

# GOD'S BIG PLAN

## A New Place! Deuteronomy 34-1 Samuel 8

**Supporting Scriptures:** Genesis 12:1, 13:14-17; Exodus 12:25, 13:5, 20:12; Leviticus 14:34, 20:22, 25:23; Deuteronomy 1:8, 21, 36; Numbers 14, 33; 2 Peter 3:7-9



**Lesson Goals:**  
To see that God keeps His promises.  
To see that God doesn't do things the way we would.  
To see that God has promised us eternal life through Jesus.

**Scripture Memory** The Son has promised us eternal life. 1 John 2:25 (CEV)

**NOTE:** Familiarize yourself with this story. Tell it as a STORY, not as "He said. . . She said" or read. To reinforce that these ideas are not your own, hold your Bible as you tell the story.

**The Lesson:** Let's review what we have learned so far about God's Big Plan. (Review the previous stories, encouraging more and more students to share.)

Thinking back on all that we have learned so far, what do you know about God? Was He created when the world was? (No. God has always been around and He was the One who created the world along with the angels and people.) Did God create Adam and Eve just to punish them? (No. God wanted a friendship with them. He walked with them in the garden.) Why were Adam and Eve punished? (They disobeyed God.) If God punishes disobedience, what did we learn from the story of Noah? (That God blesses and protects those who obey.) If we are obedient to God, are things always easy? (No.) Abraham pleased God but was still asked to offer his son Isaac back to God. What do you know about God and His promises? (He keeps them! What He says, He does.)

**READ: Genesis 13:14-17 (Remember, hold the Bible, opened, throughout the story.)**

God had promised a new place and new people to His servant Abraham. But they had already spent hundreds of years in Egypt. What had happened to that promise? Well, as they left Egypt, the sons of Israel were already as numerous as the stars of the sky. God was now ready to bring them into the promised land, their new place.

When they had a chance to move right into the new place God had already promised was theirs, the people didn't trust their leaders. They didn't trust God. The punishment for their disobedience was forty years of wandering around in the desert when they could have already been enjoying their new place. As the forty years in the desert came to an end, their leader, Moses, died, but not before God let him see the promised land! The people wouldn't be able to go to this new place without a leader, so God chose Joshua. Joshua trusted God to do what He had promised to do. Joshua knew that God would be with him as they moved into the new land.

The new place that God was giving His people was called Canaan. There seemed to be a small problem, though; people already lived there! Well, God had encouraged Joshua by telling him to be strong and courageous. Joshua, in turn, encouraged the people. He reminded them, "God is giving you this land. Go,

get it!” Joshua sent two spies ahead of them. They went into a city called Jericho and met a woman named Rahab. Rahab told them that the people of the city were terrified of them and their God. They had heard about this amazing God and knew that they didn’t stand a chance against Him. Rahab even shared, “I know that your God is the true God, the God of heaven and the God of the earth. So when the king of Jericho came looking for them, she hid them on her roof and saved them. “We’ll do the same for you,” they said, “when we come to take your city. Just tie a red ribbon on your window. We will see it and everyone in your home will be safe.

Joshua heard the report of the spies and was even more sure that God was giving them this land, so the people of Israel came to the Jordan River. They needed to cross it, but it was flooded. And as He had done with the Red Sea, God stopped the water, and the people crossed on dry land. They celebrated the Passover on the edge of this new land God was giving them and as they began to eat the food of Canaan, the manna that God had fed them with stopped falling from heaven. Then, they received some odd instructions from God.

God told Joshua, “The city of Jericho is yours. Walk all the way around the city once. Do this for six days.” And the people obeyed. God didn’t want them to fight or try to break down the walls; He wanted them to walk. The ark of the covenant went with them, with soldiers in front of it and behind. On the seventh day, God commanded them to walk around the city seven times, without saying a word. Around and around they went and when they had been around the city seven times, the priests made a long blast on their trumpets. Then, when Joshua said it was okay, the people shouted. And when they did, the walls of Jericho fell!” SPLAT!

God kept his promise to the people of Israel. He made the land theirs by getting rid of the other people who lived there. God reminded them that in this new land, they were to remember and obey His word. Joshua even promised before them, “All of you, choose right now who you are going to serve. My family and I choose to serve the Lord.” And all of Israel together promised to serve God. And by keeping their promise, God would allow them to stay in this beautiful, wonderful new place He had given them.

**Review:**

Let’s review what you have learned. Who would like to retell the story? (Ask your group if anything was left out or told inaccurately.) Would anyone else like to retell the story?

The children of Israel crossed the Jordan, entering the promised land almost 500 years after God promised to give the land of Canaan to Abraham. Did God keep His promise? (Yes.) But it took so long! God is all-knowing. He knows better than we do when things should happen, but just because it looks like God may be slow to keep His promise does not mean that He will not keep it. God is not like man, who tells lies. God cannot lie!

In the book of First John, we read that “The Son (Jesus) has promised us eternal life.” This is one of those promises that requires us to do something first. John 3:16 tells us that God loved us so much that He gave Jesus, His One and Only Son. God gave Him so that anybody who chooses to believe in Him will have eternal life. So, what do we have to do to receive eternal life? (Believe in Jesus!) Is that something you have done? If not, let’s talk.

So, God has promised us eternal life. Is this eternal life? Will we live forever on earth, the way things are now? (No!) Eternal life will be with God some day, in heaven. You may have to wait a while, but you can trust God. Remember, He cannot tell a lie! Maybe you don’t have eternal life yet. Will you trust God today? And if you have eternal life, God needs you to tell someone else about Him!

**Planning for Next Week  
Lesson 18 • The People’s King  
1 Samuel 8-16**

# PRESCHOOL LESSON

**SING:** “Joshua Fit de Battle of Jericho”

Joshua fit de battle of Jericho, Jericho, Jericho  
Joshua fit de battle of Jericho,  
And the walls came a tumblin' down

**SHARE:** God had promised a new place to His people. The new place that God was giving them was called Canaan. There seemed to be a small problem, though. People already lived there! Well, God encouraged Joshua by telling him to be strong and courageous and Joshua encouraged the people. He reminded them, “God is giving you this land. Go, get it!” Joshua sent two spies ahead of them. They went into a city called Jericho and met a woman named Rahab. She told them that the people of the city were terrified of them and their God. They had heard about this amazing God and knew that they didn’t stand a chance against Him. Rahab even said, “I know that your God is the true God, the God of heaven and the God of the earth. So when the king of Jericho came looking for the spies, she hid them on her roof and saved them. “We’ll do the same for you,” they said, “when we come to take your city. Just tie a red ribbon on your window. We will see it and everyone in your home will be safe.

Joshua heard the report of the spies. He knew that God was giving them this land. But God gave them some strange instructions. God told Joshua, “The city of Jericho is yours. Walk all the way around the city once. Do this for six days.” And the people obeyed. On day one, they walked and walked until they had walked all the way around the city of Jericho. Then they went to their camp and rested. On day two, they walked and walked until they had walked all the way around the city of Jericho again. Then they rested. This happened again on day three, day four, day five and day six! That’s a lot of walking! But how was walking around the city going to help them destroy it? More strange instructions. On the seventh day, God commanded them to walk around the city seven times, without saying a word. Around and around they went and when they had been around the city seven times, the priests made a long blast on their trumpets. Then, when Joshua said it was okay, the people shouted. And when they did, the walls of Jericho fell! SPLAT!

God kept his promise to the people of Israel. He made the land theirs by getting rid of the other people who lived there. God reminded them that in this new land, they were to remember and obey His word. Joshua even made a promise before them, “All of you, choose right now who you are going to serve. My family and I choose to serve the Lord.”

**PRAY:** Thank you, God, for keeping your promises.

# LEARNING ACTIVITIES

- Memory Verse Activity - Play hopscotch. Draw off the squares and circle, ten total. Rather than labeling them with numbers, write one word from the verse in each square, ending with the reference in the last square. Leave the circle free. Play normally, practicing a word of the verse with the first turn. Add a word each time until the circle is reached. There, each student will say the entire verse, with its reference.
- Build walls with building blocks. Let your students have fun collapsing the walls!
- Play "20 Questions." Use people and places from the story.
- Build houses from craft sticks. Talk about Joshua's promise to serve the Lord.
- Act out the story with a chest to resemble the ark and with horns. Your students will enjoy the shouting part!
- Make horns for reenacting the story. Horns can be made by rolling construction paper into a cone shape.