LESSON 1

JOSHUA FIGHTS THE AMALEKITES



Aim: **To show the children that prayer is the way to victory.**

Scripture Reading: **Exodus 17:8–16**

Memory Verse: **Luke 18:1**
Then Jesus told his disciples … that they should always pray and not give up.

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Tell the class about your efforts to do something that proved very difficult. You had to work at it for a long time before you succeeded. **You could use the example of a car that wouldn't start.** I turned the keys in the ignition several times, but the engine wouldn't start up. Then I pumped the petrol pedal vigorously, but still had no success. Finally, some friends pushed the car and the engine started.

If the children are not familiar with cars, use another example of a task like lighting a paraffin stove or digging out a tree stump, where you met with more than the usual difficulties.

MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Moses' job was very difficult. He had to lead the Israelites, who were refugees from Egypt, across the desert to the land God had promised them. They faced many problems. There were many tribes who wanted to wipe out the Israelites. One of these tribes was called the Amalekites (v 8).
2. Moses told Joshua, his second-in-command, to choose some Israelites to go out and fight with this fierce tribe (v 9).
3. While Joshua and his few men were fighting Moses prayed for them (v 10). Today we mostly bow our heads when we pray, but Moses stretched out his arms to God. That was his way of asking for God's help.
4. As long as Moses held up his hands in prayer, the Israelites were winning the battle. However, the battle went on for a long time and Moses' arms grew tired. So Moses' companions, Aaron and Hur, helped him by holding up his hands (v 11–12).
5. **Show Picture 1. Briefly review the story by discussing the picture and asking who the various people are.** Important point: The Israelites won a victory over a large, fierce tribe because their power lay in prayer.

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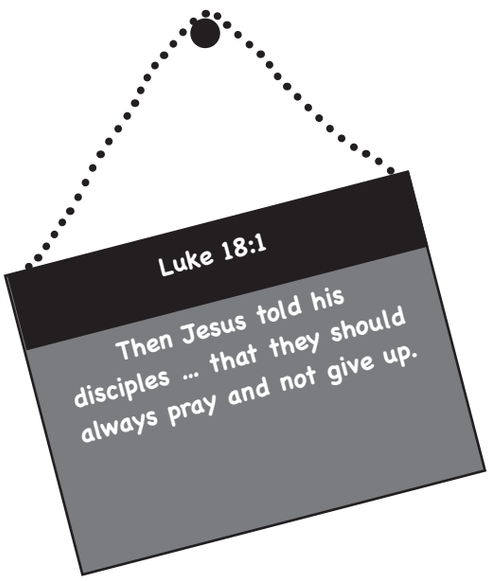


Instil the Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

After he became a Christian, a man called George Muller began to pray every day for five of his friends. After 18 months one of them became a Christian. George thanked God and kept on praying every day for the other four. Five years later a second friend became a Christian. Now there were three left. George continued praying and six years later the third friend was converted. George had prayed every day for him for nearly 13 years! The fourth friend became a Christian after George had prayed for him for 34 years. The fifth and last friend was converted after George had died. George Muller never gave up praying for his friends.

Repeat the memory verse



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