

JOSHUA & THE SUN

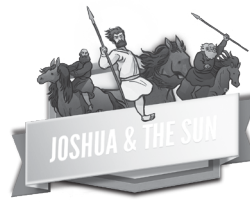
JOSHUA 10:1-15

GOAL

▶ **To teach children that they can depend on God and all of his promises.** God chose Israel out of all the peoples of the world, and he chose a land for them out of all the places in the world. Joshua knew that nothing could stop God from fulfilling his promises to Israel. When he heard that five kings and their armies planned an attack against the Gibeonites, who were friends of Israel, he was not afraid to come up against them. God told Joshua he would defeat the kings and their armies, and Joshua believed God's word. So great was the faith of Joshua, that he went before all of Israel and prayed for one of the greatest military miracles in history. He asked God to extend the day so that there would be more time to defeat his enemies completely. God heard his prayers and acted against the natural laws of the universe to answer his request. God was with Joshua, and he was fighting for Israel! Trust God and believe in all of his promises.

CHARACTERS

▶ **Joshua:** A great man of faith chosen by God to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. Joshua was one of only two from his entire generation of people who were allowed into the land, because he believed in God's promises and was not afraid. In this story, Joshua battled an enemy comprised of five kings and all their armies! In full confidence, Joshua went into battle, and just as God promised, He gave the victory to Joshua and the Israelites.

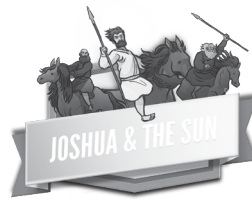


MEMORY
VERSE

▶ **Psalm 112:7:** He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.

OVERVIEW

▶ **Read Joshua 10:1-15:** The kings of the Amorites were in position to fight and destroy their previous allies, the Gibeonites, because they had recently joined with Israel. When the people of Gibeon heard that they were about to be attacked, they knew they didn't stand a chance. They called on Joshua for help, and Joshua sent his best fighting men to battle the kings and their armies. God promised the victory to Joshua. Because he was confident in God's word, he did not back down until his enemies were completely defeated. When the Amorites ran, he pursued. Joshua's armies chased them with weapons, and the Lord dropped huge hailstones on them. On the day the Lord gave the Amorites over to Israel for defeat, Joshua called on the Lord for a miracle. In the presence of all of Israel he called to the Lord, asking him to extend the day. The Lord heard his prayer, and the sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down for the length of about a full day—just enough time for Israel to complete their victory. Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel!



SUGGESTIONS

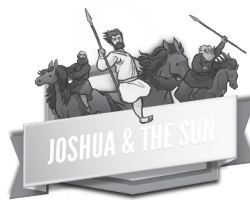
If Joshua did not believe God's promises to the Israelites, he may have looked at this battle differently. Fear may have gripped his heart, and he may not have engaged the five kings and their armies in battle. But he had faith in God, and confidence that He would fulfill His promise to give this land to the Israelites.

Review some of the key promises God made to Israel and how believing them built confidence in Joshua and the armies of Israel:

1. God promised that Israel would be a great nation: Joshua was familiar with the story of how God had taken the family of Abraham and multiplied them into many people. He remembered how God took them out of Egypt and prepared them to be a great nation. Because God kept his promises in the past, Joshua was confident God would be with Israel now.

2. God promised Joshua that his enemies would be defeated: God said that he would deliver the Amorites to Israel in a complete victory, so Joshua fought in confidence, and he fought to the bitter end.

3. God promised that Israel would inherit the promised land of Canaan: God promised the land to Israel, and Joshua believed. True, there were fearful inhabitants in the land, but Joshua took courage in God's promise. He fought, knowing that the final outcome would be victory.



PRE-LESSON ACTIVITY

▶ **Beanbag Balance** | *Supplies:* Several small bean bags.

Divide the group into teams of 6-8 players. Have the children in each team stand in a line, one behind the other. Place a pile of beanbags in the front of each line and have the first child pick up the first beanbag and pass it over his or her head to the next child in line, and so on. The last child will throw the beanbag in a trash can or bucket, then he or she will race to the front of the line and grab the second beanbag and pass it back. Continue the game until the last beanbag is dropped in the bucket. The first team with all the beanbags in the bucket wins!

MEMORY VERSE MEANING

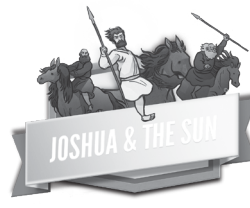
▶ **Psalm 112:7:** It must have been scary news for Joshua to hear that five big armies were coming to attack their allies and would soon come up against them. But Joshua believed God when he said not to be afraid and that Israel would defeat the enemy.

In this world, there are many scary things and situations, but God is our Father, and there is no enemy or circumstance that is bigger than God. Trust his promises and trust his word. In our times of need, all we need to do is call out to God.

POST-LESSON ACTIVITY

▶ **What's Up, Neighbor?**

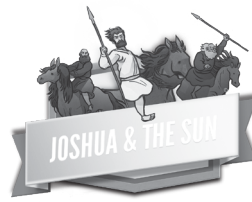
The object of this game is to try to discover what's true and what's false about your classmates. Your job is to try to trick the group. Tell each student to think up two statements about themselves. One should be true, the other false. They can try to make them both sound silly and false, or make them both sound true. Have each student come to the front of the room one at a time and make their two statements. Tell the class to guess which one is false. After everyone votes, the standing student should reveal the truth. Ask the students how they chose their answers. Were they using evidence, a hunch, or just guessing? Explain that in real life, even when the evidence seems pretty obvious, it's always important to pray to God for guidance before making big decisions.



**TAKE
HOME**

▶ Joshua believed that God would fulfill his promises to the Israelites, which gave him the confidence to face five kings and their armies in battle. What are some of God's promises to us that can give us confidence to obey God?

- 1.** God promises that all those who place their trust in Jesus are his adopted children and he cares for them as his own. Romans 8:15 teaches that God is a Father who cares about us, so we do not need to be afraid.
- 2.** God promises to those who respect and fear him that he will provide for their every need. Psalm 34:9 teaches that God cares about our needs and he will care for us.
- 3.** God promises to that he cares about every detail of our lives. Philippians 4:6-7 teaches that if we take our anxieties to God with a heart of thanksgiving, He will take our anxieties away and give us peace. Talk to God about all of the things that make you anxious, because He cares for you.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 1



Q1a: What city made a deal for peace with Israel?

A1: Gibeon

Q1b: Have you ever had an argument with someone and then made up?

TN: This question is to get students thinking about how something like a peace treaty relates to them.

SLIDE 2

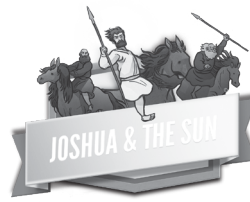


Q2a: Who sent word to Joshua about the Amorite kings' plans?

A2: Gibeon

Q2b: If someone tricked you into something, would you be willing to put yourself in danger to help that person?

TN: This question is meant to get students thinking about the decision Joshua had to make in coming to the defense of Gibeon.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 3



Q3a: Who marched the Israelite army to Gibeon?

A3: Joshua

Q3b: Would you do something you're kind of scared to try if you knew you wouldn't fail?

TN: Student responses can be as simple as "I'd try snowboarding," or something more serious about life. This question is meant to get them thinking about how God can help them with these and all other aspects of their lives.

SLIDE 4

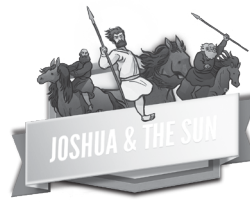


Q4a: What did God drop on the Amorites?

A4: Hailstones

Q4b: If you had to walk all night to get somewhere, do you think you'd have the energy to fight in a battle all day long?

TN: This question is meant to further explain the miracle of this battle. Before God sent the hailstones, the Israelites, who should have been exhausted, won the battle against five armies.



QUESTION & ANSWER

SLIDE 5

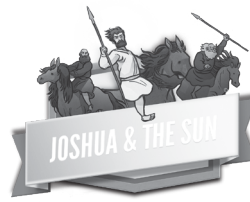


Q5a: What did Joshua ask God to do?

A5: He asked God to extend the day.

Q5b: Why did Joshua ask for the miracle in front of all of Israel?

TN: He asked for the miracle in front of all of Israel so they would see that God was with them, heard their prayers, and answered them. It was a great confidence builder. While we may not see such miracles, God is with us. He hears our prayers, and He answers them.



**MEMORY
VERSE**

▶ **Psalm 12:7:** He is not afraid of bad news; his heart is firm, trusting in the Lord.

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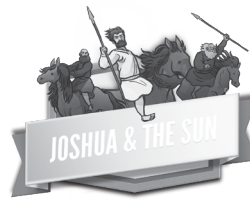
BIG IDEA

▶ With God on our side, there is nothing to fear.

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**CLOSING
PRAYER**

▶ Dear Lord Jesus, please help us to remember your promises and courageously go about the day knowing you are with us, and that nothing in the whole wide world can stand against the power of your word. Help us to remember the promises you have made to us in the Bible, so that we can stand strong in every situation. We pray this in Jesus' name, Amen.



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 1



As the Israelites fought to take the land promised to them by God, the people who still lived there shook in fear, knowing they would soon be destroyed. One of the mighty cities in this new land, Gibeon, was so afraid they tricked Israel into making a deal for peace. They would do anything to stay alive. It wasn't long before the king of Jerusalem heard about this tricky deal, and he wasn't happy. He wanted to destroy Gibeon and weaken Israel. So he joined forces with four other kings, and they gathered with all of their troops to attack Gibeon.

SLIDE 2

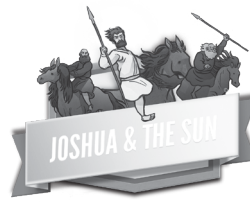


When the Gibeonites found out about what the five Amorite kings were planning against them, they sent word to Joshua: "Do not leave your servants to fight alone. Come quickly and save us from the Amorite kings who have joined forces against us. Please help us!"

SLIDE 3



So Joshua marched up with his entire army, including all of his best fighting men. The Lord said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them; I have already given them into your hand so that not one of them will be able to stand against you!"



LESSON TRANSCRIPT

SLIDE 4



After an all-night march from Gilgal, Joshua and his troops quickly caught up with the Amorite kings and surprised them in an attack. Just as God promised, He was with the Israelites. As their enemies ran for their lives, the Israelites chased them with weapons and God dropped huge hailstones on them; in fact, more of them died from hailstones than from the swords of the Israelites!

SLIDE 5



Joshua and his men did not want to quit fighting until the Amorites were completely defeated, but they were running out of time. So Joshua went to the Lord before all of Israel and asked for a miracle: "Please," he pleaded with the Lord "make the sun and the moon to stand still over Gibeon." And the Lord answered the prayer of Joshua! God caused the moon and the sun to stop moving. This was an amazing display of God's power over His creation. Surely, the Lord was with Joshua, and He fought for Israel!