

LESSON 1

THE LORD SAVES ISRAEL THROUGH JOSHUA

BEFORE YOU TEACH

Gibeon

Gibeon comes from the Hebrew word for “hilly.” It was a landmark located about 6 miles northwest of Jerusalem. At the time that the Israelites entered the promised land, Gibeon was inhabited by the Hivites (Josh 11:19).

Gibeon was assigned to the tribe of Benjamin (Josh 18:21-28), and it was one of the cities that was later given to the Levites, who as priests were distributed among the lands of all the other tribes (Josh 21:3, 17).

The tabernacle of God was located at Gibeon for some time (1 Chr 16:39; 21:28-29). During that period, King David began making preparations to build the temple in Jerusalem—a project that was later completed by his son Solomon.

During his reign, King Solomon also visited Gibeon to offer sacrifices. There, the Lord appeared to Solomon in a dream and granted him the gift of wisdom (1 Kgs 3:5-15).

Peace Treaty

The Gibeonites deceived Joshua and the assembly leaders into making a peace treaty with them (Josh 9:3-15). Unfortunately, the Israelites did not consult with the Lord before making the treaty (Josh 9:14).

After the Israelites discovered the trick, they were obliged to keep their word because it had been an oath sworn to the Lord (Josh 9:18-20). As a result of the treaty, the Israelites were forced to fight against the Canaanite kings that attacked Gibeon.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR STUDENTS

While attempting to help others, your students may have heard these words countless times: “You’re too young”; “You’re too small”; or “You don’t know how.” However, with the Lord Jesus, no one is ever “too young,” “too small,” or “too weak,” especially children. In fact, when Jesus was on earth, He respected children (Mt 18:10) and called on everyone to emulate their simple faith (Mt 18:3-4).

Explain to your students that Jesus did not come to earth as a grown-up; He entered our world as a baby in Bethlehem. The Lord knows what it is like to be a child. He knows and cares about the fears, hopes, and desires of children, and His response to them is acceptance and love.

Encourage your students to think of ways the Lord can use them. Instead of dwelling on things they cannot do, the students can focus on things they can do. Help them think of ways they can serve the Lord at home, at church, and at school. Soon, they will find that no one is too young or too weak to serve the Lord. God can use the weakest and smallest in mighty ways, for He is the origin of all strength.

BIBLE TEXT

Joshua 10:1-15

BIBLE TRUTH

God fights and wins battles for His people.

LESSON OBJECTIVES

1. To understand how God gave victory to Israel through Joshua.
2. To recognize that God will give us the victory when we humbly ask of and seek for Him.

MEMORY VERSE

“Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

(Joshua 1:9b)

PRAYER

In the name of the Lord Jesus Christ, we pray. Wonderful Jesus, thank You for keeping us safe so that we can come together today to worship You. In today’s lesson, we will learn how God helped Joshua and the Israelites win against the Amorites. We ask You to help us be strong and courageous like Joshua, and to trust in You always. Hallelujah! Amen.

VOCABULARY

- conquer:** to take over, to win over, to beat
Gibeonites: people who live in Gibeon
deceive: to trick
peace treaty: an agreement or promise that will bring peace
deliver: to give over

BIBLE STORY

Introduction

God helped Joshua conquer the cities of Ai and Jericho. After many days of circling around Jericho, do you remember what happened on the last day? The Israelites circled around Jericho seven times and then something amazing happened. The walls of Jericho fell down!

What happened in Jericho taught us that it was by God's power that Joshua and the Israelites were able to conquer that city.

Many people heard about this news and were afraid. The Gibeonites, the inhabitants of the city of Gibeon, were afraid of Joshua and the Israelites. The Gibeonites deceived (played a trick on) Joshua and the Israelites, making them swear a promise of peace, also called a peace treaty. Because of this peace treaty, the Israelites could not hurt the Gibeonites and had to help the Gibeonites fight against other people.

The Five Kings

The Canaanite king of Jerusalem, Adoni-Zedek, also heard about God's wonderful work through Joshua and the Israelites. [Put "King" image on the board and label it, "Adoni-Zedek, king of Jerusalem."]

King Adoni-Zedek was afraid of the peace treaty between the Israelites and the Gibeonites, so he decided to get the help of four other Canaanite kings to fight against Joshua and God's people. [Put four more "King" images on the board. Label each image with the corresponding name and title.]

The four kings' names were Hoham king of Hebron, Piram king of Jarmuth, Japhia king of Lachish, and Debir king of Eglon. [Point to each king as you say his name and title.]

The Canaanite kings joined together to fight against Joshua and the Israelites. Boys and girls, show me with your fingers how many kings were ready to fight Joshua. Right! Five kings altogether.

Joshua Delivers the Israelites

The armies of these five kings went to camp at Gibeon. The Gibeonites sent a message to Joshua asking him to come and fight for them. Joshua and his strong men went from their camp at Gilgal to Gibeon. Can you imagine how Joshua must have felt knowing he had to fight against five

kings and their big armies? Yes, he was probably afraid because there were so many enemies.

But God said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have delivered them (given them over) into your hand; not one of their men will stand before you." God told Joshua that he would win against the other armies. God Himself was going to help Joshua and his army fight and win against the armies of the five kings.

To help the Israelites, God also sent large hailstones from heaven that hit and killed many Canaanites. [Put "Hail 1" image on the board.]

What is a hailstone? A hailstone is a hard piece of ice. [Put "Hail 2" image on the board.] It falls from the sky like rain. If the hailstones are really big, they can hurt people. The hailstones were a miracle from God because they only hurt the enemy camp.

Another amazing thing happened on that day. [Put "Sun Stands Still 1" and "Sun Stands Still 2" images on the board.]

During the battle, Joshua prayed for the sun and moon to stop (that is, he asked God to stop time), so he would have extra daylight to finish the battle. "So the sun stood still in the midst of heaven, and did not hasten to go down for about a whole day. And there has been no day like that, before it or after it, that the Lord heeded the voice of a man; for the Lord fought for Israel" (Josh 10:13-14).

The Bible tells us that Joshua's prayer was answered! The sun did not move from its place in the sky for a long time. Wow, boys and girls, isn't that awesome?

These amazing things that happened in Joshua's time were miracles. Do you believe that miracles can also happen today? Of course! The same God that Joshua worshiped is the One that we worship today.

Our God is a powerful, almighty God! He can make His creation work in special ways. He alone has the power to change the direction of light, to slow the earth's rotation, or to stop the entire universe. Just think about that!

God's Miracles

God's miracles are still possible today. For example, God protects His people during dangerous situations. There was a sister whose car was hit by a large 18-wheeler truck. Her car spun out and crashed into a concrete divider on

the freeway. She called out "Hallelujah!" as her car spun out of control. God listened to her desperate prayer and kept her safe. Although her car was completely destroyed, the sister stepped out of the car without a single scratch. This is the power of God in action!

God's miracles are also shown when God provides for His believers. Once, a brother was on a long trip hiking through steep cliffs. He and his group had been traveling for hours, and they had run out of water. The brother

prayed and suddenly saw a fantastic sight: water started dripping from the face of the stone cliff by which he was standing.

Where it had been nothing but dry rock before suddenly became wet with sparkling water. There was enough water for the brother and his group. God is a powerful God who can make water come out of rocks!

After winning the battle with the help of God, Joshua and the Israelites went back to their camp at Gilgal.

CHECK FOR UNDERSTANDING

1. **What happened to the walls of Jericho?** They fell down after the Israelites circled them seven times.
2. **What did the Gibeonites trick Joshua and the Israelites into doing?** Making a promise of peace, or a peace treaty, with them.
3. **What was the name of the king of Jerusalem?** King Adoni-Zedek.
4. **How many kings went to Gibeon to fight Joshua and the Israelites?** Five.
5. **How did God help the Israelites win the battle?** He sent hailstones to kill the enemies.
6. **What happened when Joshua prayed to the Lord about the sun and the moon?** God made them stand still so that they did not move for about a whole day.
7. **Who won the battle against the five kings for Joshua and the Israelites?** God.

MEMORY VERSE PRACTICE

Please reinforce the memory verse every week.
You can practice the memory verse with your students anytime during class.

**"Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed,
for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9b)**

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. a. Gibeonites
b. Joshua
c. Adoni-Zedek
d. sun
e. hail
2. False; five kings came to battle.
3. False; God helped His people win the battle.
4. True
5. True
6. True
7. Answers may vary.

SPIRITUAL TEACHING & LIFE APPLICATION

1. Trust that God fights and wins battles for His people.

Since God gives victory to His people, we can also trust that God fights and wins battles for us. The key is that we must have faith and trust that God will do it.

1. The next time you come across a difficult situation that you cannot fix by yourself, don't rush into action. Say a prayer to God first and let Him guide you.
2. When God has helped you win a battle, take a moment to praise and thank Him. If you have the chance to share your testimony about that battle, remember to glorify God.

Testimony

A brother discovered through a doctor that he had a heart problem and must go through surgeries. He entrusted his life to God even though the doctor told him that the heart surgeries might not solve all the problems. The day before the surgery, he was moved by the Holy Spirit to kneel down and pray with his family members. During that prayer, he felt a cold wind surround him. As it swirled around him, he heard the thought, "This God is not worthy of your belief. You should just give up. How did you get to this point? It's a difficult and pitiful path. Just give up."

Deep down inside, this brother wanted to live and receive healing from God. He knew God wanted him to give his burdens to Him. Yet, he had such a hard time letting go because he had so many thoughts of "What if?" God knew that he needed more faith.

He was still worried about the risks of the surgery and about how his situation was more complicated than typical open-heart surgery. However, he knew that he needed to entrust his life to God when he started to doubt again. He prayed loudly to God with the help of the Holy Spirit.

He told God, "I entrust my life to you. No matter what I will face, I know that what You do is right." The moment he truly entrusted his life to God, God sent angels to comfort him. During the prayer, he saw hundreds of angels surround him, and he knew that God was pleased with his prayer. These angels protected him from the cold wind—it was still there, but the angels that were around him shielded him from it.

He realized that it was indeed a spiritual battle. When he concentrated on the difficulties and allowed them to take over his thoughts, he lost sight of what he should have been focusing on—entrusting his problems to God.

The surgery lasted twice as long as he had thought, but thank God that it was a success. Many brothers and sisters prayed for this brother's health. After the surgery, the first night back at home, he was reclining on the couch because he was still too weak to lie down on a bed. Suddenly, he saw three dark figures appear before him. When he saw the spirits, he understood they were from Satan. Again, they asked him to give up. It was indeed a very scary moment. At that point, this brother was so weak that he couldn't speak. So, he thought in his heart, "Don't touch me, I have God." Although he hadn't spoken out loud, they understood his thought and told him, "Then cry out loud. But you can't even speak and you're calling to your God?"

As they said this, one grabbed his neck, one pushed his back, and the other pulled his legs. They said, "Let's go. Just give up!" Then the brother summoned all his strength and said, "God, please save me!" The three spirits disappeared. After this appearance, they never bothered him again. He knew he was fighting a spiritual battle. But at the end, when he relied on God and cried out His name, the evil spirits left him! God, indeed, is faithful and He will lead us, even though we may go through very difficult trials.

The Bible tells us that we struggle not against flesh and blood, but against demonic forces. Ephesians 6:12 records, "For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places." Let's remember, there are always battles for us to fight every day, but we must trust that God will give us the victory if we turn to Him for help!

Questions to Think About

1. **What was the main message from the evil spirit?** (They wanted the brother to give up.)
2. **How did God show this brother that He was being protected?** (He sent hundreds of angels to shield him.)
3. **After the surgery when the evil spirits returned, what did they want from the brother?** (They wanted him to give up on God.)
4. **What did the brother do when the evil spirits choked and grabbed him?** (He relied on God to help him by crying out loud, "God save me!")

The lesson we can learn from here is that God gives victory to those who humbly ask of Him and seek Him. We must trust in the living God who is all-powerful and capable of helping us!

2. The living God we worship is a powerful God.

1. Look out the window. What do you see? Do you see the sun, trees, and birds? God created all of these with His words. He has great power to create so many wonderful things out of nothing. He also has the power to make things act in a special way, such as making the sun stand still or making hailstones hit only the enemies of His people.
2. Look at your hand. Do you see your detailed fingerprints, the way your thumb works, or the hardness of your nails? The same God who created our beautiful world is also the one who made each one of us. God's power is shown in our physical bodies. It is by God's power that many brothers and sisters receive healing from serious illnesses and protection from dangerous situations.
3. Think of another story where God made His creation act in a special way. In 2 Kings 20:9-11, God made the sun and time flow backwards for Hezekiah. God used this event as a special sign to show Hezekiah that he would regain his health. The sun's shadow moved backwards by ten degrees, probably five to six hours on the sundial. It was by the power of God that this miracle happened.

ACTIVITIES**1****The Sun and Moon Stand Still Mini-Scene**

Objective: To understand the importance of the victory that God gave to the Israelites.

Materials

- Box of colorful play-dough (must include white and yellow)
- Toothpicks
- 4 x 6 sheets of thick cardboard (four 4 x 6 sheets can be cut out of regular A4 cardboard)
- Sharpened pencils

Preparations

1. Distribute one 4 x 6 sheet of cardboard and 4-5 toothpicks to each student.
2. Evenly distribute the pieces of play-dough among the students, including white, yellow, and other available colors.
3. Make sure each student has a sharpened pencil.

Instructions

1. Using the yellow play-dough, form a rolled ball to represent the sun. The rays can be little cones or pyramids.
2. Using the white play-dough, form another rolled ball to represent the moon.
3. Take two pieces of play-dough and form two separate cubes to serve as bases for the sun and the moon. The cubes should be slightly bigger and heavier than the sun and the moon so they can hold the weight of the sun and moon.
4. Using one or two toothpicks for each, connect the sun and the moon to their own bases.
5. Students can make a figurine of Joshua with the other available colors. One rolled ball can serve as the head. A cylindrical shape can serve as the body. Students can add facial features by using the sharpened pencils to "draw" them in. Students can also add a sword and a shield made from play-dough.
6. Once the sun, moon, and Joshua figurine have been completed, students can arrange the scene on their 4 x 6 piece of thick cardboard.

2

Thumb-Acting

Objective: To understand the content of the story.

Materials

- Washable markers
- Felt or tissue paper, various colors

Instructions

1. List all the characters in the story on the board:

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|
| • Joshua | • Israelites (two or three) |
| • Gibeonites (two or three) | • Adoni-Zedek, king of Jerusalem |
| • Hoham, king of Hebron | • Piram, king of Jarmuth |
| • Japhia, king of Lachish | • Debir, king of Eglon |
| • Sun | • Moon |
| • God | • Narrator |

2. Assign a character to each student or have students pick the character they would like to “thumb-act.”

3. Once the selections have been made, have students use the washable markers to draw the faces of their character on their thumb.

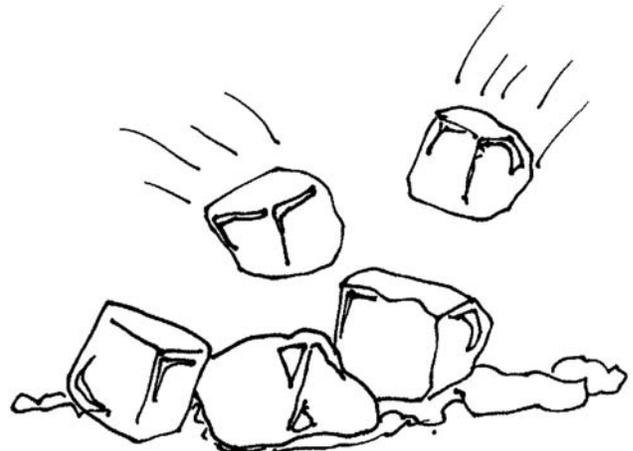
4. Students can decorate their thumb with felt or tissue paper (to represent robes, capes, hair, etc.).

5. Once the thumb actors are ready, the narrator reads the Bible story while the students act out their parts using their thumbs.



Hail 1

Hail 2



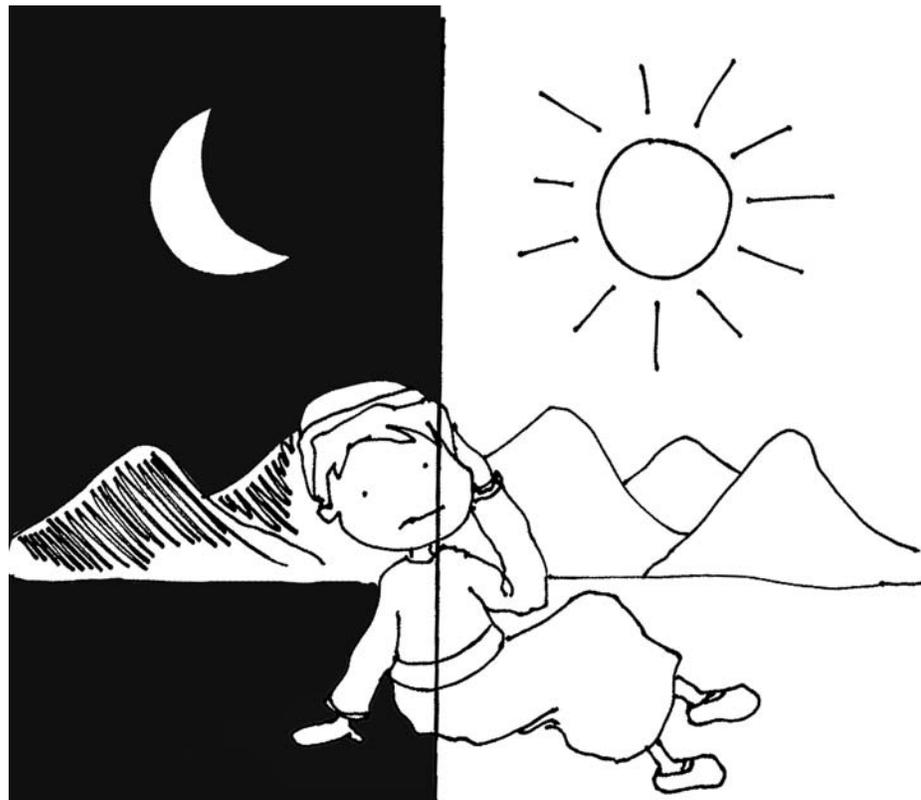
Sun Stands Still 1



King



Sun Stands Still 2



E1 Year 1 Book 4 Lesson 1—The Lord Saves Israel through Joshua

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Bible Truth: God fights and wins battles for His people.

Lesson Objectives: 1. To understand how God gave victory to Israel through Joshua.
 2. To recognize that God will give us the victory when we humbly ask of and seek for Him.

Bible Reading: Please put a checkmark in the space when you complete the reading each day.

Prayer: Please put a checkmark in the space on the days you prayed to God.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Bible Reading							
Prayer							

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse.

(Joshua 1:9b)

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Homework Assignment

Understanding What You Have Learned

Fish for Letters

1. Use a line to connect the missing letters to the right word.

U E N I A

a) G__BEONITES b) JOSH__A c) ADONI-Z__DEK e) SU__ e) H__ILSTONE

True or False

2. Twenty kings came to fight against Joshua and his army. _____

3. Joshua won the battle because he was a mighty warrior. _____

4. God made hailstones rain on the enemies of His people. _____

5. God made the sun and the moon stand still. _____

6. God can work miracles today if we have faith like Joshua did. _____

Life Application

7. List two modern-day miracles of God that you have read about, heard about, or experienced. How did they show that God guided and gave the victory?
