



MOSAIC Gospel Project

Volume 3, Unit 8, Lesson 3: Taking the Land

Bible Passage: Joshua 10-11; 24

Personal Preparation

When Moses was the leader of Israel, God gave his people instructions about entering the promised land. Among those instructions was the command to drive out the nations living in the land of Canaan (see Deut. 7). These nations were corrupt, and God would judge them for their sin (Lev. 18).

In the first battle, Israel marched around Jericho and the Lord gave them the city. As Israel moved to take the rest of the land, God pledged his presence to Joshua and reminded Israel of what he required: If you want to be successful in the land, you must obey me (see Josh. 1:7). The Israelites learned from experience that disobedience to God would result in certain defeat, as Achan's sin brought about their downfall during the battle of Ai (Josh. 7).

During the battles the Israelites faced in Canaan, Joshua (whose name means "the Lord saves") was not in charge—the Lord was. God determined whom Israel battled and how Israel would win. Joshua 10-11 describes Israel's defeat of five kings who attacked Gibeon, an ally of Israel. Miraculously, God sent hailstones and stopped the sun. He gave Israel the victory. God was with Israel as they conquered the rest of the land. Then, he gave his people years of peace and rest.

Help the individuals you teach see the bigger picture beyond Israel's individual battles against the Canaanites. God was keeping his promise to give his people the land. God answered the prayers of his people. He fought for Joshua and the Israelites, saving them

and giving them victory over their enemies. God was glorified when his people loved and obeyed him.

In the same way, God is glorified today when we love and obey him. As sinners, we can look to God for victory over sin and death. Jesus defeated sin and death by dying on the cross and rising again.

Memory Verse

Begin the lesson by sharing the memory verse with the group. This is the last week with this memory verse.

Deuteronomy 31:8

"Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you; he will neither fail you nor abandon you."

Points of Emphasis

1. God made the sun stand still and gave his people victory.
2. We can glorify God by loving him and obeying him.

Activity #1

Guide the group to begin filling out the activity sheet. Feel free to allow the individuals to continue working as you teach the lesson.

Video

Two weeks ago, we talked about the first steps God's people took into the promised land. God held back the Jordan River for his people to cross. Then, we learned about the battle they fought against Jericho. God

brought down the walls of Jericho so his people could defeat their enemies. This week, we will learn about another large battle the Israelites fought against five kings and their armies. We will also see how God fulfilled his promise to give his people a land of their own. Our story is called “Taking the Land.”

Play the video lesson titled “Taking the Land.”

Bible Lesson

What an incredible story! God’s people needed his help to defeat their enemies, and God provided them with help in a spectacular way. God made the sun stand still and gave his people victory.

Isn’t it wonderful to see God’s faithfulness in story after story? No matter how unfaithful the people proved themselves to be, God remained faithful. He keeps all his promises. God’s promise to give the people a land of their own was finally fulfilled at the end of Joshua’s life. God gave them victory in the land and let them experience peace after years of fighting. When we begin to understand how great and glorious God is, it makes sense that we would want to give God glory. How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving him and obeying him.

But God’s people, like us, often forgot God and sinned against him by trying to glorify themselves. We will see in future weeks that, though they lived in the land God had promised, they did not perfectly obey God’s rules about the land. Only Jesus perfectly obeyed and glorified God.

Activity #2

Lead the individuals to finish working on the activity sheet. Review the memory verse with the individuals. Encourage them to show what they have learned and continue practicing the verse. Guide them to put the verse together using the Velcro pictures. This will be the last lesson with this memory verse.

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. Our greatest enemy today is sin. But sinners—that’s us—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.

Jesus conquered our biggest enemy when he rose from the grave. We can love and obey him as the leader of our lives who brings us the victory.

Play the Gospel Presentation video. Discuss the Gospel with the individuals, and answer any questions they might have. Help them think through what the Gospel could mean for their lives.

Review Questions

(Optional: Play the Questions from Kids (QFK) video as a part of the discussion on taking the land. Today’s episode asks how we can have peace in scary situations.)

Group A

Early Learner

Encourage the individuals to point to the pictures provided or to draw in order to answer these questions.

1. **Who confused the five kings’ armies?** God
2. **Who threw hailstones at the five kings’ armies?** God
3. **Who stopped the sun from setting to give the Israelites more time to win the battle?** God
4. **Who won the battles?** The Israelites
5. **Who gave the Israelites victory in the battles?** God

Group B

1. **Who did the five kings attack first?** The people of Gibeon, allies of the Israelites
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.

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

Group C

1. **What did Joshua do when he needed help in the battle? What do you do when you need help?** Joshua prayed when he needed more time to fight before the sun went down. Encourage the individuals to share where they go for help. How often do they turn to God in prayer? Assure kids that we 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 the individuals 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?** 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.

Group D

Advanced Learner

1. **What does this story teach us about God?** God fought for his people time and time again. He proved to them that he is faithful to keep his promises. When they loved him and obeyed him, his glory went ahead of them and caused their enemies to run in fear. And God can still do that for us today.
2. **Who deserves credit for the Israelites' victory?** There was no way Joshua and his army could have won by their own power or strength. Can you make it hail? Can you stop the sun? Only God can! God made the sun stand still and gave his people victory. God can move heaven and earth to help his people. The sun stayed in the sky all those extra hours to give Joshua and the army the daylight they needed to finish that battle.
3. **How can we feel at peace even in hard times?**
4. **What can you do to remember that God is in control?**

Prayer

God, thank you for all you do for us. Thank you for remaining faithful all the time. You keep your promises to us just as you kept them to the Israelites in the past. Help us trust you each day and glorify you all the time. Amen.

