

# The 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.*

## **Bible Storytelling Tips**

- **Draw the story:** As you tell the story, draw pictures on a large sheet of paper or a dry erase board to help preschoolers remember the key plot points: five crowns to represent the kings, large hailstones, swords to represent the battle, the sun and moon, and the promised land.
- **Say a monologue:** Invite a male guest to dress in Bible times clothing and tell the Bible story from the perspective of one of the kings. Encourage the guest to show emotions of defeat and shock at appropriate moments of the story.