



7.10.11/Joshua 10:42

### God as the Divine Warrior

#### Materials Needed

One strong adult and one child.

#### Read Joshua 10:42

And Joshua captured all these kings and their land at one time, because the Lord God of Israel fought for Israel.

#### Activity/Discussion:

Gather all the children in an area where there is a tall bookshelf or area where only an adult can reach. Ask for all of the children to stretch as high as they can on their tiptoes to grab something they see off the top shelf. When it's clear that none of them are tall enough, choose one of the children and have the adult lift them in the air so they can reach the item. Then ask, "Did (insert child's name) grab this item all on their own?" NO! Explain that just as (child's name) could not have grabbed the item on the top shelf without the complete help of the adult, we are able only able to do things in our lives because God enables us to do them. In today's passage, we'll see that even though Joshua and his armies captured many kings and their land, they were only successful because it was God who was fighting for them.

#### Questions:

1. God is powerful and has the authority to overcome any who oppose Him, even sin and death! God doesn't need a sword or a shield to fight against the struggles we are facing. In what ways does God "fight?" *As we saw in last week's passage, He may physically play a role in the fight. He may stop the sun so Joshua's enemies would not be able to hide in the dark. He may drop large stones from the sky to stop people. He may miraculously heal someone who is sick. But more often than not, God empowers you and me. He is interested in our reflecting HIM and displaying HIS power. In this way, He gets all the glory for every victory, and we are completely dependent on His strength alone.*

2. Read Psalm 124: 1-3, which says:

If the Lord had not been on our side—let Israel say—if the Lord had not been on our side when men attacked us, when their anger flared against us, they would have swallowed us alive.

What chance do we have against our struggles without God's help? *None!* In what ways do you try to fight your struggles without God? *Answers may include trying by your own strength to be nicer to a brother or sister (true, long-lasting kindness only happens as a fruit of the Holy Spirit living in our hearts) or being mean to someone in school who is making fun of you.* What can we do instead? *It's important to remember that when you follow Jesus, you are a PRECIOUS son or daughter of God, and it is only His Spirit who can help you when you need it – you can't do it yourself – you were never meant to – that's why we have Jesus! We can also pray for those who are against us and ask Jesus to help them.*

#### Final Discussion:

God is the one who wins the victories not just in the physical world like the battles that Joshua faced, but also the spiritual world. Sin is in every human heart and is a reflection of the brokenness in us. The punishment for that sin is death, and fighting against sin is a battle we could never win on our own. But God loves us greatly and would not let the enemy of sin have the final say. He sent his son Jesus to die on the cross, and in HIS death and resurrection, defeated the sin that holds us all captive. We could not defeat sin on our own. Christ had to come and live a perfect life, showing us how imperfect we are, and take on the punishment for all our disobedience. Christ did all the work. He alone won the victory over death. The good news is that if we choose to accept what Jesus did for us, we can be victorious as well IN HIM. Our victory in Christ allows us to spend the rest of



eternity with God! Acts 4:12 Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved.

**Reflection/Prayer**

Spend some time thanking God for always fighting on our behalf. Pray for more trust so that you may always rely on God's power instead of your own. Reflect on how Christ won the battle over sin for us. If you have more questions about Jesus or don't understand, make sure to talk to your parents about this as well.