



BE COURAGEOUS

God Gave the People the Land | June 5, 2022 | 3rd - 5th grade

BIBLE PASSAGE: JOSHUA 7-11

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.

BOTTOM LINE: True courage knows that God can do anything and is always faithful.

THE WIN FOR SUNDAY GROUPS: Give kids a first look at The Bible, Jesus and our need for a Savior by embracing their physical needs or engaging their interests. Use The Code when necessary to help redirect kids and build relationships.

BIBLE PASSAGE CONTEXT

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.

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.

When Joshua realized all that was happening, his 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.

TAKEAWAYS

- There are no limits to what God can do. When God performs miracles, His full power is on display.
- 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.
- In life, there will be times in which you feel powerless. You might face a situation that seems impossible. But looking at the Bible's record of God's miracles can give you courage to trust that He is the same all-powerful God today that He was back then.
- Through Jesus, God gives us miraculous victory over sin and death even though we don't deserve it or can do anything to earn it.
- **Bottom Line:** True courage knows that God can do anything and is always faithful.

People to Know

Enemies Israel Battled:-

- Philistines (1 Samuel 17)
- Jerichoans (Joshua 6)
- Five kings (Joshua 10)
- Canaanites (Judges 4)
- Midianites (Judges 7)
- Babylonians (2 Kings 25)

Small Group Prayer: “Thank You God for Your miracles. They show us Your power and strength. There is no one like You! Help us look to You for all that we need. We love You. Amen!”

SOCIAL ACTIVITY: Choose Your Own Game

What You Need: Socials Book, 3 pool noodles, masking tape, stopwatch/timer, score sheets, plastic cups, candy worms, lifesavers, paper clips, paper, bandaids, sticky tack/gum, scissors, stacks of books, 100 index cards, 50 pennies, scotch tape, measuring tape, 3 pool noodle circles, cones, I Spy activity pages, pencils

Objective: There are 5 activities in your Socials Book, kids will help decide the game of the day.

Winning: The goal is to get everyone in your group to participate in a game.

As kids are coming in, set up the game and ask kids to join you as you play the game. Games are a great way for kids to engage with each other and you as you get to know each other. Use this time to ask them questions about their week and any other important follow up questions to things you have talked about in the past.

What You Say: Ask this question: ““Have you ever run out of time when working on a task or assignment? Tell me about it. 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?”

Play a Worship Song or 2 from your Worship DVD/Roku
Play the Bible teaching DVD/Roku

APPLICATION ACTIVITY: Build the Sun

What You Need: God is printable (1 complete set per kid), glue sticks, scissors, scrapbook paper strips, marker, God is filler (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Give each kid a God is printable..
- Encourage them to use the paper strips to fill in each ray of sun. Help those who need it.
- Then give them all a marker and ask them to fill in things they know about God. You can use the God is filler to help them fill in the blanks.
- As they are gluing the pieces, ask kids to tell you what they know about God and where they remember it says that in the Bible..

What You Say “Think about this miracle and what the Bible says. In fact, the sun did not ‘stand still’ but the earth stopped rotating for almost a full day. Is this a mistake in the Bible? No. The Bible does not contain mistakes or errors. The writer of Joshua described what Joshua observed from his perspective. This is similar to how we talk about the sunrise and sunset. We know the sun does not move, but from our perspective on Earth, it looks that way. The Bible is completely true and trustworthy. We can thank God because everything we learn about Him helps us worship Him better and more often.”

TRANSITION ACTIVITY: Sun and Moon, Stand still

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Direct kids to spread out around the room. Choose one kid to be the guesser.
- Direct her to stand at the front of the room, facing away from the group.
- Designate one kid to be the “sun” and one kid to be the “Moon”.
- Ask the guesser to look over the group, and then turn around again.
- All the players should now move to a new location in the room except for the sun and moon; these players must remain stationary throughout the game.
- When everyone is still, permit the guesser to face the group.
- She must guess which players did not move.
- Play additional rounds until the guesser correctly identifies the sun and moon.
- If time allows, choose new kids to fill each role..

What You Say “Typically, the moon moves around the Earth, and the sun appears to move across the sky as the Earth rotates. In our Bible Story today, though, God performed a miracle and the sun and moon both stood still. Let’s look at our discussion questions now to talk about this more.”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What should you do if you feel jealous of a friend?**
- **What has God given you that you can be thankful for?**
- **Why is it important to know God’s promises?** Lead kids to discuss how knowing God’s promises makes it easier to trust Him. When we know God’s promises, we can remember them in times of trouble. The Israelites knew what God promised Abraham and remembering the promise helped them endure. When Israel faced the five kings, God told Joshua He would give him victory over the kings. Knowing God’s promises helps us trust Him in times of fear.
- **Why did God make the sun stand still in the sky?** Help kids recall that God showed His power over all things. God often used miracles to help His people learn to trust Him. The Israelites needed help defeating their enemies. God is all powerful and defeated the five kings for His people.
- **How has God fought for us to give us miraculous victory?** Remind the kids that we are all born dead in sin. We cannot save ourselves, and our hearts are broken so that we do not love God or want to obey Him. Jesus’ perfect life, sacrificial death, and miraculous resurrection won the battle against sin and death. Everyone who trusts in Jesus shares in His victory.

TRANSITION TO HOME: Prepare kids to talk with their family about what they learned today.

- As family members arrive to pick up their kid, greet them and tell them one thing you noticed about their kid that day or something you talked to each kid about remembering this week.
- If there is time to chat with the family, ask how you can pray for them this week.
- Say bye to the kid and call them by name.