

LESSON 4

THE SUN STANDS STILL

LESSON AT A GLANCE

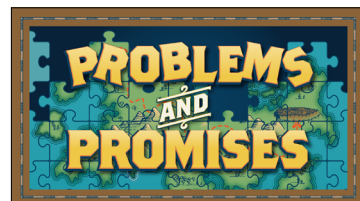
WONDER TRUTH: God Hears Us

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 10

GOD'S BIG STORY: The Israelites come to the aid of their allies—the Gibeonites—when enemies attack. In the midst of the battle, Joshua speaks to the Lord, and God hears, making the sun and moon stand still until the battle is won!

WORD OF WONDER: He will keep his covenant forever. He will keep his promise for all time to come.
—1 Chronicles 16:15

- PRESERVICE
 - OPTION 1 Multisensory Activity: Shake and Listen
 - OPTION 2 Interactive Game: Whisper Match
- Welcome Questions: Have you ever had someone ignore you? What did you have to do to be heard?
- SMALL GROUP
 - Declaring God's Wonder
 - Prayer of Invitation
 - Worship: Psalm 8, Over & Over
 - God's Big Story
 - Connecting the Wonder Truth
 - In Awe of God's Wonder
 - Responding in Worship: King of My Heart
 - Blessing Your Kids



SCAN FOR THIS
WEEK'S VIDEO!

INVITATION

We invite you to pause, listen, and shift your gaze toward the Father ...

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Hears Us

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 10

WORD OF WONDER: 1 Chronicles 16:15

Not long ago, I was in the midst of some trials that seemed insurmountable. What I needed from God felt like too much to ask, so I held back. A friend reminded me that petitioning the Lord for what I need is proof of a relationship with Him. He invites me to bring my requests—big or small—to Him.

With several victories under their belts, the Israelites faced another big challenge. Alarmed that Israel had signed a peace treaty with Gibeon, the five kings of the Canaanites teamed up to attack the Gibeonites. As the Israelite army rushed to the aid of their allies, God assured Joshua of their victory.

Read Joshua 10:12–14. Joshua made an audacious request. He asked God to hold the sun in place so they would have light long enough to win the battle. The most exciting part of this story is that God listened and answered! The sun was suspended for nearly a day, and Israel won the battle.

- How does it make you feel to know God hears our requests?
- What request do you have for God that feels like it's too much to ask?

We need not worry that our problems are too big for our heavenly Father. God hears us and delights in showing us grace and helping us in our times of need. Thank Him today for hearing you and answering your prayers.

—**Suzanne Gosselin**

Children's Ministry Volunteer

Contributor to Wonder Ink

DID YOU KNOW?

FOUNDATION BUILDING BLOCKS

WHO?

Joshua, the Israelites, and the Gibeonites play key parts in this story. The Gibeonites tricked the Israelites into making a covenant and becoming their allies (Joshua 9). Still, the Israelites honor the alliance and come to the Gibeonites' aid when the five Canaanite kings attack.

WHAT?

Joshua and the Israelite army came to the defense of their ally, the Gibeonites, against five Canaanite armies. God fought on behalf of His people, dropping hailstones on the enemy armies. When Joshua spoke to the Lord, God heard, and the sun stood still until the battle was won.

WHERE?

The setting of the story is Gibeon, an ancient and influential Canaanite city northwest of Jerusalem.

WHEN?

The events of this story take place after the Israelites captured the city of Ai (Joshua 8). This event frightened the people of Gibeon so much that they pretended to come from outside Canaan and tricked Joshua into making a covenant with them (Joshua 9).

CONNECTING TO GOD'S BIG STORY:

God values covenants. He helped Israel honor a covenant with the Gibeonites He had not approved, and He remained faithful to the Mount Sinai covenant—where Israel promised to follow God's law—even when Israel did not, by sending Jesus to cover their sin and restore relationships.

LESSON 4 ELEMENTARY & PRETEEN

Large Group

Spark curiosity and get kids thinking about the wonder of God.

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Hears Us

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 10

WORD OF WONDER: 1 Chronicles 16:15

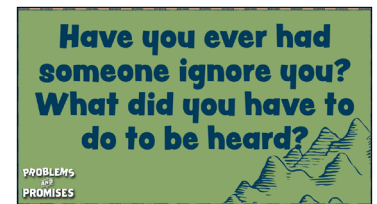
Series Bumper and Countdown Videos

Choose between the [Problems and Promises Bumper Video](#) and [Countdown Videos](#) to introduce the kids to the series.

Welcome Question

SUPPLIES: paper, coloring utensils, whiteboard (optional), dry-erase marker (optional)

Before kids arrive, display the [Sun Welcome Questions Slide](#) or write the following questions on a whiteboard: “Have you ever had someone ignore you? What did you have to do to be heard?” Set out paper and coloring utensils.



As kids arrive ...

Welcome kids by name and ask them to come up with one word to describe their week. Be extra intentional about hearing and responding to what they say. Direct kids to read the Welcome Questions. Read the questions to younger kids. Encourage kids to think about their answers and share them with those sitting nearby, if they're comfortable with sharing. Offer paper and coloring utensils to kids who would like to draw pictures of their answers.

At your start time ...

Gather the kids and tell them how much you've enjoyed hearing about their weeks! Invite several kids to share their responses to the Welcome Questions: **Have you ever had someone ignore you? What did you have to do to be heard?**

Sometimes we must go out of our way to get people to hear us, but through today's part of God's big story, we'll learn that God hears us. We don't have to work hard to get Him to listen—even when we make big requests.

OPTION 1 Multisensory Activity: Shake and Listen

SUPPLIES: opaque containers or cups with lids (5 or more), rice, dried beans, marbles, cotton balls, paper clips

Allergy Caution: This activity includes possible food allergens!

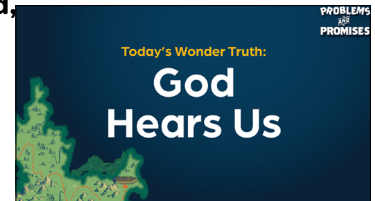
Ahead of time, fill each opaque container with one of the following: rice, dried beans, marbles, cotton balls, paper clips. Secure the lids. If your group is very large, prepare multiple sets of containers and have kids pass the containers around in smaller groups. Make sure to put any extra objects away, so kids cannot see what may be inside the containers.

Display the **Shake and Listen Slide** and have kids sit down in a circle.

We're going to do an activity where you'll try to figure out what's inside each of these containers just by shaking them and hearing the sound they make. Who's ready? Invite responses. Give kids one container filled with one of the objects (rice, dried beans, marbles, cotton balls, or paper clips). Invite kids to pass the container around the circle while shaking it, listening closely so they can try to guess what's inside. Ask them to keep their ideas to themselves for now. Once the container has gone all the way around the circle, invite kids to share their guesses. Then open the container and reveal what's inside. Continue the activity until the kids have passed around all five containers.

We had to listen closely to try to figure out what was in each container. Is it ever hard for you to listen? Pause for kids to share. **I agree! Sometimes listening is hard,**

especially if we're distracted. But we have someone who always hears us. Display the Sun Wonder Truth Slide. Today in God's big story, we'll discover how God heard Joshua and the Israelites. He did something amazing to help His people! Today's Wonder Truth is GOD HEARS US.



Make It Inclusive: To support kids who benefit from visual cues, place sample items from the containers on a table or in a bowl. Seeing the objects can help them better identify the sounds they hear when shaking the containers.

OPTION 2 Interactive Game: Whisper Match

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), masking tape or cones

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Whisper Match Slips \(1 slip per kid\)](#),

Ahead of time, print the [Whisper Match Slips](#) and cut them apart. You'll need one slip per kid, and each slip must have a matching pair. For example, if one kid receives the "1" Whisperer Slip, another kid must receive the "1" Listener Slip. One printable includes enough paired slips for 60 kids. Print additional copies, if needed. Use cones or masking tape to designate a "Finish Zone" where kids will sit when they find their whisper matches.

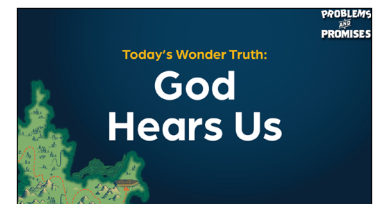
Leader Tip: If you have an odd number of kids, invite one youth or adult volunteer to join the game so that everyone has a whisper match! Also be available to help kids read their slips if needed.



Display the [Whisper Match Slide](#) and gather the kids. **Let's play a game that tests your listening ability! I'll give each of you a slip of paper with a sentence of truth on it. You'll keep your slip to yourself for now.** Give a Whisper Match Slip to each kid. **If your slip says, "Whisperer" on it, you'll walk around quietly whispering the sentence on your slip when the game begins. If your slip says, "Listener" on it, you'll walk around listening carefully to and the person whispering the sentence on your slip. Listeners cannot stop and stand in front of whisperers but must continue to walk around slowly as they listen to each whisperer. Everyone's goal is to find their whisper match! If Listeners think they hear their match, they'll whisper the phrase back to the Whisperer. If it's a match, both the Whisperer and the Listener will do five silent jumping jacks together and then go sit in the Finish Zone.** Show kids the designated Finish Zone. Invite kids to ask questions; then begin the game! Play until every kid finds his whisper match.



Gather the kids back together. **Great job finding our whisper matches! Our Listeners had to listen closely to find their whisper matches! Is it very hard for you to listen?** Pause for kids to share. **I agree! Sometimes listening is hard, especially if we're distracted. But we have someone who always hears us.** Display the [Sun Wonder Truth Slide](#). **Today in God's big story, we'll discover how God heard Joshua and the Israelites and did something amazing to help His people! Today's Wonder Truth is GOD HEARS US.**



Make It Inclusive: If any kids in your ministry are deaf or hard of hearing, adapt this activity by assigning pairs a simple hand motion or sign, such as letters from the ASL alphabet. One kid in each pair will make the sign while the other walks around looking for her match.

Small Group

Introduce small group time. While kids are in small group, consider sitting in the groups for a few minutes each. Engage and interact as is appropriate.

Countdown

After about 15 minutes of small group, give a 5 minute warning and begin the countdown.

VIDEO: COUNTDOWN

"Hey everyone! Welcome to our Large Group Worship time! My name is _____ and I'm excited to take this time to worship God, review what we just read, and talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning about God! We are going to pray as we prepare our hearts to worship God!"

Declaring God's Wonder

Display the **Sun Declaration Slide**. Read each line boldly and invite kids to repeat after you.

Thank You, God, that You are good! (Kids repeat.)

You made me on purpose, for a purpose. (Kids repeat.)

And when I follow Jesus, I am Your kid! (Kids repeat.)

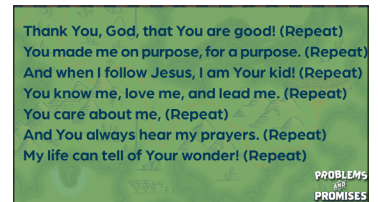
You know me, love me, and lead me. (Kids repeat.)

You know what's best for me. (Kids repeat.)

You care about me, (Kids repeat.)

And You always hear my prayers. (Kids repeat.)

My life can tell of Your wonder! (Kids repeat.)



Prayer of Invitation

Lead kids in a prayer of invitation before entering into worship and God's big story: **God, we love You!**

Thank You for being with us today. Please help us to listen and understand Your Word today.

Thank You for hearing us, no matter where we are. Thank You for helping us show others who You are. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Worship

God knows us and loves us! We can talk to Him anywhere and at any time because He hears us! Let's worship Him now through music.

Play **Psalm 8, Over & Over** and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

Display the Sun Title Slide. Explain to kids that today's story comes straight from the Bible, in the book of Joshua. Tell kids that Joshua was an important leader of God's people. Encourage all the kids to locate Joshua 10 in their Bibles, with older kids helping younger kids as needed.

Let's start by watching part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we'll experience more of the story!

Watch the God's Big Story Video



LESSON 4 THE SUN STANDS STILL EXPERIENCE IT! SCRIPT

SUPPLIES: bedsheet, flashlights (5), wadded-up sheets of paper (3), craft sticks or dowel rods (5 per group, optional), cardstock (optional), tape or glue (optional), scissors (optional, prep only)

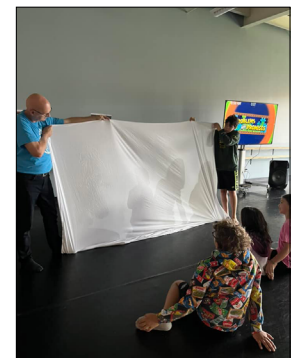
Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Paper Puppets Sheet \(1 set per SG\)](#)

Using a bedsheet as the screen and using flashlights for lighting, kids will act out the story behind the sheet. The “audience” will only see their shadows through the screen.

Alternatively, you can divide your group into smaller groups and provide them with shadow puppets and a flashlight to tell the story. If you choose this alternative option, you'll need to print a copy of the Paper Puppets onto cardstock for each group and cut out the characters ahead of time.

Tape or glue each paper puppet, including the background scenery, to a craft stick or dowel rod.

Gather kids and choose two kids to be your screen holders. Not only will they get to hold up the screen, but they'll also get to add sound effects throughout the experience. Place flashlights on the ground, behind the sheet and facing the bottom of screen. Assign the following roles to kids to act out during the story: kings (5), the Gibeonite people (2–3), Joshua, the Israelites, the sun, the moon, and the hailstones. (If your group is small, modify the number of characters as needed. For example, assign just one kid to play a Canaanite king, one a Gibeonite, one an Israelite, etc.) Give wadded-up sheets of paper to the kids playing the part of the hailstones. Turn down the lights so the kids will be able to see the shadows.



Leader Tip: If your group is small and all the kids are involved in the storytelling with no one left in the audience, that's OK!

Welcome! This week, we get to hear more of God's big story from the amazing book of Joshua. Many, many years ago, God promised to give the land of Canaan to Abraham's family. Over time, Abraham's family grew and became known as the Israelites. At last, God led Joshua and the Israelites into the promised land where, with God's help, they captured the city of Jericho.

A group of people called the Gibeonites realized that God was helping Israel. So, instead of fighting the Israelites, the people of Gibeon decided to make a truce with them. The truce meant that the people of Israel and the people Gibeon were allies: They would have peace with each other and would fight for one another if someone else attacked them. They made a covenant—a promise to God and each other—to always serve one another.

Let's begin with a king. Have one of the kings come out to stand between the flashlights and the screen, casting a shadow.

This is the king of Jerusalem, Adoni-Zedek. He was angry about this truce. He was afraid that the Gibeonites would help the Israelites defeat his army. So Adoni-Zedek asked four other Canaanite kings (enter the four other kings) **to join forces with him and attack the Gibeonites.** Have the kings stand between the flashlights and the screen. **The kings agreed, and together they attempted to capture the city of Gibeon.**

Have the kings exit. Have the Gibeonites and Joshua now enter behind the screen.

The Gibeonites sent an urgent message to Joshua: "Come up to us quickly! Save us! Help us! All the Amorite kings from the central hill country have gathered their armies together to fight against us" (Joshua 10:6).

Joshua and the Israelites kept their promise. Immediately, the Israelite army marched to Gibeon to protect their allies. God told Joshua He would help Israel defeat the Canaanite kings.

Have the Gibeonites and Joshua exit. Have the Israelites and the hailstones enter with the wadded-up sheets of paper.

The Israelites arrived at Gibeon after marching all night and surprised the Canaanite armies. As the Israelite army fought, they were not alone! God dropped giant hailstones on the enemy armies, defeating more of them than all the army of Israel.

Have kids drop the pieces of paper like the hailstones. The Israelites and hailstones exit, and Joshua enters.

Yet as the battle continued late into the day, Joshua was concerned that the sun would set before it was over. They didn't have electricity-powered lamps back then, so without the sun in the sky, the battlefield could've been very dark. Fighting in the dark was especially dangerous because it could be hard to tell whose side the person in front of you was on. Joshua spoke to the Lord while the Israelites were listening. Joshua told the sun and moon to stand still, and they did!

Sun and moon enter, then strike and hold a pose!

“The sun stopped in the middle of the sky [and] didn’t go down for about a full day” (Joshua 10:13). **With the sun still out, the battle continued, and the Israelites saved the Gibeonites from the armies of the Canaanites. Never has there ever been a day like it since! God listened to Joshua; surely He was fighting for Israel!**

Sun and moon exit. Enter the Gibeonites and have them celebrate with Joshua.

God listened to Joshua, and He listens to our prayers too. We can trust Him to do what is best all of the time. We may think our problems are too small, or even too big, to bring to God. But whatever we face, we can trust that God will help us in our need because God hears us. Thank all the kids for their part in the story!

Connecting the Wonder Truth

Display the Sun Wonder Truth Slide.

Our Wonder Truth today is **GOD HEARS US**. Where did you see our Wonder Truth in the story? Allow kids to answer freely.

God cares very much about lasting promises called covenants. Even when Israel made a covenant with the Gibeonites that He didn’t approve of, He helped them keep it by helping to defeat the Canaanite kings. Long before this story, God made a covenant with Moses and the Israelites on Mount Sinai. The Israelites broke their promise to God, but still God kept the covenant by sending Jesus to cover their sin and restore their relationship with Him.



In Awe of God’s Wonder

Spend a few moments allowing kids to think about the wonder of God’s story.

What do you think it would have been like to experience the sun standing still while Joshua and his army helped their allies? Allow kids to respond.

What’s the most amazing thing you’ve ever heard of God doing in response to His people’s prayers? Give kids time and space to think and share. Consider sharing your own testimony of answered prayer.

Responding in Worship

SLIDE: RESPONDING IN WORSHIP

Talk about ways we can respond to what we are learning with next steps such as tithing, prayer, asking questions, and worship. Encourage kids to ask their SG leaders any questions they were wondering during the lesson. ***Introduce this next song and invite kids to respond and participate in worship. See the "Worship Posture Tutorial" on the RBKids Resource Page.

WORSHIP VIDEO: King of My Heart



Blessing Your Kids

Speak this blessing over your kids, as a group or as individuals. If you bless kids individually, insert each name into the blessing.

Blessing: Whether your week is filled with good times or challenges, may you remember that God is with you. May you talk with Him throughout your days, remembering that He promises to hear you!