

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: God keeps His promises forever. —from 1 Chronicles 16:15

Activity: Day and Night Sort

Activity: Can You Hear?

Worship

God's Big Story

Snack

Word of Wonder

Prayer and Blessing

Game: Stand Still

Activity: Day and Night Sort

SUPPLIES: scissors (prep only), yellow paper, gray paper

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Day and Night Sort Sheets (1/SG)

Ahead of time, print and cut apart the Day and Night Sort Sheets. Cut a circle from the yellow paper and gray paper.

Greet the kids warmly and welcome them to church. **Welcome! I'm so glad you're here today. Let's look at some pictures together. Some pictures are of daytime, and some are of nighttime. Let's see if we can tell the difference. The yellow circle is like the sun** (hold up the yellow paper circle) **and the gray circle is like the moon** (hold up the gray paper circle). **I'll hold up a picture, and if it's from something that happens during the day, point to the sun. If it happens at night, point to the moon.** Hold up each picture and invite the kids to point to the sun or moon.



We talked about day and night because today in God's big story, we're going to learn about a day when God made the sun stand still. He made daylight last longer! Wow! I'm excited to tell you more about that. Save the paper sun and moon to use again in God's Big Story.

Activity: Can You Hear?

Let's see if you can be a really good listener! I'm going to say something in a different way, and you can repeat me exactly the way I say it. Say, "God hears us" the following ways, inviting the kids to repeat you each time: loud, singing, low-pitched, squeaky, slow, very fast, robot voice, whisper, sad/crying, excited.

Great job! You listened well! We said the phrase in different voices and with different emotions. No matter how we talk with God, He always hears us. He hears when we talk with Him quietly or loudly, and when we're happy or sad. We'll learn today about how God heard and helped His people in an amazing way.

Our Wonder Truth today is: GOD HEARS US.

Encourage the kids to do the following motions while you repeat the Wonder Truth. Older toddlers can say the words with you as they do the motions.

GOD—Point up.

HEARS—Point to your ears.

US—Point to yourself.

Worship

Today we'll learn that God hears us. He hears our prayers and He hears our praises, so let's sing our praises for Him!

Play songs from the Little Learners Playlist and encourage the kids to sing and dance as they praise God.

God's Big Story

SUPPLIES: Bible, paper sun and moon from Activity

Wonder Ink RESOURCES: Bible Story Picture (1/SG)

Set out the sun and moon from the Activity. If you don't have it, cut a yellow paper sun and a gray paper moon.

Our God's big story today is a great story from the Bible about a person named Joshua. Can you say, "Joshua"? Pause to allow the kids to respond. We'll learn how God helped Joshua and God's people—the Israelites. Let's find out from the Bible how God helped them.

Show the kids the God's Big Story Video, read the story from the Bible, or use the script provided. You can also print the Bible Story Picture to give the kids a visual depiction of the story.

Joshua was the leader of God's people—the Israelites. The Israelites made a promise to help protect a group of people called the Gibeonites.

One day, the Gibeonites were attacked by an enemy, so Joshua and the Israelites went to help them. They were in a battle against the enemies, and it was almost nighttime. It was getting too dark to see in the battle. Hold up the moon (or invite a toddler to hold it up). The moon was going to come out soon, and it would be super dark. That would be a problem. Joshua knew they needed help, so he talked to God. Joshua told God to make the sun stand still so it would not be too dark. Can you stand as still as possible? Don't move! Be still, just like the sun! Take the paper moon down and invite someone to hold it still. Then invite someone else to hold up the paper sun and keep it very still.

God heard Joshua and made the sun stand still so Joshua and the Israelites could win the battle. That has never happened again! God heard Joshua and helped His people. God hears our prayers too.

Snack

Instruct kids to sit in the floor. Pass out snacks and say a prayer together.

Invite kids to repeat after you:

Dear God. kids repeat

You know me, love me, and lead me too. kids repeat

Please help me follow You. kids repeat

Thank you for snacks so yummy. kids repeat

That fill my happy tummy! kids repeat

Amen

Word of Wonder

SUPPLIES: Bible

WORD OF WONDER

God keeps His promises forever.

—from 1 Chronicles 16:15

Our Word of Wonder for the Problems and Promises series is from 1 Chronicles 16:15: “God keeps His promises forever.”

Encourage the kids to do the motions and say the verse with you.

- **GOD**—Point up.
- **KEEPS**—Spread your right hand out before you from left to right.
- **HIS PROMISES**—Place an index finger on your lips. Move your hand downward and open your palm.
- **FOREVER**—Draw large circles in the air with your index finger.
- **FROM 1 CHRONICLES 16:15**—Open your hands in front of you, like opening a book.

Prayer and Blessing

Let’s pray and talk to God and thank Him for how He hears us. Put your hands to your ears to help you remember that God hears us. Allow kids to respond.

God, thank You for hearing us, no matter what we’re feeling or what we’re facing. We can always come to You and talk with You. Help us hear from You. We love You. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Encourage the kids to hold their hands in front of them, with palms up, as if their hands are open to receive something. Tell them to listen and receive the blessing as you speak it over them.

Blessing: May you remember that God is with you. May you talk with Him throughout your days, remembering that He promises to hear you!

Activity: Stand Still

SUPPLIES: paper sun and moon from Activity or God’s Big Story

In today’s story, God helped the Israelites win the battle by keeping the sun and moon standing still so they could see to win! God heard Joshua. God hears us and helps us too. Let’s do an activity to remember that God hears us. You can wiggle, dance, and move around. When I hold up the paper sun or moon, you must freeze and stand very still, like the sun and moon stood still in the sky in our story.

Invite the kids to wiggle, dance, and move while periodically holding up the paper sun or moon from earlier. Encourage them to freeze and stand still when the sun and moon are held up. When you put the sun or moon down again, encourage them to say, “God hears us!” Play several times. You can let the kids take turns holding up the paper sun and moon.