

THE CHURCH IN NEW YORK CITY CHILDREN'S MEETING LESSON

DATE: March 22, 2015

SUBJECT: THE TRAVELS OF THE CHOSEN PEOPLE OF ISRAEL: Joshua's Victory and the Final Conquering of the Good Land

SCRIPTURE: Joshua chapters 9, 10, 11 and 12

AIM: To see that the Lord helped the children of Israel conquer all their enemies so that they could possess and enjoy the entire good land and all its riches. He will also be with us to help us overcome sin and other difficulties so that we can enjoy all that He has prepared for us.

MEMORY VERSES TO CHOOSE FROM: 2 Corinthians 2:14a (But thanks be to God, who always leads us in triumph in the Christ ...); Romans 8:31b (...If God is for us, who *can* be against us?); 1 Corinthians 15:57 (But thanks be to God who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ); Joshua 10:14 (And there was never a day like that day, before it or after it, when Jehovah listened to the voice of a man; for Jehovah fought for Israel.)

SUGGESTED SONGS: 2800 (Gibeonites); 5223– Bible Story Songs – Moses volume 1 (Our God Doesn't Give Up); 3430 (If God Be For Us– Hymn# 659 Verses 1,2); 24 (He's Able); 46 (I'm In The Lord's Army); 1302 (Be Strong)

Note to serving ones: Some details in the Scriptures are intentionally left out in this lesson in order to make the content more age-appropriate.

CONTENT:

Being Tricked by the Gibeonites to Make an Agreement. (Joshua 9:1-27) When the people of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, they came up with a crafty plan. They pretended to be messengers from a far away land, even though the Gibeonites lived right near where the people of Israel were. They appeared as if they had traveled a long way, wearing old patched sandals on their feet and old clothing, having old sacks upon their donkeys and torn up wineskins. Their bread was dry and had become moldy. They went to Gilgal, where Joshua was, and wanted to make a peace agreement with him. They lied and said they were from very far away, so the people of God were tricked and thought it would be okay to make a peace agreement with them. So Joshua and the leaders made peace with them, **without checking with God first**. However, after three days, the Israelites found out that the Gibeonites were, in fact, their neighbors and had deceived them. The Israelites could not kill them because they had sworn by the name of Jehovah the God of Israel. Instead, they made the Gibeonites woodcutters and drawers of water for the people and for the altar of Jehovah.

Conquering and Destroying the Rest of the Enemy Nations. (Joshua chapters 10, 11 and 12)

When Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, heard how Joshua had taken Ai and had utterly destroyed it just as he had done to Jericho and its king, and how the Gibeonites had made peace with Israel, he was very afraid. Gibeon was a great city, greater than Ai, and all its men were mighty, so King Adoni-zedek feared that the Gibeonites would fight on the side of Israel against the other cities of Canaan. The king of Jerusalem sent word to four other kings—the kings of the Amorites—to help him fight against Gibeon.

When the five kings from the hill country fought against Gibeon, the men of Gibeon sent word to Joshua to quickly come and help save them. Joshua agreed and went from Gilgal with all his warriors. Jehovah said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them, for I have given them into your hand. No man among them will stand before you" (Joshua 10:8). So Joshua marched from Gilgal all night and came upon the Amorites suddenly. Jehovah caused the enemies to panic

before Israel. As the Amorites fled from Israel, Jehovah cast down great hailstones from heaven upon them. Joshua prayed in front of the Israelites and said, “Sun, be still over Gibeon; / And you, Moon, over the valley of Aijalon!” (Joshua 10:12b) Jehovah answered Joshua’s prayer and the sun and the moon stood still for the whole day until they could finish the battle. There has never been a day like that, before or after, when Jehovah listened to the voice of a man; for Jehovah fought for Israel (Joshua 10:14).

The five enemy kings hid in the cave of Makkedah, but later that day, they were found and destroyed. Joshua encouraged the men of Israel and the captains, saying, “Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and take courage, for thus will Jehovah do to all your enemies against whom you fight” (Joshua 10:25).

Joshua and the people continued to fight and win against their enemies in the good land. As God had promised, He fought for Israel. (Joshua 10:42) Joshua took the whole land according to all that Jehovah had spoken to Moses. With the exception of the Gibeonites, Joshua utterly destroyed all the thirty-one kings and their nations. He left none remaining as the Lord had commanded.

SUGGESTED APPLICATIONS TO CHOOSE FROM:

- **God always keeps His promises and is able to help us.** To understand this story we need to remember that God had made a promise to the Israelites to give them the land of Canaan. God kept His promise and carried the children of Israel through to the very end. In our daily living, we may be faced with situations that make us afraid or that make us want to give up. You might have to perform a task for school that you’ve never done before. If we pray and ask for the Lord’s help, it does not really matter how great or small the difficulty is. The Lord is able to help us conquer our difficulties one by one. As the Lord spoke to Joshua, He also speaks to us, “Do not be afraid....” Nothing is too difficult for Him.
- **The Lord can help us when we sin.** Today we are not fighting against people. The children of Israel were told to utterly destroy the enemy from the good land. Our greatest enemy today is sin: lying, cheating, stealing, disobeying, fighting, coveting. Every sin is like an enemy that needs to be conquered. We should not let these things remain in us. By confessing our sins on a **daily basis**, we will have peace toward God and toward men. When we have a bad feeling inside our conscience, we need to confess, say sorry, and take care of the sin. That happy feeling we get after confessing our sins is like enjoying the good land after all the enemies have been conquered.
- **We should check with those in authority.** The children of Israel forgot to check with God when their enemies, the Gibeonites, approached to make a peace agreement with them. As a result, Joshua and the leaders of Israel were tricked. Joshua 9:14b tells us “...but they did not ask for the counsel of Jehovah.” Before we agree to do something, we need to check with the adults that God has put in charge of us. For example, we should check with our parents before promising to go over a friend’s house, or agreeing to do something with our friends after school.

Adapted from the Church in New York City Children’s meeting lessons: 02/19/98; 03/24/96; 03/21/04; 03/28/10; Anaheim Lesson VI & VII