



K-1st Lesson

Review

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. God was faithful to the Israelites. He rescued them from slavery in Egypt, gave them food and water in the wilderness, and brought them to the land he promised long ago to their great-grandfather Abraham.

God promised to be with Joshua as he led the Israelites into the Promised Land of Canaan.

- Refer to Lesson 66 Flip Chart. What was the first city they had to fight? Jericho.

Joshua obeyed God's instructions even though they seemed strange. And God brought down the walls so Israel could take the city.

- Refer to Lesson 67 Flip Chart. But then the Israelites lost their next battle against Ai. Why did they lose? Achan sinned by taking items from Jericho that he shouldn't have.

Achan thought he could hide his sin, but God knew all about it. God was teaching the Israelites to obey him completely.

Then in the battle against five kings and their armies, God threw hailstones from the sky and made the sun stand still to help Joshua chase down the enemy.

Wow! We've seen that God is faithful. If you made the God Is Faithful Signs, have students hold them up whenever they hear the word "faithful" during the lesson. In today's lesson, we'll see how God kept his promise to give the land to the Israelites. And we'll hear how a man named Caleb put his faith in God to do a big, scary job.

The Last Battles and the Land

Other kings in the land heard about how Israel was winning all these battles and taking the land. So they gathered their armies together and went out to fight against Israel. Let's read about these kings and their armies.

Joshua 11:4

- Who has the Bible? Will you bring it up, please? Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Joshua 11:4.
- How big was this army? There were so many soldiers it was like the what? Like the sand on the seashore.
- How many of you have ever been to the seashore or on a sandy beach somewhere? Show of hands.

Bring out the bag of sand. One thing about sand is that in just a handful there are so many little grains you can't count them. There must be thousands or millions in this little bag. So to say that this army was like the sand on the seashore, that means there must have been A LOT of soldiers. You could say there were "gazillions" of them!

- And what did the army have "very many" of? Horses and chariots.

This was a huge, powerful army—many kings with their armies all coming together to fight the Israelites.

- Who thinks Joshua was worried? Raise your hand. Show of hands.
- Who thinks God would be faithful to help Joshua? Raise signs (or hands).

Joshua 11:6

Well, listen to what God said. Read the first sentence of Joshua 11:6.

- What did God tell Joshua? Do not be afraid.

Right! God promised to be with Joshua and to help him win over all these kings and their great army. So, Joshua and his men attacked—and destroyed them all! Now they just had to take over the cities and the land so they could live there. And that took another seven years of fighting!

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Finally, most of the big battles were over. Joshua divided up the

land so every tribe of Israel could have a place of their own to live. They could finally live in houses and cities that were there—they didn't even have to build them! And they could eat fruit and vegetables from the trees and plants that were already there—they didn't have to plant them and wait for them to grow! This was a good land God had given them.

Joshua commanded the people to go take the land they were given as their own. That meant they would have to drive out any enemies who were still trying to live in their land. So there were some more battles to be fought! But God was faithful to help them if they would trust him.

The Faith of Caleb

Show Lesson Illustration #1. One man who truly believed God would help him was Caleb! He and Joshua had been chosen to be part of the 12 spies who spied out the land many years before. Now Caleb was 85 years old. But he didn't want to rest and let the younger men fight the last battles. He was ready for more!

Joshua 14:11–12

Listen to what he told Joshua. Read Joshua 14:11–12.

- What did Caleb say about himself? Did he think he could still fight? He was as strong as he was when Moses sent him as a spy into Canaan. He was ready for war.

Caleb said he felt as strong as he did when he went into the land as a spy. God kept him strong, and he was ready for battle!

- What did Caleb ask Joshua to give him? Which country? The hill country.

This hill country was a place most people were afraid of—giants lived there! These tall, strong people lived in walled cities.

- But what did Caleb say? Who would be with him and help him? Listen again. Reread the last sentence of verse 12. The Lord would be with him.

Caleb had faith that he could take on the scariest people in the land. With God on his side, he knew he could win—even against giants!

Refer to the Flip Chart. Joshua blessed Caleb and said he could have the hill country to live in.

But first, Caleb would have to take the land from the giants.

- Do you think Caleb could do it? Or would he end up running away in fear? Allow discussion.
- Who thinks God would be faithful to help Caleb? Raise signs (or hands).

Caleb and his men showed great faith in God. They went up to the hill country and attacked the walled cities where these giant people lived and drove them out! God rewarded Caleb's faith by helping him win the battle! Now Caleb and his family could settle in that good land.

The Faithfulness of God

We've been talking a lot about the Israelites, haven't we? That's because they are a very important part of history. And we can see how God was faithful to keep his promises to them. All these things we've been talking about are part of how God kept important promises that he made to Abraham all the way back in Genesis.

Show Lesson Illustration #2. God promised to make Abraham into a great nation. And he did; Abraham's descendants grew and grew and became the people of Israel.

God also said he would give them the Promised Land of Canaan. We just learned how he did that. God helped the Israelites win the battles so the land became theirs. Now they were a nation with a land of their own called Israel.

Show Lesson Illustration #3. God gave Abraham another promise of a special descendant who would bless all families of the earth.

- Who was this promise talking about? Jesus.

Yes! That special descendant would be Jesus. He would bless all people by dying to save us from the punishment of sin. He is our Savior! The New Testament tells how God sent Jesus, how he was born, how he lived, died, and rose again.

Do you see how God is faithful to do all he says he will do? God kept his promises to the Israelites. But would the Israelites always keep their promises to God? We'll find out in our next lesson.



Cities



Houses



Fruit trees



Gardens

Caleb had
FAITH in God.

