

LESSON 4

THE SUN STANDS STILL

LESSON AT A GLANCE

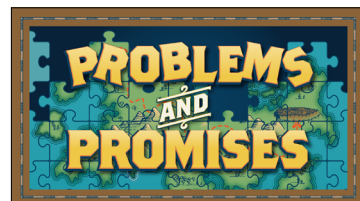
WONDER TRUTH: God Hears Us

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

- Welcome Questions: Have you ever had someone ignore you? What did you have to do to be heard?
- Curiosity Questions
- Word of Wonder Activity
- God's Big Story
- Discussion Questions for Elementary Kids and Preteens
- Small Group Prayer Time
- LARGE GROUP
- Elementary Responding in Worship: Sunshine and Promises
- Preteen Responding in Worship: Promises of God Flip Book



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

Small Group

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

LESSON AT A GLANCE

WONDER TRUTH: God Hears Us

SCRIPTURE: Joshua 10

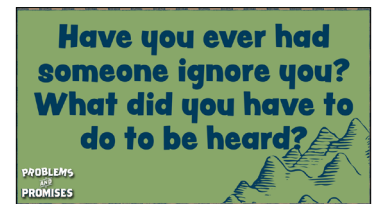
WORD OF WONDER: 1 Chronicles 16:15

Pre-Service Connection (15–20 min)

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

Games & Activities Guide

Small group leaders should be seated in place in their small groups 20 minutes prior to service time. Have activities ready to keep children occupied and engaged WITH you. This time is important to build relationships, welcome new kids, and keep structure in the room - you should be an active participant with them! Learn the kids names, and make sure they all know yours too!



As kids arrive ...

Warmly welcome new friends, and introduce them to your group.

Use the Welcome Question and the following "I'm Curious" questions to engage kids. Say "I'm curious.." before each question and give kids an chance to think before answering each one. After each question, consider having kids share their ideas with a neighbor before you call on one or two of them to share with the group.

Consider having a whiteboard or poster for kids to write or draw answers to any of the 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. But first, it's time to be curious!

Small Group Begins

After the Opening Activity or game, Large Group Leader will begin small group time by reading the Welcome Question aloud and inviting everyone to open their Bibles and begin.

Word of Wonder Activity

WORD OF WONDER

He will keep his covenant forever. He will keep his promise for all time to come.

—1 Chronicles 16:15 (NirV)

SUPPLIES: Bible, flashlight (1 per small group), laser pointer (1 per small group, optional), tape, **Series Word of Wonder poster**

In this activity, kids will use flashlights to illuminate each word on the poster as they say the verse. This will require you to turn the lights low. If that's not possible, provide a laser pointer for each group and plan on leaving the lights on.

In today's part of God's big story, the Israelites kept their covenant, or lasting promise, to the Gibeonites. God cares deeply about covenants, and our Word of Wonder for the Problems and Promises series reminds us that God keeps His promises. Let's say the verse together now. Open your Bible to 1 Chronicles 16:15. Read 1 Chronicles 16:15 several times together.

Gather the kids. Tape the Word of Wonder Poster to the wall where they can see it easily or hold it up for them to see. **Today we heard about how Joshua led the Israelite army to help their allies defeat an enemy. Joshua became concerned that it would be difficult to continue to fight in the dark when the sun went down. What did Joshua talk with the Lord about?** Allow kids to respond. **God heard Joshua and made the sun stand still—something that has never happened again! Light is so important, and God tells us that His Word, the Bible, can be a light in our life. Let's use this flashlight to help us see the words of our verse today!**

With the lights turned down low, guide kids to take turns shining the flashlight on each word of the Word of Wonder Poster as they say the verse aloud. Alternatively, keep the lights on and invite kids to use a laser pointer to point to each word in the verse. When kids have all had a turn, say the verse aloud together as a group.

Leader Tip: For Preteens. Write each word/phrase of the verse on slips and give one to each kid.

Have kids close their eyes or wear blindfolds and try putting themselves into verse order. Once in place, invite them to open their eyes (or remove blindfolds) and check to see if they're in correct order.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid)

Share 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 reading part of God's big story directly from the Bible. Afterward, we'll watch and experience more of the story!

Read Joshua 10:1–14 as kids follow along. Encourage kids to march in place whenever there are movement words in the passage.

Elementary Questions

- **Who was the leader of the Israelites in today's story?** (Joshua, though God was his leader)
- **What had the Israelites and the Gibeonites promised each other?** (to keep peace with one another and fight for each other if enemies attacked)
- **How did God help the Israelite army?** (He dropped giant hailstones on the enemy and made the sun stand still in the sky.)
- **Has the sun ever stood still since that day?** (No. Consider rereading Joshua 10:14.)
- **Does God keep His promises to us today? What does that show us about what God is like?**
- **God hears us! When has God heard your prayers?**

God hears us, no matter where we are or what we're doing. He's always with us, ready to listen to us and help us in hard situations. Let's spend some time talking with God. We can be confident that He hears us right now!

Preteen Questions

- **What were some of the promises that were made (and kept) in today's story?** (The Israelites and the Gibeonites promised to keep peace and help each other; God told Joshua He would help them defeat their enemies.)
- **What two ways did God help the Israelites defeat the enemy?** (He dropped giant hailstones on the enemy and made the sun stand still in the sky.)
- **Has the sun ever stood still since that day?** (No. Consider rereading Joshua 10:14.)
- **God makes covenants, or lasting promises, with His people—including us! What does that show us about what God is like?**
- **How do we know that God hears us?**
- **When has God heard your prayers? Has it ever felt like God didn't hear you?**

God hears us, no matter where we are or what we're doing. He's always with us, ready to listen to us and help us in hard situations. Let's spend some time talking with God. We can be confident that He hears us right now!

Leader Tip: God cares deeply for us and always hears our prayers, but sometimes He can feel silent. If kids wonder why God doesn't seem to answer them, give them the space and permission to be honest—with you and with God. Help them remember times God has been faithful to them and remind them that even when they can't feel God's presence, He is still with them, and nothing can separate them from His love.

Small Group Prayer Time

Encourage the kids to brainstorm times they might need God’s direction and guidance. Invite those who feel comfortable to pray aloud, thanking God for always being with us and willing to lead us. Ask for help recognizing God’s directions and for the courage to follow Him. Then encourage kids to share their own prayer requests and to pray for one another.

LARGE GROUP

Elementary Responding in Worship: Sunshine and Promises

SUPPLIES: kid-safe scissors (1 per kid), construction paper or cardstock (1 sheet per kid), coloring utensils, glue sticks (1 per kid)

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Sunshine Promises Sheet \(1 per kid\)](#), “Promises” from the [Problems and Promises Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, make one copy per kid of the Sunshine Promises Sheet and cut out the shapes on their sheets—they should have six triangles and one circle. Gather the kids together. Distribute a Sunshine Promises Sheet to each kid. Once kids have finished, lead them in the following reflection time.



Make It Inclusive: Have precut Sunshine Promises Sheets ready for kids who find it hard to use scissors or are unable to handle them.

During the past few lessons, we’ve talked a lot about problems and promises in the Bible. Long ago, God made a lasting promise called a covenant with the Israelites. He promised to always be with them.

Later, the Israelites made a promise to the Gibeonites, to help protect them against their enemies. The Israelites kept their promise when five other kings led their armies against the Gibeonites! God also kept His promise to be with the Israelites. What did God do for His people in this story? Allow kids to respond. Yes! God heard Joshua and made the sun stand still in the sky. God kept His promise to His people!

God hears our prayers too, and we can talk to Him about anything! The circle part of our sun says, “God promises to ...” What are some things that God promises to us? Invite kids to respond. If needed, read some of the answers on the triangles: God promises to forgive us, hear us, provide for us, love us, guide us, and be with us. Let’s create art to help us remember that God hears us and keeps His promises!

Give a sheet of construction paper or cardstock to each kid. Invite them to use coloring utensils to create a scene on their paper that shows a time when God has heard them. They can glue the parts of their sun onto the paper to make it part of their scene. If kids aren't sure what to draw, encourage them to use one of the sun's rays as a prompt. For example, they could draw a time when God provided for them or forgave them.

As kids create, play "Promises" from the [Problems and Promises Elementary Spotify playlist](#). As kids finish their artwork, invite them to share what they drew with one another.

Preteen Responding in Worship: Promises of God Flip Book

SUPPLIES: Bibles (1 per kid), note cards (5–7 per kid), hole punch, binder rings (1 per kid), writing utensils, coloring utensils

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: [Promises Picture \(1/SG\)](#), "Promises" from the [Problems and Promises Elementary Spotify playlist](#)

Ahead of time, hole punch the top corners of 5–7 note cards for each kid.

Gather the kids. Give each kid a binder ring and 5–7 note cards, each with a hole pre-punched in the top corner. Set out writing and coloring utensils. **During the past few lessons, we've talked a lot about problems and promises in the Bible. Long ago, God made a lasting promise called a covenant with the Israelites. He promised to always be with them.**

Later, the Israelites made a promise to the Gibeonites, to help protect them against their enemies. The Israelites kept their promise when five other kings led their armies against the Gibeonites! God also kept His promise to be with the Israelites. What did God do for His people in this story? Allow kids to respond. **Yes! God heard Joshua and made the sun stand still in the sky. God kept His promise to His people!**

God kept His promises to His people long ago, and He keeps His promises to us today! Let's create flip books filled with the promises of God that we can take home as a reminder of God's love and promises.

Invite kids to take turns reading each of the promises on the screen.

These promises from God are for every person who follows Jesus, including you and me! Today's Wonder Truth is **GOD HEARS US, so let's all write the first promise from the slide on our first note card.**

Pause for kids to write, "God hears me" on their first note card.

Promises of God

God hears me. (1 John 5:14; Psalm 66:19)
God loves me. (Romans 8:38–39; Jeremiah 31:3)
God is with me. (Matthew 28:20; Joshua 1:9)
God forgives me and gives me new life in Jesus. (1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17)
God gives me peace. (John 14:27; Philippians 4:6–7)
God makes me His child. (John 1:12)
God gives me wisdom when I ask. (James 1:5)
God works even hard things for good. (Romans 8:28)

For the next few minutes, I invite you to choose the promises of God that are most meaningful to you and write them on note cards to put in your flip book. You might look up the Bible verses and include them in your book. You might draw pictures or symbols to represent each promise. You might fill up all our note cards or leave some blank to write on at home. It's up to you! As you finish each note card, you can attach it to your binder ring.

For your reference, here are the promises and references included on the Promises Slide:

- God hears me. (1 John 5:14; Psalm 66:19)
- God loves me. (Romans 8:38–39; Jeremiah 31:3)
- God is with me. (Matthew 28:20; Joshua 1:9)
- God forgives me and gives me new life in Jesus. (1 John 1:9; 2 Corinthians 5:17)
- God gives me peace. (John 14:27; Philippians 4:6–7)
- God makes me His child. (John 1:12)
- God gives me wisdom when I ask. (James 1:5)
- God works even hard things for good. (Romans 8:28)

As kids create their flip books, play “Promises” from the [Problems and Promises Elementary Spotify playlist](#). As kids finish, invite them to share their flip books with one another.