

DESTROYING GOD'S ENEMIES**Joshua 9-12**

Lesson Memory Verse: Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me."

Lesson Aim: To learn that God will strengthen His people to do His work.

Lesson Plan: Use the KEY – HE – SEE – WE – BE plan (explained in the Introductory Notes).

KEY: (for Attention): Have you ever tried to lift something that was too heavy for you to lift by yourself? There was a taxi driver who was used to lifting suitcases and boxes into his cab for his riders. One day a man brought a small trunk on a cart to the taxi driver. The taxi driver tried to put it into his cab with the rest of the suitcases, but he could not lift it alone. It was too heavy. What do you think he did? That is right. He asked someone to help him lift the small trunk into his cab.

Maybe God has given you a job to do that seems too hard for you. You say, "I am not able to do that for God. He will have to get someone else to do it." Is that what the taxi driver did? Did he tell the man that he could not take his small trunk because he could not lift it? No! So what did he do? Yes, he got someone to help him. That is what we must do. When God gives us a job that is too hard for us to do alone, we must get someone to help us. But who is the best one to help us? That is right. The best one to help us is Christ and He will help us.

HE: (for Authority): Our memory verse tells us that Christ will help us do all things that we need to do for Him. He will give us the strength. The verse says, "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." How do you get this strength from Christ? It is the same way as the taxi driver received help to lift the small trunk into his cab. What did he do? Yes, he asked for help. We should ask Christ for help. But since we cannot see Christ, we must have faith that He will give us help when we ask Him. Maybe He will send the right person to help us with the job that God has given to us.

SEE (for Apperception) and WE (for Application): PLEASE do not read these comments until you have read the Scriptures for this lesson. First let the Holy Spirit teach you directly from His Word.

In our Bible story today we will learn how Joshua needed God's help and how God did help him to do a job that was too hard for him and his army to do alone.

I. Fault of Joshua (9:1-27)

The Israelites were powerful with God's help, and they would not make peace with any of the wicked people living in the land which God had promised to them. The people of Gibeon lived in this land and they were afraid of Joshua and the Israelites. They wanted to make peace, but how could they? They decided to trick the Israelites. They sent men to Joshua who said they were from a far away country.

WE: Just like Gibeon tricked Joshua, Satan will try to trick us. We must be alert.

Joshua believed them and made an agreement to be friendly to them without asking the Lord about them. This was Joshua's fault. The Lord would have helped him know the Gibeonites were lying to him, but he failed to ask for God's help, so God did not help him.

WE: We must ask God to help us in everything. He will help you see Satan's tricks.

When he found out whom the Gibeonites really were, he and Israel kept their promise to protect them and not kill them, but they made slaves of them to bring water and wood to the house of God.

WE: We must keep our promises, but we must not give in to sin. If keeping a promise makes us sin, then it is better to break the promise and pray for God's mercy, i.e., if you promise to give a package to someone, and then you find out it contains illegal drugs, you must not keep such a promise.

II. Faith of Joshua (10:1 - 11:15)

Joshua listened to God and obeyed Him because he had faith in Him. Joshua did not ask God for signs or miracles to prove He would help him. Joshua just did what he was told and expected God would help him as He had promised.

When five kings and their armies attacked Gibeon, Gibeon called for Joshua to come help them. God said He would help Joshua fight against these kings and defeat them. So Joshua trusted God and he went with his army to protect Gibeon and God did help him. God helped Joshua by throwing the enemy into confusion when Joshua and his army suddenly attacked them. God helped Joshua by casting hailstones from heaven on the fleeing armies of the five kings. God helped Joshua by making the sun and moon stand still so Joshua could keep fighting against his enemies until they were thoroughly defeated; God helped Joshua by making it known to him where the five kings were hiding. God helped Joshua by giving him victory after victory over the enemy cities that he fought against in the southern part of the Promised Land. These victories gave him control of southern Canaan.

Later, he fought against Jabin in northern Canaan when God told him to go. Jabin had many kings, many armies, many horses and many chariots with him, but Joshua had God. Joshua believed God's promise and he defeated Jabin and his powerful army by God's help. This victory gave Joshua and the Israelites control of northern Canaan. Now they controlled all of Canaan, the land that God had promised them.

WE: We must do what God tells us to do. We must believe God's promise to help us and ask Him for His help. That is the way we can conquer our sins. And that is the way we can keep His commands. He will give us the victory. When God does give us the victory, be sure to thank Him for His help.

III. Fury of God (11:16 – 12:24)

God saw the sin of the people that lived in Canaan and it was so bad that He did not show mercy to any of them, except the people of Gibeon. The Gibeonites showed they wanted help, so God gave it to them. However, He hardened the hearts of the others so they would fight against Israel and be destroyed (11:19, 20). There were 31 kings and their cities that fell before Joshua and his army and two fell before Moses on the other side of the Jordan River. God hates sin and will destroy those who love it.

WE: God hates our sins just as much as He hated the sins of the Canaanites. We must confess our sins and ask God to help not to do them anymore. Otherwise, God will fight against us. No one is big enough to fight against God. We must surrender to God and ask Him for help; He will show us mercy just like He did to the Gibeonites and give us help.

BE (for Action): How did God help Joshua in today's lesson? (Let the children answer.) Can you think of something that you are supposed to do, but it seems too much for you to do alone? (If the children will tell the whole class, let them do it. If they want to talk to you alone, tell them you will be happy to talk to them after class.) Encourage them to pray to Christ for His help and to believe that He will help them.