His promises to Abraham. Israel was already a large nation, and now He had given the Israelites the promised land.

It is important for us to remember that the Israelites did not earn the land. God did not give them miraculous victories because of how good and holy they were. God keeps His promises because He is good and holy; He is always faithful. God does incredible, wonderful things to provide for His people, even stopping the sun to extend the day. No one else can command the sun and moon and then they obey. God rules over His creation and it must obey Him. We are also a part of God’s creation, but we are broken by sin and resist obeying God. That’s why we needed a Rescuer.

God promised to send a Rescuer, Jesus, to fulfill the promise to bless the whole world through Abraham’s family. Jesus lived a perfect life and died on the cross in our place. On the third day, He rose again—a true miracle. **What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.** Believers who trust in Jesus are blessed and become a part of God’s family. Through Jesus, God gives us miraculous victory over sin and death. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ Joshua’s name means ‘The LORD is salvation.’ God fought for Joshua and the Israelites, saving them and giving them victory over their enemies. When they were attacked, the Gibeonites cried out to Joshua, ‘Help us! Save us!’ Sinners need salvation as well. Sinners can look to God for victory over sin and death. Sinners can cry out to Jesus, ‘Help us! Save us!’ God brought us salvation by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and rise again. He fought against sin and death and won. Jesus is the only way to salvation. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 8, Session 2” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. What should you do if you feel jealous of a friend?
2. What has God given you that you can be thankful for?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

Show the poster and ask the kids to share what they remember about the Worthy family. Ask a volunteer to find Italy on a map.

SAY “ Joshua prayed to God, asking for more daylight to fight Israel’s enemies. Do you think it could be a good thing for people to see you and your family praying before a meal? How might that help you share the gospel with them? (They could see that we love Jesus. They might feel they could

