

# Sun and Moon Stand Still

## Teacher Preparation

- Study **Lesson 6**, pp. 44–55.
  - Scripture Num. 13:17–23; Josh. 10:1–27; 14:1–5; 24:1–26
- Visuals** to use in class.
  - Memory Verse Visual 6
  - Teaching Visuals 16–20
- Have **Focus**, Ls 6 ready to distribute after lesson (1 per student).

## Opening Sequence (optional)

Greet teens as they arrive; assistant takes attendance.

**Welcome** Comments

**Prayer** Teacher

**Announcements** Notes

**Songs** *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* p. 22 #9  
*I Just Keep Trusting My Lord* p. 16 #3  
*At Calvary* p. 5 #2

**Prayer** (Choose 1 or 2 teens to pray.)

### Memory Verse

Class read 3x. Say verse 2x.



Verse Visual 6

## Lesson 6

### Five kings plan for battle

The king of Jerusalem was filled with alarm. He knew that the Israelites had destroyed Jericho and Ai, and he was sure that his city would be next because it was only fifteen miles away. He had been counting heavily on help from the city of Gibeon, but to his dismay he learned that the Gibeonites had made a peace treaty with the leaders of Israel. Shocked and angry, he sent word to four other kings, *“Come up unto me, and help me, that we may smite Gibeon: for it hath made peace with Joshua and with the children of Israel.”*

Together, these five Amorite kings combined their armies for a united invasion of Gibeon, determined to destroy the Gibeonite traitors. The Gibeonites frantically sent messengers to Joshua at Gilgal. *“Slack not thy hand from thy servants;*

*come up to us quickly, and save us, and help us: for all the kings of the Amorites that dwell in the mountains are gathered together against us.”*

Joshua, having made a peace treaty with the Gibeonites, was now honor-bound to defend them. He also knew that maybe this was an opportunity to conquer the whole southern region of Canaan with one blow. Perhaps Joshua was tempted to be afraid when he heard how these five mighty kings and their armies were preparing to fight, but this time Joshua did not fail to ask God what to do. The Lord told Joshua to go to the aid of the Gibeonites at once. *“Fear them not: for I have delivered them into thine hand; there shall not a man of them stand before thee.”*

So, with God’s assurance of success ringing in his ears, Joshua left Gilgal at once with all his soldiers and went to rescue Gibeon. Why should he be fearful of what any earthly kings could do to him when he had the great and mighty King of kings on his side fighting for him?

### The sun and moon stand still

The army of Israel marched that night from their camp at Gilgal and arrived in Gibeon the next morning to surprise the enemy soldiers of the five kings. The enemy armies were so surprised that they were thrown into a panic and scattered in all directions.

Joshua and his men fought hard and relentlessly, knowing that if the enemy soldiers escaped that would keep the Israelites from winning a complete victory.



Card 16

### God sends a hailstorm

But after several hours of hard fighting, Joshua became concerned. Could his weary army that had marched all during the night with no sleep win a complete victory before they dropped from exhaustion? If only they could have a little relief and refreshment! Joshua also realized that the worst

part of the battle was still ahead of them. Therefore Joshua began to pray, not just for Israel, but for the honor of his God. Then Joshua stood in the presence of his army and said: “*Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.*” Suddenly, the sun “stood still” (evidently earth slowed down in its rotation on its axis) and the moon stopped in its orbit around the earth!



Card 17

Then the atmosphere above began to churn and a terrible hailstorm broke out upon the enemy soldiers, as though the whole artillery of heaven had suddenly opened fire. In fact, more of the Amorites died from the hail than the Israelite soldiers slew with the sword in battle that day. On that special day the Lord fought for Israel until the battle was over and the Israelite army had finished destroying their enemies! What a testimony this was to the almighty power of the God of Israel!

### The kings are found in a cave



Card 18

During the heat of the battle, the five kings escaped and ran to hide in a mountain cave. When the news reached Joshua that the five kings had taken refuge in the cave, he commanded his men, “*Roll great stones upon the mouth of the cave, and set men by it for to keep them.*”

The soldiers did as Joshua instructed them, and the cave became a prison for the five kings.

Afterward, Joshua and the leaders of Israel took the five kings out of the cave, placed their feet on their enemies’ necks, and put the kings to death. Then they buried them in the cave where they had been hiding and placed a great pile of stones at the opening of the cave.

Why didn’t God leave the five kings alone after they hid themselves? Because God had told Israel many times that these sinful, wicked nations were to be “*utterly destroyed*” and that His people should under no circumstances make a

covenant or agreement with them. The Lord had given the Canaanites four hundred years to change their ways, but they had persisted in their sin and had to be judged.

### The possessions of the twelve tribes

The conquest of Canaan was almost complete, but a large part of the land yet remained to be conquered, for not all of the Canaanites had been driven out of the land. Much of this beautiful land they could now call their own, but God wanted the Israelites to possess *all* the land of Canaan, not just part of it.

The Lord told Joshua, “*Thou art old and stricken in years, and there remaineth yet very much land to be possessed.*” Then the Lord named all the heathen nations which remained in the land, and said, “*Them will I drive out from before the children of Israel: only divide thou it by lot unto the Israelites for an inheritance, as I have commanded thee.*”

Joshua charged each tribe to possess the land, and according to the will of God, he divided the land to each tribe by casting lots. The areas that the tribes received varied in size according to the population of each tribe, and God gave each tribe that territory—whether it be a high, difficult mountain or a broad, fertile valley—that He knew in His wisdom would be best for that tribe. If we accept this spiritual parallel in our lives today, we will know Christ in a deeper, sweeter way; if we refuse to accept God’s portion (His lot for our lives), we will never possess “the land” or anything that He intends for us to have. Abraham believed that; therefore he let God choose for him in everything. And when David was talking to the Lord about this, he said, “*The LORD is the portion of my inheritance . . . thou maintainest my lot.*” (Psa. 16:5)

Are we letting God choose our lot in life, or are we making our own plans? Are we choosing our own path and trusting our own ingenuity and talents? We can only count on triumphant victory in life when there is utter submission to the Lord Jesus, absolute surrender, and full consecration of all that we have and are. Only then can we expect to “possess our possessions in the Lord.”

## Caleb's choice



Card 19

When the tribes assembled at Gilgal to receive by lot their inheritance, Judah was the first to be assigned their inheritance of land. But before the lot was taken, Caleb, who was of the tribe of Judah and had as a spy with Joshua long ago given a good report of the land, stepped forward and spoke to Joshua. Caleb, now an old man of eighty-five years, reminded Joshua, *"Thou knowest the thing that the LORD said unto Moses the man of God concerning me and thee in Kadesh-barnea. Forty years old was I when Moses the servant of the LORD sent me from Kadesh-barnea to espay out the land; and I brought him word again as it was in mine heart. Nevertheless my brethren that went up with me made the heart of the people melt: but I wholly followed the LORD my God. And Moses sware on that day, saying, Surely the land whereon thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's for ever, because thou hast wholly followed the LORD my God."*

Joshua approvingly nodded his head to Caleb. He remembered how the two of them, forty years earlier, had tried to quiet the terrified camp of Israel when they were told of the giants who lived in the cities of Canaan.

Caleb continued, *"Behold, the LORD hath kept me alive, as he said, . . . now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old. As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me."* And Joshua knew that Caleb spoke the truth, for Caleb was fit and ready for action.

Finally Caleb was ready to make his request. Most men in his position would have asked for a nice, flat, fertile valley by the Jordan River, where the fields were green and the fruit trees abundant, but not Caleb. He did not want an easy place. *"Give me this mountain,"* he said, pointing to the one where the giant sons of Anak lived in great, walled cities. He asked for the most powerful stronghold of the enemy! He knew that there would be tough opposition in the mountain of the giants. But

he knew that God is greater than any giants among men. *"For thou heardest in that day how the Anakims were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: if so be the LORD will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out,"* he said. And he did! Of all the people who received an inheritance in the land, Caleb was the only one who succeeded in completely driving out the enemy.

In the book of Judges, which followed the book of Joshua, we read again and again about the other tribes that they could not drive the enemy out of the land. The chariots of iron were too strong for the others, but Caleb, who *"wholly followed the LORD,"* was entirely victorious in his conquest.

God told Israel to completely destroy their enemies, just as He tells us spiritually today that we must utterly exterminate the enemy of our souls. Why do we allow Satan to rule in our lives? Why have we not been delivered from that sin which pulls us down, steals our joy, and ruins our testimony? Why do the giants of temper, selfishness, impurity, and deceit dwell with us to this day? Why can't we drive them out? There is but one answer. Somewhere we have not fully yielded to our victorious Lord. Somewhere we have allowed Satan to hold on to his territory. In something we have not met God's conditions and wholly followed Him, because He promised He would drive out our foes and would fight for us.

Israel was told that if they allowed these wicked nations to remain in the land they would be *"snares and traps unto you, and scourges in your sides, and thorns in your eyes"* later on. The Lord meant that the Canaanites would cause them great trouble and heartache. This is a solemn truth and warning from God that if we allow Satan to spiritually control even one small area of our mind, our heart, or our will, then our peace and joy will be destroyed, we will go down in defeat when temptation comes; our lives will be powerless and our testimony ruined.

How happy Joshua was that Caleb still had great courage and faith. Joshua blessed Caleb and gave him the mountain country and the city of Hebron where the giants lived. No doubt all through those long, weary years of living in the wilderness God's promise of Hebron had gladdened and strengthened

Caleb's heart. Hebron had been the home of the fathers of his nation, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob; and here it was that they, with their wives, were buried.

What was the secret of Caleb's greatness? He wholly followed the Lord his God. In youth and in old age, in the midst of difficulties and discouragements, in the face of all kinds of opposition, he did not turn aside, but wholly followed the Lord.

Is there any one of us who cannot do the same? Caleb's God is our God. If we learn to follow the Lord with all our hearts, the result will be the same in our lives. But how often our faith wavers and we shrink from the battles of life! We are discouraged in our struggle to walk with the Lord; we are tempted to complain and grumble that the Christian life is too hard.

Caleb calls us to believe God, take courage, and wholly follow the Lord with purpose and determination. He throws out the challenge to us, "*Let us go up at once and possess it: for we are well able to overcome it.*" Will we respond to the call and accept Caleb's challenge?

When the dividing of the land of Canaan for Israel's inheritance was almost finished, Joshua's turn came. What did he request of the Lord? As leader he might have demanded a very large and beautiful tract of land, but he didn't. Instead, he asked for one little ruined city, which he had to rebuild. When it was given to him, he called it Timnath-serah, meaning "the portion that remains." Here was the mark of a truly great man—he took nothing for himself until everybody else had been cared for.

For many years the Israelites lived in Canaan. They were years of peace and joy. They built homes and cities, and cultivated the rich, fertile land. How much they enjoyed the land God had given them! But they failed to drive the Canaanites completely out of the country as God had instructed. And later, much to their sorrow, they found out what a terrible mistake they had made.

## Joshua's last instructions

Joshua was now 110 years old. No longer could he lead the Israelites against the remaining Canaanites who still lived in the land. He knew that he would soon die, and like Moses before him, he felt that he must speak to the people once more. He sent messengers throughout the land calling the people and their leaders to meet him at Shechem. The people came, for they loved and honored Joshua and wanted to hear his farewell message to them. It's always good to listen to what great men like Joshua have to say as they end their course of life.



Card 20

Joshua spoke to the people for quite a while, first reminding them of all that God had done for them in the past from the day He called Abraham out of Ur of the Chaldees. He carried their minds back to the days of their deliverance from the bondage in Egypt, God's great miracle at the Red Sea, His wonderful leadership and provision for them through the desert, the great victory He had given them over the Amorites, and the miraculous crossing of the Jordan. Finally, he urged them to remember how their God had fought for them and given them possession of Canaan. "*Thus saith the LORD God of Israel,*" Joshua continued, "*I have given you a land for which ye did not labour, and cities which ye built not, and ye dwell in them; of the vineyards and oliveyards which ye planted not do ye eat. Now therefore fear the LORD, and serve him in sincerity and in truth.*"

Then Joshua faithfully reminded them to obey God. "*Be ye therefore very courageous to keep and to do all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, that ye turn not aside therefrom to the right hand or to the left.*" Then he warned them of the consequences if they forsook the Lord and worshiped idols.

Joshua's chief concern was the heathen enemies who still remained in Canaan. He urged Israel to drive them out altogether. Although he himself would leave the people, he pointed them to God, their true leader. Joshua warned them of the danger of having anything whatsoever to do with the

Canaanites. *“Come not among these nations, these that remain among you; neither make mention of the name of their gods, nor cause to swear by them, neither serve them, nor bow yourselves unto them: But cleave unto the LORD your God, as ye have done unto this day . . . Else if ye do in any wise go back, and cleave unto the remnant of these nations, even these that remain among you, and shall make marriages with them, and go in unto them, and they to you: Know for a certainty that the LORD your God will no more drive out any of these nations from before you . . . so shall the LORD bring upon you all evil things, until he have destroyed you from off this good land.”*

The people knew that these words of the Lord were true, and as Joshua spoke, they must have nodded their heads. Joshua begged them always to love and serve Jehovah God. He reminded them that God would finish what He had begun. All of the good things which the Lord God had promised had come to pass. But Israel also had a part to play: obedience to God’s Word. Only through obedience would they have success.

Joshua then challenged them to come to some decision then and there—to make up their minds once for all whether or not they would serve God.

His ringing words were plain and clear: *“Choose you this day whom ye will serve!”* God wants total allegiance—full commitment, but He wants it given freely and willingly.

Then Joshua declared his stand: *“As for me and my house (family), we will serve the LORD!”*

Deeply touched by their leader’s faith and his genuine concern for them, the people unanimously replied, *“The LORD our God will we serve, and his voice will we obey.”*

Because Joshua knew that people easily forget their promises and commitments, he recorded it all in more permanent form—in the book of God’s law which would be kept near the Ark of the Covenant. There it would always be a reminder of their solemn promises and God’s will for them. Joshua also set up a large stone under an oak tree as a powerful reminder of their promise. It would cause people to ask questions, and the replies would recall what had happened.

From Joshua’s strong challenge we learn that we cannot be neutral. We must choose positively to obey the Lord.

Choose today to receive Christ as Savior, to surrender completely to Him, saying—*“Here am I, Lord, send me.”* These are choices and decisions that will count for all eternity.

Even a Joshua could not go on forever. He died *“being an hundred and ten years old.”* They buried him in his own little city of Timnath-serah, “the portion that remains”—a fitting place for one whose name will remain forever.

### Additional Application (optional)

God teaches us some ways of handling sin in our lives. First, there are what we shall call “open” sins, which would be bad temper, quarreling, impurity, jealousy, drunkenness, disobedience, etc. These are all sins that others can see, and they must be dealt with. How?

First, like David, we must admit and acknowledge our sin. In Psalm 51 he said, *“I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me. Against thee, thee only, have I sinned.”* Next, we must repent—be truly sorry—sorry enough to turn from it and forsake it. Then with a humble spirit we must ask God to forgive us, wash and cleanse us, and give us a heart whiter than snow. He promises that if we do not try to hide our sins He will have mercy (Prov. 28:13), and that if we confess our sins, He will forgive and cleanse us (1 John 1:9). If we have hurt someone else, we must go to him, tell him we are sorry, and ask for his forgiveness. Then we are right with God and our fellow man.

There is a second kind of sin—hidden sins or sins of the heart. These also have to be dealt with unmercifully. We could call them secret sins—they are not out in the open where others can easily see them. Such sins as selfishness, evil thoughts, pride (of face, place, race, or grace), impatience, resentment, stinginess, and grudge-holding are in this group. It is not easy for someone else to know if we have impure thoughts, bitterness, or jealousy toward another person. These sins can be in our hearts but well hidden. God has given us a method for dealing with them, also.

This is taught when Joshua said what was to happen to the five kings: “*Open the mouth of the cave, and bring out those five kings unto me.*” The lesson for us here is not to try to hide secret sins. They must be brought out into the open before God. As the five kings were brought out of the cave to Joshua, he instructed his army commanders, “*Come near; put your feet upon the necks of these kings.*” This they did.

It was the custom in those days for one defeated in battle to lie, face down, on the ground before the victor, who would put his foot upon his conquered foe’s neck. This symbolized the complete submission of the one and the victory of the other.

When God reveals to us the secret sins lurking unconfessed and unjudged deep in our hearts, we dare not allow them to stay there. We do not have to be defeated or subject to these sins. God wants to give us complete victory, but there will be no victory until we declare total war against every sin. We must bring them out into the open before God, and take a firm, determined stand against them, by “putting our foot upon their necks”! Think of yourself placing a foot on the neck of pride, of impure thoughts, of greed, of a harsh, unkind tongue! Think of having your foot on the neck of every crippling thing in your Christian testimony. To know and experience the power of Jesus Christ in victory, we must declare war on all sin—“open” and “hidden.” When the Lord reveals to us the sin in our lives that needs to be judged, we must pray, “Lord, help me to conquer this thing once for all.”

The kings were not only brought out from the cave and put in the place of defeated foes; they were also killed. Joshua “*smote them and slew them.*” Joshua, who is a picture or type of Christ, was the executioner of these kings. So Christ is the executioner of the sins of our lives. He has already overcome them through His death, and the work for our release from sin has already been accomplished. Our part is to believe this, to take our stand upon this fact, and to count on it as He tells us to do. Then this truth will become real in our daily experience, and we will be “*more than conquerors.*”

So Joshua and his army conquered a great part of the whole country in this one battle—the nations and kings of the

hill country, the lowlands, the mountain slopes, and the plains. All were destroyed, as the Lord had commanded. This was all accomplished in one campaign, for the Lord God of Israel was fighting for His people. Then Joshua and the Israelites rested from war as they returned to their camp at Gilgal.

Joshua had learned well the great lesson that after victory one needs to continue in close fellowship with the Lord. Only God can keep us humble so that pride does not creep into our hearts when we go forth again in the Lord’s battles. Israel was never allowed to suppose that they had won the victory in their own strength. It was God Who conquered the enemy and presented the land to the people, and it is God Who conquers sin in our lives today.

### Prayer

Review **Joshua 24:15**.

Sing ***I Just Keep Trusting My Lord*** p. 16 #3

Distribute ***Focus 6***.



Verse Visual 6