# The Sun Stands Still

The Longest Day

4th-6th Grade
Lesson 5

## The Teacher's Preparation

**Scripture Passages to Study:** Joshua 10

**Study Guide:** Read "The Sun Stands Still: The Longest Day" in *The Promised Land.*

**Lesson Objective:** Americans are often urged to worship at the "church, synagogue or mosque" of their choice, as if there is no difference between the god of Islam and the LORD God of Israel. There is a difference between our God and the gods such as Allah, Baal, Krishna, and Mother Nature. Our LORD is the only creator of Heaven and Earth and the only savior of mankind. All other gods are false.

**Lesson Application:** Joshua was leading the children of Israel in battle against five Canaanite kings in unfamiliar territory. Israel needed a few more hours of daylight to win. God stopped time so that Israel would have a complete victory. Only the God who created time could do something like that!

**Memory Verse:** Psalm 100:3

## The Teacher's Checklist

- ☑ Activity Worksheets and Pencils
- ☑ Attendance and Record Notebook
- ☑ Lesson Plan
- ☑ Cue Card
- ☑ Memory Verse Card
- ☑ Music Player
- ☑ Visual Illustrations for the Lesson
- ☑ Attention Getter: Airplane ride

*Know ye that the LORD he is God: it is he that hath made us, and not we ourselves; we are his people, and the sheep of his pasture.*

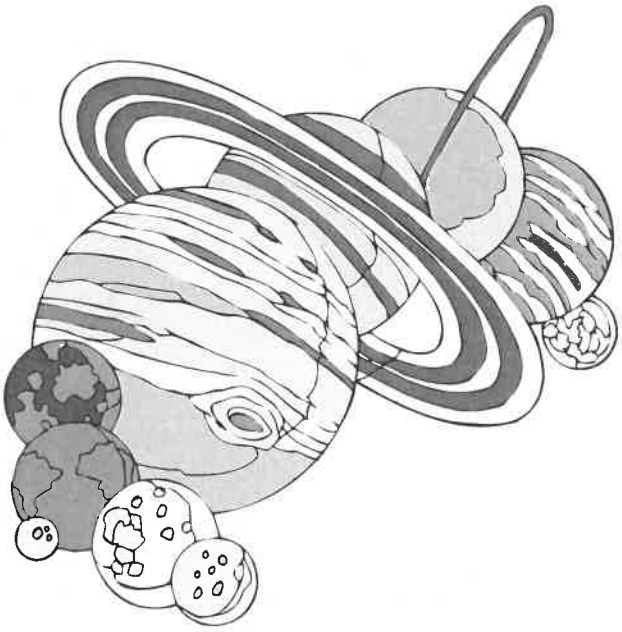
—Psalm 100:3

### Teacher Tips

How is a Sunday School lesson like an airplane trip? The most critical parts are takeoff and landing. If you can capture the attention of your class during the first minute, you'll have a smooth takeoff. If you can finish your lesson and leave your class eagarly anticipating the next time you meet, you'll have made a safe landing.

# The Teacher's Lesson Plan

## Attention Getter



*The ideal object for this lesson is a scale model of the solar system. Bring in photographs that show the planets in perspective. You can make your own using using the calculations found on this web page: www.exploratorium.edu/ronh/solar_system/ You will need to enter a value for the sun, something like the width of your classroom or the length of a bus. For example, if you use a classroom width of 10 feet for the sun, the earth would be about the size of a marble (1 inch) and Jupiter, the largest planet, would be 12 inches in diameter, or about the size of a beach ball.*

*How many people live on earth? There were about 6.45 billion in July 2005[1]. The purpose of the exercise is to convey not just how small the earth is, but how big our God is.*

The earth seems very, very big to us. How big does it look to God in Heaven? If you could look down from Heaven right now, what would you see? (*Get answers from the class. Encourage the students to visualize the vast infinity of space and the finite size of the planets.)* Would you be able to tell earth apart from the other planets? Wouldn't some of the larger planets block your view? What about the sun?

Can you name all of the planets in order? Do you know the hint for learning the planets? My Very Excellent Mother Just Sent Us Nine Pizzas. *(Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune, Pluto.)*

Do you know how many people there are living on this small planet? Who knows the exact number of people living on this planet andt also the number of hairs on each person's head? The most amazing thing is not that God can see all of us at the same time, or that He knows all about us. The most amazing thing is that He loves us and wants us to spend eternity wth Him. What a mighty God we serve.

Today's lesson tells about a miracle that happened in the solar system. It's a miracle so big that most people don't believe it. However, it's in the Word of God, so it must be true.

## I. Concealed Identity

While Joshua and the children of Israel were camped at Gilgal, a few visitors arrived. These men looked like they had been on a long journey. The food they had was old and moldy; their shoes and clothes were falling apart. The visitors told Joshua that they lived faraway and were just passing though the country. They asked Joshua to promise not to attack them. Seeing no harm in letting the man travel through the land, Joshua agreed not to harm them in any way. Joshua had

1 According to *http://www.census.gov/ipc/www/popclockworld.html*

been tricked. The mysterious visitors were not from a far away land. The men were from Gibeon, a city less than twenty miles away. Traveling though the hills, it took Joshua and the children of Israel only three days to reach the cities of Gibeon. But Joshua had promised not to harm them, and he had to keep his promise. The people of Gibeon would now be servants of Israel under Joshua's protection.

## II. Conspiring Kings

Joshua and the children of Israel were a feared people. The victories at Jericho and Ai were well known throughout all the Promised Land. Gibeon was a great city as well. Israel and Gibeon together made an army that no one city could defeat.

Adonizedec, the King of Jerusalem, heard how Gibeon and Joshua had allied together, and he was afraid. It was a well known fact that God was giving the Israelites the land city by city, and Jerusalem was next. The king of Jerusalem called a meeting with the kings of four other cities of the Amorites. He called the kings together to tell them his plan. The kings of Jarmuth, Eglon, Lachish, and Hebron all came to meet with Adonizedec. The King of Jerusalem told the others how Gibeon was now at peace with Israel. They all knew that God was on Israel's side and that there was no chance of defeating Gibeon and Israel at the same time. But Adonizedec felt that five kings had a great chance of defeating Gibeon, so he asked the four other kings to join him in a fight against Gibeon alone. After defeating Gibeon, they had a better chance of stopping Joshua and the Israelite army.

## III. Confrontation at Gibeon

> *Therefore the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, the king of Eglon, gathered themselves together, and went up, they and all their hosts, and encamped before Gibeon, and made war against it.*
>
> —Joshua 10:5

Gibeon was a great city, but there was no way, humanly speaking, for it to survive an attack from five armies. The men of Gibeon knew that they needed help. They sent a messenger to Joshua asking him to come quickly and help them in battle. Joshua kept his promise and called the army of Israel together. As Joshua prepared to leave, God told him not to fear and promised him victory. Joshua and his army traveled all night to get to Gibeon. The combined armies of Israel and Gibeon went into battle against the five Amorite kings. The Lord confused the Amorites and they began to retreat. They retreated near a city called Beth-horon, then headed for the Valley of Ajalon.

The Amorites may have thought that they were getting away, but God had something else in store for them. First, it began to rain down on the retreating armies. Then the rain turned into ice. Next, the ice turned into hailstones so big that more Amorites died from the hailstones than were killed in the battle.

Joshua did his part by trusting God when God told him that he would win the fight. God always keeps His promises. God gave Joshua the victory. All we have to do is trust the Lord and do what He tells us to do. If we do that, God will do the rest.

## IV. Command to the Heavens

The armies of Israel and Gibeon soon caught up with the armies of the five heathen kings. The Amorites must have been tired. They tried to fight a battle, but they had to run away. When they tried to run away, God rained hail down on them. They were happy that night was coming soon

and the fighting would stop. Years ago, all battles stopped at night time. In those days, there was no way to see across a battlefield in the dark.

Once again, the Amorites must have thought that they were getting away, and once again God had something else in mind for them. The day grew later without a victory, when all of a sudden Joshua told the sun and moon not to move. God, Who created the sun and the moon and everything else, stopped them both in place for a whole day.

> *Then spake Joshua to the* LORD *in the day when the* LORD *delivered up the Amorites before the children of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, Sun, stand thou still upon Gibeon; and thou, Moon, in the valley of Ajalon.*
>
> —Joshua 10:12

### V. Complete Victory

God allowed Joshua and his army to win a great victory that day. Joshua went to battle against five armies and won. Because Joshua trusted God and had faith in His promise, the children of Israel saw two great miracles. Joshua was a great man, but no one could beat five armies at one time. Joshua believed God, and God gave Joshua the victory.

> *And all these kings and their land did Joshua take at one time, because the* LORD *God of Israel fought for Israel.*
>
> —Joshua 10:42

## Teacher's Notes

Charles Dickens in a letter to his youngest son, Edward:

I have put a New Testament among your books … because it is the best Book that ever was or ever will be known in the world; and because it teaches you the best lessons by which any human creature who tries to be truthful and faithful to duty can possibly be guided.