



TAKING THE LAND



JOSHUA 10-11; 24

Instructions

The curriculum we use for elementary aged children goes through the Bible chronologically. Currently we are finishing up the book of Deuteronomy. So that your child can continue their journey through the Bible we will be putting together VERY basic Bible lessons for you to do at home. Below you will find a summary of this week's Bible passage. All you have to do is read it with your kids. Then you will see two different sets of discussion questions. One for older kids (3rd-4th grade range) and one for younger kids (Kinder-2nd grade range). Read the discussion questions with your kids. Remember, discussion is not one sided, it's different people talking together. Give your kids the opportunity to think and speak. I pray the Lord speaks to you and your family as you dive into His word together.

Tell the Bible Story

God was with His people as they entered the promised land. Joshua and the Israelites had defeated the cities of Jericho and Ai (AY igh). They made peace with their neighbors, the people of Gibeon (GIB ih uhn). One day, the Israelites came to a place ruled by five kings. The kings did not love God or worship Him. They had heard about God's people and were afraid.

The king of Jerusalem called to the other four kings in the land. He said to them, "Help me attack Gibeon because it has made peace with Joshua and the people of Israel." So the five kings joined forces and went up with all their armies to fight against Gibeon.

The men of Gibeon sent a message to Joshua: "Help us! Save us! All the kings who live in this land are fighting against us." So Joshua and his whole army went to Gibeon to help them.

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 from where they were staying and they 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. The Lord sent hail from the sky to stop them.

The battle was not over. 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 until Israel and Gibeon defeated the kings. The sun did not set for almost a full day. There has been no day like it before or since.

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 conquer the land God had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.

God gave the Israelites peace and rest from their enemies for many years. 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. 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.

Discussion & Bible Skills - Older

Distribute Bibles. Guide your kids to open their Bibles to Joshua 10. Explain that today’s Bible story comes from Joshua 10–11; 24. Challenge kids to name the five books of the Bible that come before Joshua. (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, Deuteronomy) Ask them how many they can name that come after Joshua. (Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, and so on)

Read aloud Joshua 10:42. Ask the following questions:



1. What did Joshua do when he needed help in the battle? What do you do when you need help?

Lead your kids to recall that Joshua prayed when he needed more time to fight before the sun went down. Encourage your kids to share where they go for help. How often do they turn to God in prayer? Assure your kids that they can pray to God anytime and anywhere.

2. God gave His people victory in a physical battle. In what way does God give us victory?
Prompt your kids to identify our greatest enemies, sin and death. Help them recognize that sinners can look to God for victory over sin and death. People can't save themselves. God brought us salvation by sending His Son, Jesus, to die on the cross and rise again.

3. Does God always answer our prayers? Why or why not?
Emphasize that we don't see the big picture of our lives, but God does. He always acts according to what is for our good and His glory. Sometimes we need to wait a while before God says yes to our prayer. Sometimes what is best for us is for God to say no to our request. Sometimes God says yes to our prayers. God loves us, and we can trust His perfect plans.

SAY:

When the Israelites entered Canaan, they fought many battles to take over the promised land. The major battle in today's Bible story took place in Gibeon, a city north of Jerusalem. God made the sun stand still and gave His people victory.

Discussion & Bible Skills - Younger

Distribute a Bible to each kid. Help them use the table of contents to find Joshua 10–11; 24. Ask them which Old Testament division Joshua is in (History) and review that we use Bible divisions to help us organize similar books. You may also choose to discuss the other books in the History division, or the other divisions in the Old Testament.

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss:

1. Who did the five kings attack first?

The people of Gibeon, allies of the Israelites; Josh. 10:5



2. 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

3. 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

4. How do you think the Israelites felt as they witnessed the daylight hours extended so long?

Guide your 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

SAY:

God made the sun stand still and gave His people victory. He is always faithful to keep His promises. He promised a Rescuer, and He gave us victory over sin and death through that Rescuer—Jesus.