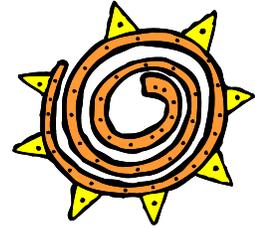


*Get Ready!***The Sun Stands Still**

By: Betsy Moore

**Text**

Joshua 9 and 10

Key Quest Verse

“As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:15b

Bible Background

News of Joshua spread fast and the kings of Canaan were scared. They began to make alliances with other kings and territories so they would not be conquered like Jericho and Ai. One territory decided to use deception and make a treaty with the Israelites. God told the Israelites not to make any peace treaties with the people from Canaan. The Israelites made a hasty decision without consulting with God. Joshua had been deceived but he made the treaty so they would keep their promise. Even though they made a mistake, God used the opportunity for the Israelites to conquer several territories in one battle. The story of the sun standing still is somewhat of a mystery, if you take it for what it is called. The sun always stands still; it is the earth that rotates around the sun. No matter how we look at the event, it was a miracle from God. The day was prolonged so that Joshua and the Israelites would celebrate in victory.

Get Ready!

Lesson Quest

What I want my students to:

Know: God will never leave us.

Feel: Secure in knowing God is with us at all times.

Do: Have faith that God will help us with any struggle or difficulty.

Leader's Devotion

How many times have you made a mistake and thought ... How stupid of me? Hasty decisions are usually just that ... not thought out and with no consideration of the consequences. All of us do things we regret. God forgave Joshua when he made a hasty decision and God forgives us. If we never try anything we will make few mistakes. Serving God is no mistake!!! We must study to show ourselves approved unto God, a workman that doesn't need to be ashamed! Spend time talking with God in preparation for sharing with your students. Let your students know that God has a plan for them.

Get Set!



Option A

Materials: Two balloons - one with helium inside and string, and the other with regular air and a string.

Show the balloons so they look the same. The one with NO helium should be a little bigger. I've got two balloons and we're going to have a race to see which one gets to the ceiling first. Whoever thinks balloon #1 will reach the ceiling first, sit on this side of the room. If you think balloon #2 will reach the ceiling first, then sit over there. Let's count to ten together and then I'll let them go. Be sure and cheer your balloon on.

Ready, one..two..three..four..five..six..seven..eight..nine..ten, (Release both balloons). Did that surprise you? In our story today, we're going to learn about something that went up and stayed up all day long...plus almost an extra day. How do we know when it's daytime? In our Bible story we're going to learn that the sun stayed in the same place for almost two days. God was with Joshua and his people and caused the sun to not go down. Do you want to hear what happened?

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: Whole peanuts

I have something in my hand that no one here has ever seen before. In fact, I have never seen it myself. Let me tell you something more about it. I got this from a man who never saw it. He got it from a man who never saw it. Although, I put it in my pocket, I have never seen it. What I have is funny shaped and makes noise. Once you see it, you will never see it again. Can you guess what's in my hand? Would you like me to show you what I have in my hand? (Dramatically reveal the peanut) It's a peanut. I got it from the man at the grocery store who never saw inside this shell. He got it from a farmer, who grew it underground and he never saw what was inside this shell. Even though I put it in my pocket I never saw inside either. (open it, show it to the students and eat it) I told you once you saw it you wouldn't ever see it again! In our story today, something like this happens. No one had ever seen it before and no one has seen it happen since. Do you know what I'm talking about? Let's go to the story and see what God did for Joshua that has never been seen since.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Bible Story**

Material: Moldy bread or monkey bread (Recipe 2 cans of biscuits, 6 T of butter, cooking spray, 1 cup sugar, 1 Tablespoon cinnamon, knife, spoon, bowl, cake pan, oven set at 350. Cut each biscuit into 4 pieces and let students roll them into a ball. Combine sugar and cinnamon and let students roll each ball in the mixture. Place in a greased cake pan and drizzle butter over the bread. Sprinkle sugar /cinnamon mixture on top of the bread and bake for 15 minutes on 350. No need to cut this bread, just pull off a chunk and enjoy!)

Joshua and the Israelites were doing exactly as God told them. They were to go into the land of Canaan, also known as the Promised Land and get rid of all the bad people who were worshipping idols. God was helping them defeat their enemies. The news of Joshua spread fast and some the kings of the countries around there got together to make some plans. They were afraid. One group of people from Gibeon decided it might be better to make a peace treaty with the Israelites. They didn't want the Israelites to know that they lived close by. They let their bread sit out and get real moldy. Next they put on some old dirty, worn out clothes and worn out shoes and dressed up. They were ready to tell their story. They came walking up to Joshua and the Israelites looking all worn out and ready to drop. (Dress in rags and make your voice sound soft and weak) "This must be Joshua's camp. I came from a far away country. Look, when I left home I had fresh hot bread right from the oven and look what has happened to it now. (Show moldy bread or monkey bread) I've traveled so long and far, my shoes and clothes are worn out. We heard how famous you and your God were and we have come in the name of the Lord your God." Do you think these men had trouble not laughing when they were talking to Joshua? They kept on talking, "we want to make peace with you!" Joshua agreed to make a peace treaty with them and if they were in trouble, the Israelites would help them out. Now God specifically told Joshua not to make peace with any of these heathen people. It didn't take long for Joshua to find out he had been lied to. Since they had lied, Joshua would keep the peace treaty but the men from Gibeon would have to cut their wood and carry their water for the Israelites. Before long, the people of Gibeon called for Joshua to come help. Five kings from the area thought the Gibeonites were traitors and were going to fight them. They needed Joshua's help.

Joshua talked to God and God sent them to fight the five kings. During the fight, God sent a storm of hail that hit the enemy and got rid of a lot of them. The battle went on and it started to get dark. Joshua was afraid some of the bad people were going to escape, so he asked God to not let it get dark until the battle was done. God listened and answered Joshua's plea, The sun stood still over Gibeon and it did not get dark until victory was with the Israelites. There was no day like that before and there has never been one since. When the battle was over, Joshua divided the land up with all the Israelite families. They were finally living in the Promised Land. As long as Israel followed God and worshipped Him, they were protected.

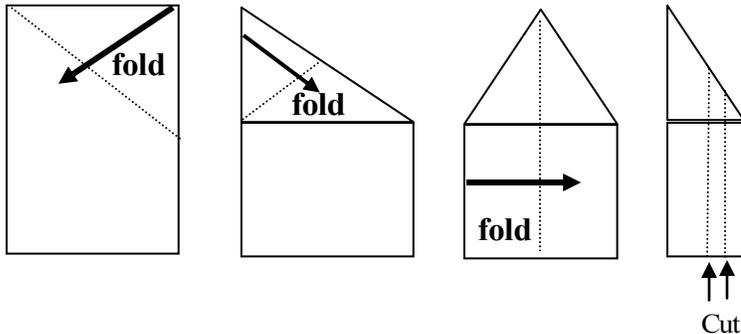
Go!

You're Forgiven

OBJECT LESSON

Materials: Paper and scissors

Procedure: Give each student a piece of paper and scissors. Practice this in advance. It is an easy trick but you want to demonstrate it with confidence. Fold and cut as directed and the results will be a cross.

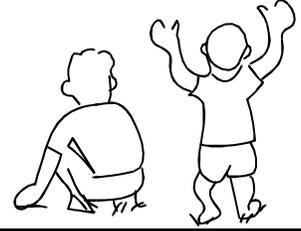


Quest Connection

We learned that Joshua made a decision without thinking about it. Sometimes we do the same thing and make mistakes. Do you think God forgave Joshua for making a treaty with some of the bad people? Does God forgive us when we do something wrong? Let's see if we can take a paper and make a few folds, cut and see how God forgives us. First, fold down one corner of your paper to touch the edge and make a crease. Now fold down the second side to have a house. Remember that everyone in my house serves God. Next fold the house in half and cut two strips off the shortest edge. Unfold and see how we can be forgiven.

Close

We know that God gave us his son to die on the cross so that we could be forgiven of our sins. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!

Go!**Standing Alone****GAME****Materials:** None**Quest Connection**

We know that Joshua turned to God and depended on Him. Each time before Joshua went to get rid of the bad people in the land that God had promised his people, he turned to God for help. We need to ask for help in a lot of things we do. We should not try to stand alone and fight the sin in this world without some help. I want everyone to try a job on their own. Face a wall and stand arms length from it. Put your feet close together and carefully lean your forehead against the wall with your body is stiff and straight. Now cross your arms in front of you and make sure you keep your forehead against the wall. When I count to three, I want everyone to keep your arms crossed and try to stand upright. Remember to keep your body stiff and your arms crossed. One, two, three. Don't bend at your waist, you must keep your body stiff. If I come over, you may ask me for help.

Procedure: Stand arm-length away from the wall, place your forehead on the wall, keeping your body stiff, and fold your arms. Do not bend your body and try to stand.

Close

What happened when you asked for help? You could get up. When we try to stand alone, things don't work very good! We must depend on God!

Go!**Celebrate!****FOOD**

Materials: 1 yellow cake mix, 24 flat-bottom ice cream cones, icing, Popsicle stick.

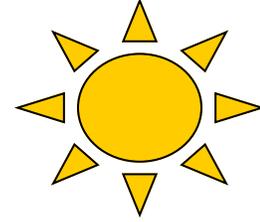
Procedure: Prepare cake mix as directed on package and spoon $\frac{1}{4}$ cup batter into each cone. Set cones on a baking sheet and bake at 350 for 25 minutes. Cool. Let students icing the cakes using a Popsicle stick to spread the icing.

Quest Connection

When Joshua and his men were done with the battle they must have been tired but I'm sure they were also ready to celebrate. How do you think people back in Old Testament times celebrated? Usually when we celebrate today what do we usually have? Today, I've got the best of things, cake and ice cream. We can celebrate with ice cream cone cakes. We should always celebrate what God has done for us.

Close

Does everyone in your house go to church? Let's hold hands and pray for each person here and their families. "Dear God, Thank you for each one of these boys and girls, and be with their families that they will always worship you!"

Go!**Jericho's Walls****SCIENCE**

Material: Balloons, plaster of Paris, can, spoon, funnel, yellow paint

Quest Connection

Quest Connection: Do you think it was hot out on the battle field for Joshua and God's men? Today we're going to make a sun that reminds us of the day the sun stood still so Joshua and God's people would have a victory. This may get a little warm but that will make you remember that it probably got pretty hot on the battle field for Joshua.

Procedure: Mix plaster of Paris with water until it is creamy. Place a balloon on the table and using a funnel pour plaster it into a balloon. Have students hold the balloon until it feels firm to the touch. Let go and allow it to dry for ½ hour. Tear off the balloon and decorate it to look like the sun that stood still for Joshua.

Close

God listened when Joshua asked for His help and made the sun stand still. God listens to you whenever you talk to Him. What do you need help with? Let's each talk to God and ask for a specific need. He will help you with it! (Let each child pray, and ask the other students to remember their classmates in prayer at home. Praying for each other and needs is something God wants us to do!)

Go!**Traveling Mix****FOOD**

Materials: M & M's, Crispex cereal, raisins, oyster crackers, cheese crackers, chocolate chips, peanuts, small marshmallows, popcorn, bowls, spoons, snack bags

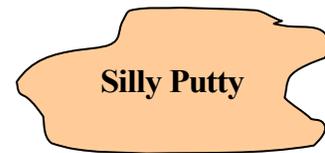
Quest Connection

The men in God's army were prepared! They didn't go out on the battlefield all tired and hungry. They didn't have mess tents like our army's do today. They had to take along their own food and supplies. Let's make a bag of traveling mix that might have helped the army of God to stay strong. Let's stay strong when the temptations around us get bad! Let's practice inviting other people to church. _____, How would you ask someone to go to church?

Procedure: Place favorite ingredients in bowls with a spoon. Let each student fill a snack bag. Continue to talk about being prepared as the students measure ingredients and fill their snack bag.

Close

The Israelites trusted in God and worshipped him. They were prepared whenever he told them to go and do something. Are we prepared when God asks us to go out and invite others to church?

Go!**Mold Me****SCIENCE**

Materials: Water, cornstarch, Popsicle sticks, Tablespoon, Styrofoam cups, snack bags

Quest Connection

Procedure: Cover your table to collect spills. Place $\frac{1}{2}$ cup of cornstarch in each cup. Slowly add water until it is gooey. If you add too much water you can add more cornstarch. Mix with sticks and fingers. When mixed well, pull your Silly Putty from your cup. Store in the bag.

We've got an interesting material here. It can be stretched and shaped but when you put it down it flattens out. If you form it into a ball and then quickly pull it apart it will break, just like plastic. If we put it against a comic strip it will pick up the print. The Israelites were shaped in God's hand. If they turned from God they lost their strength and went to nothing.

Close

God helped shape the Israelites and mold their lives. As long as they depended on Him and trusted Him, they could do anything. With God in our lives, we can do anything. Ask for God to mold you into the best person that you can be... a servant for Him.

**Joshua led God's people and they took over the land God had promised them.
Write a newspaper headline and draw a picture of what you think might have been
said to explain what was happening in Joshua's day.**



Name: _____

Date: _____

**“As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”
Joshua 24:15b**

Procedure: Copy onto cardstock and cut in half. Let students place glue on picture and color with colored sand.



“As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:15b



“As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:15b

Connect the dots and discover what God stopped. Can you color it yellow and draw lines coming out the sides to show how God shines on us! God is always there for us!

