LESSON 8



JOSHUA, ISRAEL'S LEADER, SAYS GOODBYE

Aim: **To show the children how Joshua encouraged the Israelites to follow God faithfully; and that God always keeps his promises.**

Scripture Reading: **Joshua 23:1-16; 24:1-31**

Memory Verse: **Joshua 23:14**
"You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the Lord your God gave you has failed."

Presenting the Lesson

Starting Point

Ask the class about the position of older people in their community. Usually they are respected. We give great importance to the last words and advice of an older person when he or she is about to die.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Joshua was an old man by now. Many years had passed since the Israelites had crossed the River Jordan into the Promised Land, Canaan. They were now living more peacefully in the land God had given them. When Joshua realised that he would not live much longer he called the people together to say goodbye to them (23:1-3).
2. Joshua reminded the people of Israel how God had kept his promises. He had brought them safely out of Egypt to the Promised Land. He had given them victories over their enemies. **Briefly review Lessons 1, 4 and 7 by asking questions about them, pointing out every time how God kept his promises (24:6-8, 11-13).**
3. Joshua reminded the Israelites that there were parts of the Promised Land that still had to be conquered. He told them to be strong and mindful to obey God's commandments (23:4-6, 8-11). **Show Picture 8.**
4. Joshua challenged the people to decide whom they were going to serve. If they faithfully served God, he would continue to keep his promises to them. If they disobeyed and ignored God and his commandments, like Achan, they would lose the Promised Land (23:11, 14-16).

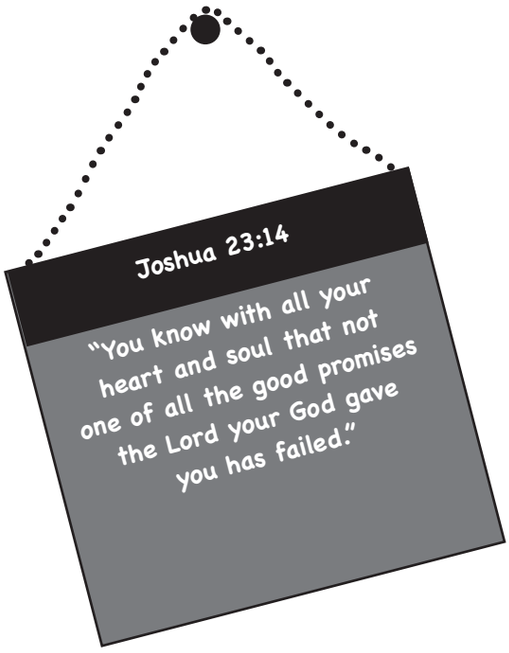
Our Response to the Story

Ask the children to tell you what God has promised us. God offers the most wonderful gift to all who will accept it: forgiveness of sins and everlasting life for those who follow Jesus Christ and serve God wholeheartedly.

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Instil the Memory Verse



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