



UNIT 8: SESSION 3

ACTIVITY

STAND STILL •

INVITE KIDS TO TAKE TURNS SEEING HOW LONG THEY CAN STAND STILL IN A CERTAIN POSITION SUCH AS ON ONE FOOT, HOLDING BOTH ARMS STRAIGHT OUT, OR ON THEIR TIPTOES. CONSIDER USING A TIMER TO RECORD THEIR TIME. INVITE THE REST OF THE GROUP TO CHEER A CHILD ON AS THEY TRY TO REMAIN STANDING.

SAY • STANDING STILL CAN BE HARD. WE GET WOBBLY IF WE STAND VERY LONG ON ONE FOOT. WE MAY NEED SOMETHING TO HOLD ONTO SO WE DO NOT FALL. IN OUR BIBLE STORY TODAY, GOD MADE THE SUN AND MOON STAND STILL.

PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE

PLACE THE KEY PASSAGE MARKER AT DEUTERONOMY 31:8. CHOOSE A CHILD TO BE THE SUN. INVITE THE SUN TO OPEN YOUR BIBLE TO THE KEY PASSAGE. PRACTICE SAYING THE VERSE TOGETHER SEVERAL TIMES. GUIDE THE SUN TO STAND AS STILL AS POSSIBLE WHILE SAYING THE VERSE. CHOOSE ANOTHER CHILD TO BE THE SUN AND REPEAT.

SAY • **GOD MADE THE SUN STAND STILL** SO THE ISRAELITES COULD FINISH THE BATTLE. GOD WAS WITH THEM AND DID NOT ABANDON THEM. GOD WILL NOT ABANDON US EITHER. HE SENT JESUS TO GIVE US VICTORY OVER SIN AND DEATH.

BIBLE STORY

TAKING THE LAND – JOSHUA 10–11; 24

GOD WAS WITH JOSHUA AND THE ISRAELITES AS THEY ENTERED THE PROMISED LAND. THE ISRAELITES CAME TO A PLACE RULED BY FIVE KINGS. THE KINGS WERE EVIL KINGS; THEY DID NOT LOVE GOD. WHEN THE KINGS HEARD ABOUT JOSHUA AND THE ISRAELITES, THEY WERE AFRAID. THEY DID NOT WANT TO LOSE A BATTLE AGAINST THE ISRAELITES. SO THE KINGS MADE A PLAN.

ONE KING CALLED TO THE OTHER FOUR KINGS IN THE LAND. HE SAID TO THEM, “HELP ME ATTACK THE PEOPLE IN THE CITY OF GIBEON. THEY ARE FRIENDS WITH JOSHUA AND THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL.” SO THE FIVE KINGS WENT TO GIBEON. THE MEN OF GIBEON SENT A MESSAGE TO JOSHUA: “FRIENDS, HELP US! SAVE US! THE FIVE KINGS AND THEIR ARMIES ARE FIGHTING WITH US.” SO JOSHUA AND HIS WHOLE ARMY WENT TO HELP THE PEOPLE OF GIBEON. THE LORD SAID TO JOSHUA, “DO NOT BE AFRAID OF THE KINGS. I WILL HELP YOU WIN AGAINST THEM.”

WHEN JOSHUA AND HIS ARMY GOT TO THE BATTLE, THE KINGS’ ARMIES WERE SURPRISED! THEY DID NOT KNOW THE ISRAELITES WERE COMING. GOD CONFUSED THE ARMIES AND HELPED THE ISRAELITES WIN THE BATTLE. THE FIVE KINGS’ ARMIES RAN AWAY, BUT GOD SENT A HAILSTORM TO STOP THEM.

THE BATTLE WAS NOT YET OVER. JOSHUA AND THE ISRAELITES NEEDED MORE TIME TO FIGHT BEFORE THE SUN WENT DOWN. JOSHUA PRAYED TO GOD. HE SAID, “GOD, PLEASE MAKE THE SUN AND THE MOON STAND STILL IN THE SKY.” THE SUN STOOD STILL AND THE MOON STOPPED UNTIL ISRAEL AND GIBEON BEAT THEIR ENEMIES. THE SUN DID NOT SET FOR ALMOST A FULL DAY! NOTHING LIKE THAT HAD EVER HAPPENED BEFORE. NOTHING LIKE THAT HAS HAPPENED SINCE THEN.

AS THE ISRAELITES TRAVELED IN THE PROMISED LAND, THEY TOOK OVER MANY OTHER CITIES. GOD FOUGHT FOR HIS PEOPLE AND HELPED JOSHUA AND THE ISRAELITES TAKE OVER THE LAND GOD HAD PROMISED TO ABRAHAM, ISAAC, AND JACOB.

FOR MANY YEARS, THE PEOPLE OF ISRAEL DID NOT FIGHT ANY BATTLES. GOD GAVE THEM PEACE AND REST FROM THEIR ENEMIES. WHEN JOSHUA WAS OLD, HE REMINDED THE ISRAELITES ABOUT ALL THE GREAT THINGS GOD HAD DONE FOR THEM. THE PEOPLE SAID, “WE WILL WORSHIP THE LORD, BECAUSE HE IS OUR GOD.” THEN JOSHUA DIED.

CHRIST CONNECTION: JOSHUA’S NAME MEANS “THE LORD IS SALVATION.” GOD FOUGHT FOR JOSHUA AND THE ISRAELITES, SAVING THEM AND GIVING THEM VICTORY OVER THEIR ENEMIES. GOD SAVED SINNERS BY SENDING HIS SON, JESUS, TO DIE ON THE CROSS. JESUS GIVES US VICTORY OVER SIN AND DEATH.

QUESTIONS/REVIEW

HOW MANY KINGS WERE THERE IN OUR STORY? (FIVE)

WHY DID THE KINGS ATTACK GIBEON? (BECAUSE THE PEOPLE OF GIBEON WERE FRIENDS WITH JOSHUA AND THE ISRAELITES)

WHAT FELL FROM THE SKY TO FIRST STOP THE FIVE KINGS’ ARMIES? (GOD SENT A HAILSTORM)

WHAT DID JOSHUA ASK GOD TO MAKE STAND STILL SO THEY COULD FINISH THE BATTLE? (THE SUN AND MOON)

HOW CAN WE GLORIFY GOD? WE CAN GLORIFY GOD BY LOVING HIM AND OBEYING HIM.