

Lesson 6

Fighting on the Lord's Side



Theme: Honesty – Keeping your word

Sunday Morning Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Operation Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Write the Memory Verse as words or phrases on several sticky notes. Stick each note on a student's shirt. Have students form a line and put themselves in order to arrange the Memory Verse. For older students, place the sticky notes on their backs so they must work together to complete the project. Place sentence strips in the pocket chart to show the verse. Talk briefly about the meaning of the verse and how it relates to the quarter's study.

Prayer

Teaching Today's Lesson

1. For non-reading students, read Joshua 10:12-14. Have reading students find and mark Joshua 10:12 in the classroom Bibles.
2. Ask students to bring the Bibles and move to the Bible Story Bunker.
3. Establish the setting of the lesson by asking a student to point to the place on the time line when today's events took place.
4. Further establish the setting by asking a student to show Canaan on a map. Also, help the students find Gibeon on the map.
5. Introduce *Lesson Graphics* using the Lord's Army Ammo Box.
6. Use the *I'm in the Lord's Army Lesson Graphics* and other props such as a sun graphic, old bread, torn clothes, and tattered sacks.
7. Tell the story and teach the lesson emphasizing the following scenes and points, tailored to the students' ages:
 - Joshua led Israel's army into the land of Canaan, where other people lived. God had told him to remove other nations from the land so it could be Israel's land.
 - Canaanites heard about Israel's army, and they were afraid.

- The Gibeonites came up with a plan to trick Joshua and the nation of Israel into letting them stay in the land. Joshua found out that he had been tricked and made the Gibeonites be slaves to the Israelites.
 - Five kings in Canaan decided to attack Gibeon. Joshua went to help the Gibeonites as he had promised. God made the daylight longer to help Joshua and his army win the battle.
 - God was fighting for Israel and giving them the land of Canaan as their own.
 - Joshua led the nation to take the southern part of Canaan.
8. Using props such as stale bread and torn sacks, allow students to reenact the episode involving the Gibeonites and the episode about the kings' attacking Gibeon. After reenacting the events, ask if the students can identify the key action that is missing – neither Joshua nor the elders asked God what to do. Include how God made the sun stand still to help His people fight their battle.
 9. Read Joshua 10:12-14.
 10. Talk with the students about the importance of keeping our word. Joshua and the people of Israel promised to protect the Gibeonites. Make sure students know that a vow and a promise are the same. In time, Joshua was called on to keep his promise, though he really didn't want to. Let the students give an example of a time they promised to do something and then did it, though it was harder than they first thought. Make application to Joshua's vow to protect the Gibeonites and how he kept it.

**Things to Get or Do
for Sunday Morning**

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Lesson 6

Fighting on the Lord's Side

Theme: Honesty – Keeping your word

Wednesday Evening Lesson

Pre-Class Activity

Bible Facts: Operation Bible Facts

Memory Verse: Using the sticky notes from Sunday, stick them at different places around the classroom. Have students find the sticky notes and arrange them correctly on the marker board to display the verse. Place sentence strips in the pocket chart to show the verse. Read the Memory Verse together out loud.

Prayer

Starter

Suppose a huge mound of dirt is in your driveway at home. It's blocking the drive and needs to be moved. Your parents assign you the job of moving the whole pile. You look long and hard at the mound of dirt. It's about three times as high as you are, and it's almost as wide as the driveway. As you stare at the pile, you know moving it will be a lot of work and take a long time. You wonder if you can do it. You think about how long it will take. You know you could use some help. Finally, you realize that the dirt will never get moved unless you get to work.

Over the next few days, you shovel dirt into a wheelbarrow. One shovelful at a time, you work at the humongous project. Occasionally, one of your friends comes along and helps and the work goes a lot faster. After three days of work, you begin to notice the pile is going down. After a couple more days of hard work, all the dirt will be moved to its new location. You think about this as you dig a shovel into the pile again, and you push on a little harder.

Joshua and the nation of Israel had a huge job in taking Canaan, the land given to them by God. God would help His people and fight for them, but they must be involved, too. The same holds true today. In fighting our battles, we must be in the Lord's army.

Briefly review the lesson from Sunday morning and read Joshua 10:12-14.



Things to Get or Do for Wednesday Night

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Illustrations and Applications

1. **Objective:** *Demonstrate it is easy to be fooled into agreeing to something you should not agree to.*

Before class, create an official looking document that says, "I will attend the celebration to honor [your name] at [some familiar place]." Explain to the students that you are being given a Special Citizen's award. You want all your students to be present, and all guests will receive a surprise gift. You have to turn in the names of those who will attend. You will let them know the exact time and date later. Talk them into signing the document.

After getting all the signatures and promises, tell them the celebration will be at 3 AM Saturday morning! Discuss how easy it is sometimes to be fooled by someone and agree to do something you should not do or don't want to do. Discuss some things the students could have done to avoid being tricked – demand to know the date and time before signing, say they would talk to their parents, or get more information. Have students review for you the story of how the Gibeonites tricked the Israelites. Discuss what the people of Israel could have done to avoid being tricked.

2. **Objective:** *Lead the class in developing a plan for resisting temptations.*

You may call this activity "Operation: Resist Temptation."

Set up a scene called *The Battle of Temptations*. You can be either more elaborate or more simple in this activity. For example, depending on the age of the students, you can make helmets from gallon milk jugs. Cut a jug, using the bottom part as the helmet and paint it army green. Provide students with armor and weapons. You may make cut outs that represent the armor of God and weapons in Ephesians 6:14-17.

Talk about ways children of your age group are tempted. Then, talk about ways to fight and resist the temptation. Make a list on the board of some strategies the students can use in fighting the battle. Thinking through the situation ahead of time and making a plan is an important weapon in this battle. Possible strategies may be reading the Bible, calming down when you're angry before saying anything, praying, and asking other people's advice.

3. **Objective:** *Teach students that the church is God's army today. As soldiers we are to help, protect, and encourage one another to fight the devil and his army.*

Using different colored toy soldiers, line up soldiers of one color and have each student identify one to represent him or her and their family. Explain that this line represents God's army. Line up soldiers of a different color opposite God's army, and identify this line as the devil's army. Have some reserve soldiers of God's army behind the main force. Show how missing soldiers affect the battle, how soldiers help each other, and how reserves must step up into place. Apply to battles we fight in real life.