

# I'm in the Lord's Army



Lesson 8

## Dividing the Land — Deciding About the Lord

**Theme:** Obedience — Deciding to serve God

### 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 18:1-10
Friday	Joshua 20:1-9
Saturday	Joshua 21:1-3, 41-45
Monday	Joshua 23:1-13
Tuesday	Joshua 24:14-33

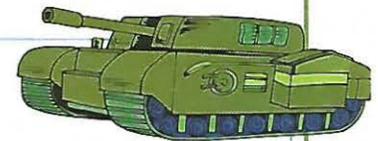
**W**hile the army of Israel took over the land of Canaan given by God, the people of Israel still had to divide and live in the land. To do this in the best way, the people needed God's help and direction. Each person in Israel must decide to follow the Lord.

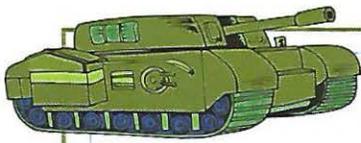
### Dividing the Land

God gave instructions for dividing the land. Under the leadership of Joshua and Eleazar the priest, Israel followed God's instructions. The land to the west of the Jordan was divided between nine and a half tribes, while the land to the east of the Jordan, known as Transjordan, was

### Joshua 18:1-10

Which tribe did not receive any land as an inheritance? Why?





### Joshua 20:1-9

How were the cities of refuge to be used?

divided between two and a half tribes. Levi's tribe served as priests and did not receive any land as their inheritance, though they did receive cities (Joshua 21:1-3). Joseph's tribe received two pieces of land, one for each of his sons, Manasseh and Ephraim. In this way, twelve pieces of land were assigned to

the tribes of Israel. See how the land was divided by studying the map inside the back cover of this workbook.

### Assigning Special Cities

In Canaan, God assigned six cities of refuge and forty-eight cities for the Levites. God assigned the cities of refuge at specific places throughout Canaan. This made it possible for people who needed protection or justice to go quickly to a city of refuge. When someone accidentally killed another person, the killer could go to a city of refuge until his case could be judged.

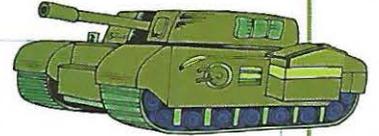
If the death was an accident, the person could live in the city of refuge until the death of the high priest.

The forty-eight cities given to the Levites were scattered throughout the land, so they could live among all the people. Levites were to be spiritual leaders in the nation. They had special responsibilities to take care of the tabernacle and teach the people God's law.

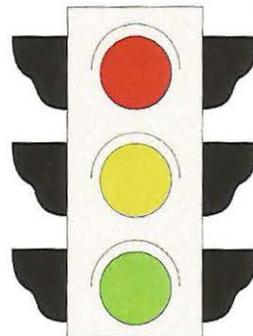
### Joshua 21:1-3, 41-45

How did the nation provide for the Levites who did not receive land?

How did the Levites have food for themselves and their animals?



Deciding to follow God is easy.

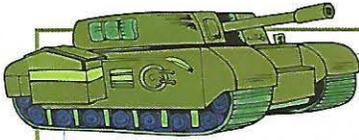


Put an X in the light that best describes you.

**Red** — never

**Yellow** — sometimes

**Green** — most of the time



### Joshua 23:1-13

When the tribes gathered to hear Joshua's last speech, what did they promise to do?

What were the people to do with the law of God?

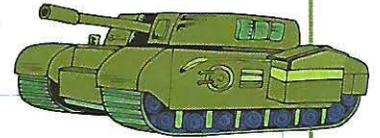
### Deciding About God

By the time God gave Israel rest in the Promised Land, Joshua had grown old. It was time for Joshua to make one last speech to his people. He had some important things to say before he died.

Joshua gathered the tribes of Israel to Shechem, which is in the center of the land. The tribes "presented themselves before the Lord" in a special assembly to promise to keep

their covenant with God (Joshua 24:2). Joshua reminded the people that everything they had came from God. They did not deserve it, but God gave it.

Joshua taught and encouraged the people to love and follow God. He said that he and his family would always serve the Lord. When he said all he needed to say, Joshua dismissed the people and each went to his own land and home. Every person had to decide whether or not he or she would serve God.



### Joshua 24:14-33

What did Joshua say he and his family would do?

When Joshua dismissed the people, where did everyone go?

### Deaths in the Promised Land

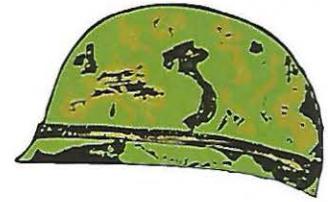
The book of Joshua ends with the record of three deaths in the Promised Land. Canaan was a good land, but people still died. First, Joshua died and was buried in his own land – his inheritance. Joshua served God and Israel well. Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua. And because of Joshua's good influence, people kept serving God for many years after Joshua died (Joshua 24:31). Joshua was one of Israel's great leaders.

Second, Joseph's bones were buried in the Promised Land. Joseph had given instructions about carrying his bones to Canaan (Genesis 50:25), and the people did what he directed and asked them to do.

Third, the high priest Eleazar died. He had helped Joshua in dividing the land. This work was complete, and the older people were dying. God's people were in their land. What would the younger people do now? Would they follow God? Each person would have to decide.

# Think About It . . .

Each person must decide to follow God. Some people will, but many won't. You will have some friends who do not follow God. Name three things that will help you follow God whether or not others do.



## Operation Bible Facts

Which books of the Old Testament are about kings and prophets for Israel, and Saul and David as Israel's kings?

Using numbers, put the major stages of Bible history in the proper order:

- \_\_\_ Salvation in Jesus Christ
- \_\_\_ Wilderness Wanderings
- \_\_\_ Living in the Promised Land
- \_\_\_ Law at Mount Sinai
- \_\_\_ Punished by Captivity
- \_\_\_ Promise to Abraham
- \_\_\_ Slavery in Egypt

On a map inside the back cover, mark with  the Dead Sea, the Sea of Galilee, and the Mediterranean Sea.