

Lesson 10: God and the Sun

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) See that God answers prayer
- 2) Understand that God is powerful and mighty
- 3) Learn that God is with us today as He was with Joshua if we obey and follow Him

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- See Lesson 1 for ideas

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Sun Template – print on orange cardstock/construction paper – print one page for every 2 students
- Sun Template – print on yellow cardstock/construction paper – print one page for every 4 students
- Black Marker (fine point if possible) – one for class to share
- Scissors – to share
- Glue sticks – to share
- Small Magnets – if available – one per student to glue sun to
- Map of Conquest of Canaan – one for class to share same as previous lesson

Optional:

- God Stops the Sun Color Page – one per student
- Activity Game Template – print one per class onto cardstock paper and cut shapes before class
- Tape to hold down pictures
- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Snack:

- Circle shaped orange slices or crackers (to represent sun) a few pieces for each child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Water and cup one per child

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

2-5 minutes

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week.

Say to students:

What book in the Old Testament are we studying now? Joshua

Does anyone remember what we studied last week? We studied that Joshua and the Israelites were tricked by the Gibeonites into making a peace treaty with them. The consequence for the Gibeonites is they were made Israel's slaves and were woodcutters and water carriers from then on.

Say: **Today we will look at the Israelites as they continue to conquer Canaan. We will see God's mighty and powerful hand helping the Israelites because they obeyed and followed Him.**

2) God and the Sun Joshua 10

10 minutes

Optional: Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Ask students to turn to **Joshua 10:1-15**. Read or have volunteers take turns reading **Joshua 10:1-15**.

Discussion Questions:

What kind of storm did God bring? Hail storm

What stood still? The sun and the moon

Who asked that it be still? Joshua

Who were the Israelites protecting? Gibeon

Why? Because some kings had come to destroy Gibeon for making a peace treaty with Israel.

*Show map of conquered Canaan – explain how the Israelites had camped at Gilgal and had to travel all the way to Gibeon over night to protect them. Then you read **Joshua 10:28-43** as there are a lot of cities to name that might be difficult for students.

Show the map again of the areas in the south that Joshua had conquered. All the way from the bottom back up to Gibeon!

Say, **“The Lord was with Joshua and the Israelites – He brought a hail storm, He allowed the sun and moon to stand still, He helped the Israelites conquer all the areas of Canaan in the south and win....God is mighty and powerful – we are so blessed to have a wonderful powerful God ready to help us as well!**

3) Sun Craft Fridge Magnet or Decoration

15-20 minutes

*Before class print 1 sun template on orange paper – one sheet for every two students and 1 sun template on yellow paper – one sheet for every 4 students. Cut the orange paper templates in half so each student gets a sun and sunglasses to cut out during class and cut one yellow paper template into 4 sections – each student getting a yellow sun to cut out during class.

For any student unable to cut with scissors, cut one yellow sun and orange sun along with a pair of paper sunglasses before class. *The sun craft will not look exactly like the one in the picture – but it will give you an idea.

Say, **“To help us remember that God made the sun stand still in response to Joshua's request or prayer – we are going to make sun magnets or decorations that you can put in your kitchen or bedroom to remind you that God is powerful and listens to our prayers!**

Hand out one sheet to each student of the orange sun and sunglasses, along with scissors – have students cut out the sun shape and sunglasses, then put them aside.

Next, hand out one yellow sun to each student and have them cut out the circle and each triangle. Hand out glue sticks and tell the students to glue a small yellow triangle in the middle of each orange triangle on the sun, next glue the yellow small circle in the middle of the orange circle. Finally, glue the sunglasses on the top of the yellow circle to make a sun “face”. Hand out a fine tip black marker and let students draw a smile on their sun.

Tell them also to write on the sun **“God hears my prayers”** either a word on each triangle or in the bottom corner somewhere.



If you have small magnets – glue a magnet to the back of each sun and press down hard to help it set in place – have students leave their suns alone while the glue dries.

Ask students when done:

From the event in Joshua 10 that we studied today – how do we know that God answers prayers?

Because God listened to Joshua and stopped the sun.

Was Joshua obeying God? Yes.

Does God answer prayers of those who do not obey God? No.

How do we know whose prayers God listens too? Show students **Psalm 66:18-20**. Ask someone to read it.

Psalm 66:18-20

¹⁸If I had cherished sin in my heart, the Lord would not have listened;¹⁹ but God has surely listened and has heard my prayer.²⁰ Praise be to God, who has not rejected my prayer or withheld his love from me!

Ask:

What does this psalm say about God answering prayers of those who choose to sin over choosing God? God won't listen to their prayers

What does it say about God answering the prayers of the obedient? He hears.

Turn to Philippians 4:6-7 and have someone read that

Philippians 4:6-7

⁶Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. ⁷And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

What do we need to do when we pray? Present our requests to God with thanksgiving.

We need to be thankful for what God has given us and thank God, along with asking God for things.

Does it say God will answer your prayer right away? No, but it says God will give you His peace while you wait for an answer if you obey and trust in Him.

Say, If God can make the sun stand still and a hail storm appear to help the Israelites God can do great things for us today as well! Let's think of people who need help in our lives and remember to pray for them this week – If we obey God, He will hear our prayers!

Ask students to help clean up before moving on to the next activity.

4) Practice Memory Verse

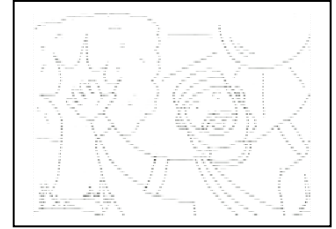
Deuteronomy 31:6 – Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Have students repeat this verse with you a number of times. Say a few words, then have them repeat a few times. Once everyone has that done, go to another few words and have them repeat, keep going until they have said the entire verse a few times. The goal is to learn this verse by the end of the quarter.

5) Optional: God and the Sun Color Page

15-20 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each student along with pencil crayons. While students are coloring discuss the following:



We are going to go around the room – and I want each student to say something about what we learned today. Just pick one thing and share it, then we will go to the next person. If someone takes your idea, try to come up with another one if you can.

***If students need help you can ask – what kind of storm did God bring?** Hail storm

What stood still? The sun and the moon

Who asked that it be still? Joshua

Who were the Israelites protecting? Gibeon

Why? Because some kings had come to destroy Gibeon for making a peace treaty with Israel.

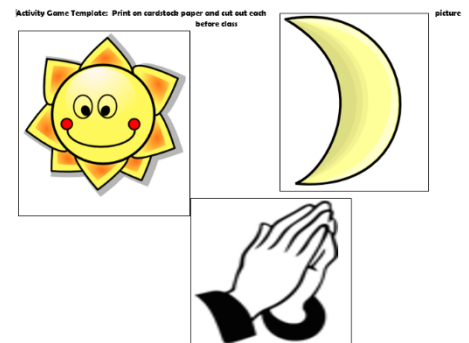
Let students finish coloring before moving on to the next activity.

6) Optional: Activity Race Game with Pictures

5-10 minutes

Cut out the sun, moon and praying hands templates from the template provided and with tape, tape them down on a large, cleared area of the floor in different areas.

If you are doing this activity outside on a sidewalk you can use sidewalk chalk and draw these pictures on the sidewalk instead in different areas.



Gather children around and tell them that one at a time they are going to take turns, when you call the child by name – you will then say either “Sun” “Moon” or “Pray”

That child will then run to the picture of the word you said they will touch the picture and then return to the end of the line so the next child can go. Let each child take a turn and then if time and if they are having fun – play the game again.

***Remember to tape the pictures down well so children do not trip, or have children run to the right picture taped to a wall to avoid tripping on the printed pictures.**

Another option is to allow all the children to run to the right picture when you call out the pictures name if they are careful not to push or run into each other. Then you can just have them run from one picture to the next as you call them out.

7) Optional – Snack: Circle Shaped Orange Slices or Crackers (Sun)

5 minutes

***Check for allergies before handing out snacks.**

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water or juice. Explain that, **“Today we saw the amazing power of God in that He answered Joshua’s prayer and let the sun stay in the same spot for an entire day. Today we are going to eat snacks shaped like suns to remind us of God’s mighty power. If He can stop the sun – what can He do for you? Let’s talk about that while we eat our snack.** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking.

Have children sing songs with you. An example is:

Be Still and Know – From Hymn Book

(For music sheet see songs in front of Binder)

Be still and know that I am God,
be still and know that I am God,
be still and know that I am God.

I am the Lord that strengthen thee,
I am the Lord that strengthen thee,
I am the Lord that strengthen thee.

In you, O Lord, I put my trust,
In you, O Lord, I put my trust,
In you, O Lord, I put my trust.

9) Close in prayer

*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Dear God thank You for your might and power, thank You for your everlasting ability to always take care of us as You did Joshua and the Israelites. Thank You that we can be strong and courageous because of You and Your Son being there for us. Help us in our faith to always remember that You are there with us and that we need to remember to pray, study and focus on Your Words day and night to gain strength for our days ahead. Help us look to You for our answers and concerns. Help us to remember that You God are powerful, strong and able to do anything including making the sun stand still!

Father be with our families and friends and those who were unable to be here today because of problems or sickness. Bring those people back safely next week. Help us to be strong and courageous in sharing the good news that Jesus is alive and able to save all who come to Him through baptism. Help us to love and respect You because You are mighty and awesome. Bless us as we enter this new week, keep us from sin and temptation. We pray that you will lead us this week and that Your perfect will be done in our lives. Thank You for being our wonderful God, in Jesus precious name we pray, Amen!