

THE SUN STOOD STILL

BIBLE PASSAGE: Joshua 10; 13
FOCUS VERSES: Hebrews 10:23, Numbers 23:19, Deuteronomy 7:9

Summary: The Israelites, led by Joshua, conquered Canaanite cities as God had promised. When several kings attacked a city named Gibeon, Joshua came to help. God told him not to fear and promised victory. Joshua prayed for the sun to stand still, and God answered, giving them more time to fight. The Israelites defeated their enemies, conquered more land, and Joshua divided it among the twelve tribes. The Promised Land became theirs, just as God said.

MONTHLY Memory Verse

For nothing will be impossible with God.

(LUKE 1:37)

BRITE Idea

God does what He says.

We will go deeper in God's truth by answering these questions:

HE

WHY DOES GOD KEEP HIS PROMISES?
God is completely good. He never lies or changes His mind.

WE

HOW CAN WE KNOW WHAT GOD'S PROMISES ARE?
We can learn the many promises God has made to His people by studying the Bible.

ME

HOW IS GOD INVITING ME TO RESPOND?
Kids will reflect and respond to the truth they learned about God.

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Leader TRAINING

LEADER TRAINING TOPIC: BE PLAYFUL

When a kid does not meet expectations, engaging in play with them is often not our first response. However, when we approach a kid with a warm and playful demeanor, the kid will often begin to calm so we can better identify the need driving the behavior. Need help being more playful? Try these ideas:

- **Use your "fun" voice.** While it's easy to go straight to our authoritative voice when a kid's behavior is challenging, next time use your "fun" voice when redirecting or correcting. A playful voice signals to the kid that you are on their side and will work with them.
- **Play.** Relationships are built through shared fun experiences. As you build a relationship with a kid, correction and coaching will be more effective. Sit down on the floor, grab a truck, or join a kid who is coloring.
- **Start with play.** Telling a kid that our room is a fun space is not enough. We need to show them. Greeting them with a fist bump or high five is a great way to start your interaction with connection and fun. Have toys and craft supplies accessible to kids as soon as they arrive. Offering play immediately upon arrival helps ease the transition from their caregiver.

NAVIGATING A BROKEN WORLD: DIVORCE

One of the most significant ways kids experience the pain of broken promises is when divorce happens within their family. Research reveals 30 percent of kids experience their parents' divorce.* When a kid experiences divorce, their whole world is affected. They may struggle emotionally, physically and socially. Also, their impression of promises and adults doing what they say may be jaded. You will likely have kids in your group whose parents have been through a divorce. In today's lesson, they will learn that God always does what He says. Kids who have been hurt may struggle with believing that. They may wonder why a promise-keeping God would let their family go through so much. You can listen to kids' struggles without judging their family. Point to God's faithfulness, even when it takes time to see how He's moving. Kids can learn that God won't lie or break promises.

*For more resources on this topic, check out: britecurriculum.com/resources

ELEMENTARY GLOSSARY

Infallible: never wrong, failing, or making a mistake

Promise: when someone agrees to something

Promised Land: a special place God promised to give His people

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Bible TEACHING

THE SUN STOOD STILL
JOSHUA 10; 13

SUPPLIES:
Bible, teaching slides, envelope

PREP:
None

LEADER TIP:
For smaller groups, kids can play multiple roles.

PRAY: God, You do amazing things! Things we can't even understand! If You say it, You do it. Help us to learn from Joshua and this mighty miracle today. Amen.

Say: After many years of wandering in the wilderness, Moses had died and Joshua was the new leader of the Israelites. They began conquering cities to take over the land that God had promised.

Have one volunteer stand and salute. That volunteer is now Joshua. After saluting, Joshua can sit back down.

Say: The kings of the land heard how Joshua and the people had defeated cities around them. They wanted to stop him, so they plotted to join together to attack the city of Gibeon.

Have three volunteers stand and pretend to speak angrily to one another. Allow them a few seconds of acting and then have them sit back down.

Say: The men of Gibeon sent word to ask Joshua for help, telling him about the attack that was coming.

Call a volunteer to come to the front of the space, hand them an envelope and have them take it to Joshua. The volunteer can then sit back down.

Show teaching illustration: Men of Gibeon Send Message to Joshua.

Say: Joshua gathered his brave fighting men and headed to Gibeon.

Have three new volunteers stand and flex their muscles. Allow them a few seconds of acting and then have them sit back down.

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Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Say: Along the way, God spoke to Joshua.

Read Joshua 10:8 directly from the Bible: *And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you."*

Say: Joshua and his men surprised the enemies, attacking them suddenly. The LORD caused the enemies to panic and run.

Have three volunteers stand and act scared and panicked. Allow them to run in place for a few seconds and then sit back down.

Say: Joshua and the Israelites chased after them, knowing that if night came, some of the enemy would escape and their victory would not be complete. Joshua asked God to make the sun stand still so that they could have more daylight to finish the battle.

Have Joshua stand and fold their hands in prayer while you read the verse.

Read Joshua 10:12 directly from the BIble: *At that time Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the Lord gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, "Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon."*

Invite Joshua to sit back down.

Show teaching illustration: Joshua Prays & Sun Stands Still.

Say: God answered! God slowed down the sun and it didn't set for a whole day. The Israelites were victorious!

Have the entire group stand and celebrate a great win! After a few seconds of acting, have them sit back down.

Say: Joshua led the Israelites to conquer more cities and to occupy Canaan, the Promised Land. Joshua divided up the land among the twelve tribes of Israel, giving each group their own inheritance.

(CONTINUED)

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Bible TEACHING CONTINUED

Say: God kept His promise to Joshua that they would win the battle. He kept an even bigger promise when they took over Canaan. Just like He had promised Abram, Isaac, Jacob and Moses, God gave His people their own land.

Show teaching slide: Point to Jesus.



POINT TO JESUS

Say: Throughout the Old Testament, God promised hundreds of times that He would send a Rescuer who would save the people from their sin. God kept His promise by sending Jesus, a descendant of Abraham, to Earth to die on the cross for our sins. God promises that when we trust in Jesus for forgiveness of our sins, we will live forever with Him. He always does what He says.

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Review

BIBLE REVIEW VIDEO

Play Bible Review Video. Play the game below using teaching slides: Review Game

SUPPLIES:
Video player, Bible Review Video, teaching slides, flashlight, poster board, writing supplies, painter's tape

PREP:
Write "A" on the left side of the poster board. Write "B" on the right side of the poster board. Draw a line down the middle of the poster board. Tape the poster board to the front of your space.

INSTRUCTIONS: *For each question, select a volunteer to indicate "A" or "B" by casting a shadow of their finger, pointing to the correct answer by shining the flashlight behind it. Select a new volunteer for each question.*

1. **What kind of cities were Joshua and the Israelites conquering?**
   a. Cities with the best fast food places
   b. Cities in the land God promised

2. **What happened when Joshua and his men surprised their enemies?**
   a. The Lord caused the enemy to panic and run.
   b. The enemy quickly fought back.

3. **What did Joshua pray for God to do so that victory would be assured?**
   a. The sun to stand still
   b. To cause confusion among the enemy

4. **This promise that God kept was...**
   a. A random, one-time event
   b. Part of a larger promise God gave to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Moses

5. **Why does God keep His promises?**
   a. God is completely good.
   b. God needs to earn our trust.

God is completely good. He never lies or changes His mind.

6. **How can we know what God's promises are?**
   a. Studying the planets
   b. Studying the Bible

We can learn the many promises God has made to His people by studying the Bible.

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