**Grades K-5 October 1**

**Bible Teaching: The Sun Stood Still**

**Bible Passage: Joshua 10**

# **Bible Teaching Summary**

The Israelites conquered Canaanite cities under Joshua’s leadership, moving towards taking over all of the land God had promised them. Joshua made a treaty with the city of Gibeon. When several kings gathered to attack Gibeon, they called on Joshua for help. God told Joshua not to fear because God would give him the victory. When Joshua was fighting the enemy, he asked God to make the sun stand still to give them more time to fight. God answered Joshua’s prayer. The Israelites were victorious and continued to conquer more lands. Joshua divided the land among the twelve tribes of Israel. The Promised Land was theirs, just as God had said.

**brite\* Idea: God keeps His promises.**

**Memory Verse: Isaiah 44:6b**

*I am the first and I am the last; besides Me there is no god.*

**He Question: Why does God keep His promises?**

God is completely good. He never lies or changes His mind. If He has said He will do something, it would be against His character to not do it.

**We Question: How can we know what God's promises are?**

God's Word, the Bible, is filled with His promises to us. By studying the Bible, we can discover the thousands of promises He has made to His people.

**Me Question: What does God want me to know about Him and what does this mean for me?**

Kids will be given the opportunity to reflect on the truth they learned about God and respond accordingly.

# **Leader Tips: Communicate Clear Expectations**

Each kid who comes to your group has been shaped by the different environments they experience regularly, such as their home, school, and neighborhood. Chances are that each environment has its own unique set of expectations, whether spoken or unspoken.

Given this, any efforts to reduce unhelpful behaviors in your group must start with communicating clear expectations for your time together. Be intentional about having a group discussion to identify the behaviors that will help ensure everyone feels safe to participate, share their thoughts and feelings, and learn. Condense their ideas into simple statements about what everyone in the group will do to contribute to building a caring community. Encourage the kids to mark their commitment to the list in some way, such as signing their name at the bottom of the page. Then come back to this list regularly as a gentle reminder and a guide for your time together.

# **Navigating a Broken World: Divorce**

One of the greatest ways kids experience the pain of broken promises is when divorce happens within their family. Half of American kids have experienced divorce in their families. When a kid experiences divorce, their whole world is affected. The child may struggle emotionally, physically, and socially. Also, their impression of promises and adults doing what they say may be jaded. You will have kids in your group who have been through a divorce. In today’s lesson, they will learn that God always keeps His promises. Kids who have been hurt may struggle with believing the truth that God does what He says. They may wonder why a promise-keeping God would let their family go through so much. You can listen to kids’ struggles without judging the family and pointing to God’s faithfulness, even when it takes time to see how He’s moving. Kids can learn that God is not a person, so He won’t lie or break promises.

**Large Group Experiences Overview**

**Welcome:**

*Supplies Needed: Printable pages, tape, video player*

**Find it in the Bible:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides*

**Bible Teaching:**

A brief overview of the Bible teaching will go here.

*Supplies Needed: Bible, large ball, confetti or 5 bottle party poppers*

**Bible Teaching Review:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides, video player*

**Bible Teaching Wrap-Up:**

*Supplies Needed: Bible, teaching slides, video player*

**SPLASH FLOW**

Note: Advance slide at hi lighted lines

Theme Slide

**Kid’s Enter**

Welcome and encourage to play games/interact with other kids and teachers

**Gather kids into their age groups**

Do the “Belong” activity with the 2 groups

Play Countdown **when groups are winding down with their “Belong” activity and gather them into the main teaching area**

**Quick Welcome, ask to stand up, then Play worship videos**

Video: “Promises”

Video: “Same God”

Offering

Theme Slide

**Ask all to sit, then teach through “Bible Teaching” section below**

**Welcome**

**Supplies:** Printable pages, tape

**Prep:** Tape the pages to the walls of the space. Tape the 12 in front of the kids, 3 to their right, 6 behind them, and 9 to their left.

**Say:** Let’s play a quick time-telling game. You are all part of a giant clock. Check out the numbers on the walls. I’m going to call out a time, and you need to jump around to face the correct number.

*Call out: 9:00, 3:00, 6:00, 12:00, continuing in a random order. Then slowly call out in order from 12:00, 1:00, 2:00, all the way back to 12:00.*

**Say:** Sometimes time feels like it moves quickly and sometimes a day feels like a long time. In today’s story, God did something really interesting with the time. We will find out what He did, but first, let’s check out our first episode of Sugar Rush.

**Intro Video**

*Play the Intro video, then follow the script below****.***

**Say:** Gracie and Alana really struggled to keep the promise they made to their customers!

**Ask:** Has there ever been a time in your life that someone broke a promise to you?

**Say:** It’s hard when someone breaks a promise, but God never breaks His promises. Today’s Brite idea is God keeps His promises.

**Today we will answer these two questions:**

Why does God keep His promises?

How can we know what God’s promises are?

**And at the end of our time today, the question you will be able to answer is:**

What does God want me to know about Him and what does this mean for me?

**Find It in the Bible**

**What is the Bible?**

The Bible is real and true. God gave us the Bible so that we could know Him. The Bible is filled with many books and stories, but it’s all a part of one BIG story—God’s Story.

**What is God**’**s Bigger Story?**

**Creation:** God is the Creator of all things, and He is very good.

**Fall:** Adam and Eve sinned and disobeyed God. Sin broke the world and people were separated from God. All people have sinned so the relationship with God is broken for each of us.

**Redemption:** People could not fix their sin problem on their own. God promised all throughout the Old Testament that He would send a Rescuer, a Messiah, to save the people from their sin. He sent His Son, Jesus. Jesus lived a perfect life and died on the cross to take the punishment for our sins.

**Restoration:** When we trust in Jesus as our Savior, our relationship with God can be made right again. We don’t do anything to earn it and we don’t deserve it. God restores us through His grace. One day, Jesus will return and restore the whole broken world, making it new again.

**New Feature to help the kids learn the books of the Bible**

Say: Now before we find out where today’s Bible story comes from, we have a fun video to help us learn all the Bible books in order! Are ready?!! Here we go!!!

**Play 66 Books In The Bible Song video**

The video can be viewed at this link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5pXpdFgxlbg>

or on our Brite page.

**Where is today**’**s Bible story?**

Today’s story is in the book of Joshua. Joshua is the first of a series of books in the Old Testament called the historical books. It tells the story of God’s people entering the Promised Land. God promised Abraham that one day He would be the father of many nations and that God would give him a wonderful land. Abraham’s family grew with each generation and were enslaved in Egypt for 400 years. God freed them. They left Egypt to head through the wilderness to the Promised Land.

*Open a Bible and show the kids the title page for the book of Joshua. Then show them how to get to today*’*s Bible passage (Joshua 10).*

**Bible Teaching: The Sun Stood Still**

**Bible Passage:** Joshua 10

**Supplies:** Large ball, confetti or 4 bottle party poppers

**Prep:** Choose an older kid and meet with them beforehand to help them know their simple role. The kid will be the moving sun; holding the ball and moving it in an arch pattern from the floor to represent the sun rising and setting for each day. Also ask an adult to be in charge of turning the lights on and off to represent day and night.

**Say:** Today, we’re learning about a promise God made to the Israelites. But I’ll need you to help me tell what happened. Are you ready?

**Say:** Early on, God made a promise to Abraham to give land to his descendants. God kept His promise! Unfortunately, it did take many, many days, and nights *(turn off lights)*, and days *(turn on lights.)* for Abraham’s family, the Israelites, to get that land…mostly because of their sin. After God freed the Israelites from the Egyptians, they wandered and wandered in the desert.

*Have kids stand where they are, and have them spin 360 degrees once for every* “*day” you mention. Have them push their palms together and lean their head on their hands like they*’*re sleeping for each night that you mention. Then, slowly read the next part.*

**Say:** They spent day *(spin)* and night *(turn off lights/pretend to sleep)* and day *(turn on lights/spin)* and night (*turn off lights/pretend to sleep*) and day *(turn on light/spin)* and night *(turn off lights/pretend to sleep)* and day *(turn on light/spin)* wandering. It must have been dizzying!

**Say:** After many years of wandering in the wilderness because they had disobeyed God, the Israelites began conquering cities to take over the land that God had promised Abraham. Moses had died and Joshua was their new leader.

**Read Joshua 1:1-2 directly from the Bible,** *After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, “Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel.”*

**Say:** With Joshua as their leader, they fought many battles against enemies.

*Lead kids to stretch one arm out to be a sword and pretend to grip a shield in front of them. Once everyone is in position, have them hold it as you continue. This audience will represent Israel*’*s army.*

**Say:** After many nights *(Light off)*, a new day came *(Light on, child represents sun.)* and after following God’s unique instructions, the walls of Jericho fell. They went into the city *(*“*swords and shields” up)* and won a battle.

*Have kids act out a quick pretend battle. Once done, have kids put down their* “*swords and shields.” Toss confetti or use a bottle party popper and have kids cheer.*

**Say:** Even more nights (light off), a new day came (light on, child represents sun), and they battled the Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, and more, *(*“*swords and shields” up)* and they won each battle to take more land.

*Have leading kids do a quick pretend battle. Once done, have kids put down their* “*swords and shields.” Toss confetti or use a bottle party popper and have kids cheer.*

**Say:** The kings of the land heard how Joshua and the people had defeated cities around them. They plotted to join together to attack the city of Gibeon. Joshua had made a peace treaty with Gibeon. The kings wanted to stop Joshua from taking more land.

**Say:** The men of Gibeon sent word to Joshua, told him about the attack that was coming, and asked for help. Joshua gathered his brave fighting men and headed to Gibeon *(*“*swords and shields” up)*. Along the way, God spoke to Joshua and said, “Do not be afraid of the enemies. I have given them into your hands.”

**Say:** One day *(Leading* “*sun” moves the sun up to noon position and holds it)*, Joshua and his men surprised the enemies, attacking them suddenly. *(*“*swords and shields” up)* The Lord caused them to panic and run. The Israrelites chased them.

*Lead kids to run quietly in place.*

**Say:** Joshua knew that if night came, some of the enemy would escape and their victory would not be complete. Joshua asked for God’s help. He specifically asked for God to make the sun stand still so that they could have more daylight to finish the battle.

**Say:** God answered! *(Kids can stop running.)*

**Read Joshua 10:13 directly from the Bible,** *And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies... The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day.*

**Say:** The Israelites were victorious!

*Kids can put down their* “*swords and shields.” Toss confetti or use a bottle party popper and have kids cheer.*

**Say:** Joshua led the Israelites to conquer more cities and to occupy the Promised Land. Joshua divided up the land among the twelve tribes of Israel, giving each group their own inheritance. God kept His promise to Joshua that they would win the battle. He kept an even bigger promise when they took over Canaan. Just like He had promised Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Moses, God gave His people their own land.

**Read Joshua 21:45 directly from the Bible,** *Not one word of all the good promises that the Lord had made to the house of Israel had failed; all came to pass.*

POINT TO JESUS

When God made a covenant with Abraham, He promised to give His people a great land and also that through Abraham’s family, all people would be blessed. Throughout the Old Testament, God promised hundreds of times that He would send a Rescuer who would save the people from their sin. God kept His promise by sending Jesus, a descendant of Abraham, to earth to die on the cross for our sins. God promises that when we trust in Jesus for forgiveness of our sins, we will live forever with Him. He always keeps His promises. *(Toss confetti or use a bottle party popper and have kids cheer.)*

**Bible Teaching: Review**

**Watch the Bible Story Review Video and then play the game below.**

**Have kids give a thumbs up if the statement is true and a thumbs down if the statement is false.**

1. When Moses died, Joshua became the new leader. **(True)**

*Moses led the people out of captivity in Egypt and through the wilderness. Moses died and now Joshua was in charge.*

1. The kings wanted to help the Israelites get more land. (False)

*The kings heard about how Joshua had conquered the surrounding cities. They wanted to defeat Gibeon to keep Joshua from taking it too.*

1. God told Joshua that the enemy would be too strong and beat them. (False)

*God promised that He would give the Israelites victory. They had to trust in Him.*

1. Joshua asked God to make the sun stand still, but God can’t do something like that. **(False)**

*God created the sun and it follows His commands! God did make the sun stand still and extended the day for the Israelites to conquer the Canaanites.*

1. When they occupied the Promised Land, Joshua divided the land among the tribes of Israel. **(True)**

*God had promised long before that Israel would have its own land. They were finally there. Each tribe got their own portion and saw that God keeps His promises.*

1. God always keeps His promises. (True)

*God is completely good. He never lies or changes His mind. If He has said He will do something, it would be against His character to not do it.*

1. We can best learn what God’s promises are by searching YouTube. (False)

*The Bible is filled with His promises to us. By studying the Bible, we can discover the thousands of promises He has made to His people.*

**Bible Teaching: Wrap-Up**

**The brite\* idea for the day is:** God keeps His promises.

**Memory Verse:**

Choose an older kid to look up the verse and read it aloud to the group. Have the whole group repeat it together.

*I am the first and I am the last; besides Me there is no god. (Isaiah 44:6b)*

**Teaching Wrap-Up**

**HE QUESTION:** **Why does God keep His promises?** God is completely good. He never lies or changes His mind. If He has said He will do something, it would be against His character to not do it.

**WE QUESTION: How can we know what God's promises are?** God's Word, the Bible, is filled with His promises to us. By studying the Bible, we can discover the thousands of promises He has made to His people.

**Prayer**

Lord, You are so good and true and holy. When You say You will do something, You always do. Thank You for being a promise-keeper. Help us learn Your promises and trust in them. Amen.

**As time permits…**

**Gather kids into their 2 age groups**

Do the “Believing” activity with the 2 groups

AND/OR

*Do the “Becoming” activity with the 2 groups DEPENDING UPON TIME AVAILABLE*

***HAND OUT TAKE HOME SHEETS at end of class***