

## 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

God has been faithful to the Israelites, hasn't he? He delivered 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 them.

Who remembers what happened the first time Moses sent 12 spies into the land? Did the Israelites obey God and take possession of the land? No. They listened to the 10 spies who gave a bad report and refused to enter the land.

Slide #3

Slide #4

Slide #5

Slide #6

Refer to Lesson 61 Theme Poster. Which two spies gave a good report of the land and believed God would give them victory to conquer it? Joshua and Caleb.

That's right. Because of their faith, God promised that they would be the only two from their generation who would enter the promised land. Because of the people's disobedience, God told the rest of the people over 20 years old that they would not see the promised land but would die in the wilderness. Their children, however, would be the ones God would lead into the promised land.

Everything happened the way God said it would. After 40 years in the wilderness, the older generation was gone. Moses led them to the boundary of the promised land, but both he and Aaron died.

Who became the new leader of the Israelites? Joshua.

God promised to be with Joshua as he led the Israelites in battles to conquer the promised land. He told Joshua to be strong and courageous.

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 spared.

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

Why did they lose that battle against such a small city? 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. One man's sin, which he thought he could hide, led to a defeat on the battlefield. But, once the Israelites punished Achan for his sin, God gave them victory over Ai and then victory over five Amorite kings who attacked Gibeon. God threw hailstones from the sky and made the sun stand still to help Joshua chase the fleeing enemy.

After Joshua defeated the kings and their armies, he still had to conquer their cities and take over the land, which took time. But he and the Israelites did it. Joshua and Caleb were now the oldest men in the Israelites' camp. In today's lesson, we'll see how God continued to use these faithful men to lead the people.

## The Tribes Receive Land

Other kings in the land heard about Israel's victories. They gathered together against Israel. Turn in your Bibles to Joshua 11.

Joshua 11:4–5

### Slide #7

Who will read about this large army in Joshua 11:4–5? Assign a reader. How is the army described in verse 4? A great horde, like sand on the seashore.

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

This was a huge, powerful force coming to fight the Israelites. But God promised to be with Joshua and give him victory over this great army. The next day, Joshua and his men attacked, and they destroyed them all! In this battle, God enabled the Israelites to kill many enemies at the same time. Then they could take over their cities and the land. That took many years—about seven years of fighting!

Joshua 11:23

### Slide #8

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.

What did Joshua do with the land? Give the land as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments.

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 the names on the board? Does anyone know which one? (Hint: it was Moses' and Aaron's tribe.) Allow guesses. Levi.

God chose the tribe of Levi as his special inheritance. Instead of receiving a portion of land like the other tribes, the tribe of Levi was given the responsibility of serving the Lord as leaders, judges, teachers of God's law, and workers in the tabernacle. They received 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. Aaron's sons from the tribe of Levi were appointed to serve God as priests.

We took the time to learn about the land given to the tribes because this is the fulfillment of an important promise God made all the way back in Genesis.

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

Yes! Back in Genesis, we learned about three promises God gave Abraham. Let's review those.

## Genesis 17:6–8

Slide #9

Slide #10

Who will turn back to Genesis 17 and read what God said in verses 6–8? Assign a reader.

What two things did God promise Abraham in these verses? Make him into a 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, Abraham's descendants, are now a numerous people—a great nation! They had over 600,000 fighting men. That means that with their families and servants, the whole group probably numbered close to two million people! God gave them great victories to possess the land of Canaan, which would now become known as the land of Israel.

Because of God's blessing and protection, the Israelites were now a nation with a land. In another passage, God gave Abraham another promise of a special descendant who would bless all families of the earth. Who was this promise referring to? 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 Jesus coming to earth to save us 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 give the account of Jesus' life, ministry, death, and resurrection. That's where we see the fulfillment of the third 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 the tribes to go take possession of the lands they were given. But there were still some places where the Canaanites remained, which means there were still some battles to be fought!

Do you think all the tribes obeyed and drove out all the people remaining in the land? Yes/no.

Joshua was getting old, and God told him that some of the tribes still hadn't taken possession of their land, even though God promised to give them victory! God wanted them to trust him and believe that he would help them.

Although some of the tribes had a difficult time driving out the Canaanite people, one man showed great faith. That was Caleb! Caleb and Joshua were the oldest Israelites alive at this time. It might have been tempting to rest and let the younger men fight the remaining battles to take possession of the land. But not Caleb! He was ready for more battles!

Joshua 14:11–13

Slide #11

Slide #12

Let's see what Caleb, who was 85 years old, said to Joshua. Who will read Joshua 14:11–13? Assign a reader.

How did Caleb describe 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 Moses sent him and Joshua 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 the 10 spies back in Moses' time were afraid of! This land had Anakim.

Does anyone remember who the Anakim were? Giants.

The Anakim were a giant people! When the 10 spies saw them years ago, they were afraid and said they felt like grasshoppers next to them. These tall, strong people lived in fortified cities in the hill country within Judah's territory.

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 the scariest people still in the land—giants! He knew that with God on his side, he could be victorious over any

people.

### Slide #13

Refer to the Lesson Theme Posters. Joshua blessed Caleb and gave that hill country, called Hebron, to Caleb as his possession. Caleb and his relatives showed their faith by going to Hebron and attacking the fortified 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 the faith of Caleb by giving him victory in his battles. Caleb drove out the Anakim, and he and his family settled in that good land. Caleb showed great faith at age 85! He wanted to obey God's command to drive out the Canaanites and take possession of the land.

## **The Death of Joshua**

Joshua also remained faithful to God for his whole life. God gave Joshua a city in the land of Ephraim, his tribe.

Refer to the 12 Tribes Poster. Joshua called the men from the three tribes on the east side of the Jordan River. These tribes were Reuben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh. He blessed them and thanked them for being obedient. They had fought along with the other tribes to win battles in the promised land. Joshua reminded them to always love the Lord and to obey his commandments. Then he sent them back to their lands.

Joshua was almost at the end of his life. He called all the leaders of the tribes to gather. He reminded them of all the great miracles God had done for them.

Joshua 24:14–15

### Slide #14

Let's read what else Joshua said to the people. Who will read Joshua 24:14–15? Assign a reader.

What did Joshua tell the people to choose between? False gods and the Lord.

Joshua wanted the people to choose who they believed was the true God. He knew they would be tempted to worship the false gods of Egypt or the Amorites.

Who did Joshua say he and his house were going to serve? The Lord.

Joshua urged the people to commit to following the Lord. The people said they would serve the Lord and get rid of foreign gods. Then they returned to their lands. Joshua died at the age of 110. The people followed the Lord all the years of Joshua and the leaders who had seen God's miracles with Joshua.

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

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

## Application

### Slide #15

Refer to the Lesson Theme Posters. 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, called Anakim, 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 accomplish 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. When we put our trust in his strength instead of our own, God can do great things.

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

Joshua and Caleb served God until the end of their lives, and they encouraged others to follow their example. You can make the decision, even today, to serve God. The world offers things that seem more fun sometimes, like having expensive things or being popular, but those things don't last. Let's decide now to put God first because our relationship with him will last forever!

## Lesson Review

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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