LESSON 7

GOD LENGTHENS ONE DAY



Aim: **To show the children how God performed a miracle so that Israel could triumph in his power.**

Scripture Reading: **Joshua 10:1–15**

Memory Verse: **Joshua 10:8**
The Lord said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them; I have given them into your hand."

PRESENTING THE LESSON

STARTING POINT

Begin this lesson by talking about the number of daylight hours in each day. Near the equator there are 12 hours of daylight, and 12 hours of darkness. There is nothing we can do to change this. If we want light after the sun has set, we have to use electric lights or a lamp or some other source of light. We cannot stop the sun from rising or setting.

MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Joshua had a big battle to fight. It was going to be very difficult to destroy the enemy completely in one day. He was going to run out of time. **Describe how Joshua faced many enemies in the Promised Land.**
   Five strong tribes **(do not mention their names)** all joined together to attack the tribe of Gibeon, with whom Joshua had made a treaty of friendship. Now the Gibeonites asked Joshua for help (10:1–6).
2. Joshua took along his whole army – a different story from the first battle at Ai when he was overconfident and used only some of his soldiers (7:3). They marched all night to join the Gibeonites against the five other tribes. God gave Joshua a promise (10:7–9). **Say the memory verse.**
3. Before daylight came Joshua attacked the enemy. When they ran away Joshua and his soldiers chased after them. God sent a storm of hailstones, which killed more of the enemy than did Joshua's soldiers (10:10–11). Show Picture 7.
   Keep the picture in view as you tell the rest of the story.
4. But Joshua was running out of time. He did not want the day to end before the fight was won once and for all, otherwise the enemy might regain their strength after a night's rest. Joshua told the sun and moon to stand still in God's name. God allowed this to happen! There has never been another day like this. Through this miracle God proved that it was he who gave Israel the victory (10:12–14).

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Our Response to the Story

In times of drought, some Christian churches hold special prayer meetings for rain. Sometimes the rains come soon after, and many people witness God's power to provide for his people at work in nature. On other occasions, when the rains don't come until later, it does not mean that God does not answer our prayers or that he doesn't care. If we pray to him in the first place to perform a mighty deed on our behalf, it means that we also trust him to know what is best for us.

Instil the Memory Verse



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