

I'm in the Lord's Army



Lesson 7

Overcoming the Enemy

Theme: Faith — Knowing God keeps His promises

Memory Verses

“So the Lord gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they possessed it and lived in it. ... Not one of the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass.”

Joshua 21:43, 45

Daily Bible Readings

Thursday Joshua 11:1-15
Friday Joshua 11:16-23
Saturday Joshua 13:1-14
Monday Joshua 14:1-15
Tuesday Joshua 13:13, 15:63, 16:10, 17:12-13

Have you ever had a problem you thought you couldn't solve? Joshua, Caleb, and the people of Israel had a huge job before them in taking the land of Canaan. Kings and nations sent armies against them. Giants were in the land. Could the people of Israel overcome the enemy and take their land? They could if they included God in their battles.

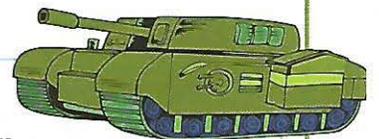
Taking Northern Canaan

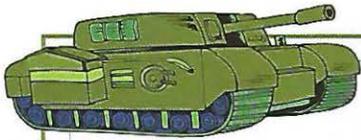
As kings did in southern Canaan, a group of kings in the north joined forces to fight against Israel. The kings and their fighting men formed into a mighty

Joshua 11:1-15

Kings in northern Canaan joined together to do what?

How much of God's will did Joshua do?





Joshua 11:16-23

Israel established peace with only one group of people. What did the nation do with the rest of the cities?

Who were the Anakim?

When did Joshua and Caleb see the Anakim before?

army – thousands and thousands of soldiers! Would Israel lose this battle?

The Lord told Joshua that his army would win, and they did. God told the Israelite soldiers to fix the enemies' horses so they could not run and be used for fighting. Joshua and the army of Israel followed the Lord's commands.

None of the cities of Canaan made peace with Israel; they all fought against God's people. It took a long time to fight against the nations in Canaan, but Joshua defeated all of them. In time, God gave the whole Promised Land to Israel.

Joshua Overcoming the Anakim

Do you remember the Anakim (pronounced *anna keem*)? They were the sons of Anak who were great and tall people (Deuteronomy 9:2). We would call them giants. The Anakim were big men and good soldiers. When the twelve spies went into Canaan the first time, they saw the Anakim and were afraid. The spies didn't trust God to help them, and He kept them out of the Promised Land.

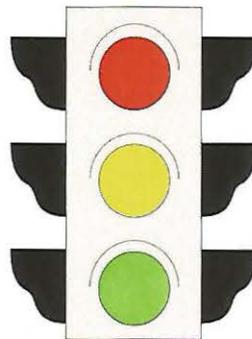
By trusting God, Joshua took the land of Canaan and destroyed the Anakim with their cities. There were no Anakim left in the land," except in three cities (Joshua 11:21-22). Later, Caleb defeated them in battle (Joshua 14:12-15).

Joshua 13:1-14

Did any enemies of God's people remain in the land?



I have caused problems for others by disobeying.



Put an X in the light that best describes you.

Red — often

Yellow — sometimes

Green — rarely



Joshua 14:1-15

How old was Caleb when he received his land?

Why was Caleb so strong and willing to take his part of the land?

Caleb Taking His Land in Canaan

Joshua led Israel to take the whole land of Canaan (Joshua 11:23). This was the land God gave His people, their gift from God. After many years of fighting for the land, the land had rest from war. With God's help, the people enjoyed peace and had plenty of everything they needed. God is with His people when they want Him to be.

After Israel took the land, it had to be divided and given to the tribes. Caleb, one of the two spies who trusted God, would receive his land (Joshua 14:6-15). Caleb's example of strong faith shows what each family of Israel *could* have done.

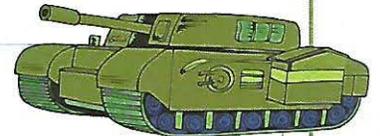
Forty years before, when he was one of the twelve spies, Caleb saw the same land the other spies saw. Caleb saw the same strong cities and mighty warriors, and he believed Israel could take the land with God's help. Now Caleb was 85 years old, and he still trusted God to be with him and fight for him.

Caleb believed Israel could take the land. In all the forty years in the wilderness, Caleb remained with God's people. He patiently, faithfully waited for God's promises. Even when Caleb got to be an older man, the mighty Anakim did not scare him.

One sad thing is that some enemies of God's people remained in the land. Israel could have removed these people from Canaan, but they didn't. This did not seem so bad at the time. What could a few enemies do against a whole nation? But in time, the remaining people were like thorns in Israel's side. We can cause a lot of trouble for ourselves by not doing God's will completely.

Joshua 13:13; 15:63; 16:10; 17:12-13

Why do you think it was not good for other people to live in Canaan with God's people?



Think About It . . .

Think about something you did that was really hard to do. Maybe you thought at one time that you couldn't do it. Write down some of the things that helped you do what was hard.



Operation Bible Facts

Which book of the Old Testament is about Naomi and Ruth, and Ruth marrying Boaz?

Right here, right now, write from memory Galatians 5:22-23.

On a map inside the back cover, place a small \triangle on Canaan, Jerusalem and the Jordan River.