

SESSION TITLE: Taking the Land

BIBLE PASSAGE: Joshua 10-11; 24

STORY POINT: God made the sun stand still and gave His people victory.

KEY PASSAGE: Deuteronomy 31:8

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.

SCHEDULE

Introduce the Story	
(1) Activity Page & Intro Question	5 minutes
(2) Session Starter Activity	5 minutes
Teach the Story	
(3) Big Picture & Timeline	2 minutes
(4) Watch Bible Story Video	4 minutes
(5) Bible Story Discussion	4 minutes
(6) Key Passage & Sing	4 minutes
(7) Pray	2 minutes
Apply the Story	
(8) Craft	15 minutes
(9) Snack & Reflection Questions	10 minutes

PREPARE the Home Session

Set aside some time to prepare for your session. This is a special and unique opportunity and is likely different from what kids are used to, which may cause some challenges. Pray over your time and prepare the best you can.

1. Print this packet, activity pages and coloring sheets. *
2. Gather necessary materials*
 - a. Crayons, markers or colored pencils
 - b. Internet-capable device (with Bible video cued)
 - c. Bible
 - d. Craft materials
 - e. Snack
3. Verbally prep children for the Sunday School lesson. Let them know that you will be having a very special Sunday School at home! Let them know your expectations for participating.

*** If you do not have a printer or the materials needed**, Anthem Kids Lead Nicole Raden has packets of supplies you can pick up at her home. Let Nicole know if you'd like to come pick up a packet via email at nicole.raden@anthemchurch.org or text at (360) 383-6411.

INTRODUCE the Story

(1) INTRO & ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

To introduce the lesson, print out the appropriate activity page for kids to complete. As they fill them out, ask the intro question to get them thinking about the lesson you will be covering.

MATERIALS

- Preschool Activity Page – “Color by Number”
- Younger Activity Page – “Sun or Moon?”
- Older Activity Page – “Battle Flag”
- Crayons, markers or colored pencils

QUESTION - Prompt kids to discuss the latest they have ever stayed up and why they stayed up that late.

SAY - No matter how late you stay up, there are only 24 hours in a day. So if you stay up late enough, you will actually go to sleep the next morning! But today we will learn about one day that was different from every other day. God made it longer! I’ll tell you more soon.

(2) SESSION STARTER ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Stand Still

MATERIALS

- Timer (optional)

Invite kids to take turns seeing how long they can stand still in a certain position such as on one foot, holding both arms straight out, or on their tiptoes. Consider using a timer to record their time.

SAY - Standing still can be hard. We get wobbly if we stand very long on one foot. We may need something to hold onto so we do not fall. In our Bible story today, God made the sun

and moon stand still.

/// TRANSITION TO TEACH THE STORY ///

TEACH the Story

MATERIALS

- Internet-capable device (Computer, laptop, tablet)
- Bible
- Key Passage Printable

****Note****

If your children are young, you may want to summarize some of the intro and story explanation. It does not need to be read in its entirety.

(3) Big Picture Question & Timeline (2 minutes)

SAY - As we study these stories, we've been using a big picture question to help us focus on some specific ideas. Can any of you remember the question and answer? *[Allow responses.]* That's it! **How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.** God created us to love Him, and all His ways are best. We glorify Him by showing with our actions and words that we believe the truth about Him. He is perfect, and it is right for us to love and obey Him.

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.”

(4) Bible Story Video (3 minutes)

VIDEO TITLE - “Taking the Land”

(5) Bible Story Discussion & Review (4 minutes)

SAY - 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 loved and obeyed God perfectly. Only Jesus perfectly glorified God.

[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.

(6) Key Passage & Singing (4 minutes)

Show the key passage printable or find it in the Bible. Lead the kids to repeat Deuteronomy 31:8. Then sing the Key Passage songs to help commit these to memory. Note that this unit only includes 3 sessions, so **the memory verse challenge is this week!**

MUSIC VIDEO TITLES (OPTIONS) -

1. Deuteronomy 31:8 (Preschool)
2. Do Not Be Afraid (Elementary)
3. Onward, Christian Soldiers (Elementary)

(7) Pray (2 minutes)

SAY - 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.

EXPERIENCE the Story

(8) Tissue Paper Suncatcher

MATERIALS

- Wax paper
- Colored tissue paper
- Wheat paste (1 tablespoon flour mixed with 2 tablespoons water)
- Paint brush



Have kids cut pieces of colored tissue paper into different shapes. Brush the wheat paste all over the waxed paper, set a piece of tissue paper on the liquid starch-covered piece of wax paper, then brushed more liquid starch over the piece. Allow time for drying.

SAY - You can place this beautiful suncatcher in a window where the sunlight can go through it to make beautifully colored shadows. When you see it, remember that God does amazing things, even stopping the sun, to help His people. He sent Jesus to die for our sin and make the way for us to live with Him forever. We can trust God to do what is best for us. That's why we glorify Him. **How can we glorify God? We can glorify God by loving Him and obeying Him.**

(9) Snack & Reflection (10 minutes)

MATERIALS

- Suggested snack: Oranges

Comment that the sun is round and often looks orange, like an orange. Orange trees, like all fruit trees, need sunshine to grow fruit. Remind kids that **God made the sun stand still**. Nothing like that had ever happened before. Nothing like that has happened since then.

As they eat, guide kids to think about and answer questions reviewing and reflecting on the story:

- **How many kings were there in our story?** *(five)*
- **Why did the kings attack Gibeon?** *(Because the people of Gibeon were friends with Joshua and the Israelites)*
- **What fell from the sky to first stop the five kings' armies?** *(God sent a hailstorm)*
- **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)*
- **How do you think the Israelites felt as they witnessed the daylight hours extended so long?** *Guide 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.*

Extra Activity Options

Coloring Page

A coloring page is also provided and can be used as needed to go along with the story.

Key Passage

Our Key Passage is Deuteronomy 31:8 and this week is our Memory Challenge! If your child would like to participate in the Challenge, you can opt to do the following:

1. Take a video of your kid(s) reciting the Key Passage from memory.
2. Email or text the video(s) to Ms. Nicole and **include your mailing address.**
 - Email: Nicole.raden@anthemchurch.org
 - Text: (360) 383-6411
3. **Ms. Nicole will send a prize in the mail!**

Note that this is normally an Elementary classroom challenge but is open right now to Preschoolers if they want to participate too!