

## Lesson 68

# Israel Receives a Land

God was faithful to his promise to give Abraham's descendants a land.

# Studying God's Word

Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

## Introduction

Refer to the [Exodus to Malachi Timeline](#). God was faithful to the Israelites, wasn't he? He rescued them from slavery in Egypt with many miracles, provided food and water for them in the wilderness, and brought them to the land he promised long ago to their great-grandfather, Abraham.

### Slide #3

Refer to [Lesson 61 Theme Poster](#). Who remembers what happened the first time when Moses sent 12 spies into the land? Did the Israelites obey God and take the land as their own? No. They listened to the 10 spies who gave a bad report and refused to enter the land.

Which two spies gave a good report of the land and believed God would give them victory to conquer it? Joshua and Caleb.

Because of Joshua and Caleb's faith, God promised that they would be the only two adults over 20 years old who would enter the promised land. God told the rest of the people over 20 that they would not see the promised land because of their disobedience. They would die in the wilderness. Only their children would go into the promised land when they were grown.

Everything happened the way God said it would. After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, the older adults were gone. Moses led them to a place just outside the promised land, but both he and Aaron died, too.

Who became the new leader of the Israelites? Joshua.

Refer to the [Joshua 1:9 Memory Verse Poster](#). God promised to be with Joshua as he led the Israelites in battles to conquer the promised land. Let's recite our memory verse together. Recite the verse.

What did God tell Joshua to be? Strong and courageous.

### Slide #4

### Slide #5

### Slide #6

Refer to [Lesson 65 Theme Poster](#). Then God miraculously stopped the overflowing Jordan River so the Israelites could cross into the land.

Refer to [Lesson 66 Theme Poster](#). The first city they had to conquer was Jericho, and it was a walled city on a hill. But God brought down the walls so Israel could take the city. Only Rahab and her family were saved.

What happened at the Israelites' next battle against the small city of Ai? They lost.

Why did they lose that battle? Achan sinned by taking items from Jericho that he shouldn't have.

Refer to Lesson 67 Theme Poster. God was teaching the Israelites to obey him completely. Because of one man's sin, which Achan thought he could hide, the Israelites lost the battle. But, after Achan was punished for his sin, God gave them victory over Ai. Then they went on to win the battle against five kings who attacked Gibeon. God threw hailstones from the sky and made the sun stand still to help Joshua chase down the enemy.

After Joshua defeated the kings and their armies, he still had to conquer their cities and take over the land. This took time, but they did it. In today's lesson, we'll see how God continued to use these faithful men, Joshua and Caleb, to lead the people.

## The Tribes Receive Land

Other kings in the land heard about Israel's victories and how they were conquering the land. So they gathered together against Israel. Turn in your Bibles to Joshua 11.

Joshua 11:4-6

### Slide #7

Who will read about this huge army in Joshua 11:4-5? Assign a reader. How big was this army? How does verse 4 describe it? A great horde, like sand on the seashore.

A horde is a huge crowd. And there's an enormous amount of sand on the seashore, isn't there? So this means there were lots of soldiers—we might say, "gazillions!"

And what did this great army have "very many" of? Horses and chariots.

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

Raise your hand if you think Joshua might start worrying right about now. Show of hands.

### Slide #8

Someone read verse 6 for us. What did God tell Joshua? Do not be afraid. I will give them over to you.

There was no need for Joshua to be afraid. God promised to be with Joshua and give him victory over all these kings and their humongous army. The next day, Joshua and his men attacked, AND they destroyed them all! Because there were so many kings and armies in this one battle, the Israelites were able to destroy many of their enemies at the same time. Then they had to move in and take over their cities and the land, which took another seven years of fighting!

Joshua 11:23

### Slide #9

Finally, there was peace in the land. Let's read what Joshua did next. Who will read Joshua 11:23? Assign a reader.  
What did Joshua take? The whole land.

Joshua and the fighting men finished the major battles. The Canaanite and Amorite kings were destroyed and their cities were taken over.

What did Joshua do with the land? Gave the land as an inheritance to the tribes of Israel.

Have materials ready for the Label the Land Game.

This means that it was time to divide up the land! We're going to play a map game to learn where the tribes received their territory within the promised land of Israel. Follow instructions and read clues from Label the Land Game to have students learn where each tribe received land. When finished, continue with the lesson below.

Did anyone notice that one tribe is missing from our poster? Does anyone know which one? Levi.

God chose the tribe of Levi as his special inheritance. Instead of getting a portion of land like the other tribes, the people in the tribe of Levi were given the responsibility of serving the Lord as leaders, judges, teachers of God's laws, and workers in the tabernacle, including those who were appointed to serve God as priests. They were given special cities and pastureland, but they didn't all live in one area together like the other tribes. Instead, they were spread out in cities throughout the land.

We took the time to learn about the land given to the tribes because this is where we see how God kept an important promise he made all the way back in Genesis.

Whose descendants did God promise to make into a nation and give a land? Abraham's.

Yes! Back in Genesis, we learned about some promises God gave to Abraham. He promised to make him into a great nation and give to his offspring the land of Canaan.

Do you see how God fulfilled these two promises here in the book of Joshua? The Israelites were Abraham's descendants, or offspring. They grew into a great nation with close to 2 million people. God led them to the promised land of Canaan and gave them great victories there. Now the Israelites were a nation with a land of their own called Israel.

God also gave Abraham another promise of a special descendant who would bless all families of the earth. Who was this promise talking about? Jesus.

That special descendant would be Jesus, born from the tribe of Judah. Jesus would bless all people by dying to take the punishment for sin. He is our Savior!

Do we learn about the time when Jesus came to earth in the Old Testament or the New Testament? The New Testament.

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. The Gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John tell about Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection. That's where we see how God fulfilled this promise to Abraham. It's wonderful that we have all of God's Word to see how and when God fulfilled his promises.

## The Faith of Caleb

Joshua commanded each tribe to go take the land it was given as its own. There were some places where the Canaanites were still living, which meant there were still some battles to be fought! Some of the tribes found it very hard to drive out the enemies from their land. But God promised to give them victory! He wanted them to trust him and believe that he would help them.

One man who truly believed God would help him was Caleb! Remember Caleb? He and Joshua had been chosen to spy out the land many years before. Now they were the oldest Israelites alive at this time. You would think an old man like Caleb would want to rest and let the younger men fight the last battles. But not Caleb! He was ready for more!

Joshua 14:11–13

Slide #10

Slide #11

Caleb was 85 years old. But listen to what he told Joshua. Who will read Joshua 14:11–13? Assign readers.

What did Caleb say about himself in verse 11? 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 was 40. Back then, Moses sent him and Joshua along with 10 others to spy out the land of Canaan. God kept him strong, and he was ready for battle!

What did Caleb ask Joshua to give him? Look in verse 12. The hill country.

This hill country was an area most people were afraid of! This land had Anakim living in it. The Anakim were giants! When 10 of the spies saw them years ago, they were afraid and said they felt like grasshoppers next to them. These tall, strong people lived in walled cities in the hill country.

What did Caleb say at the end of verse 12 about how he would drive them out of the land? The Lord would be with him.

Caleb believed that he could take on these giants—the scariest people still in the land! He knew that with God on his side, he could be victorious over anyone.

Slide #12

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. Joshua blessed Caleb and gave the hill country of Hebron to Caleb as his possession. Caleb and his relatives

showed their faith by going to Hebron and attacking the walled cities where these giant people lived.

Can you guess how God rewarded Caleb's faith? Do you think he won or lost against the giants? He won!

God rewarded Caleb's faith by giving him victory in his battles. Caleb and his men drove out the Anakim, and he and his family settled in that good land.

## **The Death of Joshua**

Joshua also stayed faithful to God for his whole life. God gave Joshua a city in the land of Ephraim. When Joshua was near the end of his life, he called all the leaders of the tribes together. He reminded them of all the great miracles God had done for them and encouraged them to always stay faithful to God. Then he reminded them of a choice they all needed to make.

Joshua 24:14

Slide #13

Let's read what that choice was in Joshua 24:14. Assign a reader.

What did Joshua tell the people to put away? False gods.

Joshua wanted the people to choose who they believed was the true God. Did they want to worship the false gods of Egypt or Canaan or the one true God who brought them to the promised land? It was their choice.

Joshua said to the people, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15). Joshua urged the people to continue to follow the one true God. The people said they would serve only the Lord and get rid of their false gods. Then they returned to their new homes. The people followed the Lord as long as Joshua and the other leaders who had seen God's miracles were alive. Joshua died at the age of 110.

What do you think will happen to the next generation of Israelites who come after Joshua and Caleb? Will they continue to love and obey the Lord? Allow guesses.

We'll find out in the next lesson when we start the book of Judges!

## **Application**

Slide #14

Refer to the Lesson Theme Poster. Caleb was one of the original 12 spies Moses sent into the land. At age 85, Caleb still had faith that God would give him victory against giants in the hill country. Caleb and his relatives attacked the giants and their cities. God gave them victory, and Caleb and his family settled in that land.

This lesson is a good reminder that God can do great things through people of any age. Caleb was 85 years old when he fought giants! And God gave him victory because he trusted in the Lord. God can use each of you, too! Whether we're young or old or in between doesn't matter; what matters is our faith in God. He wants us to put our trust in his strength instead of our own to serve and obey him.

Do any of you know someone who is faithfully serving God? What are they doing? Allow discussion or share an example of someone who serves in your church or has a ministry to others.

What kinds of things would you like to do to serve God? Allow discussion.

Joshua and Caleb served God until the end of their lives, and they encouraged others to do the same. You can make the decision, even today, to serve God. It could mean giving up your time or money to help others. But when we serve the Lord, God is pleased! The things we do for God's glory have eternal value—they will last forever!

## Lesson Review

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.

## Bible Baseball

Students will answer questions and run the bases!

### Materials

Review Questions

Three chairs set out for bases

Optional: gift wrap tube and a large balloon

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Set out chairs as bases. Have the students line up by the home base area facing you (at the pitcher's mound). Each student up to "bat" will have a chance to answer a review question. If he can answer it correctly, let him run the bases. If he can't answer correctly, give the answer and ask him to go to the end of the line and try again.

You may want the students to sit on the chair at each base while they wait to run to the next base or have them run all the way around and return to the line. Repeat the questions until all the students have run around the bases.

For some added fun, you can use a gift wrap tube as a bat and toss a large balloon for students to hit after they answer each question.

## Box Toss

Students will answer review questions then toss the beanbag at the holes in the box to gain points for their team.

## Materials

Review Questions  
Medium-sized cardboard box  
Scissors or knife  
Four beanbags  
Masking tape

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use scissors or a knife to cut two or three holes in the bottom of the box. Make sure they are large enough for a beanbag to easily pass through. Label each hole with a point number: 5, 10, and 15. Use masking tape to make a tossing line several feet away from the box.

Divide the class into teams. Have the teams line up behind the line across from the box. Give each team two beanbags. Alternate asking each team a review question. Students who answer correctly will toss the beanbags at the target holes in the box to earn points for their team. If they answer incorrectly, they may toss the beanbags for fun without the points counting. Students will go to the end of the line after tossing the beanbags. Keep score for both teams. Continue play until all questions have been answered correctly and students have all had a chance to toss the beanbags.

## Draw Dice

Teams will answer questions and complete a simple drawing to win. Who will finish their drawing first?

## Materials

Review Questions  
One drawing area for each team (paper, white board, etc.)  
Pencils or white board markers  
One die

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into two teams. Give each team a sheet of paper and a pencil, or divide the white board in half. Draw a mouse on the board as an example.

Ask the first team a question from the lesson. If they answer correctly, have them roll the die.



To begin drawing their mouse, each team must wait until they get a six. They will then draw the mouse's body on their paper or the board. After they have drawn the body, as they give correct answers to the questions, they can continue to draw the other parts of the mouse according to the numbers they roll.



They can draw according to the numbers below:

6 = body

5 = nose

4 = whiskers

3 = eyes

2 = ears

1 = tail

Continue giving each team a turn to answer a question and roll the die. Repeat the questions as necessary. The first team to finish their mouse wins.

You may choose to draw a simple object from the lesson, such as a crown, an open Bible, a fish, etc. Be sure to assign numbers (as above) to each part of the object to be drawn before the game begins.

## Four in a Row

Students will answer questions and add a marker for their team onto the grid. Which team will be the first to get four in a row?

### Materials

Review Questions

Masking tape

Red and black paper circles or other markers for each team

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a 16-section grid on the floor. The grid should be four sections wide by four sections long. Each section should be equal in size. Use eight red circles and eight black circles cut from construction paper or other markers for the two teams.

Divide the students into two teams. Give each team eight markers. They will take turns answering the questions. If they answer correctly, they can put a marker in a square on the grid. The first team to get four markers in a row wins the game.

## Goofy Golf

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

### Materials

- Review Questions
- Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers
- Rolled up socks
- Masking tape
- Ten sheets of paper
- Markers

### Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (use more or less depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first student a review question from the lesson. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the first sheet of paper labeled #1. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing team members to answer questions and continue putting the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the tenth hole wins.

## Racetrack

Who will reach the checkered flag first? Teams will race to the finish by answering review questions.

### Materials

- Review Questions
- White board or chalkboard

Markers/chalk

Optional: paper cutouts for each team (cars, animals, circles, etc.),  
tape/poster putty

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Draw a racetrack on the board. It may be as simple as a straight horizontal path or a curvy circle. Label "Start" and "Finish" (with a checkered flag) at either end of the track. Add numbers along the track (e.g., 1–10) at equal intervals between Start and Finish. The numbers will be used as placement points for the racers as they progress along the track.

Divide the class into teams. You may draw a different symbol (e.g., stick figure, circle, X or O) to represent each team at the Start, or use paper cutouts as team markers and stick them to the board with tape/poster putty.

Ask the first team a review question. If they answer correctly, move their marker or redraw their symbol along the track at #1. If they answer incorrectly, give the next team a chance to answer and move to the first number. If they do not know, give the answer and ask that question again later. Continue to alternate asking review questions and moving teams' markers along the racetrack according to the numbers along the track. The first team to reach the Finish wins!

## Pick a Point

Answer the questions correctly to earn the right to pick a point.

## Materials

Review Questions  
Small paper strips  
Cup or basket

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Write various numbers in increments of 5 or 10 on strips of paper to use as point cards. Put the point cards into the cup or basket. Divide students into teams of 4–5 students each. Have each team take turns answering a review question. After each correct answer, let a member of the team draw a point card from the cup.

The number of points on the cards will vary, so the score will have nothing to do with how skilled one team might be. Keep track of each team's points. If time allows, repeat the questions!

## Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer the questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

## Materials

Review Questions

A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and “wild” written on index cards

One beanbag

Masking tape

Two baskets or containers for cards

## Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or Jokers down, too). Use the masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or Jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team’s basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team’s turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that question later. Continue taking turns until all the questions have been answered. Add more cards to the grid if necessary.

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