



UNIT 8 | SESSION 2

GOD GAVE THE PEOPLE THE LAND

JOSHUA 7-11

CHRIST CONNECTION: Jesus gives us victory over sin and death.

KEY PASSAGE PHRASE: God shows His strength to people. Psalm 77:14

BABIES GOSPEL GEMS

- God made the sun and moon stand still.
- God helped His people take the land He promised them.
- God always keeps His promises.

BIBLE STORY FOR TODDLERS:

God was with Joshua and His people as they took over the promised land. One day, five kings and their armies came to fight the people of Gibeon (GIB ih uhn). The people of Gibeon asked Joshua for help. God told Joshua, "Do not be afraid. I will help you." Joshua and his soldiers surprised the kings, and God sent a hailstorm to stop them. Joshua asked God to make the sun and moon stand still in the sky, and God did! God helped Joshua and His people take the land He had promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. God fought for His people.



BABIES ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage babies in the following activities during the session. In each activity, provide handheld Bibles for babies to handle. Open a Bible to Joshua 7. Show the Bible story picture as you say the gospel gems in a soothing voice. Read the key passage phrase card. Pray for the babies.

1 SING A HYMN

Sing to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”:

“God shows His strength to people,
God loves you and cares for you.
He shows you which way to go
Jesus, oh, He loves you so.
God shows His strength to people,
To the promised land we go!”

SAY “ God was with Joshua and His people as they took over the promised land. God helped Joshua by making the sun and the moon stand still. God always keeps His promises. ”

2 PAINT THE SUN

Provide paper plates and red, orange, and yellow paint. Print God always keeps His promises on the back of the plate. Squirt a daub of each paint color on each plate. Insert the plate into a gallon-size ziplock bag (1 bag per plate). Allow a baby to squish and mix the paint as you retell the Bible story.

SAY “ God helped His people take the land He promised them by making the sun and moon stand still. God always keeps His promises. ”

3 GALAXY SENSORY BAG

Provide a gallon-size ziplock bag filled with hair gel, dried black beans, glow-in-the-dark star shapes, and colorful bouncy balls. Consider double-bagging to prevent leaks. Use duct tape to seal the opening. Allow toddlers to explore as you tell them how God made the sun and moon stand still.

SAY “ Joshua asked God to make the sun and moon stand still in the sky, and God did! God helped Joshua and His people take the promised land. ”

Check diapers, serve bottles if needed, and release babies to parents according to your church’s security guidelines. Give parents today’s big picture card. Repeat the Christ connection, gospel gems, and Bible-learning activities for babies who stay a second hour.



TODDLER ACTIVITIES

LEARNING Activities

Engage toddlers in the following activities. In each activity, show the Bible story picture as you review the Bible story. Provide small Bibles for toddlers to handle.

1 CIRCLE TIME

Open your Bible to Joshua 7. Show the Bible story picture as you tell the provided toddlers' Bible story. Read the key passage phrase card and guide toddlers to say it with you. Pray for the toddlers.

2 COLOR THE SUN

Guide toddlers to color a coffee filter with red, yellow, and orange markers. Lay the colored coffee filter on a plate or cookie sheet. Provide a spray bottle filled with water and assist toddlers in spraying the coffee filter until the colors spread. Hang to dry and print God made the sun and moon stand still on the coffee filter.

SAY “ Joshua asked God to make the sun and moon stand still, and God did! God kept His promise. God helped Joshua and His people into the promised land. ”

3 FREEZE THE MOON

Provide an inflatable globe and a small foam ball. Select one toddler to hold the globe and pretend to be the earth. Choose another toddler to hold the foam ball and be the moon. Guide the “moon” to walk in a circle around the “earth.” Periodically say, “Stop,” and guide “the moon” to stand still. Allow toddlers to take turns playing different roles.

SAY “ God sent a hailstorm—like frozen rain—and made the sun and moon stand still to help His people. God helped His people take the land He promised them. God always keeps His promises. ”

4 SPACE MEMORY GAME

Find pictures on the Internet or draw two sets of matching space pictures on index cards. Pictures can be sun, moon, stars, and different colored planets. Spread cards faceup on the table or floor. Encourage toddlers to find the matching cards. Turn the cards facedown and play again to increase the level of difficulty. Consider fewer cards playing facedown.

SAY “ Even the sun and moon obey God. God made the sun and moon stand still to help His people take the land He had promised. God fought for His people. ”

5 GALAXY SENSORY BAG

Provide a gallon-size ziplock bag filled with hair gel, dried black beans, glow-in-the-dark star shapes, and colorful bouncy balls. Allow toddlers to explore the bag and talk about how God created the sun and moon and how He made them stand still.

SAY “ Even the sun and moon obey God. Joshua asked God to make the sun and moon stand still and God did! God fought for His people. ”

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1 TRANSITION ACTIVITY: SPACE PLAY DOUGH

Provide blue and green play dough. Allow toddlers to mix the two colors together to make “earth.” Provide orange play dough to make a “sun.” Encourage toddlers to roll the “earth” around the “sun.” Retell the Bible story as the toddlers play.

SAY “ God created the heavens and the earth. Even the sun and moon obey God. We should obey God too. ”

2 SING TO A FAMILIAR TUNE

Sing to the tune of “Twinkle, Twinkle, Little Star”:

“God shows His strength to people
 God loves you and cares for you.
 He shows you which way to go
 Jesus, oh, He loves you so.
 God shows His strength to people
 To the promised land we go!”

SAY “ God created the heavens and the earth, the sun, and the moon. God helped His people by making the sun and moon stand still. The sun and moon obey God. We should obey God too. ”

3 MOONBALL

Provide sheets of aluminum foil. Allow toddlers to crumple the foil into a ball. Guide toddlers to take turns tossing the “moons” into a basket.

SAY “ The moon is always circling the earth, but God made the sun and moon stand still to help His people. God fought for and saved His people. God always keeps His promises. ”

4 ICE SCOOP

Provide shallow tubs, bowls of ice, empty bowls, tongs, and large spoons. Encourage toddlers to use utensils to move ice into the empty bowls. Provide gloves or mittens for toddlers to touch the ice with their hands. Keep towels handy for cleanup. Explain that ice is frozen water. God sent a hailstorm of frozen rain to protect His people. God fought for His people.

SAY “ God sent a hailstorm to stop an army. God made the sun and moon stand still to help His people. ”

Check diapers, serve a snack if needed, and release toddlers to parents according to your church’s security procedures. Give parents today’s big picture card to reinforce today’s Bible story, Christ connection, or gospel gems throughout the week.