



I Love You
Prayers



(Adoration)



I'm
Thankful
Prayers

(Thanksgiving)



I'm *SORRY*
Prayers



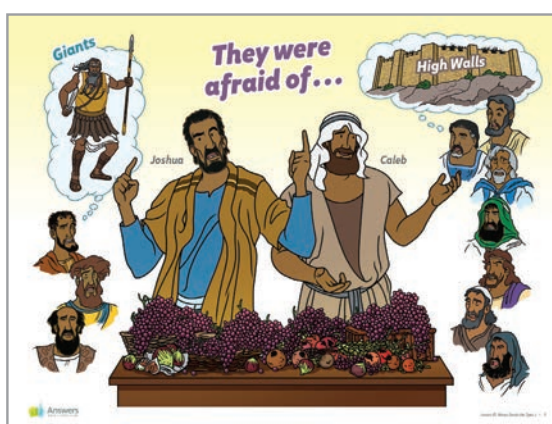
(Confession)

Please
Prayers



(Supplication)





K-1st Lesson

Review

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. We've been learning about the Israelites. God rescued them from Egypt and chose Moses to lead them through the wilderness on their way to the Promised Land. God gave the Israelites special laws they needed to follow to treat God and each other right.

- What were those laws called? There were 10 of them. *The Ten Commandments.*

Then God gave them instructions to build a tabernacle where they could worship God. Everything in the tabernacle could be packed up and carried to a new camp as they traveled on their way to the Promised Land of Canaan.

The Promised Land

- Show Clue Picture #1. Why was Canaan called the Promised Land? I'll give you a hint: who received a promise from God when he was told to move to Canaan a long time ago? *Abraham.*

Canaan is the land God promised to give Abraham and his descendants. Abraham had a son named Isaac, who had a son named Jacob. Remember how God changed Jacob's name to Israel? His descendants were called the Israelites. Now, many years later, they were ready to move into the land God promised. It was a very good land. God said it was "flowing with milk and honey!"

- What do you think that means? *Allow discussion.*
It means that the land had lots of trees, grass, and water, so it was good for keeping animals, for growing food like fruits and vegetables, and

for building cities. God was giving the Israelites a beautiful place to live.

But wait a minute! There were already people living in this land. And they wouldn't want to give it up without a fight. So, God gave the Israelites another promise.

Exodus 23:20

Let's read about that in Exodus 23:20. *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verse.*

- Who did God promise to send to guard and guide the people? *An angel.*

God said his angel would lead them into the land and keep them safe. And if the Israelites obeyed God and did all that he said, God would help them fight their enemies and take the land as their own.

The Spies' Report

- Before the Israelites entered Canaan, God told Moses to send spies into the land. What does a spy do? *Allow discussion.*

A spy is someone who secretly finds out things about the enemy. *If you brought a magnifying glass or made the Magnifiers Craft, explain that spies we think of today might use magnifiers to help them find clues.*

Moses chose 12 spies. Their mission was to find out about the land—was it good or bad? Find out about the people—were they weak or strong? And find out about the cities—were they small or were they big with walls around them? The 12 spies accepted their mission and explored for 40 days, spying out the land. When they came back, they told the people what they learned.

Now it's time for you to be spies. There are pictures all around the room with clues on them about the land of Canaan. Whenever I read about something the spies found, look for the clue and when you find it, raise your magnifier (or hand). *As you continue the lesson, allow students to look for the clues from where they're sitting and raise magnifiers when they've found each clue.*

Numbers 13:23

First, let's see what the spies found out about the land in Numbers 13:23. *Read the verse.*

- Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. What did the spies find and bring back? *Fruit. Grapes, pomegranates, and figs.*

- Good things grew there in the land. Can you find those clues? *Have students look for the clues and raise their magnifiers. Grapes, figs, and pomegranates. Clue Pictures #2, 3, 4.*

- The spies also said the land "flowed with milk and honey" just like God told them. Can you find those clues? *Find clues and raise magnifiers. Milk. Honey. Clue Pictures #5, 6.*

- Does that mean there was sticky honey oozing all over and milk flowing in the rivers instead of water? What did we say about that earlier? *The land was good for keeping animals, building cities, and growing food like fruits and vegetables.*

Numbers 13:28

So we've found out that the land and its fruit were very good. But there were a lot of people living there already. What did the spies find out about them? Listen to this verse so you can find the clues. *Read the first sentence in Numbers 13:28.*

- What did the spies say about the people living in the land? *Find clue and raise magnifiers. They are strong. Clue Picture #7.*

- And what about the cities? Were they small or large? *Very large.*

- Refer to the Flip Chart. The cities were very large and what was all around them? *Find clue and raise magnifiers. Walls. Clue Picture #8.*

- Do you think it would be easy or hard for the Israelites to attack these cities? *Hard!*

- Not only that but some of the people were so tall—they were giants! The spies said, "We felt like grasshoppers next to them!" Are there any clues about that? *Find clues and raise magnifiers. Giants. Grasshoppers. Clue Pictures #9, 10.*

The Israelites' Response

Refer to the Flip Chart. It wasn't long before an argument broke out. Ten of the spies said the people were too scary and there was no way the Israelites could go in and take the land. But the other two spies, Joshua and Caleb, trusted God and argued that the Israelites could take the

land with God on their side. They knew this was a very good land that God had promised to them. The people just needed to trust God to help them fight the enemies—and the land would be theirs! But the Israelites did not listen to Joshua and Caleb. They listened to the 10 spies who did not trust God and became very afraid.

Numbers 14:10

Uh oh! Now what will happen? Let's find out in Numbers 14:10. *Read the verse.*

- What happened first? The people said to do what to Joshua and Caleb? *Stone them with stones.*

The Israelites let their fear turn into anger, and they were picking up stones to throw at Joshua and Caleb to kill them! They were ready to turn around and go back to Egypt! These people were not trusting God.

- What happened next? What appeared? *The glory of the Lord.*

Suddenly the Lord appeared and spoke to Moses. God had led the people such a long way, and they finally made it to the Promised Land. He even promised to send an angel to protect them. But they would not listen. God was very angry with the Israelites and was ready to destroy them because of their sin.

Moses begged God to have mercy on them. God listened to Moses and didn't destroy them all, but they would be punished. Instead of going into the Promised Land, all the Israelites would wander in the wilderness for 40 years until all the adults over 20 years old died. Only the young people and Joshua and Caleb, the spies who trusted God, would enter the Promised Land.

Isn't that sad? All those people who had seen God rescue them from Egypt and Pharaoh's army never got to see the Promised Land "flowing with milk and honey"—all because they let their fear take over and did not trust God.

God promised this land to the Israelites, but they didn't trust him. They didn't believe God was faithful. But he is. God always keeps his promises.

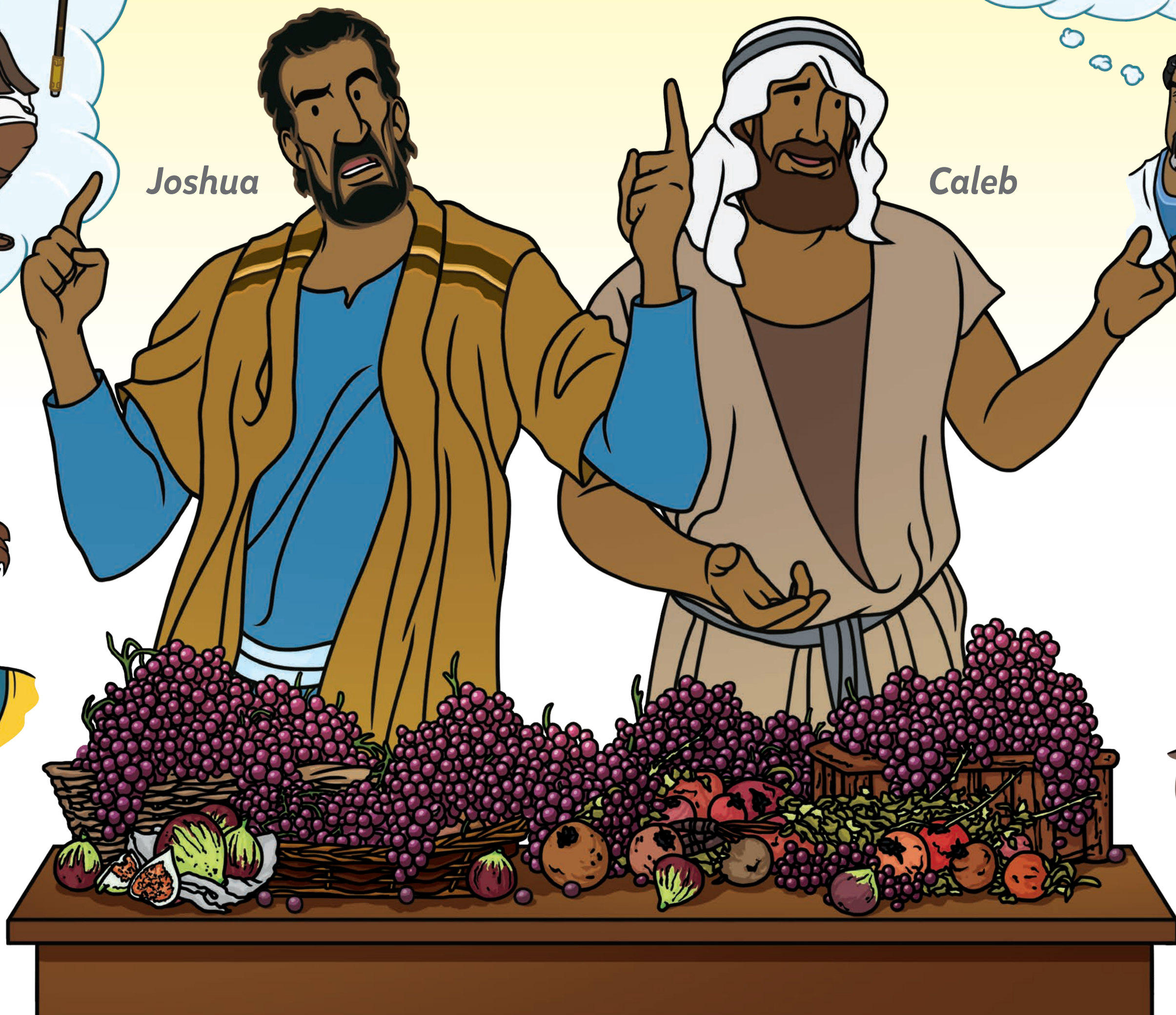
Giants

They were
afraid of...

High Walls

Joshua

Caleb





K-1st Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 61 Flip Chart. God told Moses to send 12 spies into the land of Canaan. These men spied for 40 days. They brought back fruit and told the Israelites that the land was very good!

- But there were some problems that scared 10 of the spies. What were the problems? *There were strong, tall people in the land (giants). The cities had walls around them.*

- Which two spies trusted God to help them win the land? *Joshua and Caleb.*

Yes. They reminded the people to trust God and not to be afraid. But the people didn't listen to Joshua and Caleb. They would not go into the good land God promised to give them.

The Israelites disobeyed the Lord, so he punished them by making them wander in the wilderness for 40 years until all the older people who didn't believe and obey him died. Only Joshua, Caleb, and the young people under age 20 would enter the land later.

- We might think the Israelites were so bad all the time. But wait. How many of you have ever disobeyed? *Show of hands.*

When we decide that we don't want to obey and choose instead to disobey because we want to do things our own way, we are doing something called "rebellious." It's kind of like we're doing the opposite of what we're told to do. I have some pictures to show you. See if you can tell me what the opposites are. *Show Opposites Pictures saying, "If I told you to (picture text) and you did the opposite, what would you do?"*

Sometimes we feel like we want to do the opposite of what we're told, but that would be rebellious. God doesn't want us to disobey and

rebel. You see, God has given us people to watch over us and lead us. They are our authorities, like parents or teachers or even babysitters. So we need to obey and respect them. When we don't, we're actually disobeying God and rebelling against him, too.

The Israelites acted the same way when they chose not to go into the land God had given to them. But this wasn't the first time they rebelled against God, and it wouldn't be the last time either. In our lesson today, we'll see how they rebelled against Moses, Aaron, and God again.

Korah Rebels

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. After God said the older people could not go into the Promised Land, this made some of them very upset. It wasn't long before three men, who didn't like the way God was doing things, decided to stir up trouble. Their names were Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

They gathered 250 men together and went to see Moses and Aaron. They said mean things about Moses and Aaron that were not true. These men were jealous. They wanted to be leaders like Moses and priests like Aaron.

Numbers 16:11

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's read what Moses said to them in the book of Numbers. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the first sentence of Numbers 16:11.

- Who were these men really coming against? *The Lord.*

- Is it a good thing to come against the Lord? *No!*

Since God chose Moses to lead the people and Aaron to be the high priest, these men were really rebelling against God when they came against the leaders God chose. It was like they were saying, "God, we don't like the men you've put in charge over us!"

- Is that a good thing to say to God? *No!*

These people were jealous, too. They didn't want to do the jobs God had already given them to do. They wanted the special jobs God had given to Moses and Aaron.

So Moses told them to come back the next day and offer sweet-smelling spices to God the way Aaron and the priests did. Then God would

show them all who he wanted to be his priests and leaders.

God Punishes Sin

The next day, a big crowd gathered; they wanted to see what would happen to Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. The 250 men who wanted to be priests also came to burn sweet spices to God. But God knew what was going on, and he was not pleased. He knew these people were rebelling. God spoke to Moses saying, "Move away from the people so I may destroy them!"

But Moses prayed, "O God, please don't punish all the people for the sin of these few men!"

So God said, "Tell the people to get away from Korah, Dathan, and Abiram."

Moses went to the people and warned them, "Hurry! Move away from the tents of these wicked men so that you won't be punished along with them!" The Israelites moved back from the three men.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Suddenly, the ground under the three men began to tremble and split apart! The earth opened up and swallowed Korah, Dathan, and Abiram! All three men, their tents, and their families fell into a huge crack in the earth, and the ground closed back up over them.

The other Israelites were terrified and ran away. They didn't want the earth to swallow them up, too! But that's not all. God also sent fire from heaven and burned up the 250 men who were offering the sweet spices! They were punished because they were trying to be priests, but God had given that job only to Aaron and his sons.

- Wow! God didn't like it when these men rebelled against him, did he? *No!*

Moses Disobeys

As the Israelites continued to wander around in the wilderness, they reached a place where there was no water.

- Now who do you think could help them with this problem? *God.*

- Yes, God provided water for them before, didn't he? We talked about one time when God made water come out of a rock. Do you remember what God told Moses to do? *Strike the rock with his staff.*

So the people knew God could give them water. But instead of asking God for help, once again, they complained and grumbled to Moses about being thirsty. Moses knew he needed God's help and prayed about the problem. God said he would provide water again. Only this time, he told Moses and Aaron to gather the people around a rock and speak to it. Moses wasn't supposed to hit it with his staff like before.

Numbers 20:10-11

Let's read what happened in Numbers chapter 20. Read verses 10-11.

- Who did Moses say would bring water out of the rock? *We. Moses and Aaron.*

- Is that true? Would Moses and Aaron bring the water? Or God? *God would.*

- Then what did Moses do to the rock? *Struck it twice.*

Oh no! This time, Moses and Aaron did NOT obey God's instructions. Moses struck the rock with his staff twice instead of speaking to it like God said to do. Moses disobeyed God. And he and Aaron even said they would give water instead of God.

- Do you think God was pleased with Moses and Aaron? *No!*

God was angry with Moses and Aaron for rebelling and doing it their way instead of following his directions. Remember how we've learned that God is holy and hates sin? God must punish sin. So God punished Moses and Aaron and said they would never get to go into the Promised Land. This was terrible news! They had been faithful and tried to please God, but their disobedience had to be punished just like the disobedience of the Israelites whenever they rebelled.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. We might think God sounds really mean when we read about these things in the Bible. But God isn't mean; he's holy and takes sin seriously. He must punish sin because of who he is. But God is also full of mercy and love. He showed how much he loves us when he sent his only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us so we could be forgiven of our sins. God loves us, but he also wants us to trust him and obey him and not rebel by doing things our own way.

Korah
and others
rebelled.



God showed
mercy and
love.



**God
punished sin.**





K-1st Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 61 Flip Chart. The Israelites were afraid and rebelled against God's command to enter the Promised Land. Because of this, only Joshua, Caleb, and the young people under age 20 would get to enter the land.

Refer to Lesson 62 Flip Chart. While the Israelites lived in the wilderness for 40 years, three men rebelled and led a group of men against Moses and Aaron because they were jealous and unhappy.

Who remembers the names of the three men who rebelled? *Korah, Dathan, Abiram.*

How did God punish Korah, Dathan, and Abiram? What happened to them? *An earthquake split the ground, and they and their families and belongings fell into the earth.*

Today, we'll jump 40 years later to the end of the Israelites' wandering in the wilderness. The younger people had grown up, and it was finally time for them to enter the Promised Land of Canaan. There were many dangers they would have to face, but God promised to intervene. That means he would come between the Israelites and their enemies and clear the way for them to take the land as their own. God was with them and promised to bless them in this new land.

God Gives the Victory over King Og

As the Israelites traveled to the place where they would go into the Promised Land, they wanted to cross through the beautiful land of Bashan. This area had many cities with

tall walls. And the king was a giant man named Og!

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. The Bible says Og slept in a big bed that was about 13½ feet long—that's a long bed. This king was probably 9–12 feet tall! That's at least 2 feet taller than the tallest basketball players in the NBA. Most ceilings in our homes are only 8 feet high, so Og would have to duck down to walk around in your house so his head wouldn't crash through the ceiling!

Uh oh! Would the Israelites trust in God and go to battle against the giant King Og? Or would they be too afraid?

Deuteronomy 3:1–3

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's find out from the book of Deuteronomy. Listen to what Moses wrote. *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verses.*

- What did the Lord say to Moses? *Do not fear, for I have given him, his people, and his land into your hand.*

God promised that the Israelites would win the fight with this giant king! And they did! God helped the Israelites defeat King Og and all his soldiers. They even took over all the walled cities! The land of Bashan was now theirs.

The Israelites grew in faith and courage. They didn't need to fear the enemy with God on their side.

God Gives Blessings through Balaam

Nearby, in the land of Moab, a king named Balak heard about the Israelites—and he was scared! He thought if they attacked him he would lose for sure. So, he came up with a plan to stop them. He knew of a false prophet named Balaam and decided, "I'll send princes to Balaam to ask him to come and curse the Israelites. For it is said that whenever Balaam speaks a curse against someone, that bad thing will surely happen!"

When the princes came to Balaam and asked if he would come and curse the Israelites,

Balaam asked God if he should go. But God told him not to, and Balaam obeyed—this time.

But King Balak didn't give up. He sent more princes to Balaam. They said, "You will be honored and get silver and gold if you come curse the Israelites." This time God said Balaam could go, but he must only say what God told him to say.

Balaam saddled his donkey and started off to meet King Balak. But God knew Balaam's heart was not right. So God intervened. He didn't want his people to be cursed, and he planned to do something surprising to make Balaam stop and think about his sin.

Balaam rode on his donkey as she trotted along when suddenly, the angel of the Lord stood right in front of them with his sword. But Balaam couldn't see the angel, only his donkey could. She was afraid of this angel holding a sharp sword, so she turned off the road and went into a field.

"What are you doing!?" Balaam cried angrily as he struck the donkey with his stick to get her back on the road.

They traveled on until they came to a narrow path with walls on each side. Suddenly, the angel of the Lord appeared again! There was no way around the angel, so the donkey pushed against the wall, squishing Balaam's foot. "Ouch! What is wrong with you?" he shouted and struck his poor donkey again! Balaam didn't know why his donkey was acting this way.

Refer to the Flip Chart. On they traveled until the angel of the Lord appeared a third time. Balaam still didn't see the angel! This time, the donkey had nowhere to turn, so she lay down right in the middle of the road! Balaam was so angry, he struck the donkey again. That's when God worked his miracle!

Numbers 22:28

Listen to what happened from the book of Numbers. *Read the verse.*

- What miracle did the Lord do through the donkey? *He opened the mouth of the donkey so she spoke to Balaam.*

- Can you imagine having a donkey speak to you? What did she ask Balaam? *What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?*

Refer to the Flip Chart. Balaam was so angry, he told his donkey that he wished he had a sword to kill her!

- Then God finally opened Balaam's eyes, and guess what he saw? *Allow guesses.*

Balaam saw the angel of the Lord standing there with his sword. Balaam bowed down. The angel told Balaam that he would have killed him if his donkey had not turned away like she did. The donkey saved Balaam's life!

God was showing Balaam that he was against him because he knew Balaam's heart was not right with God. Balaam confessed his sin and the angel told him to go see King Balak, but he was to speak only the blessings God told him to speak. Isn't it interesting how God used a talking donkey to remind Balaam to be obedient?

King Balak wanted Balaam to curse the Israelites because he knew he couldn't win if he had to fight them. But when it was time for Balaam to curse them, God gave Balaam the words to say, and he blessed the Israelites, saying good things instead.

God promised to intervene and help the Israelites as they entered the Promised Land. He was faithful to help them win battles and to bless them—even when others, like King Balak, wanted to curse them.

To remind us of how God used a talking donkey to stop Balaam, let's play a donkey game! *Attach the Donkey Poster to the wall. Choose volunteers or let all students have a turn. Blindfold them, spin them around, and then have them pin a tail on the poster using tape or poster putty. Award a prize to the student whose tail is the closest to the right spot.*

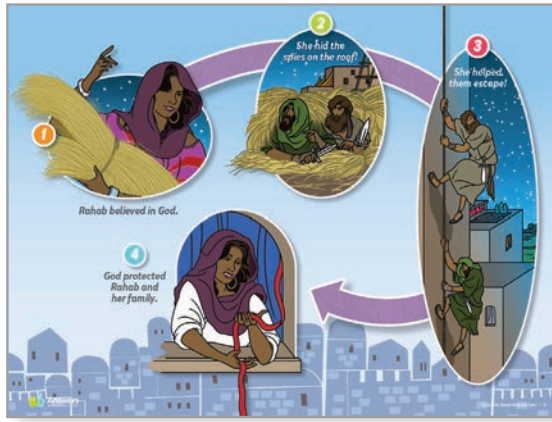


King Og
was
VERY
tall!



**Balaam's
donkey saved
his life.**





K-1st Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 63 Flip Chart. God led Moses and the Israelites to the place where they were just outside the Promised Land. On the way there, a king named Og attacked the Israelites.

- What was different about King Og? *He was a giant. Og slept in a huge bed. He was probably 9–12 feet tall, taller than any basketball player!*

King Og was a giant man. And there were tall walls around his cities, too. But God helped the Israelites win against Og.

Then there was King Balak. He was afraid that the Israelites would attack him next. So he hired Balaam, a false prophet, to curse the Israelites.

- What kind of animal did Balaam ride on his way to see King Balak? *A donkey.*
- As Balaam rode his donkey, who blocked the way and scared the donkey? *The angel of the Lord.*
- What did God cause the donkey to do? *Talk to Balaam.*

God made the donkey speak to Balaam! Then God opened Balaam's eyes to see the angel and reminded him to obey and only say words of blessing for the Israelites and not to curse them.

The Israelites were God's chosen people. He promised to bless them as they came into the Promised Land. Today, we're going to see how God used a lady named Rahab to help the Israelites get ready to go into the land.

Joshua Becomes the Leader

The time had come for Joshua to lead all the people! Moses had died when he was 120 years

old. Now it was Joshua's job to lead the people of Israel into the Promised Land. This was a scary task! They would have to fight many battles against the enemies who lived there. Let's find out what God had to say to Joshua.

Joshua 1:5–6

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We're going to read from the first chapter of the book of Joshua. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Listen to what God told Joshua. Read Joshua 1:5–6.

- Would God leave Joshua? *No.*

God promised to be with Joshua just like he had been with Moses. He reminded Joshua to make sure he obeyed God and his laws and said that Joshua would bring the Israelites into the land so they could have it for their own.

Joshua 1:9

Now let's read what else God told Joshua from our memory verse. Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page and recite the verse together.

Joshua would need God's strength and courage to lead the people in the fight against their enemies.

- Do you think this would be a scary thing to do? *Allow answers.*
- God reminded Joshua that he didn't need to be frightened. But what does it mean to be dismayed? Do you know? *Allow discussion.*

Being dismayed is when you're so scared that you lose your courage and feel like you can't do the job. Joshua and the Israelites had a huge job ahead of them. They would have to fight for their land against giant men, strong armies, and walled cities.

- But who would give Joshua strength and courage to lead the people? *God.*

Rahab Helps the Spies

The first city they would come to in the land was a huge, walled city called Jericho. Joshua wanted to know more about this place, so he sent two spies to sneak into Jericho and look around. Let's act out what happened to them. Watch and listen carefully so you can answer some questions.

Rahab Skit

Choose 6 students for the parts. Set out props and help actors put on any costumes you brought. As you read the Narrator's part, tell the students what to say and have an assistant direct them as they act out the skit.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Rahab's house was a good place for the spies to hide. They could find out a lot about the city there—and it was built right into one of the city walls! It would be a safe place with an easy escape out the window.

- It didn't take long before the king found out there were spies in his city. What did he do? *He sent men to Rahab's house to look for the spies.*
- How did Rahab hide the spies? In our skit we pretended the blanket was something else. What was it supposed to be? *Flax*

Refer to the Flip Chart. Flax is a plant with long stalks that was used to make material for clothes. Rahab took the spies to the roof of her house where she had laid the flax out to dry. This was a flat rooftop where she could go to sit or work on projects. She told the spies to lie down, and then she piled the flax on top of them so they couldn't be seen.

When the king's men knocked on her door, Rahab lied to them and said the spies had already left the city.

- Was it okay for Rahab to lie? *Allow discussion.*

God hates all sin, and lying is a sin. God commanded his people not to lie. It was the ninth commandment. At this time, God had just given these commandments to the Israelites, so Rahab didn't know them yet.

- The Israelites were planning to attack and take over her city, so Rahab asked the spies to do something for her. What did she ask? *Save her and her family.*

The spies said she must keep their secret and not tell about their plans. They told her to make sure her family was with her when the battle began.

- She was also told to hang something from her window. What was that? *A scarlet (red) cord.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. Scarlet is a bright red color that the Israelites would be able to see easily

so they would know which house she was in during the battle.

- How did Rahab help the spies get away from the city and back to Joshua without being caught? *She let them climb down the wall with a rope from her window.*

Remember that Rahab's house was built into the wall. When she let the men climb out her window, they were outside the city walls and didn't have to go through the gate, which was closed at night.

Rahab Shows Faith

Rahab would have been in big trouble if the king's men had found the spies on her roof or found out that she helped them escape! But Rahab had faith in God, so she chose to help the spies because she knew that God was with them.

The people in Jericho were wicked and worshipped false gods. But Rahab believed in the God of the Israelites. She told the spies that all the people in Jericho were afraid when they heard about how God parted the Red Sea and helped the Israelites win the battle against King Og.

Joshua 2:11

Let's see what she said about God. Listen to Joshua 2:11. Read the second part of the verse.

- What did Rahab say? He is the God in what? *God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.*

Yes! Rahab believed that the God of the Israelites was the one true God—the only one who had control over all the heavens and the earth. She put her faith in God, and he showed her mercy and kept her and her family safe during the battle of Jericho.

After the battle, Rahab and her family went to live with the Israelites! She married a man named Salmon and later became the great-great-grandmother of King David! And many years after that, Jesus was born into King David's family line! That means that Rahab was part of Jesus' family line! What an honor God gave her! Like all of us, Rahab was a sinner, but she was saved by faith and used by God to help the Israelite spies.

1



Rahab believed in God.

2

She hid the spies on the roof!



3

She helped them escape!



4

God protected Rahab and her family.





K-1st Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 64 Flip Chart. Last time, we saw how God chose Joshua to lead the Israelites after Moses died. Now Joshua was getting ready to lead the people into the Promised Land of Canaan. He sent two spies into Jericho, and they stayed at a woman's house.

- ? What was the name of the woman? Do you remember? *Rahab.*

Rahab heard about the miracles God had done for the Israelites. She believed that their God was the one true God and that he would help the Israelites take the land as their own.

- ? How did Rahab help the spies? *She hid the spies on her roof under the flax and then helped them escape out her window.*

Rahab asked the spies to keep her and her family safe during the battle. They said they would if she kept their secret.

- ? What did they tell her to hang from her window so they would know where she was? *A scarlet (red) cord.*

The spies told Joshua that all the people of the land were frightened of them. Joshua was ready to move forward into the Promised Land and attack the city of Jericho. There was only one problem—the Jordan River was between the Israelites' camp and the city. They would have to cross the river somehow even though it was very deep and flowing very fast.

God Stops the Jordan River

- ? Who do you think would help Joshua with this big problem? *God.*

Right! God was about to do a great miracle. He told the people that when they crossed the river, the priests were supposed to go first, carrying the ark of the covenant.

- ? Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Who remembers what the ark of the covenant looked like? *Wooden box covered with gold, a mercy seat on the top with two angels.*

The ark of the covenant reminded the people that God was with them. By having the priests go first with the ark, God was showing the people they should follow him and trust him.

So the Israelites set out following the priests. But when they came to the river, it was so full it overflowed. The deep water rushed past the people as they stood looking at it. Oh no! How would they ever get across the river? This was the flood season when the waters of the river were high and strong. It would be very hard to cross safely on their own. But God told Joshua that the priests should step into the river, and then God would do something wonderful.

Lay out the blue play dough in one long, flat strip to represent the river. Position the plastic people or objects at the ¾ point from one end. When the priests got to the edge of the water, they had to show great faith in God by stepping into the rushing river.

- ? Can you guess what happened when the priests' feet touched the water? *Allow guesses.*

God made the river stop flowing!

Split the play dough where the objects are and bunch up the longer part on the far end. Up the river, about 15 miles away, God blocked the water so it just piled up and stayed in one spot. Now there was no more water flowing down to where the Israelites wanted to cross. Slide the leftover smaller part of the play dough away to show how it flowed down the river with no other water to replace it, leaving a dry area near the plastic people.

So what happened next? Let's find out.

Joshua 3:17

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We'll read from the third chapter of the book of Joshua. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Joshua 3:17.

- ? The priests walked out and stood in the middle of the riverbed. What was the ground like? Was it squishy and muddy? Did they slip and slide around? *No. They stood firmly on dry ground in the middle of the river.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. The priests stood with the ark of the covenant in the middle of the dry riverbed while all the people walked over on nice, dry ground.

- ? Who made the water stop and dried up the ground so they could cross the river? *God.*

Right. The ark of the covenant reminded the Israelites that it was God who was holding the waters back for them. Isn't that amazing?!

Joshua Sets Up the Stones

God wanted the people to remember who did this miracle for them. So he told Joshua to stack 12 stones in the riverbed where the priests were standing to mark the place where they held the ark of the covenant.

God also commanded Joshua to tell the men to collect something from the riverbed.

- ? Refer to the Flip Chart. What did the men collect? *Stones, rocks.*

One leader from each of the 12 tribes of Israel took a large stone from the middle of the river and carried it to the other side. After everyone had crossed, God gave the command for the priests to leave their place in the middle.

- ? What do you think happened when the priests came out of the riverbed? *Allow guesses.*

When the priests stepped up out of the riverbed on the other side, the waters of the Jordan River were unblocked, and it filled back up to overflowing like it had been before God's miracle happened. Everyone safely crossed to the other side of the river into the Promised Land. Hooray!

- ? But what about the 12 stones they carried across? Do you have any ideas about what they did with them? *Allow discussion.*

Joshua 4:20–22

Let's read what Joshua did with those stones in Joshua 4:20–22. Read the verses.

- ? Refer to the Flip Chart. What did Joshua do with the stones? *He set them up at Gilgal. Stacked them.*

Gilgal was where the Israelites made their first camp in the Promised Land!

- ? When their children asked what the stones meant, what could their fathers tell them? *How God dried up the Jordan River so they could pass over.*

The stones would remind the people of what God did to bring the Israelites safely into the Promised Land. And there was another time God did something like this with water. Do you remember the Red Sea? Pharaoh and the Egyptian army had trapped the Israelites, and God parted the waters of the Red Sea so the Israelites could escape. God wanted his people to tell their children about both of these miracles so they would fear and honor the Lord and so other people would hear about the one true, omnipotent God.

Memorials Today

Refer to the Flip Chart. We call these 12 stones the memorial stones because they were set up to help the Israelites remember something very special that happened.

- ? What other words does "memorial" sound like? *Memory, remember.*

We have all kinds of memorials to help us remember special people and things that have happened. They can be statues, special buildings, or even special holidays.

Show Lesson Illustrations #1–4 and pictures of monuments you brought. I want to show you some pictures. You can tell me what they remind you of.

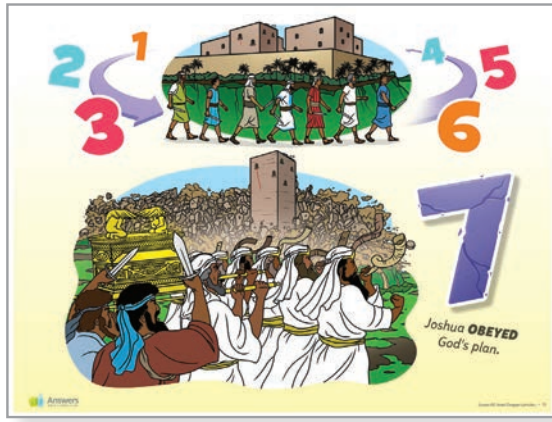
Show Lesson Illustrations #5–8. Now I want you to look at these memorials that come from the Bible.

These are all important memorials. But the ones from the Bible like the cross, or the baby in a manger, are extra special because they remind us of wonderful and amazing things that God has done. When we learn and remember more about God, it helps us know and love him better. God wanted the Israelites to remember him and what he did for them, and he wants us to remember him, too.

*Joshua stacked
the stones.*



Remember what God has done!



K-1st Lesson

Review

- Refer to Lesson 64 Flip Chart. Remember how Joshua sent two spies into Jericho? Who helped the spies hide from the king's men? *Rahab.*

Refer to Lesson 65 Flip Chart. After that, the Israelites had to cross the Jordan River while it was flooded!

- What did God do so they could cross the river? *He stopped the water.*

As soon as the priests stepped into the water, it stopped flowing, and the ground dried up. All the people walked to the other side on dry ground.

- What did Joshua do to help the people remember this miracle? What memorial did he set up? *12 stones.*

Before we begin today's lesson, we're going to play an obedience game. I need a volunteer. Choose a volunteer to stand beside you. I'm going to give you some instructions. You have to decide if you are going to obey and do it or not. Give the volunteer a simple command that doesn't make much sense, such as open and close the door three times, put a book on the floor and jump over it, draw a smiley face on the board then erase it, spin around three times, etc. If the volunteer obeys, give a candy or other prize. Repeat with other volunteers if there's time.

Some of the things I said to do were a little strange, weren't they? You probably didn't understand why I told you to do those things. But we were just playing a game to help us get ready for our lesson. Today, we'll see how God gave the Israelites some strange instructions, too. Would they obey even if they didn't understand? Let's find out.

God's Strange Instructions

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. With the Jordan River behind them now, Joshua looked ahead to the city of Jericho with high walls all around. It would be hard for anyone to attack this city. So how would Joshua and his men ever capture Jericho? Hmm. This would take some real planning.

But God didn't leave it up to Joshua to come up with a plan on his own. God already knew what he would do. The commander of the Lord's army appeared to Joshua—it was Jesus holding a sword. Joshua fell down and worshipped him. Jesus told Joshua how he should attack Jericho. But these instructions were different; they weren't normal battle plans!

- What were some normal ways armies attacked a walled city back in Bible times? Does anyone have a guess? *Allow discussion.*

When an army attacked a city like Jericho, there were a few ways they usually did it. They could surround the city and keep the people trapped inside until they gave up, or the army could dig under part of the wall until it fell down—but that plan was very dangerous for the people who had to do the digging. Some armies would pile dirt next to the walls to make a ramp and try to go up and over, or they would use giant catapults to throw rocks at the walls and break them down. The problem with these ideas is that they all took a long time, and they didn't always work right. The army could still lose the battle even after all their hard work!

God didn't want the Israelites to depend on their own ideas and come up with their own plan. He wanted them to trust him and obey. Let's read what he told Joshua to do.

Joshua 6:3

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's look in Joshua, chapter 6. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Joshua 6:3.

- What did Jesus tell Joshua and the people to do for six days? *March around the city.*

Joshua and his army were told to march around the city while the priests carried something.

- Refer to the Flip Chart. What do you think they carried? *The ark of the covenant.*

The priests were commanded to carry the ark of the covenant to remind the people that God was with them. They also had to blow seven trumpets, or horns, as they and the army marched around the city once every day for six days.

Joshua 6:4-5

What were the instructions for the seventh day? Listen to this. Read Joshua 6:4-5.

- How many times were they supposed to march around the city on the seventh day? *Seven times.*
- Then the priests would blow their trumpets long and loud, and the army would shout. What would God do to the city walls so the army could run in and take the city? *God would make the walls fall flat.*
- That would be amazing to see! But were these instructions like the normal battle plans we talked about? *No.*

Joshua's Obedience

Refer to the Flip Chart. These plans probably seemed strange to Joshua and his army. But Joshua had faith in God, and he and the people obeyed. They rose early every morning and marched once around the city of Jericho while the priests carried the ark and blew the trumpets. Then they returned to their camp.

- How many days did they march once around the city? *Six.*

Everyone stand up and march right where you are. Let's count as we do the motion for each day. Raise your arm up and down like the sun rising and setting. Cross arms in front of you with the right arm on top of the left arm. Point right index finger and raise the right lower arm at the elbow at a 90° angle then lower it to rest on top of the left arm. Count together "first day, second day, etc." while marching in place and making the hand motion for six "days" then sit back down.

Joshua 6:16, 6:20

Now let's find out what happened on the seventh day. Read Joshua 6:16 and 6:20.

The people who lived in Jericho were probably nervous and wondered what those crazy Israelites were doing just walking around the

city blowing noisy trumpets instead of trying to dig under the walls or climb over them like other armies would.

When the seventh day came, the Israelites marched around the city seven times just as they were told to do. Let's count together. Point to the numbers on the Flip Chart as you count to seven together.

The priests blew the trumpets long and loud and Joshua's army shouted.

- What did God do when the army shouted? *He made the walls fall down flat so the army could capture the city.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. The city was on a hill, so climbing the hill and going over the walls would be hard to do. But God flattened the walls and made them crumble into pieces so Israel's army could run straight up and into the city. Isn't that amazing? God's plan worked perfectly!

Rahab's Rescue

- What about Rahab? What do you think happened to her? *Allow guesses.*

Joshua 6:25

Let's find out what happened. Read Joshua 6:25.

Joshua remembered the promise the spies had given to Rahab to keep her and her family safe in the battle.

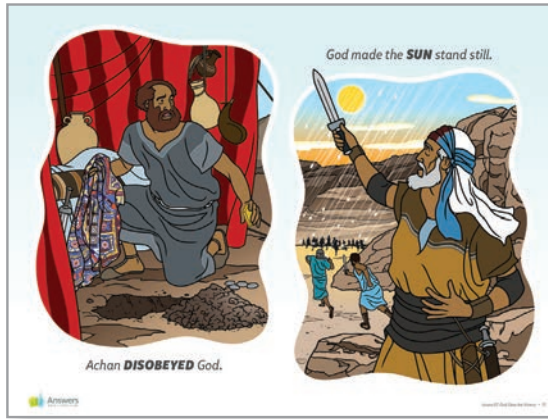
- What did Rahab hang from her window so the Israelites would know where she was? *A scarlet (red) cord.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. Yes, she tied a scarlet cord in the window of her house. This bright red cord would be easy to see. Joshua sent the two spies to get her and her family and bring them out to the Israelites' camp.

Wow! God's mighty power brought down the huge walls of Jericho. God's plan may have seemed like a strange way to attack a city, but God showed the Israelites that he was fighting for them. He helped them win in a way that only he could do. They just had to trust him and obey his instructions no matter how strange they seemed. And God was faithful to do what he promised—to help the Israelites win the battle and conquer the city of Jericho.



Joshua **OBEYED**
God's plan.



K-1st Lesson

Review

Refer to the Lesson 66 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, Joshua and his army attacked the city of Jericho.

- ? Who remembers what the Israelites had to do for six days? *March around the city of Jericho.*
- ? On the seventh day, the people gave a shout, and the priests blew their trumpets. Then what happened to the walls around Jericho? *They fell down.*

That's right! God's plan was different than the normal ways to attack a city. God helped the Israelites win the battle at Jericho, but they had to obey even if they didn't understand.

After God made the walls fall down at Jericho, the Israelites were probably very excited to see that God would help them. But in their next battle, they learned a hard lesson about being completely obedient.

Achan's Sin Affects Israel

You see, there was a problem. The trouble began back in Jericho. Before the army ran up into the city, Joshua commanded the men to destroy everything except for things like gold and silver. These were supposed to be given to the priests as an offering to God.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. There was one man who tried to be sneaky. This man's name was Achan. He disobeyed God's command and took a beautiful cloak, like a robe a king would wear, and some silver and gold from the city of Jericho.

- ? Look at the Flip Chart. What did Achan do with the things he took? *Hid them.*

Right! Achan went to his tent and dug a hole in the ground. He hid the cloak and the silver and

gold under his tent. He thought no one knew about his sin and didn't think it would hurt anyone. But we'll find out today that God always knows when we sin and that our sin can affect others, too.

What does it mean that our sin can affect others? Let's play a game to help us understand this.

Have students stand in a circle with you and hold hands. Explain that you will squeeze the hand of the student on your right or left. When that student feels the squeeze, he must immediately squeeze the next student's hand and so on all the way around the circle. Play one or two rounds then have students sit back down.

When I squeezed your hand, it affected you. You felt it and then squeezed the next person's hand. It went all the way around the circle, didn't it? I only squeezed one person's hand, but you were all affected by it. So, how did Achan's sneaky sin affect the other Israelites? Let's find out.

God is omniscient; he knows everything. And God saw what Achan did, and he was very angry with all the Israelites because of Achan's sin. But Joshua didn't know about it.

The next battle was at a city named Ai. Joshua sent just 3,000 fighting men, not the whole army, to take this city.

Joshua 7:4

- ? Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We're going to read from Joshua chapter 7. 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 7:4.*
- ? What does it mean that the Israelites fled? *They ran away.*
- ? Did they win or lose the battle? *They lost.*
- ? That's right. The Israelites lost the battle at Ai. And 36 of their men were killed! What happened? Why didn't God help them win this time? Joshua didn't know, so he prayed and asked God why.
- ? What do you suppose God said to Joshua? Any guesses? *Allow guesses.*

Joshua 7:11

Listen to what God told Joshua in verse 11. *Read the verse.*

- ? What was the problem in the camp? What did Israel do? *Israel sinned.*

God said that Israel had sinned. Someone had taken things from Jericho that were supposed to be offered to God. That was why they lost the battle at Ai and 36 men were killed in the battle. God told Joshua that if they wanted his help in their battles, they had to find the one who took those things and punish him.

- ? Refer to the Flip Chart. Who was that? Who stole things from Jericho and hid them in a hole under his tent? *Achan.*

The next morning, Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together. God showed Joshua that Achan was the guilty man. Joshua asked Achan what he had done, and Achan confessed that he had stolen silver and gold and a beautiful cloak—like a robe a king would wear. Achan should have destroyed the robe and given the silver and gold to the priests. But he wanted these items so badly for himself that he took them.

- ? Show Lesson Illustration #1. Achan disobeyed the tenth commandment. Does anyone remember what the tenth commandment is? *Be content (happy) with what you have. Do not covet.*

When we are no longer happy with what we have and want what belongs to someone else, it's called coveting. Achan wanted that beautiful robe and the money he found in Jericho for himself.

- ? Show Lesson Illustration #2. Achan also broke the eighth commandment. Do you remember what that one says? *Respect other people's things. Do not steal.*

Achan stole from God. He kept the gold and silver for himself when he should have given them to the priests as an offering to God.

This was terrible! Achan's sin affected all the Israelites. Because of Achan's sin, God did not help the Israelites, and they lost the battle at Ai. Thirty-six of their men died. Now Joshua and the people had to punish Achan and his family for his disobedience.

After Achan was punished, God turned from his anger and said he would bless and protect the Israelites again. God told Joshua to take all the fighting men back to Ai. So they went back and tricked the king of Ai—and this time they won!

The Victory during the Long Day

The news about the Israelites spread through the land of Canaan. Five kings marched together against a city called Gibeon. God told Joshua not to be afraid of them and their enormous armies. So Joshua and his men left camp and marched all night and surprised the kings.

Joshua 10:11

Then God did some amazing things to help in the battle. Listen to what he did this time. *Read the verse.*

- ? First, God made the enemy get really scared. Then what did God throw down from heaven at the enemy? *He threw large hailstones.*

Yes! God sent big hailstones down from the sky. The kings and their armies were terrified and began to run away from the battle. Joshua knew that when nighttime came the enemy could escape and hide.

- ? So Joshua prayed for God to work another miracle for them. Can you guess what God did? I'll give you a hint: it has to do with the sun. *Allow guesses.*

Joshua asked God to make the sun stand still. And that's exactly what happened. The sun stayed in the same place for about a day!

Refer to the Flip Chart. Instead of setting at its usual time in the evening, the sun stayed high in the sky for a day longer until Joshua and his men chased down the enemy. Isn't that amazing? God kept the sun up so Joshua could win the battle. God is the omnipotent Creator. He controls everything in the universe, including the sun.

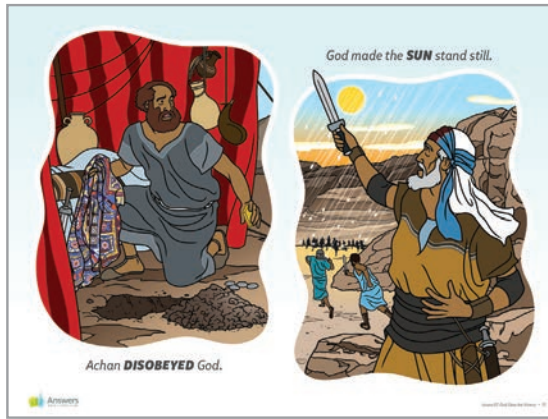
After they won this fight against the five kings, Joshua and the Israelites took over a big part of the Promised Land. They went from city to city taking the land and obeying what God commanded. They had learned the lesson from Achan's disobedience at Jericho. They knew that as long as they obeyed completely, God would fight for them, and they didn't have to be afraid!



Achan **DISOBEYED** God.

God made the **SUN** stand still.





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.

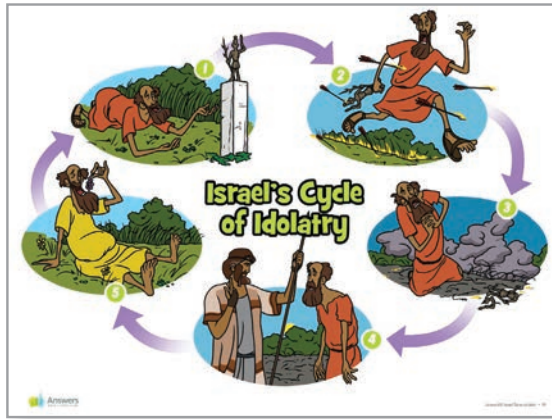
Yes! That special descendant would be Jesus. He would bless all people by dying to save us from the punishment of sin. He is our Savior! The New Testament tells how God sent Jesus, how he was born, how he lived, died, and rose again.

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.



Caleb had
FAITH in God.





K-1st Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 68 Flip Chart. In the last lesson, we saw how God was faithful to keep his promise to give the Israelites the land of Canaan. Joshua divided the land for each of the families, or tribes, of Israel. God let them move in and enjoy living in the cities that they didn't have to build and eating fruit from trees they didn't have to plant—they were already there!

Some of their enemies were still living in the land, so there were still some battles that had to be won. God even helped Caleb fight the giants for his land in the hill country.

After the Israelites lived in the land of Canaan for a while, something happened—and it kept happening over and over, for many years. It was a cycle.

- What does that mean—a cycle? Allow discussion.

I'm going to pass out some pictures to some of you to help us understand what we mean by the word cycle.

Pass out the Cycle Pictures to several students. Use the Cycle Pictures and instructions to discuss the idea of a cycle (repeating the same actions over and over). Then continue with the lesson.

Israel's Cycle in Judges

Joshua stayed faithful to God for his whole life, and then he died at the age of 110. The Israelites followed the Lord, too, as long as Joshua and the other leaders were alive. But as the younger people grew up, they were not taught about all the miracles God had done. Sadly, they did not know or trust the Lord.

God still loved them and wanted them to obey his commandments. He had chosen the Israelites as his people and wanted them to worship him, love him, and serve him faithfully.

Some of the people from Canaan were still living in the land. They worshipped idols and false gods, and they invited the Israelites to worship their idols, too. Then it happened—the Israelites began worshipping these idols, and soon they turned away from the one true God who had helped them so much.

Judges 2:14–15

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's read from the book of Judges. I'm going to read from chapter 2. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note.

- How did God feel when Israel worshipped these false gods? He was angry.

God was angry because of Israel's sin. Because he is holy and just, God had to punish them. God did not help Israel fight their enemies anymore. Instead, God brought enemies against Israel to attack them and come in and steal their food and all their things. It was awful! They were in terrible trouble!

Judges 2:16

But listen to this. Tell me what God did when the Israelites turned back to him and cried out for help. Read Judges 2:16.

- Who would God raise up to save the people? Judges.

These judges weren't like a judge in a courtroom. They were leaders God chose to rescue the Israelites by fighting against their enemies. God was merciful, so he helped the judge save the people when they turned back to God.

Refer to the Flip Chart. This was a cycle that happened over and over: 1) The Israelites sinned by worshipping false gods; 2) God became angry and sent enemies to punish them; 3) The Israelites cried out to God to forgive them; 4) God chose a judge to rescue them from their enemies; 5) The Israelites thanked God for saving them and giving them peace.

But, guess what! It didn't end there. Whenever God gave the Israelites peace and safety, they would forget what God had done for them and turn back to worshipping idols. This started the whole cycle again—round and round, over and over!

- How many years do you think this went on? Any guesses? Write guesses on the board.

The Israelites kept doing these same things again and again, for about 300 years! Write 300 on the board.

Judges 3:7

I'm going to read about the very first judge God chose to lead the people. Listen for the parts of the cycle on the Flip Chart. Read Judges 3:7.

- Refer to picture #1 on the Flip Chart. The people of Israel did what in the sight of the Lord? Evil.
- Who did they forget? The Lord their God.

Judges 3:8

Then what happened? Listen to the next verse. Read verse 8.

- How did God feel about this? He was angry.
- Yes. God loved Israel and wanted them to obey him. So when they disobeyed, he punished them—not to be mean but to help them learn that they should not sin so they would turn back to him.

- Refer to picture #2 on the Flip Chart. This time, God punished Israel by sending the king of Mesopotamia to come and take over. How long did this king rule over Israel and make them serve him? Eight years.

Judges 3:9

Now let's hear about the next part of the cycle. Listen to this verse. Read verse 9.

- What did the people finally do? Who did they cry out to? The Lord.

Refer to picture #3 on the Flip Chart. Israel cried out to the Lord. That means they prayed and asked God for forgiveness and help. That was what God was waiting for.

- Refer to picture #4 on the Flip Chart. God raised up a judge, or deliverer. What was his name? Othniel.

This first judge God raised up was Othniel. God chose Othniel to go to war against the king of Mesopotamia. Othniel led the Israelites in battle, and God helped them win again!

Refer to picture #5 on the Flip Chart. After that, Othniel led Israel for 40 years of peace and rest.

But was that the end of it? No. This went on for 300 years, over and over again.

Idolatry Today

Show the Lesson Illustration. Do you remember the Ten Commandments? The Israelites kept going back to their idols and forgetting about God. They were breaking the first two commandments. Let's read those together. Read the text under the first two and repeat them together.

The Israelites were not putting God first; they turned away from him. And they were not worshipping the one true God like they should. They were bowing down to idols and worshipping false gods.

This was a terrible thing they did, wasn't it? But did you know that we can do the same thing? We have the same sin problem. We may not worship or bow down to statues like the Israelites did, but we can have idols if we're not careful. Whenever we make anything more important than God, it can become an idol, and we can end up breaking God's commandments, too.

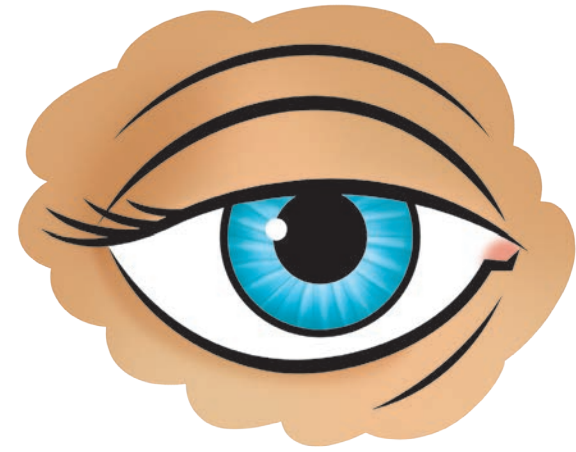
- Let's think about some idols we might have today. Who would like to help me? Choose volunteers to take the items out of the box one at a time. Discuss how each item could become an idol.

These things are not bad—God often blesses us with many of them. But we must be careful not to let them turn into something we care about more than we care about God.

This is a good lesson we can learn from the Israelites. In the time of the judges, they let other things become more important than God. We don't want that to happen to us. So, let's ask God to help us be very careful to make sure God comes first in our lives every day.



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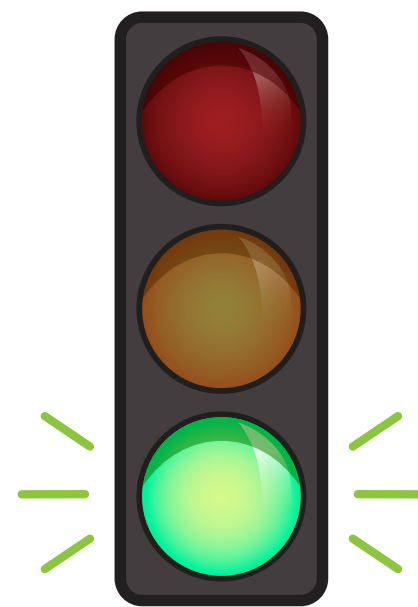
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1:9



Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9
Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

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Joshua 1:9
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God Is Faithful

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he's
commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

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Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he's
commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we're not.
I can trust, you can trust, we can all
trust God.

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God Told Joshua

God told Joshua,
"March around the walls."
"March around the walls."
"March around the walls."

Round and round,
And round and round and round—
And Joshua did what he was told.

God told Joshua,
"The priests should blow their horns."
"The priests should blow their horns."
"The priests should blow their horns."

Too-ta-too,
Ta-too-to-too-ta-too—
And Joshua did what he was told.

God told Joshua,
"I will fight for you."
"I will fight for you."
"I will fight for you."

Jericho's walls came tumbling down.
A mighty God! Look what he can do!

Jericho's walls came tumbling down,
Tumbling down, tu-tumbling down.
Jericho's walls came tumbling down.
A mighty God! Look what he can do!