

## Unit 7, Session 4: Taking the Land

**Big Picture Question: Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful and does everything for His glory and our good.**

**Memory Verse: Psalm 24:8 – Who is this King of glory? The Lord strong and mighty, the Lord mighty in battle.**

**Christ Connection: God fought for Israel, and all their enemies were defeated. Jesus lived a sinless life and defeated our enemies—sin and death—when He died on the cross. If we believe in Him, we receive His righteousness.**

### **Bible Passage: Joshua 10-11**

Find the passages together in your Bibles and read through them together. You could also read the paraphrase of all these passages below in blue. For younger kids, you may want to just read the bolded portions.

One of the main challenges for the people of Israel was to remain faithful to the Lord as the conquest of the promised land continues. Even after recommitting themselves to God's law (8:30-35), the Israelites failed to seek the Lord's decision regarding the Gibeonite's, who had disguised themselves to make a treaty (9:1-15). Joshua failed to seek God's wisdom and made the treaty of his own accord. The Israelites were no longer able to deal with all the people in the land completely as God had instructed because they failed to seek his counsel on this matter (9:16-27). Nevertheless, the Lord continued to give victory over the rest of the people in the land. As the Lord fought for them, Joshua and the Israelites claimed victory over the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon (10:8-15). The conquest continued and the Israelites also took possession of the whole region, completely destroying their pagan enemies in the process (10:40-43; 11).

Explained even as early as God's dealings with Abraham in Genesis, part of God's plan for the Israelite conquest was that his justice would be meted out through them on the Amorite peoples whose sin had finally reached its full measure (Gn 15:16). Another reason behind the conquest was to fulfill God's promise to Abraham by giving his descendants the land designated to him so long ago (Gn 15:18-21). God's faithfulness is evident in his promises kept over generations, his granting success to the people in battle, and his establishing a nation that will serve as a blessing to all other nations (Gn 12:1-3). His faithfulness to the Israelites comes from his own character and nothing the people had earned. The same is true for those who trust in Christ today. As God worked out salvation for the Israelites, he was also establishing a foundation for an even greater salvation that would come later to all those considered Abraham's seed and heirs through faith in Jesus Christ (Gal 3:29).

Israel would need to defeat many cities to take over the land God had promised them. But God had helped them defeat Jericho and Ai, and He would continue to fight for them and give them victory.

**The king of Jerusalem, Adoni-zedek (ad oh nigh-Zee dek), heard that Joshua had captured Ai and Jericho. King Adoni-zedek also heard that Israel had made peace with the people of Gibeon, a large city, and he became greatly afraid. So, he made a deal with four kings of other cities: "Come up and help me attack the people of Israel and Gibeon."** They thought that if they worked together, they could defeat Joshua and the army of God.

**The Lord spoke to Joshua and said, "Don't be afraid, because I have already given you victory. They will not be able to stand against you."**

**So, Joshua led the Israelites out to fight the five kings and their armies. The Lord made them confused so that the Israelites would win.** The five armies ran away, and **God sent a storm with large hail to defeat them as they retreated.** On that day, **Joshua spoke to the Lord and told the sun to stand still in the sky. God listened to Joshua, and the sun stayed in the middle of the sky so that the Israelites would have all the time they needed to finish the battles.** It was a miraculous day!

**God continued to fight for Israel. The Israelites went on to capture six more cities in the Promised Land.** Joshua and the Israelites conquered the whole southern region of Israel, just as the Lord had commanded.

**The kings of the northern cities were afraid. They all joined together to try to defend themselves against the people of God. The Lord spoke to Joshua again: "Don't be afraid, because by this time tomorrow I will cause all of them to be defeated by you."**

**Joshua and his army completely destroyed the northern cities, just as God had promised. Joshua led the Israelites to take all the land that God had promised. Joshua gave each tribe a portion of the land, and the people had rest from war.**

**If you or your child have questions about what it looks like to follow Jesus in salvation or baptism, Pastor Sam would love to talk with you! Please feel free to contact him at [ssiever@lenexabaptist.com](mailto:ssiever@lenexabaptist.com).**