



7/03/11

Joshua 10:12-15

Sovereignty of God Over all Things

Materials

Paper and pencils (or crayons)

Opening Activity

Ask the children to draw a picture of, and discuss, a time when they were asked to do something but it seemed impossible to do. How did they feel before the task? How did they feel when the task was complete? Tell them that today they will read of a time when Joshua completed a task that seemed impossible.

Read Joshua 10:12-15

At that time Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel,

“Sun, stand still at Gibeon,
and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.”
And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped,
until the nation took vengeance on their enemies.

Is this not written in the Book of Jashar? The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day. There has been no day like it before or since, when the Lord heeded the voice of a man, for the Lord fought for Israel.

So Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

Discussion

Just like this story of Joshua, a lot of times in our lives we are expected to do things that seem impossible. Sometimes it seems impossible to do things even God asks us to do. Joshua may have felt this way when he was facing an attack by five kingdoms and their armies. He may have been thinking, “This is impossible. I can never defeat all of these people.” He knew he needed God’s help.

Question 1

If Joshua thought this task was impossible then why did he still do it? He could have said “no” or ran away.

Joshua knows that God has commanded him to defeat their enemies. He also knows that God will always win. Joshua can find strength and courage in knowing that God is with him.

Question 2

Why did the sun stand still for an entire day?

Joshua prayed to God and asked him to make the sun stand still. He may have asked for the sun to stand still so that Joshua’s army could see using the sunlight. He may have been afraid that if the sun went down his army would not be able to see as well.

Joshua prayed to God and let God know what was on his heart and asked God for something. God knows our hearts. When we pray to him and ask him for things he knows what is best for us. He answers our prayer according to what he thinks is best for us because He loves us.

**Discussion**

Tell the children that Jesus asks us to do all that He commands, to always follow Him. This is the most difficult task of all, because it's asking us to be like God, which we could never do because of our sin. But when Jesus saves us, He gives us His Holy Spirit, and He empowers us to become more and more like God.

Wrap Up

Explain to the children that God has a plan for our lives. Tell them that God is a perfect Father who always does what is best for their lives. Remind them that Joshua prayed to God and asked Him for help. Tell them they can pray to God and ask for help just like Joshua did. Prayer is a very important way that we can communicate with God. Take this time to pray with the children. Encourage them to ask the Holy Spirit for help in becoming more and more like God. Encourage them to talk with their parents more about God and His plan for our lives. If anyone has questions about what it means to live by the Spirit and become more like God, have them ask their parents (and let the parents know their pastors are always willing to help out however they can).