





Look, Listen & Live

BOOK 3

GSS0093E

# **VICTORY THROUGH GOD**



Sunday school lessons  
about

**JOSHUA, DEBORAH, GIDEON  
AND SAMSON**

GOOD NEWS MEDIA

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# INTRODUCTION

These lessons were written in response to the cries for help from young people who had been asked to teach in Sunday schools. The content is based on the *Look, Listen & Live* set of pictures (*Book 3*) published by Global Recordings Network (formerly Gospel Recordings), whom we would like to thank for permission to use their material and for their encouragement to go ahead with the project. These pictures are a crucial visual aid to the lessons. At the beginning of each lesson a reproduction has been printed of the main picture or pictures needed.

This book deals only with the content side of the Sunday school sessions, and every lesson is planned to last about twenty minutes. The rest of the Sunday school meeting – composed of singing, praying, Bible reading, quizzes and other activities – is left to the teachers to plan. We recommend that each lesson should end with a short prayer and song based on that week's teaching. The lessons are aimed at a fairly wide age range: children between 7 and 12.

When the material was first tried out, the teachers wrote out each lesson week by week in an exercise book, so lessons were purposely kept quite short. Some have been expanded, but the idea remained to provide teachers with a fairly brief but comprehensive outline to be filled out during their own preparation.

The aim stated at the beginning of each story directs the teaching of that lesson. In order to make the lessons suitable for children, we cannot cover every aspect of a particular truth about God in one lesson. Instead, the teacher should concentrate on one or two aspects in every lesson so that the children gradually come to know God better.

The lessons are not designed simply to be read to the class. Our intention is for them to be the teacher's walking stick, not a pair of crutches.

**AIC Sudan Sunday School Committee**



# INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE TEACHER

(Note: Instructions for the teachers appear in **bold**.)

## **READ THIS WHEN PREPARING FOR EVERY LESSON**

### **TEACHER'S PREPARATION**

#### **Ask yourself these questions:**

1. Have I prayed and asked God to help me prepare the lesson?
2. Have I read the lesson plan and learnt the aim of this specific lesson?
3. Have I read the Bible passage and do I know the story thoroughly?
4. Do I have my pictures, objects, questions and other teaching aids ready?
5. Have I planned some steps for revision?

### **REVISION**

This is where you drive home the message of the lesson. This must not take longer than four minutes.

### **USE SOME OF THESE IDEAS OR PLAN YOUR OWN STRATEGY:**

1. Show the picture again and get the children to tell the story back to you.
2. Hold a quiz.
3. Tell the children again what the aim of the lesson is.

# LESSON 1

## JOSHUA FIGHTS THE AMALEKITES



*Aim:* To show the children that prayer is the way to victory.



*Scripture Reading:* Exodus 17:8-16



*Memory Verse:* Luke 18:1

Then Jesus told his disciples ... that they should always pray and not give up.

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Tell the class about your efforts to do something that proved very difficult. You had to work at it for a long time before you succeeded. You could use the example of a car that wouldn't start. I turned the keys in the ignition several times, but the engine wouldn't start up. Then I pumped the petrol pedal vigorously, but still had no success. Finally, some friends pushed the car and the engine started.

If the children are not familiar with cars, use another example of a task like lighting a paraffin stove or digging out a tree stump, where you met with more than the usual difficulties.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Moses' job was very difficult. He had to lead the Israelites, who were refugees from Egypt, across the desert to the land God had promised them. They faced many problems. There were many tribes who wanted to wipe out the Israelites. One of these tribes was called the Amalekites (v 8).
2. Moses told Joshua, his second-in-command, to choose some Israelites to go out and fight with this fierce tribe (v 9).
3. While Joshua and his few men were fighting Moses prayed for them (v 10). Today we mostly bow our heads when we pray, but Moses stretched out his arms to God. That was his way of asking for God's help.
4. As long as Moses held up his hands in prayer, the Israelites were winning the battle. However, the battle went on for a long time and Moses' arms grew tired. So Moses' companions, Aaron and Hur, helped him by holding up his hands (v 11-12).
5. **Show Picture 1. Briefly review the story by discussing the picture and asking who the various people are.** Important point: The Israelites won a victory over a large, fierce tribe because their power lay in prayer.

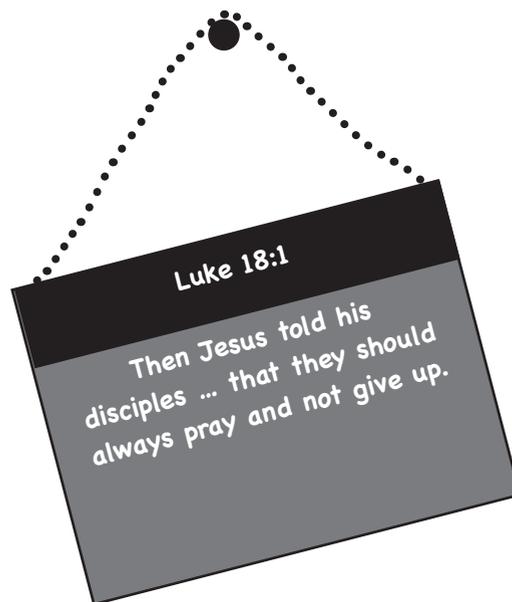


## **INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE**

### **OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY**

After he became a Christian, a man called George Muller began to pray every day for five of his friends. After 18 months one of them became a Christian. George thanked God and kept on praying every day for the other four. Five years later a second friend became a Christian. Now there were three left. George continued praying and six years later the third friend was converted. George had prayed every day for him for nearly 13 years! The fourth friend became a Christian after George had prayed for him for 34 years. The fifth and last friend was converted after George had died. George Muller never gave up praying for his friends.

### **REPEAT THE MEMORY VERSE**



# **JOSHUA FIGHTS THE AMALEKITES**

## **LESSON 1**

# LESSON 2

## TWELVE ISRAELITES EXPLORE THE PROMISED LAND



*Aim:* To show the children that we need to trust God and not let the difficulties that we see make us doubt his power.



*Scripture Reading:* Numbers 13:1-2, 17-33; 14:20-25

Study the whole of Numbers chapters 13 and 14 if you can.



*Memory Verse:* Numbers 14:9

"[T]he Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them."

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Ask the class if they like riding in a car. They will probably all say yes, especially the boys. But if you give a ride to a little three-year-old child, who has never been in a car before, he will probably cry. He may be frightened by the noise of the engine and he may not like being bumped up and down. He will want to stop the car and get out.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Moses was leading the Israelites to the land of Canaan, which God had promised to give them. He sent out people to find out what this land was like (13:1-2).
2. These 12 explorers (one person from each tribe) were told to note what kind of crops grew there, whether the towns had strong defences, and what kind of people lived there (13:17-20).
3. The explorers stayed away for 40 days and then reported back to Moses and the people. They also brought along some examples of the lovely fruit that grew there. A branch with only one bunch of grapes on it was so big that two men had to carry it (13:23, 25-26).
4. **Show Picture 2.** Joshua and Caleb are the two men in front of Moses with the large bunch of grapes, the pomegranates and the figs. **You can also mention other fruits, like oranges, which the children know and which grow to a large size in Canaan (now called Israel).**

The 12 explorers could not agree among themselves. They all said that the land was very good (13:27), but 10 of them were frightened of the people of Canaan. They were very strong and tall, they reported. Three of these men are shown in the picture: see the fear on their faces. One is showing how tall the people of Canaan are (13:28).

5. Then Caleb gave the report that he and Joshua had prepared. They advised Moses to enter into the Promised Land immediately (13:30). An argument began. The other 10 explorers were so afraid that they even lied and said the land was bad (13:31-33). They saw all these difficulties and forgot to keep their eyes fixed on their powerful God. The people listened to these 10 explorers of little faith.



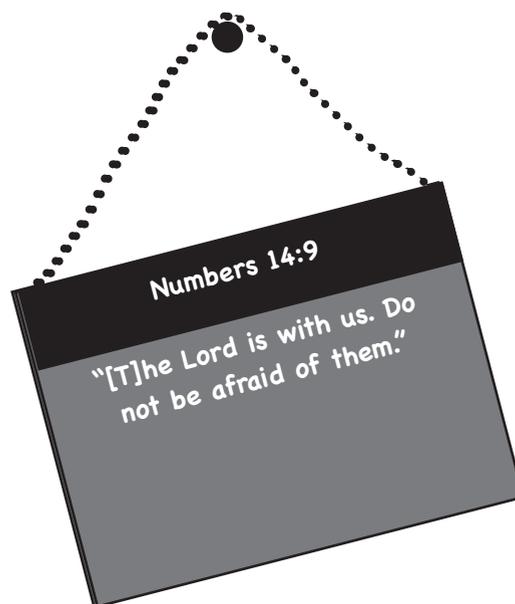
6. God knew these people would not build a strong, faithful nation in Canaan. As a result, they had to wander in the desert until all the adult Israelites who did not trust God had died. Their children would be the ones to enter into the Promised Land once they had grown up. Joshua and Caleb, however, would survive to enter Canaan (14:20–24).

### **OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY**

Ask the children to think about something they are worried about or frightened of. Then encourage them to tell God about this fear and ask him for the faith and the power to overcome it. Give a short time for silent prayer during which the children can do this.

### **INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE**

Point out that these were Caleb's words to the Israelites.



# LESSON 3

## THE ISRAELITES CROSS THE JORDAN INTO CANAAN



*Aim:* To show the children that God expects us to step out in faith so that he can help us overcome our difficulties in his power.



*Scripture Reading:* Joshua 3:1-7



*Memory Verse:* Hebrews 11:1

Now faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see.

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

If you go to someone else's house and are given some unfamiliar food that you have never eaten before, you just have to trust that the cook has prepared good food. Even if everyone tells you the food is good you will have to taste it yourself to be certain. If you only say you believe them but refuse to put the food into your mouth, you won't be sure that it tastes good. No-one else can do this for you.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Forty years had passed since Moses had sent the 12 explorers into the Promised Land. Moses was dead by now. Joshua was the new leader, and he led his people to the border of the Promised Land, which was the River Jordan (3:1).
2. How were all the Israelites going to cross the river? It was in flood, so the current was strong and there was no bridge. They had many children and animals with them. This was a big problem. God told Joshua how they would overcome this huge difficulty (3:7).
3. The priests of Israel had a special wooden box called the ark of the covenant or the ark of the Lord. It held the stone slabs with the rules of life that God gave to Moses (Ex 25:20-21). The priests had to carry the ark of the covenant into the river. As soon as their feet touched the water's edge, the Lord would open up a pathway for them to cross (3:9-13).
4. Although the river was in full flood, the priests had to step into the water. They could not just stand on the riverbank; they had to step out in faith before the water would stop flowing. Only once they had obeyed God's instructions the obstacle was cleared from their way. Describe what happened (3:14-17).
5. **Show Picture 3.** The priests are standing in the middle of the River Jordan, holding the ark of the covenant. Joshua, the one in yellow clothes, is standing at the river's edge while all the people are crossing the river safely.

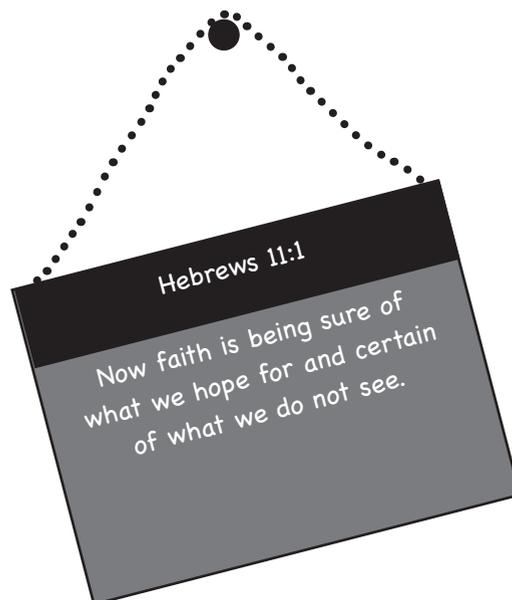


## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Give the class some examples of when we may have to step out in faith.

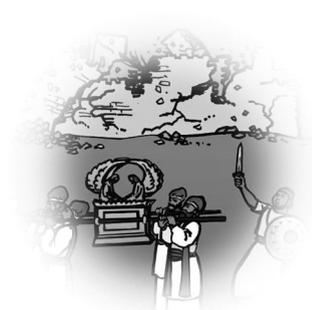
For example, when your family moves house you probably have to change schools. Then you need to trust that God will give you good new friends and that your new teacher will be kind when they do things at school that you don't know.

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# LESSON 4

## JERICO'S WALLS FALL DOWN



*Aim:* To show the children that obedience to God's commands is better than making our own plans.



*Scripture Reading:* Joshua 6:1-21



*Memory Verse:* Hebrews 11:30

By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

This lesson gives the children the opportunity to perform the actions as the teacher tells the story, but this requires some preparation beforehand.

#### PRACTICAL PREPARATIONS

1. In the middle of the place where the class meets, mark out a circle or use a table to represent Jericho. The children will walk around this "city". If this is not possible the whole building can be Jericho and the class can walk around it.
2. Tie a box onto two poles so that the children can carry it on their shoulders. This must represent the ark of the covenant. Four children acting as the priests will carry it.
3. Bring along to class seven pieces of paper about the size of an exercise book. Roll them up to make the priests' trumpets.

#### Introduction

Explain to the class that today they are going to be the people of Israel who obeyed God's commands and captured the strong city of Jericho. Show them where you have arranged Jericho to be, then choose your actors:

- \* four children to carry the ark of the covenant
- \* seven children to be the priests who carried the trumpets
- \* several children to be the soldiers who walked behind the ark of the Lord.

You must play the part of Joshua.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Recount in your role as Joshua how God instructed you to take the city of Jericho. It was a well defended city with strong walls around it. But if we obeyed God's plan I knew we could overcome any obstacle (6:12).



2. **Describe the instructions.** Once a day for six days the people of Israel had to walk around the city in a procession in the following order:
  - \* the seven priests blowing their trumpets
  - \* the four priests carrying the ark of the covenant
  - \* the Israelite soldiers, who had to keep completely quiet.

**Act this out with the actors you have chosen (6:6-14).**

3. **Explain the action on the seventh day.** The priests and soldiers walked around Jericho six times as the Lord had instructed them. On the seventh day, when the trumpets sounded a long note, Joshua gave the order, everyone shouted and the walls fell down.  
**Act this out with the class. They can clap their hands to make the noise of the walls falling down. Sing a song of praise as they return to their seats (6:15-16, 20).**
4. **Show Picture 4. Point out the priests, the ark of the covenant, the Israelite soldiers, the walls of Jericho.** To the Israelites the ark of the covenant was the sign that God was with them and that the battle and its outcome belonged to him.
5. The Israelites were not to take anything from Jericho for themselves. All of it belonged to God. Of all the inhabitants only Rahab and her family had to be saved. Rahab had welcomed and protected the spies Joshua had sent to Jericho. **Show Rahab's house, marked by the red rope in the picture (6:17-19; 2:15-18).**

### OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

The battle of Jericho was not won in the usual way. God wanted Israel to prove that they would live in obedience to him in the Promised Land. Obeying God often means behaving different from what people might expect. Sometimes following God's instructions looks like foolishness to others!

**Discuss practical examples of this kind of different behaviour: being honest, not cheating in exams, not keeping money that we saw someone else drop, etc.**

### INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE

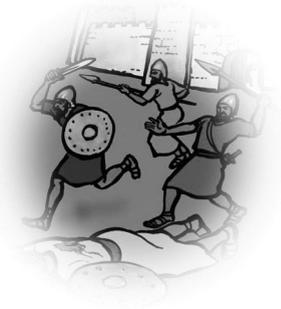


## JERICO'S WALLS FALL DOWN

## LESSON 4

# LESSON 5

## THE BATTLE OF AI



*Aim:* To show the children that relying on our own strength and wisdom instead of relying on God brings defeat.



*Scripture Reading:* Joshua 7:1-13



*Memory Verse:* Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all  
your heart and lean not on  
your own understanding ...

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

When a woman wants to carry a large container of water on her head she asks someone else to help her lift it up. It's too heavy for her to lift into that position on her own. If she does try to do it by herself much water is likely to get spilt.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Joshua sent some Israelites to spy on the city of Ai and the surrounding countryside (7:2).
2. When these spies reported back to Joshua they said it would be so easy to conquer Ai that only a few of their soldiers needed to join in battle (7:3). They did not ask God for his instructions. They put their faith in their own strength and wisdom.
3. **Describe what happened in the battle of Ai.** The inhabitants of Ai overpowered the Israelites, who became afraid and ran away (7:4-5). **Show Picture 5.** See how the Israelites are being chased away by the soldiers of Ai! Introduce this week's memory verse. The Israelites did not trust God. They relied on their own understanding of what they had found out about Ai.
4. Joshua and the other leaders of Israel were very upset by this defeat. They cried out their troubles to God. What would all their enemies in this land think of them now? They would laugh at them. They would defeat the Israelites and say the God of Israel was not really strong (7:6-9).
5. God was disappointed in Joshua and the people of Israel. The reason they had lost the battle was because they had relied on their own strength. They had forgotten that the victory over Jericho was wholly due to God, not their own cleverness. That was why they had dared taking on Ai without asking after God's will. **Refer to the introductory story, where the water is spilled when a woman tries to lift a heavy container onto her head all by herself.**  
Furthermore, the Israelites had disobeyed God's instructions and taken some things from Jericho for themselves, even though all of it belonged to the Lord (7:1, 10-12). **Do not tell the story of Achan now.** We shall come to that in the next lesson.



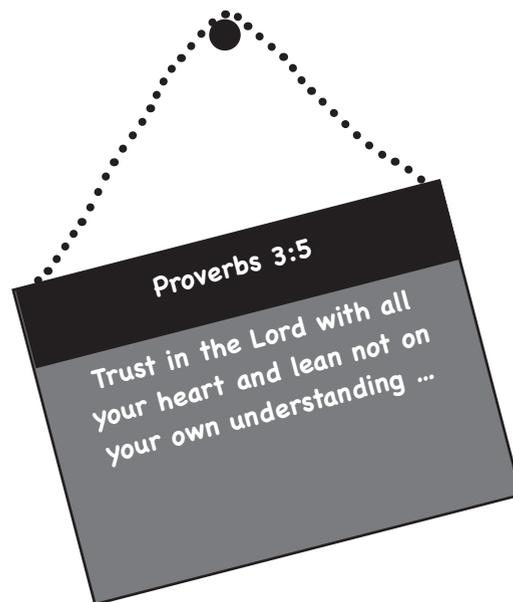
6. Joshua had to tell the Israelites to prepare themselves for confessing their disobedience to God. They would defeat Ai only after their relationship with God was repaired (7:13).

### **INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE**

### **OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY**

When a person drinks dirty water, he or she gets ill. When we disobey God, we fall into sin and can't overcome our problems. The most important thing in life is to have a strong relationship with God, which means we must obey his instructions and put our trust in him.

### **REPEAT THE MEMORY VERSE**



# **THE BATTLE OF AI** **LESSON 5**

# LESSON 6

## THE JUDGMENT OF ACHAN



*Aim:* To show the children that nothing is hidden from God's eyes and that our righteous and holy God cannot ignore sin.



*Scripture Reading:* Joshua 7:1, 15-26; 8:12



*Memory Verse:* John 3:17

"For God did not send his Son into the world to condemn the world, but to save the world through him."

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Ask the class what would happen if you put your hand into a pot of boiling porridge. They will tell you that your hand would be badly burnt. Mothers warn small children not to put their hands into the porridge, but a child may want it so badly that he will not listen. When he disobeys his mother's instruction, he burns his hand.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Achan was an Israelite soldier who fought in the battle of Jericho. **Describe how he, too, walked around the city behind the ark of the covenant and saw the walls fall down. Show Picture 4.** When Jericho was conquered, Achan went into the city with the other soldiers.
2. Achan knew what God had instructed Israel to do with everything that was in the city: it was to be given up to the Lord. Therefore, they had to save the gold, silver, bronze and iron to be used in the Lord's service, but everything else they had to destroy (6:17, 24). They were not allowed to take anything for themselves.
3. But Achan saw some beautiful things in Jericho - some gold and silver and expensive cloth. He wanted it very badly. He looked around to make sure that no one was watching and hid it under his clothes. Back home, he buried it in the ground inside his tent. No human being had seen him, but God knew Achan had disobeyed his instructions (7:1, 20-21).
4. God allowed the Israelites to be defeated at Ai. **Show Picture 5.** God told Joshua that he had to find out who had been disobedient (7:12-13).
5. Early the next morning all twelve tribes of Israel had to walk past Joshua. God showed Joshua that the disobedient person belonged to the tribe of Judah. Each clan of that tribe now had to walk past Joshua. Hereafter each family in that clan had to do so. Finally, each member of that family had to walk past him. Achan was picked out (7:16-18).



6. Joshua told Achan to confess his disobedience. Achan did, and the stolen things were found in his tent. Achan had never enjoyed them, because he had to keep them hidden (7:19-22). **Show Picture 6.**  
Joshua, in yellow, is pointing to Achan, who is kneeling. The man standing behind Joshua is a priest.
7. Achan paid with his life for following his own desires instead of following God's instructions. He deliberately did what God had told them not to do. He had so little respect for the Lord that he stole that which belonged to God alone (7:24-26).

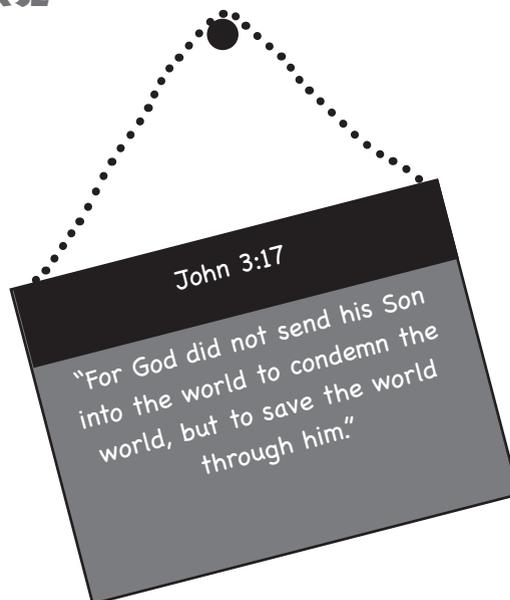
## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Disobedience to God is a sin, because it means we think we know better than God. Sin cannot be hidden like buried stolen goods. God cannot ignore sin as he is holy. Therefore, sin has consequences. **Remember the story I told you in the beginning about the child who burnt his hand?** It shows us what a consequence is. If you touch fire or something hot, you will burn yourself. In the same way, Achan suffered the consequences of his sin.

We all are sinners who deserve to be punished. However, Jesus Christ came to take the punishment for our sins and so save us from sin and death. Let us praise the Lord for his love and mercy!

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE

Close the session by repeating the memory verse, John 3:17.

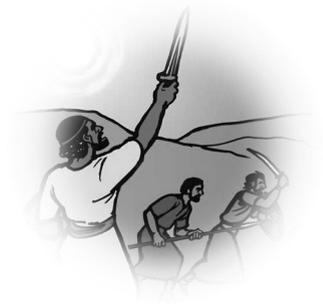


# THE JUDGMENT OF ACHAN

## LESSON 6

# 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).



## 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.

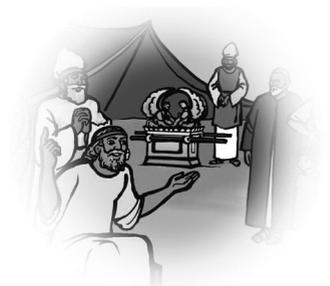
## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# GOD LENGTHENS ONE DAY **LESSON 7**

# 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

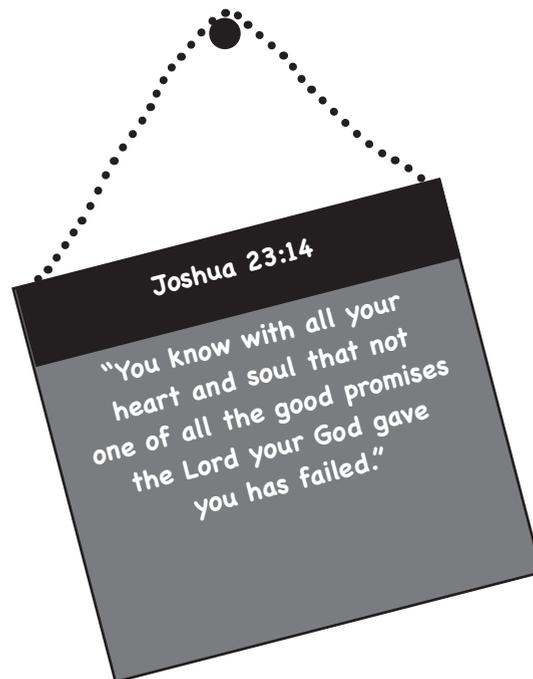
1. Joshua was an old man by now. Many years had passed since the Israelites had crossed the River Jordan into the Promised Land, Canaan. They were now living more peacefully in the land God had given them. When Joshua realised that he would not live much longer he called the people together to say goodbye 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.



## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



**JOSHUA, ISRAEL'S LEADER, SAYS GOODBYE**

**LESSON 8**

# LESSON 9

## DEBORAH ACTS AS GOD'S VOICE



*Aim:* To show the children how Deborah encouraged the Israelites to trust in God for victory over their enemies.



*Scripture Reading:* Judges 4:1-10



*Memory Verse:* Psalm 34:8

Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him.

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Make up a story or act a little play about two friends called Wani and Juma, who are going to buy a packet of biscuits. Wani, who has the money, promises to share the biscuits with Juma. But Wani then buys the biscuits and eats them all very quickly while Juma is not looking. Wani has broken his promise and Juma is upset.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

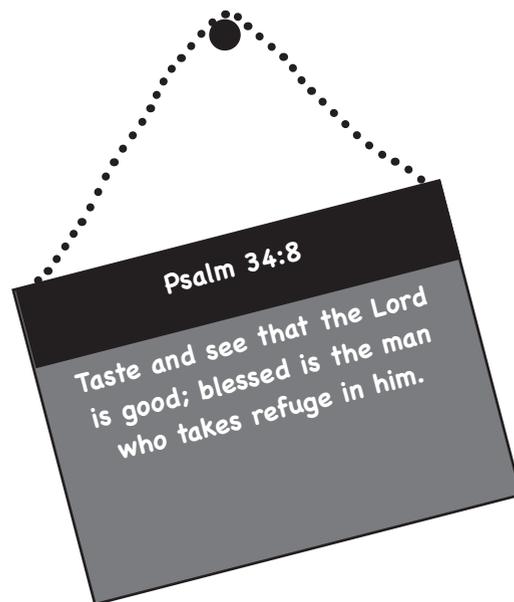
1. The Israelites broke their promise to Joshua. They said they would obey God's commandments, but they turned their hearts from God and followed the wicked ways of the tribes around them. Because of this God allowed them to be conquered by cruel tribes who treated the Israelites very badly (Josh 23:14-16; Judg 4:1-3).
2. Deborah was an Israelite woman who faithfully followed God. She also was a prophetess; that is, someone who taught the people God's will and brought them God's messages. Describe how she sat under a palm tree between two big towns so that people could come to her with their problems (Judg 4:5-6). **Show Picture 9.**
3. One day Deborah sent a message to Barak, an Israelite soldier, to come and see her. The Israelites had turned back to God and asked him to save them from their enemies. Barak was to lead the army, Deborah told him (Judg 4:3, 67). **Show Picture 9.** Barak is the one dressed in green in the picture.
4. But Barak was afraid. The commander of the enemy army, Sisera, had many soldiers and chariots (fast carts on wheels), which Israel did not have. Barak agreed to lead the Israelite soldiers only if Deborah would go with them (Judg 4:7-9).
5. Deborah agreed to go with the army, but warned Barak that the honour of the victory over Sisera would not go to him; people would say that the Lord handed Sisera over to a woman (Judg 4:9-10).



## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Barak had an important and difficult job to do, but his faith in God was weak. Deborah encouraged him. It is very important to encourage others in their journey with God. Ask God to give you a Christian friend if you don't have one, so you can help each other stay obedient to God.

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# LESSON 10

## GOD LETS THE ISRAELITES DEFEAT SISERA



*Aim:* To show the children that obedience to God is a stronger weapon than violence and might; it can overcome even the strongest enemy.



*Scripture Reading:* Judges 4:10-16; 5:19-22



*Memory Verse:* Psalm 62:6

[The Lord] alone is my rock and my salvation; he is my fortress, I shall not be shaken.

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Describe how we feel when we have something difficult to do and we are very nervous. Your mouth goes dry, you have an uncomfortable feeling in your stomach and you perspire. Perhaps you find it difficult to speak.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

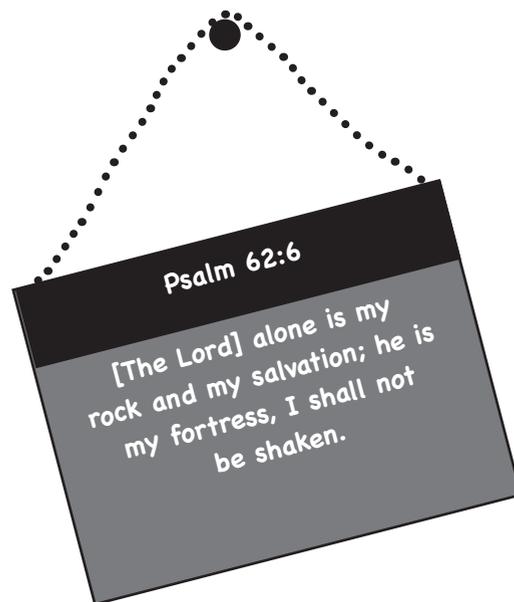
1. Barak, the leader of the Israelite army, must have felt like this when he led his small group of soldiers to Mount Tabor to battle with the enemy under Sisera's command (4:7). The Canaanite enemy had many more soldiers than Israel had, as well as 900 chariots. The only weapons the Israelites had were swords.
2. Nevertheless Barak and Deborah the prophetess obeyed God's instructions to fight this mighty army. Deborah went along to encourage Barak and his soldiers (4:12-14).
3. Sisera and the Canaanites rode to the valley of the Kishon River near Mount Tabor in their chariots, but there the chariots' wheels could not go over the rough paths of the hills. Then God sent a rainstorm. The river flooded and some of the chariots were washed away; others got stuck in the mud (4:10; 5:21). **Show Picture 10.** Do you see Deborah up on the hill, praying and encouraging the Israelites?
4. God gave the Israelites the victory over the Canaanites, who had more soldiers and better weapons. Only Sisera, the leader, escaped and ran away on foot (4:15-16).

#### OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

When the Israelites turned back to God and listened to what God told them through Deborah, the Lord gave them victory over their enemies. Our enemy is Satan. When we are tempted to do wrong or to ignore God, we should ask God for his help and power to resist temptation. With God's power we can defeat Satan and overcome temptations, no matter how strong they seem.



## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



**GOD LETS THE ISRAELITES DEFEAT SISERA**

**LESSON 10**

# LESSON 11

## Jael Kills Sisera



*Aim:* To show the children that those who serve God are stronger than they seem, for God works powerfully through them.



*Scripture Reading:* Judges 4:17-24



*Memory Verse:* Galatians 6:7

**Do not be deceived: God cannot be mocked. A man reaps what he sows.**

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

When a farmer wants to sow seeds in his field, he buys the best seed that he can. He knows good seed will produce a good crop, while poor seed will yield far less or nothing.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

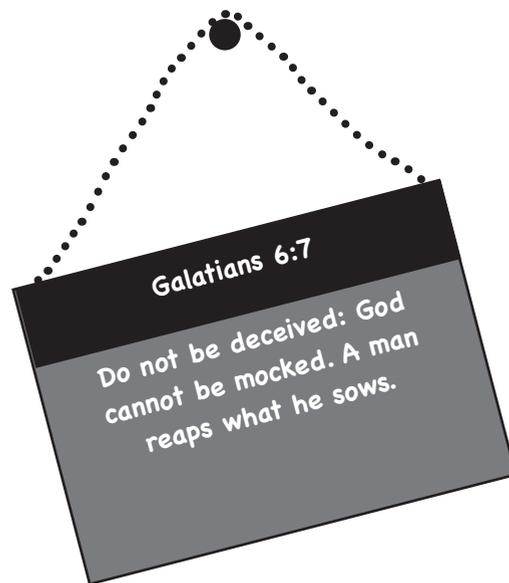
1. What is true of seed is true in our lives, too. The way we behave can affect our health and strength as well as the way we die. Sisera led the army of a cruel Canaanite tribe who did not serve God. When he saw that the Israelites were going to win the battle he abandoned his men and tried to escape (4:15-16). **Show Picture 10. Briefly review Lesson 10 by referring to the picture.**
2. Sisera fled to the tent of a woman called Jael. He thought he would be safe there, as she was not an Israelite and her tribe were friends of Sisera's tribe. Jael welcomed him, gave him milk to drink and covered him with a blanket. Sisera thought he was safely hidden and fell asleep (4:17-19).
3. While Sisera was fast asleep Jael killed him with a tent peg (4:21).
4. When Barak, the leader of the Israelite soldiers, came looking for Sisera, Jael showed him that the enemy's commander was dead (4:22).

#### OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Sisera, the respected commander of a feared and mighty army, died at the hands of a woman without a weapon. God created us to worship him. That is the only way to true honour and true life.



## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# JAEEL KILLS SISERA

## LESSON 11

# LESSON 12

## THE ISRAELITES CELEBRATE AND PRAISE GOD



*Aim:* To show the children how Israel praised God when he saved them from their enemies.



*Scripture Reading:* Judges 5:1-31



*Memory Verse:* Judges 5:10-11

[C]onsider the voice of the singers at the watering places. They recite the righteous acts of the Lord, the righteous acts of his warriors in Israel.

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

When people wait to fill their containers with water at the pump or community tap, they often talk about what has been happening in the community. It's a place to pick up the news.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. After the battle against Sisera and his army, the news the Israelites talked about around the wells was the victory God had given them. **Recite the memory verse.**
2. The people decided to have a celebration to say thank you to God. They sang songs of praise to God, played musical instruments and danced. **Show Picture 12.**
3. Deborah and Barak sang a song of thanks to God (5:1). All the people of Israel rejoiced. They were very glad to have a godly leader like Deborah. She was like a mother to them (5:7-15). **Show Pictures 9 and 10.**
4. Jael was praised, too, for her part in saving the people of Israel even though she belonged to another tribe (5:24-27). **Show Picture 11.**
5. The people praised and thanked God for his great power. It was God who had sent the rain that made the paths impossible for Sisera's chariots (5:2-5, 21).

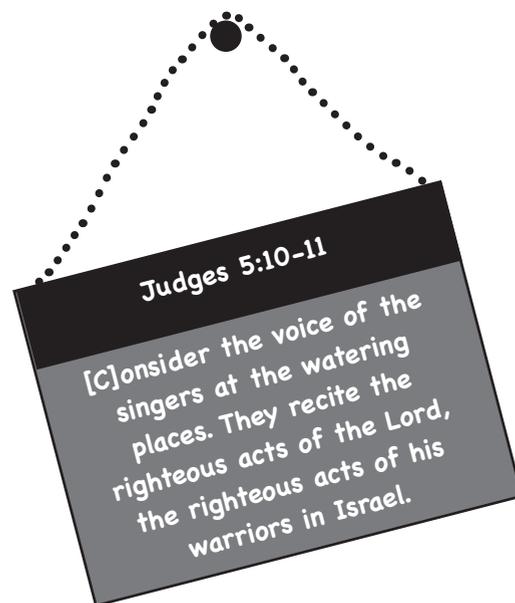
#### OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Ask the children to tell you the differences between a celebration by Christians and a pagan celebration. Pagan celebrations often end in quarrels and fights, because they rely on beer and other alcoholic drinks to make people feel happy. A Christian's happiness, however, comes from the joy in his or her heart, the joy that only God can give.

Help the class to make up a song about the victories or gifts God has given them.



## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



Judges 5:10-11

[C]onsider the voice of the singers at the watering places. They recite the righteous acts of the Lord, the righteous acts of his warriors in Israel.

THE ISRAELITES CELEBRATE AND PRAISE GOD **LESSON 12**

# LESSON 13

## GIDEON AND THE ANGEL OF THE LORD



*Aim:* To show the children that God called Gideon, a young and unimportant person, to save his people.



*Scripture Reading:* Judges 6:1-23



*Memory Verse:* 2 Corinthians 12:9

“My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in [your] weakness.”

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Talk to the class about the position and importance of different members in a family. Often a person is important because of the position he or she has. Many people consider the oldest son to be in an important position. In some cultures the oldest people receive the greatest respect.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Everywhere in Israel the situation was very bad. The people had forgotten all Deborah had taught them about God. Now it was some years later and they had been conquered again by a different enemy, the Midianites, who robbed them and made life very hard for them. **Put Judges 6:16 into your own words.**
2. Then the Israelites turned to God and cried out for his help. God reacted by calling and training a leader to save them from their enemies. This young man, Gideon, was threshing some grain (beating the grains from the stems) when God called him. He was doing this inside a winepress instead of out in the open, because he was afraid that his enemies would take his harvest from him (6:11).
3. Suddenly, the angel of the Lord appeared to Gideon and told him, “You are a strong brave warrior. Go out and save Israel from your enemies, the Midianites” (see 6:12-14).
4. Gideon was surprised. “How can I save Israel? I am nobody. I have no position among my own family, let alone in the eyes of the whole Israel.” In a sense Gideon was right. He was indeed one of the least important members of a small and unimportant tribe. The holy messenger replied that he could do it because God would be with him (6:15-16).
5. Gideon wanted to know for certain that the message really was from God, so he went to prepare an offering of food. The Lord had great patience with Gideon and agreed to wait while Gideon prepared the offering (6:17-19).
6. Gideon offered the food to the angel, who touched it with the staff he was carrying. The offering burst into flames! **Show Picture 13.** Then the angel disappeared. Gideon needed no further proof that the message was from God (6:20-24).



## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

God often chooses those who are unimportant or weak to do his work. When ordinary people act in God's power instead of relying on their own strength, they can do great things. We can see examples in African church leaders:

1. Silivanus Wani earned money as a houseboy to be able to afford to go to primary school. God led him to become Archbishop of the Church of Uganda.
2. Ang'apoza Etsea was an orphan. God led him to become President of the Africa Inland Church of Zaire (CECA).
3. Pastor Peter Mualuko was a stonecutter from a pagan family. God led him to become a missionary to the Turkana of Kenya and the Taposa of the Sudan.

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# LESSON 14

## GIDEON DESTROYS THE IDOLS IN ISRAEL



*Aim:* To show the children that God is far greater than any idol made of wood or stone. We worship the living God, while idols are powerless and dead.



*Scripture Reading:* Judges 6:25-32; Isaiah 44:9-20



*Memory Verse:* Isaiah 44:9

All who make idols are nothing, and the things they treasure are worthless.

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Ask the class to name some things that have power (examples: a motorcar or an electric generator which can be used to give light). Then ask them to name some other things which have no power (examples: a rock or a piece of wood).

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Our God is the source of all power, but the Israelites forgot that. They also forgot all the wonders God had performed to save them and to triumph over their enemies. They started worshipping idols carved from wood or stone. These were the gods of the Canaanite tribes, their neighbours, who were the people of Israel's enemies.
2. God told Gideon to destroy these idols and their places of worship. The stones he had to use to build an altar to God, and the wood to make a fire for bringing God a burnt offering (6:25-26).
3. Gideon was so afraid that he took 10 of his servants and did the work at night, when no-one would see them. **Show Picture 14.** Gideon wanted to obey God, but he was scared of what other people would say (6:27).
4. When the townspeople found out what had happened to their gods, they were very angry, just as Gideon had feared. They wanted to kill him (6:28-30).
5. But Gideon's father protected him. "If Baal and Asherah" (the names of these idols) "really have any power, they will punish Gideon themselves," he said. Of course, nothing happened, because Baal and Asherah were just figures of wood and stone. They were not real, living gods (6:31-32).

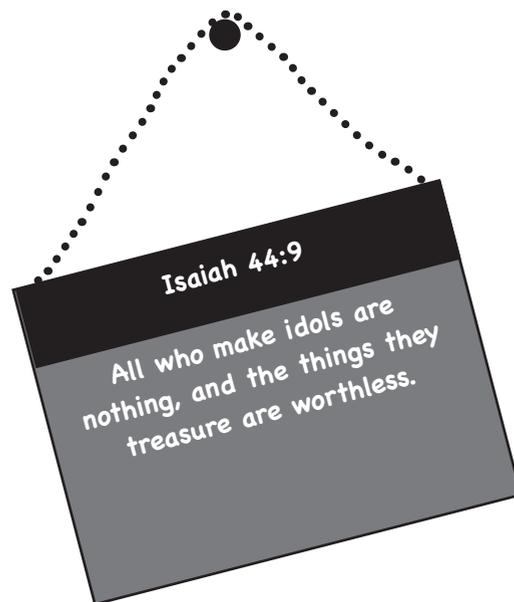


## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Nearly 20 years ago a few Christians in the Kerio Valley in Kenya prepared a runway for an aeroplane. They had to cut down trees and move big boulders. They wanted a Christian medical safari to come to that isolated area and bring the people the gospel of Christ as well as medical help. In the process the Christians destroyed two big anthills which were believed to be sacred and powerful.

The Christians knew there was no real power in these anthills, so they were not afraid to break them down. Today there are many Christian churches in that area.

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# LESSON 15

## GOD LETS GIDEON CHOOSE ONLY A HANDFUL



*Aim:* To show the children that we should trust in God's power, not in our own strength.



*Scripture Reading:* Judges 7:1-7



*Memory Verse:* Psalm 98:1

[The Lord's] right hand  
and his holy arm have  
worked salvation ...

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Ask the class what they think a soldier should be like. Examples: He must be brave, well-trained, alert and obey his commanders.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. God called Gideon to lead the soldiers of Israel against the very large army of their enemy the Midianites (7:1). God instructed Gideon to choose his soldiers in an unusual way.
2. Many men from Israel came to join Gideon's army, but God told Gideon, "You have too many men. If they defeat the Midianites, they will think they did it by themselves. Send home anyone who is afraid." 22 000 men then returned home (7:2-3).
3. God spoke to Gideon again, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the river to drink some water and I will show you whom to choose to fight the battle" (7:4).
4. Gideon took the men to the river to drink. **Show Picture 15.** Most of them knelt down and drank like a dog does. Only 300 drank the water from their hands. God told Gideon to take only these 300 soldiers to fight the mighty Midianite army (7:5-7).

#### OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

God allowed Gideon only 300 soldiers against all the Midianites so that Israel would see that they had to rely on God's power, not on their own strength. Then they would honour God for saving them, instead of thinking they could do without him (7:2). God does not need many people or strong people to do his work; he needs willing and obedient people.

Soon after Zaire gained independence a civil war broke out. The rebel soldiers, called the Simbas, opposed Christianity. The Christians were frightened and believed the Simbas would kill them.



"God is at work here," said Yoane Akudri, a church leader. "We will preach to the Simbas. They need it more than our people do." Yoane was arrested, and six shots were fired at him. They all missed. Later, after Yoane was released he went on preaching. Instead of disappearing, the Christian church in Zaire grew.

### **INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE**



**GOD LETS GIDEON CHOOSE ONLY A HANDFUL**

**LESSON 15**

# LESSON 16

## 300 MEN DEFEAT A MULTITUDE



*Aim:* To show the children that we are not saved by our own effort, but by the grace of God.



*Scripture Reading:* Judges 7:8-22



*Memory Verse:* Judges 7:15  
"The Lord has given  
the Midianite camp into  
your hands."

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Ask the class what equipment they think an army needs when it goes into battle. Examples: It will need well-trained soldiers, guns, tanks and ammunition, as well as radios to keep in contact with the commanders.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Gideon was leading the Israelites against the large army of the Midianites. They had more men and camels than anyone could count (7:12). Gideon only had 300 men, but he also had God's guidance (7:8-9).
2. God encouraged Gideon by telling him to go in secret with his servant, Purah, down to the Midianite camp and listen to what they were saying about the Israelites (7:10-11).
3. **Describe how Gideon and Purah went and overheard the Midianite soldiers.** They discovered that the Midianites were very frightened of Gideon and his little group of soldiers because they knew God was with them (7:13-15).
4. Gideon was encouraged by what he had heard, but he gave his 300 soldiers some unusual instructions and weapons. **Describe how the soldiers were divided into three groups of 100.** Apart from a sword, every soldier was given a trumpet and a light inside a jar. Everyone had to watch Gideon and do just as he did (7:16-18).
5. Gideon led his soldiers to the Midianite camp. **Describe what happens in 7:19-20. All the children can act this out as you tell the story. Everyone can blow through their hands to make the sound of the trumpets, and clap their hands to represent the jars breaking. You could use a regular torch to shine the light, and then everyone can shout, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon!"**
6. We have now made a loud noise, but Gideon's 300 men made a greater one. It frightened and confused the Midianites so much that some started fighting each other, while the rest ran away (7:21-22). **Show Picture 16.** Israel was saved, thanks to God.



## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Cici was a seven-year-old girl from a poor home in an Asian town. She liked to go to a Bible Club called Happy Wednesday, with about 70 others. One day she arrived there when it was almost dark, long after the meeting was over. "I'm sorry I'm late," she said, "but when it was time to come my dad locked me up in a room. He doesn't like me coming here. But I love hearing about Jesus. I have prayed about this. What shall I do?" The leader and Cici prayed together, and then they decided that she could come to the Club on another day. God helped a little girl triumph over circumstances that seemed much stronger than she was.

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# 300 MEN DEFEAT A MULTITUDE **LESSON 16**

# LESSON 17

## SAMSON THE STRONG MAN



*Aim:* To show the children that God gives us the abilities we need to do the work he wants us to do.



*Scripture Reading:* Judges 13:1-5, 24-25; 14:1-20



*Memory Verse:* Judges 13:24-25  
[T]he Lord blessed  
[Samson], and the  
Spirit of the Lord  
began to stir him ...

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Ask the children to describe what a good person is like. How does he or she behave? Possible answers: brave, hardworking, strong of character.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. After Gideon's death, the Israelites turned away from God once again. So God let the cruel Philistines rule them for many years (13:1-5). An Israelite called Manoah had no children. One day an angel told Manoah's wife that she would have a very special son, who would rescue Israel from the Philistines.
2. They called their son Samson. The Spirit of God made him extraordinarily strong (13:24-25). His long hair was a sign to remind him that his strength came from God (13:5).
3. When Samson was grown up he wanted to marry a Philistine girl. That made his parents sad, but Samson insisted, so they agreed in the end. Samson believed he should marry a Philistine in order to quarrel with her people and so have an excuse to free the Israelites from Philistine rule (14:1-4).
4. On the way to meet the girl Samson met a lion. God's power made Samson so strong that he killed the lion on his own, with no weapons but his bare hands (14:5-6). **Show Picture 17.**
5. Some time later, on the way to his wedding, Samson found that bees had made a nest inside the dead lion's body. He ate some of the honey (14:8-9).
6. At his wedding, Samson thought of what he had seen on the way there. To entertain his guests he turned the story into a riddle or puzzle. If they could guess the answer, Samson promised, he would give everyone a new suit of clothes. If they could not, however, every one of them had to give him a new suit of clothes (14:11-14).
7. The guests could not think of the answer. They became angry. "Samson is trying to trick us into buying him new clothes," they said. They even threatened the bride if she would not help them (14:15). **Describe how his new wife tricked the answer out of Samson (14:16-17).**



8. When the guests gave Samson the right answer, he knew they must have heard it from his wife. He was very angry. Samson went to another Philistine town, where he killed thirty people and took their clothes. That was how he got the new clothes he had promised his guests (14:18-19).

### OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

What gift did God give Samson? It was the gift of extraordinary strength, and he was meant to use it for doing God's work. But Samson used it for his own enjoyment and to satisfy his anger with the Philistines. This story is a warning to us. God gives us abilities and gifts first of all to help others and fulfil his purposes. Our gifts bring us the most joy when we use them to serve God and other people.

### INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



## SAMSON THE STRONG MAN **LESSON 17**

# LESSON 18

## SAMSON AND THE BURNING FOXES



*Aim:* To show the children that we must not replace God's plan with our own plans.



*Scripture Reading:* Judges 15:1-8



*Memory Verse:* James 1:19

Everyone should be quick to listen, slow to speak and slow to become angry ...

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Begin the lesson by putting on a little play that you have prepared beforehand. Two children both claim the same pen or exercise book. Both of them say it is theirs. An argument begins, then angry words are said, and finally a fight starts.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

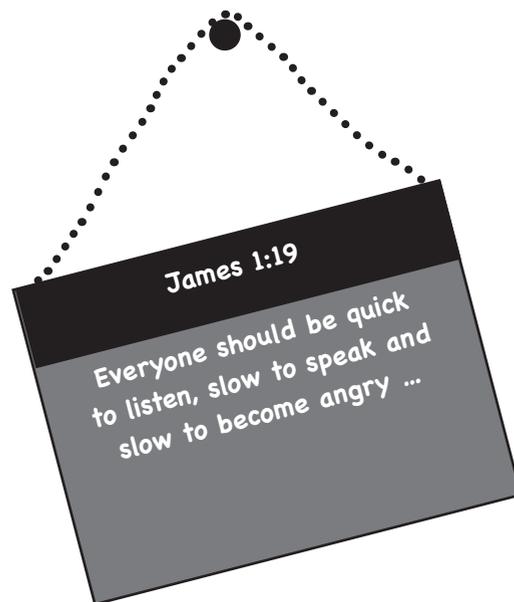
1. A wedding should be a happy celebration, but Samson's wedding ended in so much anger that he left without his bride. Some time later Samson went back to fetch her, but by then her father had given her to the best man (15:1-2).
2. This made Samson so angry that he took a terrible revenge on the Philistines. He caught 300 foxes and tied them two by two together by their tails. Then he tied burning torches to their tails and let the foxes loose in the Philistines' fields. All their crops were burnt up (15:3-5). **Show Picture 18.**
3. Now the Philistines in their turn were very angry. They took revenge on Samson's wife and her father, but Samson returned and took revenge on them by killing many more Philistines (15:6-8).

#### OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

This story has been about anger and revenge. Did taking revenge solve the problems? No. In fact, it made the problems and the violence worse. **Refer to the introductory play.** Did the fight solve the problem of who owned the book or pen? No, it only created further problems. Anger does not lead to wise decisions. We need to ask God's help to control our anger and rather listen to his voice. The memory verse tells us what to do.



## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# SAMSON AND THE BURNING FOXES

## LESSON 18

# LESSON 19

## SAMSON LOSES HIS GIFT OF EXTRAORDINARY STRENGTH



*Aim:* To show the children that Samson lost his gift when he did not use it for the purpose God had given it to him.



*Scripture Reading:* Judges 16:4-20



*Memory Verse:* Proverbs 14:16

A wise man fears the Lord and shuns evil, but a fool is hotheaded and reckless.

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

If someone keeps asking you a question that you don't want to answer, you may pretend not to hear them or you may just walk away. If the person goes on and on asking, you may become so tired of it you will finally tell him the answer just to make him stop.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Everyone kept asking the same question: "Where does Samson's extraordinary strength come from?" Samson loved a woman named Delilah. She, too, kept asking Samson this question: "What is the secret of your strength?" (16:4, 6).
2. Delilah was not true to Samson. The Philistine rulers promised her money if she would find out Samson's secret so that they would know how to take his strength away (16:5).
3. The first time Delilah asked Samson this, he told her that seven new bowstrings would be able to hold him. Delilah tied him up and then cried out, "Samson, the Philistines are coming for you!" Samson easily broke the bowstrings and he went off free. The Philistines were disappointed (16:6-9).
4. **Continue the story in the same way, recounting Samson's next two answers to Delilah's question: tying him up with new ropes (16:10-12) and attaching his hair securely to a loom (a heavy machine for weaving cloth; 16:13-14).** Nothing could hold Samson; the secret of his strength lay elsewhere.
5. Delilah became more and more upset with Samson's false answers, while Samson became tired of her never-ending questions. To make her shut up he told her the truth. His long hair was the sign of his God-given strength (16:15-17).
6. **Describe in your own words what happened next.** While Samson lay sleeping on Delilah's lap a man came and cut off his hair. **Show Picture 19.** This time, Samson could not escape when the Philistines came for him. They put him in prison (16:18-20).

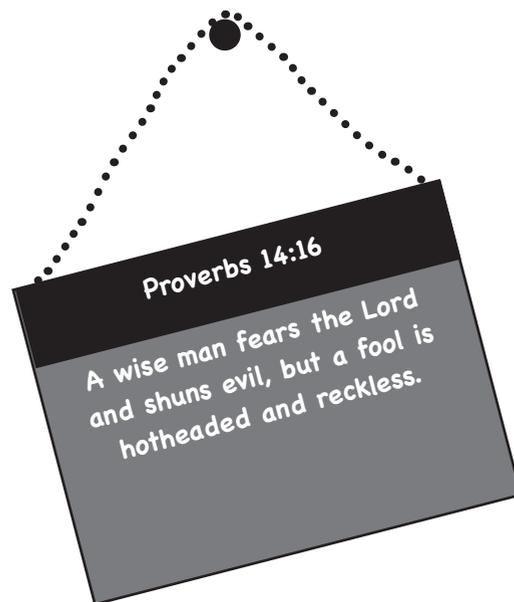


## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Samson did not use his God-given strength to honour God or do God's work. Suppose someone who had been given a \$100 note just tore it up and threw it away. You would be very surprised, because a gift that could have been put to good use had been wasted. This is what Samson did with his gift of extraordinary strength. He wasted it on his own selfish purposes instead of putting it to good use. When God saw how Samson misused his strength, he took it away.

Instead of listening to God's voice, Samson let himself be ruled by his hot temper.

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



## SAMSON LOSES HIS GIFT OF EXTRAORDINARY STRENGTH **LESSON 19**

# LESSON 20

## SAMSON DESTROYS THE PHILISTINES



*Aim:* To show the children that it never is too late to turn to God. However, it is very sad to realise that you have wasted many chances to serve God.



*Scripture Reading:* Judges 16:21-30



*Memory Verse:* Psalm 51:1

Have mercy on me, O God,  
according to your unfailing  
love ...

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

If you watch a group of dogs or chickens you will notice that they all attack the weakest one. People often are like that: they make fun of those who cannot fight back.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. Samson used to be a very strong man. **Show Picture 19 and briefly review the story.** He had lost his God-given strength because of his disobedience and ungodly way of life. Now the Philistines held him prisoner.
2. The Philistine leaders put out his eyes and made him work in a grinding mill, walking round and round to turn the big stones (16:21).
3. The Philistine leaders were celebrating Samson's defeat by holding a feast in honour of their idol Dagon. They sent for Samson so they could make fun of him (16:23-27).
4. Samson had come to realise that God was the true source of his strength, so he turned to God and asked him to make him strong one last time (16:28).
5. God heard his prayer. Samson leaned on the pillars holding up the roof of Dagon's temple and pulled the building down, killing everybody there (16:29-30). **Show Picture 20.**
6. Samson died with the Philistine leaders. He had wasted the greatest part of his life as well as his precious gift by disobeying God. That was very sad. However, when he turned back to God, God did not reject him.



## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

The story of Samson's life is a warning to us. God gave him an extraordinary gift but it brought Samson no joy in the end, because he misused it for his own purposes. Let us thank Jesus Christ for coming to show us the way to everlasting victory over disobedience and selfishness.

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# LESSON 21

## JESUS TRIUMPHS OVER EVIL



*Aim:* To show the children that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has defeated the demons and all evil powers.



*Scripture Reading:* Luke 8:26-39



*Memory Verse:* Luke 8:39

“Return home and tell how much God has done for you.”

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Ask one of the children to stand in front of the class. Let about six others stand around him or her in a circle. When you say, “Go,” they must all simultaneously start to tell the one in the middle to do different things like: Stand up! Sit down! Jump up and down! Raise your arms! Clap your hands! Shout! Laugh! You see? Your friend in the middle became so confused that he [she] did not know what to do!

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. In the other lessons we have done so far we have learnt about Joshua, Gideon and Samson, who triumphed by relying on God’s power. Jesus lived many years after them. Jesus is the Son of God, he himself is God, and he has defeated all evil powers.
2. One day Jesus met a man who was very confused. He had so many demons living in him, each giving him different orders, that they drove him mad. **Describe how this man lived (8:27).** When he met Jesus the evil spirits recognised Jesus as the Son of God. They knew very well Jesus had power over them. The man was very afraid of what the evil spirits might do to him because of Jesus (8:28-29).
3. The man’s name was Legion. A legion was a large group of soldiers in the Roman army. So this man’s name meant that he was in the power of a large number of angry spirits. But when Jesus commanded them to leave Legion, the demons were forced to obey. He allowed them to go into some pigs that were feeding close by. Immediately, the whole herd of pigs jumped into the lake and drowned (8:30-33). **Show Picture 21.**
4. Legion was like a new person. He wanted to follow Jesus everywhere, but instead Jesus gave him a new job to do. He had to tell others of God’s power over evil and God’s love that saves us from evil (8:35, 38-39).



## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Yoane Akudri, a young Zairian Christian, was called back to his village when his eldest cousin died. Before the funeral, the family told Yoane, "You must take your place as leader of the dance of sorrow. That is how we do things, as you know."

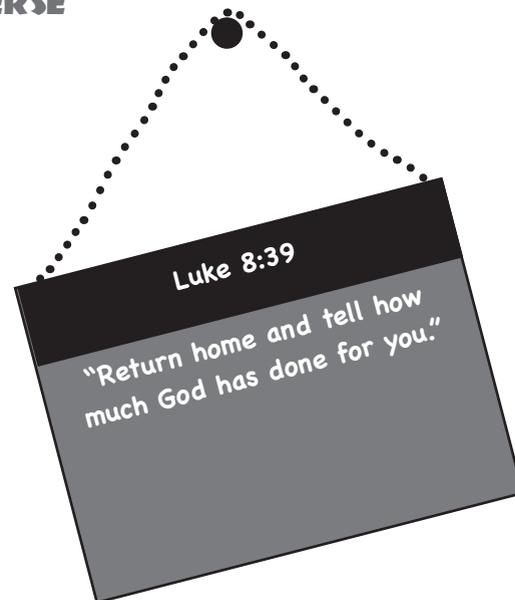
How could a Christian take part in this? On the other hand, how could Yoane hurt his relatives, whom he'd not seen for a year?

He thought and prayed, and then said, "My dear brothers and sisters, I know your fear and sorrow. You fear because of this witch doctor and the power you think he has over you. All my life, I believed it too. But now I have come to know Jesus Christ, who has power even over the evil spirits. I will have nothing to do with the dance of sorrow. I will show you a better path."

When he heard this, the witch doctor screamed, "Yoane is the prince of devils! He must be killed!" He tried to attack Yoane with a razor-sharp knife, but suddenly fell down twitching on the ground, powerless. A higher power was in control!

Taken from *Akudri* by Peter Brashler

## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# JESUS TRIUMPHS OVER EVIL **LESSON 21**

# LESSON 22

## JESUS REBUKES PEOPLE WHO DO WRONG



*Aim:* To show the children that God will not tolerate evil, for he is holy.



*Scripture Reading:* Mark 11:15-18; John 2:13-22



*Memory Verse:* Mark 11:17

“My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations’ ... But you have made it ‘a den of robbers.’”

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Ask the class to tell you what kinds of activities take place in a church. They will probably say things like singing, praying, preaching. We also hold celebrations in church, as at Easter and Christmas.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. The temple or the house of God is where the Jews worshipped God. When Jesus went there he found some things going on that were very different from the activities you have just named. He did find singing and teaching and praying, but he also saw things that displeased him greatly.
2. Before Jesus died on the cross as the complete sacrifice for all our sins, the Jews had to bring animal sacrifices to set things right with God. Animals for these sacrifices were sold inside the temple compound, which caused much confusion and noise. One also needed special money to buy them, so ordinary money had to be changed for temple money. That was also taking place inside the temple area.
3. Jesus saw that the traders were cheating people. Their prices were far too high. The money-changers were also dishonest and unfair (Jn 2:14).
4. Jesus became very angry, but he was not hot-headed like Samson. Jesus’ anger was controlled and justified. **Show Picture 22.** Jesus drove out the dishonest traders as well as their animals (Jn 2:15-17; Mark 11:15-17).
5. Some Jews and their religious leaders were angry and questioned his right to do this (Jn 2:18-22; Mark 11:18). Jesus is the Son of God. That is why he had the right, the authority and the power to drive evil from his Father’s house.





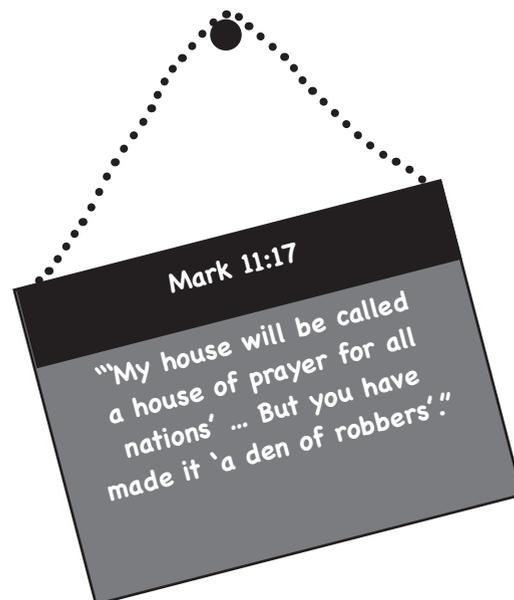
## **SAY THE MEMORY VERSE.**

**Note:** Jesus drove the traders out of the temple twice during his ministry on earth. The first time was at the beginning of his ministry; this is the story told in John's Gospel. The second time was during the week before his crucifixion. This is the story told in Mark's Gospel.

## **OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY**

God wants us to honour him when we worship him. We can do this when we have fun as well as when we are serious. God looks in our hearts to see if we mean what we are saying, singing or doing, or whether we are just acting and being dishonest. Read Psalm 150. This psalm is an example of how God wants us to worship him in his house.

## **INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE**



# **JESUS REBUKES PEOPLE WHO DO WRONG**

## **LESSON 22**

# LESSON 23

## JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD



*Aim:* To show the children that Jesus triumphed over death and is alive today.



*Scripture Reading:* Matthew 28:16-20



*Memory Verse:* Ephesians 1:22

And God placed all things under [Jesus Christ's] feet and appointed him to be head over everything for the church ...

### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Ask the class what we call the leader of a tribe, province, country. They do not need to give you these people's real names, just their positions (for example: chief, governor, president).

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. God has appointed Jesus as the head of the church. **Recite the memory verse.** Why has God done this? Today's picture will help us understand.
2. **Show Picture 23.** Jesus is shown here talking to his followers on a hill outside Jerusalem. **Point to Jerusalem in the picture.** Jesus had been sentenced to death even though he had done no wrong. He had died on a cross between two criminals. **Show the crosses in the picture. Jesus, the Son of God, allowed himself to be put to death (Matt 27:33-44).**
3. But death could not hold the Son of the living God. Jesus rose from the dead. He defeated death. He can never die again. **Point to the empty tomb with the large stone beside it in the picture.**
4. Jesus called his disciples together and told them, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth." He commanded his disciples to go out and tell all people about Jesus Christ, who is alive, so that they too would follow and worship him. Jesus promised to be with them always. He promised them victory over sin and evil powers. These words of Jesus are meant for us as well!



## OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Before Zaire became an independent country some members of the colonial government tried to limit the spread of the Protestant Church. Yoane Akudri was a gifted and well-known church leader in that time. The government arrested him so that they could move him somewhere else, where he would cause them less trouble. "That will be all right with me," Yoane told them. "This Gospel is not for the Kakwas only, but for people all over our country!" The government official who handled the case was so impressed by Yoane's witness that he released him.

From *Akudri* by Peter Brashler

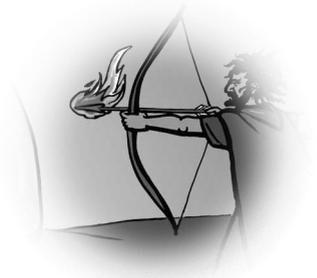
## INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



# JESUS ROSE FROM THE DEAD **LESSON 23**

# LESSON 24

## A SOLDIER FOR GOD



*Aim:* To show the children that God equips every Christian to triumph over evil.



*Scripture Reading:* Ephesians 6:10-18



*Memory Verse:* Ephesians 6:13

[P]ut on the full armour of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground ...

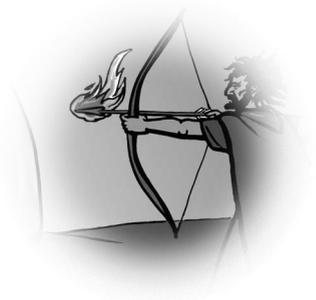
### PRESENTING THE LESSON

#### STARTING POINT

Everyone who lives in Juba, Southern Sudan, has seen the soldiers in the town. Children like to watch them marching on the parade grounds, and to run along beside the band when it plays.

#### MAIN POINTS OF THE LESSON

1. In the Bible there are many stories about soldiers. Joshua and Gideon both became soldiers and led the Israelites to freedom. Jesus calls us to be soldiers in the army of the Lord. But our armour and weapons are a little different from what soldiers normally have! That is because Christians serve the Prince of Peace; the enemy we have to fight is the unseen powers of evil (6:12-13).
2. **Show Picture 24.** This soldier is dressed like a Roman soldier from Jesus' time. We shall look at each part of his armour and see what it says about a Christian's struggle against evil (6:16).
3. The soldier in the picture is ready to face the danger. He has a **belt** around his waist to keep the whole of his armour in place, close to his body. The belt is difficult to spot in the picture, as it is hidden behind the arm. Point it out. The belt stands for **truth**. As Christian soldiers we must be truthful in what we say, and our deeds must show the truth of what we say. If a soldier or a Christian is thought to be pretending, to be playing at make-believe, nobody will trust them (6:13-14).
4. The **breastplate** protects the heart. When we think of the heart we think of love. Christian soldiers love their leader, God, and their neighbours. This means they **want to do what is right**. This breastplate protects them from letting evil desires into their hearts (6:14).
5. A soldier must have good **shoes**. He has to walk many kilometres. Wherever Christian soldiers go they must be ready to take **the gospel of peace**. This will make them stand firm; it will stop them from slipping into evil ways (6:15).
6. This soldier is holding up a **shield** to protect him from the enemy's arrows. The evil one shoots temptations at Christians like flaming arrows. The shield stands for **faith or trust in God**, which keeps us safe (6:16).



7. The soldier wears a **helmet** to protect his head. The brain, which exercises power over the whole body, is in the head. Through his death Jesus has saved us from the power of death. Like a helmet, our **salvation** protects our whole life from sin and death.
8. This soldier carries only one weapon, and that is all he needs because it is so powerful. The **sword** stands for what God teaches us through **his Spirit and his words**. As Christians we must read and know the Bible; then we will know the difference between Satan's lies and God's truth.

### OUR RESPONSE TO THE STORY

Followers of Jesus Christ need to put on the armour that God has provided to let them triumph over evil.

If the class has a blackboard you can draw simple pictures of the Christian's armour, asking the children what each piece represents. Write the answer beside each picture.

### INSTIL THE MEMORY VERSE



## A SOLDIER FOR GOD **LESSON 24**

