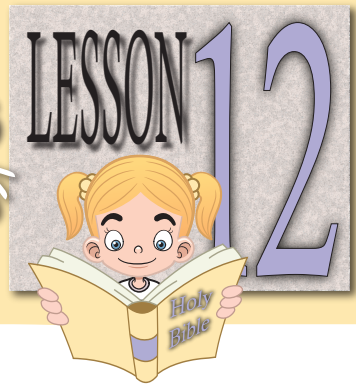


Joshua and the Gibeonites

JOSHUA 9; 10:1-15



Old Testament 4
Part 2: Joshua Leads God's People

SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Joshua 9; 10:1-15; 11:19; Deuteronomy 7; 2 Samuel 21:1-4

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "Do not be wise in your own eyes" (Proverbs 3:7a).

OLDER CHILDREN: "Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil" (Proverbs 3:7).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["The B-I-B-L-E"](#)
- ["Choices"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [God's People and Joshua Bible fact cards](#) (provided under "O.T. 4 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Betty Lukens' felt pieces
- Joshua A Beka Flash-A-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*)
- [Map of the Conquest of Canaan](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Role play story

PERSONAL APPLICATION:

The devil is always looking for ways to make me ignore (or not pay attention to) God's Word. I need to talk to God and study His Word every day so that I will choose to do what God wants and not what the devil wants.



INTRODUCTION:

Joshua was a great man with a good heart. In our Bible lesson today, we will learn how Joshua was tricked by some people who were afraid of the Israelites.

LESSON STARTS HERE

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. With God's help, the Israelites continued their conquest of the land of Canaan. They came near the land of idol-worshipping people (called the Hivites, which are included in the general designation of "Amorite" in 2 Samuel 21:2). The people of Canaan had heard about the massive group of people called Israelites moving in a destructive path toward them. These people usually fought one another, but at this point they had a common enemy: the Israelites. The kings of five southern towns (kingdoms) brought their armies together to defend themselves against the Israelites.
2. The Gibeonites had a different idea. Gibeon was a city larger than Ai, with even more mighty men. But they were afraid of Joshua and the Israelites. So they chose some of their men to play a trick on the Israelites. The Gibeonites put old, worn-out bags on their donkeys. They put on worn-out, patched sandals and worn-out clothes. They put dry, crumbly, moldy bread in their food sacks. They wanted the Israelites to think that they had traveled from a place faraway.
3. The Gibeonites went to the Israelite camp at Gilgal. They talked to Joshua and lied about who they were and where they were from. They asked to make a peace treaty (covenant or agreement) with the Israelites. In Deuteronomy 7, Moses, in his final instructions to the people, told the Israelites specifically **not** to have anything to do with the idol-worshipping people of Canaan. They were not to make covenants or peace treaties with them. They were to destroy all the people of Canaan. ["You shall make no covenant with them and show no favor to them.... And you shall consume all the peoples whom the Lord your God will deliver to you; your eye shall not pity them, neither shall you serve their gods, for that would be a snare to you" (Deuteronomy 7:2b,16).]
4. Without talking to God, and going against God's specific instructions, Joshua and the Israelites believed the strangers' story and agreed to make a peace treaty with them. Joshua and the other Israelite leaders made a decision based upon what they saw, heard, thought, and felt rather than on what God had told them to do. Three days later, as the Israelite army went through the countryside, attacking town after town, the Israelites came to Gibeon, and Joshua realized that they had been tricked and had made a mistake. Still, because of their agreement (covenant or promise), the Israelites harmed no one there.
5. Why did God instruct Joshua and the Israelites to completely destroy all the peoples that lived in Canaan before they settled there? Because the Israelites were chosen by God to be a holy (set-apart) people for Him. He knew that they would be influenced by those people to worship idols and not follow His laws (Deuteronomy 7:1-6; 1 Corinthians 15:33). He also said that the people of Canaan were so wicked that they deserved to die (Deuteronomy 9:3-6). Israel was used as God's executioner.
6. Sometimes the devil attacks us directly (e.g., someone offers us drugs or alcohol, tempts us to steal, or encourages us to lie to get out of a "sticky situation," etc.). But sometimes the devil is very sneaky and tricky (like the serpent who tempted Eve to do wrong). He disguises sin (wrong choices) so that those choices do not look so bad. We think, "It won't hurt just this

once,” or “No one will ever know,” or “It really isn’t such a big deal.” And sometimes the devil uses people who are close to us to encourage us to make wrong choices. Joshua learned the hard way how easy it is to be tricked and how important it is to ask for God’s help and follow His instructions.

7. We can learn from Joshua’s mistakes, remembering to talk to God continually through prayer, and to read and follow His Word every day. “[M]an shall not live by bread alone; but man lives by every word that proceeds from the mouth of the Lord” (Deuteronomy 8:3b; Matthew 4:4).

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- [“Joshua and the Gibeonites Coloring Sheet”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Make an “Armor of God” set for each child (Patterns are available on the Internet or in pattern books from teacher supply stores or Bible bookstores.). Let children act out how to fight the devil.
- Bring a work shirt and a suit coat into class. Have two students put them on, then ask them to switch. Ask the class what the difference was between the two students. The student inside the shirt didn’t change just because they put on other clothes. Wearing nice clothes and going to a certain building on Sundays does not make us good people. Only changing how we act and think makes us good. We can dress like good people, and talk like good people, but God knows what we are really like inside. Some people called Gibeonites tricked Joshua by how they dressed and how they talked. But God knew who they really were.

1st-2nd Graders:

- First graders: Make an “Armor of God” set for each child (Patterns are available on the Internet or in pattern books from teacher supply stores or Bible bookstores.). Let children act out how to fight the devil.
- [“Joshua and the Gibeonites Word Search”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [“Armor of God Matching Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Play “Hangman” with key words/phrases from this and previous lessons.
- Bring a work shirt and a suit coat into class. Have two students put them on, then ask them to switch. Ask the class what the difference was between the two students. The student inside the shirt didn’t change just because they put on other clothes. Wearing nice clothes and going to a certain building on Sundays does not make us good people. Only changing how we act and think makes us good. We can dress like good people, and talk like good people, but God knows what we are really like inside. Some people called Gibeonites tricked Joshua by how they dressed and how they talked. But God knew who they really were.

3rd-4th Graders:

- [“Joshua and the Gibeonites Word Search”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- [“Armor of God Matching Activity”](#) (provided in activity sheets)
- Play “Hangman” with key words/phrases from this and previous lessons.
- Advanced Bible Reader: Have the children read Joshua chapters 8-10 (as well as chapters 6-7 if they did not do so this quarter). [This could be assigned Sunday, to be completed by Wednesday.] Print out copies of the Joshua 6-10 quiz from AP’s [Advanced Bible Reader](#) (ABR) site. Have each

of the children take the quiz if they have yet to do so. If you have not already, outside of class, make ABR accounts for each of the children and put their answers into the ABR quiz for each child. Show them their scores in the next Bible class, and explain what ABR is.

SONGS:

“THE B-I-B-L-E” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Traditional

The B-I-B-L-E, yes that’s the book for me!
I stand alone on the Word of God,
The B-I-B-L-E.

The B-I-B-L-E, yes that’s the book for me!
I read and study and then obey,
The B-I-B-L-E.

“CHOICES” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Yankee Doodle”)

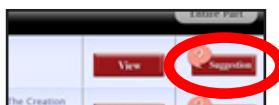
Every day in every way,
We all make our choices;
We say “yes” or we say “no,”
By using our own voices.

CHORUS:

Help us Lord, to choose what’s right,
Every day and night.
Help us, Lord to choose what’s right,
We want to make good choices.

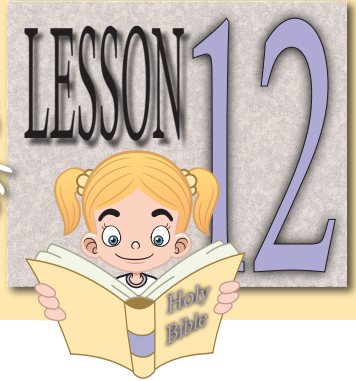
*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



Joshua and the Gibeonites

JOSHUA 9; 10:1-15



Old Testament 4
Part 2: Joshua Leads God's People

WEDNESDAY EVENING

Old Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Joshua 9; 10:1-15; 11:19; Deuteronomy 7; 2 Samuel 21:1-4

MEMORY WORK:

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OLDER CHILDREN: "Do not be wise in your own eyes; Fear the Lord and depart from evil" (Proverbs 3:7).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF SUNDAY'S LESSON FOR WORDS):

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- ["The B-I-B-L-E"](#)
- ["Choices"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

The devil is always looking for ways to make me ignore (or not pay attention to) God’s Word. I need to talk to God and study His Word every day so that I will choose to do what God wants and not what the devil wants.

INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T. 4 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “O.T. 4 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson (see [O.T. 4 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
2. The Gibeonites tricked Joshua, and as punishment, they became slaves of the Israelites. When the kings of the other Canaanite people heard that the Gibeonites had been spared because of a trick, they became very angry, and they all went to attack and destroy the Gibeonites. The Gibeonites sent a messenger to Joshua asking for help because of their peace treaty. If Joshua chose to fight the kings, the Israelites would be able to wipe out the wicked people of southern Canaan all at once. Joshua led the Israelite army all night long, arriving at daybreak at the camp of the five kings’ armies.
3. The Israelites attacked when their enemies were unprepared for them. Joshua 10:10-11 says that God God routed them for Israel, throwing down “large hailstones from heaven” on them so that there “were more who died from the hailstones than the children of Israel killed with the sword.”
4. Then, realizing that he needed God’s help even more to finish wiping out southern Canaan, Joshua asked God for something very unusual. He asked God to make the sun “stand still,” i.e., to make the day longer so they could finish the job, and God did exactly that! [Read Joshua 10:13-14 with the children.]
5. Remind the older children how the devil tried to get Jesus to do wrong (Matthew 4). Jesus’ approach to handling any problem was to fight back with God’s Word (“It is written...”)—the sword of the Spirit—and to pray (cf. Matthew 26; Ephesians 6:17-18). Emphasize how to make good choices: talk to God every day, read and memorize His Word every day, and have good friends who will help you—not hinder you. Read Psalm 119:9-11 with the older children.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson

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