



GLOBAL RECORDINGS NETWORK
PO Box 899
SEVEN HILLS NSW 1730
AUSTRALIA
Phone: +61 2 98992211
Email: au@globalrecordings.net
Web: globalrecordings.net/au

Look, Listen and Live

Book 3

Victory through GOD

**Sunday School Lessons
from Joshua and Judges**

Look,
Listen & Live



**Book 3
Victory through GOD**

Based on the Sunday School Lessons published by the AIC Sunday School Committee, Juba, Southern Sudan.

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INTRODUCTION

These lessons were written in response to some cries for help from young people who had been asked to teach in Sunday Schools. They are based on the Look, Listen and Live set of pictures (Book 3, brown cover) published by Global Recordings Network Australia (formerly Gospel Recordings), whom we would like to thank for permission to use their material and encouragement to go ahead with the project. These pictures are an all important visual aid in the lessons. A reproduction of the main picture or pictures needed in each lesson has been printed at its beginning.

This book deals only with the lesson section of the Sunday School and each is planned to last about twenty minutes. The rest of the Sunday School time, composed of singing, prayer, Bible reading, quizzes and other activities, is left to the teachers to plan. We recommend that each lesson should end with a short prayer and song based on that week's teaching. The lessons are aimed at a fairly wide age range of children from 7 to 12 years.

When they were first tried out, the teachers wrote each lesson out week by week in an exercise book so they were purposely kept quite short. Some lessons have been expanded but the idea was to give a fairly brief but comprehensive outline for the teacher to fill out during their own preparation.

The aim printed at the top of each story directs the teaching of that lesson. To make the lessons suitable for children, we cannot teach the whole truth about God in each lesson. Instead the teacher should concentrate on one or two truths in each lesson so that children gradually come to know more about God.

The lesson is not meant to be read to the class from the book. It aims to be the teacher's walking stick and not a pair of crutches.

AIC Sudan Sunday School Committee.

TEACHER INSTRUCTION

READ THIS BEFORE EVERY LESSON

Teacher's Preparation

Ask yourself these questions:

1. Have you prayed and asked GOD to help you prepare the lesson?
2. Have you read the plan of the lesson and learned the aim?
3. Have you read the Bible passage and do you know the story thoroughly?
4. Do you have your pictures, objects, questions and other teaching aids ready?
5. Have you planned your revision step?

Revision

This is where you make strong the meaning of the lesson. Do not take longer than 4 minutes. Use some of these ideas or plan your own ideas.

1. Show the picture again and get the children to tell you the story.
2. Plan a quiz.
3. Tell the students again the aim of the lesson.

Lesson 1 Joshua Fights the Amalekites

Picture 1

Aim

To show that victories are won through prayer.

Reading: Exodus 17:8-16

Memory Verse: Luke 18:1

Men should always pray and never become discouraged.



Lesson Plan

Introduction

Tell the Sunday School class about your efforts to do something which proved very difficult. You had to work at it for a long time before you succeeded. You could use the example of starting a car. After you press the starter several times, the engine won't go. You try with more choke but still no success. Finally some friends push the car and the engine starts.

If cars are not familiar to children, use another example such as lighting a charcoal burner or digging out a tree stump when there have been more than the usual difficulties.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Moses had a very difficult job to lead the Israelites, who were refugees from Egypt, across the desert to the land God had promised them. They faced many problems. There were many tribes who wanted to kill the Israelites. One tribe was called the Amalekites, v. 8.
2. Moses told Joshua, his second in command, to choose some Israelites and go and fight this fierce tribe, v. 9.
3. While Joshua and his few men were fighting, Moses was praying. Today we bow our heads when we pray but Moses held out his arms to God. He was asking for God's help, v. 10.
4. The battle went on a long time and Moses's arms grew tired. As long as Moses prayed the Israelites were winning the battle. Moses' companions Aaron and Hur helped, v. 11-12.
5. *Show picture 1.* Briefly review the story by looking at their picture and asking who the different people are. Point out that the Israelites won a victory over a large, fierce tribe because Moses prayed.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

After he became a Christian, a man called George Muller began to pray every day for five of his friends. After eighteen months the first friend became a Christian. Mr. Muller thanked God and prayed every day for the other four. Five years later the second friend became a Christian. Now there were three left. Mr. Muller continued praying, and six years later the third friend was converted. Mr. Muller had prayed every day for him for nearly thirteen years. The fourth friend became a Christian after George Muller had prayed for him for thirty-four years. The fifth and last friend was converted after George Muller had died. George Muller never gave up praying for his friends.

Repeat Memory Verse

Lesson 2 Twelve Israelites Visit the Promised Land

Picture 2

Aim

To show that we need to trust God for a victory and not let the difficulties make us doubt His power.

Reading: Numbers 13:1-2, 17-33; 14:20-25. Study the whole of Numbers Chapter 13 and 14 if you can.

Memory Verse: Numbers 14:9

The Lord is with us . . . so don't be afraid.



Lesson Plan

Introduction

Ask the Sunday school class if they like riding in a car. They will probably all say yes, especially the boys. But if you give a ride to a little child of about three years old, who has never been in

a car before, he will probably cry. He is frightened by the noise of the engine and does not like being bumped up and down. He wants to stop and get out of the car .

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Moses was leading the Israelites to the land of Canaan, which God had promised to give them. He sent out twelve men to find out what this land was like, 13:1-2.
2. These twelve men (one from each tribe) were told to see what kind of crops grew, whether the towns were strongly defended, and how many people there were, 13:17-20.
3. The men were away for forty days and brought back a report to Moses. They brought back fruit too, so big that two men had to carry it, 13:23, 25, 26.
4. *Show picture 2.* Joshua and Caleb are the two men in front of Moses with the large bunch of grapes, pomegranates and figs. The teacher can mention fruits like oranges which grow here, and also grow to a large size in Canaan (now called Israel).

The twelve men brought two different reports to Moses. They all said that the land was very good, 13:27, but ten of the men were frightened of the people. They were very strong and tall, they said. Three of these men are drawn in the picture and show their fear on their faces. One is showing how tall the men are, 13:28.

5. Caleb gave his report and advised Moses to go to the Promised Land now, 13:30. An argument began. Because the other ten men were so afraid, they even lied and said the land was not good enough, 13:31-33. They looked at all the difficulties, and forgot the power of God.

6. God was angry with the Israelites. They did not trust Him; and so He punished them. Only Joshua and Caleb entered the Promised Land. All the adult Israelites who had not trusted God died in the desert, 14:20-24.

Teach Memory Verse

Point out that these are Caleb's words to the Israelites.

Our Response to the Story

Ask the children to think about something they are worried about or frightened of, and tell them to take this fear to God, asking for His power to overcome it. Have a short time of prayer, when the children can silently do this.

Lesson 3 The Israelites Cross the River Jordan into the Promised Land

Picture 3

Aim

To show that God's followers have to step out in faith if they want victories over difficulties.

Reading: Joshua 3:1-7

Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:2

It was by their faith that people of ancient times won God's approval.



Lesson Plan

Introduction

If you go to a house and are given some different food to eat that you have never seen before, you will have to trust that the cook has prepared good food and not bad. Even if everyone tells you the food is good, you will have to taste it yourself. They cannot eat the food for you.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Forty years passed after Moses sent the twelve men into the Promised Land. Moses had died. Joshua was now the leader, and he took the people to the edge of the Promised Land, which was the River Jordan, 3:1.
2. How were all the people going to cross the river? It was deep, and there was no bridge. There were many children and animals. It was a big problem. God gave instructions to Joshua, 3:7.
3. The priests of Israel had a special box called the Ark or Covenant Box. It contained the laws which God gave to Moses. (See Exodus 25:20-21.) The priests were to carry the Covenant Box to the river. As soon as the feet of the priests touched the water, the river would dry up, 3:9-13.
4. The river was very full, but the priests had to step into the water. They could not just stand by the water; they had to step out in faith. As they obeyed God's instructions and stepped into the water, the river dried up. Describe what happened, 3:14-17.
5. *Show picture 3.* The priests are standing in the middle of the river with the Covenant Box and Joshua, in yellow clothes, is at the edge, while all the people cross the river safely.

Teach Memory Verse

In this story Joshua, the priests and the children of Israel are the "people of ancient times".

Our Response to the Story

Suggest to the class some examples of when we may have to step out in faith.

If a student has to change schools because his family has moved, he will have to trust God to give him good new friends, and that the new teacher will be understanding if this new class has reached a different place in the syllabus.

Lesson 4 Jericho's Walls Fall Down

Picture 4

Aim

To show that obedience to God's commands brings victory.

Reading: Joshua 6:1-21

Memory Verse: Hebrews 11:30

It was faith that made the walls of Jericho fall down after the Israelites had marched round them for seven days.



Lesson Plan

Practical Preparation before the Lesson

This is a good lesson to act as the teacher tells the story, but some preparations need to be made beforehand.

1. In the middle of the place where the Sunday school class meets, mark out a circle to represent Jericho. If this is not possible, the whole building can be Jericho, and the class can walk around it. (Or a table can represent the city.)
2. Tie a box on 2 poles. This can represent the Covenant Box. 4 children acting as the priests will carry it.
3. Bring seven pieces of paper about the size of an A4 sheet. Roll them up to make the priests' trumpets.

Introduction

Explain to the class that today they are going to be the children of Israel who will obey God's commands and capture the city of Jericho. Point out where you have arranged Jericho to be. Choose: Four children to carry the Covenant Box Seven children to be the priests who carry trumpets. Others should be the soldiers who walk behind the Covenant Box. (The teacher should be Joshua.)

Main Points of the Lesson

1. The teacher, as Joshua, can tell how God has instructed him to take the city of Jericho. It was well-defended with strong walls around it. If God's instructions were obeyed, they would take the city, 6:1-2.
2. Describe the instructions. Once a day for six days the Israelites were to walk around the city in a procession in the following order:
 - * the seven priests blowing their trumpets
 - * the four priests carrying the Covenant Box
 - * the Israelite soldiers, who were not to say a word.

Act this out with the class, 6:6-14.

3. Explain the action on the seventh day. The priests and soldiers walked around Jericho six times. On the seventh time, when the trumpets sounded a long note, Joshua gave the order, everyone shouted, and the walls fell down. Act this out with the class. They can clap their hands to make the noise of the walls falling down. Sing a chorus of praise as they return to their seats, 6:15, 16, 20.
4. *Show picture 4.* Point out the priests, the Covenant Box, the Israelite soldiers, the walls of Jericho. The Covenant Box was the sign to the Israelites that God was with them and it was His battle.
5. The Israelites were not to take anything from Jericho for themselves. All belonged to God. Only Rahab and her family were to be saved. Rahab had welcomed and protected the spies Joshua sent to Jericho. Show Rahab's house, marked by the red cord in the picture, 6:17-19; 2:15-18.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

The battle of Jericho was not won in the usual way. God wanted to test Israel's obedience to Him. Obeying God can often mean behaving differently from others in order to receive His blessing. Discuss practical examples of this different behaviour; eg. being honest; not cheating in exams, not keeping money that we saw someone else drop.

Lesson 5 The Battle of Ai

Picture 5

Aim

To show that disobedience to God brings defeat.

Reading: Joshua 7:1-13

Memory Verse: Proverbs 3:5

Trust in the Lord with all your heart. Never rely on what you know.



Lesson Plan

Introduction

When a woman wants to put a large container of water on her head, she asks someone to help her lift it up. It's too heavy for her to lift it to that position on her own. If she does try to do it by herself, some water is often spilt.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Joshua sent some Israelites to look at the city of Ai and the surrounding country, 7:2.
2. When these men reported back to Joshua, they said the battle would be so easy only a few soldiers needed to go. They did not ask God for His instructions. They put their faith in their own power, 7:3.
3. Describe what happened in the fight. The men of Ai overpowered the Israelites, who were afraid and ran away, 7:4-5. *Show picture 5.* The Israelites are being chased away by the soldiers from Ai. Introduce this week's memory verse. The Israelites did not trust God but relied on what they had found out about Ai for themselves.
4. Joshua and the elders of Israel were very upset. They cried out their troubles to God. What would all their enemies in this land think of them now? They would laugh at them. They would defeat the Israelites, 7:6-9.
5. God was angry with Joshua and the Israelites. So they lost the battle because they had disobeyed His instructions and taken something out of Jericho for themselves, and had relied on their own strength.

The teacher can refer back to the story in the Introduction <197> the water is spilt when the woman tries to lift the container alone. Do not tell the story of Achan, as this is the next lesson, 7:1, 10-12.

6. Joshua was told to get the Israelites ready to confess their disobedience to God. After that they would win the fight against Ai, 7:13.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

If someone drinks dirty water, he will be ill. When we disobey God, we sin and are defeated by problems. If we want to put our relationship right with God, we must obey His instructions and trust Him.

Repeat Memory Verse

Lesson 6 The Judgment of Achan

Picture 6

Aim

To show that sin cannot be hidden from God, who must judge sin.

Reading: Joshua 7:1, 15-25; 8:1-2

Memory Verse: Numbers 32:23

Make no mistake about it; you will be punished for your sin.



Lesson Plan

Introduction

Ask the class what would happen if you put your hand into a pot of boiling porridge. They will tell you that your hand will be badly burnt. Mothers tell small children not to put their hands in the porridge, but a child may want it so badly he will not listen. He disobeys and burns his hand.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Achan was an Israelite soldier. Describe how he walked around the walls of Jericho behind the Covenant Box. *Show picture 4.* When the walls fell down, Achan went into the city with the other soldiers.
2. Achan knew God's command about the city. The gold, silver, bronze and iron were to be saved for the Lord's work, but everything else was to be destroyed, 6:17, 24.
3. But Achan saw some beautiful things in Jericho, some gold, silver and cloth. He wanted them very badly. He looked around to see no-one was watching him and hid them in his clothes. He ran home and buried them in his tent. He thought no-one saw him, but he had disobeyed God's instructions, 7:1.
4. God knew Achan had disobeyed Him. God allowed the Israelites to be defeated at Ai. *Show picture 5.* God told Joshua that he must find out who had been disobedient, 7:12, 13.
5. Early next morning all the twelve tribes walked past Joshua. God showed Joshua that the disobedience was in the tribe of Judah. Then each clan of the tribe, each family and finally each person of that family walked past Joshua. Achan was picked out, 7:16-18.
6. Joshua told Achan to confess his disobedience. Achan did, and the stolen things were found in his tent. Achan had never enjoyed them; they had always been hidden, 7:19-22. *Show picture 6.*
Joshua, in yellow, is pointing to Achan, who is kneeling. The priest stands behind Joshua.
7. Achan was put to death because of his disobedience. He deliberately did what God told him not to do. He took what belonged to God. 7:24-26.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

Disobedience is sin. Sin cannot be hidden. God must judge sin because He is holy. All this is illustrated in the Introduction story. It is a law that fire burns our skins. So God, because He is holy, must punish sin. Achan had to suffer his own punishment for sin. How much we need to thank God for sending Jesus to take the punishment for our sin.

Revise the memory verse John 3:16.

Lesson 7 God Lengthens One Day

Picture 7

Aim

To show how God gave a miracle to Joshua so that Israel's enemies could be defeated.

Reading: Joshua 10:1-15

Memory Verse: Joshua 10:8

The Lord said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them. I have already given you the victory."



Lesson Plan

Introduction

Begin this lesson by talking about the number of daylight hours in each day. Near the equator there are twelve hours of daylight every day, and twelve hours of darkness. There is nothing we can do to change this. If we want light after the sun has set, we have to use electric power or a lamp. We cannot stop the sun rising or setting.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Joshua had a big battle to fight. It was going to be very difficult to do all he wanted to in one day. He was going to run out of time. Describe how Joshua faced many enemies in the Promised Land. Five strong tribes (do not mention their names) all joined together to fight the tribe of Gibeon, with whom Joshua had made a treaty of friendship. The Gibeonites sent to Joshua for help, 10:1-6.
2. Joshua took all his soldiers, which was very different from the first battle at Ai, 7:3. He marched all night to join the Gibeonites against all the other tribes. God gave Joshua a promise, 10:7-9. Repeat the memory verse.
3. Before daylight Joshua attacked the enemy. When they ran, Joshua and his soldiers chased after them. God sent a storm of hailstones, which killed more of the enemy than Joshua's soldiers, 10:10-11. *Show picture 7.*

Keep the picture in view as you tell the rest of the story.

4. But Joshua was running out of time. He did not want the day to end before the fight was won. Joshua told the sun and the moon to stand still. God allowed this to happen until Israel finished defeating their enemies. There has never been another day like this. God gave Israel victory over these wicked tribes of Canaan through this miracle, 10:12-14.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

Sometimes when there has been drought some of the Christian Churches have held special prayer meetings for rain. At times rain came soon after and many people witnessed God's power at work in answering prayer and sending the rain. On other occasions delayed the rain.

Lesson 8 The Leader Joshua Says Goodbye

Picture 8

Aim

To show how Joshua challenged the Israelites to follow God faithfully; and that God always keeps His promises.

Reading: Joshua 23:1-16; 24:1-31

Memory Verse: Joshua 23:14

Every one of you knows in his heart and soul that the Lord your God has given you all the good things that He promised.



Lesson Plan

Introduction

Ask the class about the position of older people in your community. It is usual to find that their words are respected. Great importance is given to the last words of an older person when he is about to die.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Joshua was an old man. Many years had now passed since the Israelites crossed the River Jordan into the Promised Land of Canaan. They were now living more peacefully in that land. Joshua called the people together to say goodbye to them because he would soon die, 23:1-3.
2. Joshua reminded the people how God had kept His promises. He had brought them safely out of Egypt to the Promised Land. He had given them victories over their enemies. (Lessons 1, 4 and 7) By asking questions about them, briefly review these lessons, pointing out how God kept His promises, 24:6-8, 11-13.
3. Joshua warned the Israelites that there was still more land to be conquered. He told them to be strong and careful to obey God's law, 23:4-6, 8-11. *Show picture 8.*
4. Joshua challenged the people to decide whom they were going to serve. If they faithfully served God, He would continue to keep His promises to them. If they disobeyed and forgot God and His laws, like Achan, they would lose the land, 23:11, 14-16.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

Ask the class to tell you what God has promised us. God has certainly promised us the gift of everlasting life if we are obeying Jesus Christ and have given our lives to follow Him.

Lesson 9 Deborah Speaks for God

Picture 9

Aim

To show how Deborah encouraged the Israelites to trust in God for victory over their enemies.

Reading: Judges 4:1-10

Memory Verse: Psalms 34:8

Find out for yourself how good the Lord is. Happy are those who find safety with Him.



Lesson Plan

Introduction

Make up a story or act a little play about two friends called Wani and Juma going to buy a packet of biscuits. Wani, who has the money, promises to share the biscuits with Juma. Wani buys the biscuits and eats them all very quickly while Juma is looking elsewhere. Wani has broken his promise and Juma is upset.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. The Israelites broke their promise to Joshua. They said they would follow God's laws, but they forgot and followed the wicked ways of the tribes around them. Because of their disobedience God allowed them to be conquered by tribes who were very cruel and who treated the Israelites very badly, Joshua 23:14-16; Judges 4:1-3.

2. Deborah was an Israelite woman who faithfully followed God.

Describe how she sat under a palm tree between two big towns so that people could come to her with their problems, Judges 4:5-6. *Show picture 9.*

3. One day Deborah called Barak, an Israelite soldier, to come and see her. The Israelites had turned back to God and asked for His help against their enemies. Barak was to lead the army, Judges 4:3, 6-7. Barak is dressed green in the picture. *Show picture 9.*

4. But Barak was afraid. The enemy leader, Sisera, had many soldiers and chariots (fast carts on wheels). Barak would only lead the Israelite soldiers if Deborah went with them, Judges 4:7-9.

5. Deborah agreed to go with the army, but warned Barak the honour of the victory over Sisera would not go to him now, but to a woman, Judges 4:9-10.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

Barak had an important and difficult job to do, but his faith in God was weak. Deborah encouraged him. It is very important to encourage others in their walk with God. Ask God to give you a Christian friend, if you don't have one, so you can help each other.

Lesson 10 God Gives the Israelites Victory over Sisera

Picture 10

Aim

To show that obedience to God brings victory.

Reading: Judges 4:10-16; 5:19-22

Memory Verse: Psalms 62:6

God alone protects and saves me; He is my defender.



Lesson Plan

Introduction

Describe how you feel when you have something difficult to do and you are very nervous. Your mouth goes dry, you have an uncomfortable feeling in your stomach and you perspire. Perhaps you find it difficult to speak.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Barak, the leader of the Israelite army, must have felt like this when he led his small group of soldiers to Mount Tabor to meet the enemy leader Sisera. The Canaanite enemy had many more soldiers and 900 chariots. The Israelites only had swords, 4:7.
2. But Barak and Deborah, the prophetess (God's teacher), were obeying God's instructions. The two armies came against each other and Deborah encouraged the Israelites, 4:12-14.
3. Sisera and Canaanites came to the river valley near Mount Tabor, but their chariot wheels could not go over the rough paths through the hills. Then God sent a rainstorm. The river flooded and some of the chariots were washed away; others got stuck in the mud, 4:10; 5:21. *Show picture 10.* Notice Deborah up on the hill praying and encouraging the Israelites.
4. God gave the Israelites victory over the Canaanites, who had more soldiers and better weapons. Only Sisera, the leader, escaped and ran away on foot, 4:15-16.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

When the Israelites were ready to listen to God through Deborah, He gave them victory over their enemies. Our enemy is Satan. When we are tempted to do wrong or to forget God, we should ask God for His help and power. With God's power, Satan can be defeated and temptations overcome.

Lesson 11 Jael Kills Sisera

Picture 11

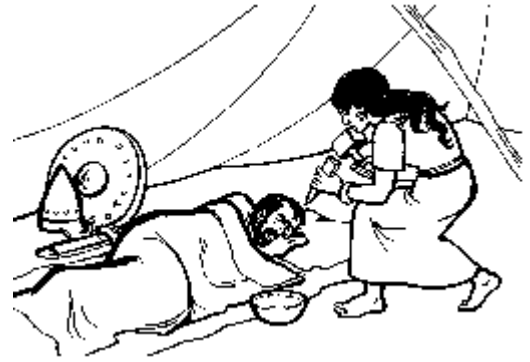
Aim

To show how Sisera, the leader of a wicked tribe, died in a terrible way.

Reading: Judges 4:17-24

Memory Verse: Galatians 6:7

No one makes a fool of God. A person will reap exactly what he sows.



Lesson Plan

Introduction

When a farmer wants to sow seeds in his field, he buys the best seed that he can. He knows good seed will produce a good crop, but poor seed will yield very little or nothing.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. What is true of seeds is true in our lives. The way we behave can affect our health and strength and the way we die. Sisera was a soldier from a wicked and cruel Canaanite tribe. When he saw that the Israelites were going to have victory, he ran away from the battle field, 4:15. *Show picture 10.* Briefly review the last lesson using the picture.
2. Sisera went to the tent of a woman called Jael. She welcomed him, as she was not an Israelite. Sisera hid in her tent. She gave him milk to drink and covered him with a blanket. Sisera thought he was safely hidden and went to sleep, 4:17-19.
3. While Sisera was fast asleep, Jael took a wooden peg and hammered it right through Sisera's head - a very terrible death, 4:21. *Show picture 11.*
4. When Barak, the leader of the Israelite soldiers came looking for Sisera, Jael showed him his dead enemy, 4:22.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

Sisera had a terrible death at the hands of a woman. God gave us our lives to worship Him. Sisera did not do that, and God allowed him to meet death in a terrible way. The Bible is full of stories of the way people lived their lives. This story of Sisera and Jael gives us two examples to avoid.

Lesson 12 Israel Celebrates

Picture 12

Aim

To show how Israel praised God when He gave them victory over their enemies.

Reading: Judges 5:1-31

Memory Verse: Judges 5:11

Listen! The noisy crowds round the wells are telling of the Lord's victories, the victories of Israel's people!



Lesson Plan

Introduction

When people wait to fill their jerry cans with water at the pump, they often talk about what has been happening in the community. It's a place to hear the news.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. When the Israelites went to get water at the wells after the battle against Sisera and his army, they talked about the victory God had given them. Say the memory verse.
2. The people decided to have a celebration, to say thank you to God. The people sang songs of praise to God, played musical instruments and danced. *Show picture 12.*
3. Deborah and Barak sang a song of thanks to God. 5:1. All the people rejoiced. They were very glad to have leader like Deborah. She was like a mother to them 5:7-15. *Show pictures 9 and 10.*
4. Jael was praised too. She was not afraid of Sisera, 5:24-27. *Show picture 11.*
5. The people praised and thanked God for His great power. He sent the rain which made the paths impossible for Sisera's chariots, 5:2-5.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

Ask the class to tell you the differences between a celebration by Christians and by pagans. A pagan celebration can often end in quarrels and fights, because beer and alcoholic drinks are used to make people feel happy. The Christian's happiness is from the joy that God gives.

Perhaps the Sunday school could make up a song about the victories or gifts God has given them.

Lesson 13 Gideon and the Angel of God

Picture 13

Aim

To show how God called Gideon, a young and unimportant man, to save His people.

Reading: Judges 6:1-23

Memory Verse: 2 Corinthians 12:9

My grace is all you need, for my power is strongest when you are weak.



Lesson Plan

Introduction

Talk to the class about the position and importance of different people in the family. Often a person is important because of the position they have. The eldest son is important because of his position. He can ask the father for things because he is the eldest.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. The position of everyone in Israel was very bad. They had forgotten all Deborah had taught them about God. Now some years later they had been conquered again by different enemies who stole from them. Put Judges 6:1-6 into your own words.
2. The people remembered God and cried out to Him for help; so God called a leader and began to train him. A young man called Gideon was beating or threshing some grain, which he was trying to hide from his enemies, the Midianites.
3. Suddenly an angel from God appeared to Gideon, and told him, "You are a strong brave man: go and lead Israel to victory against your enemies, the Midianites," 6:11-12, 4.
4. Gideon was surprised. "How can I save Israel? I am a nobody. I have no position." Gideon was a young man from a small and unimportant tribe. The messenger told him that with God's help, he could do it, 6:15-16.
5. Gideon wanted to know for certain that the angel was from God and went to prepare an offering of food. The angel waited while Gideon prepared it, 6:17-19.
6. Gideon offered the food to the angel, who touched it with his stick. The offering burst into flames. *Show picture 13.* Then the angel disappeared. Gideon knew the message was from God, 6:20-24.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

God often chooses those who are unimportant or weak to do His work. With His help and power, they become leaders. Here are some examples of this in African church leaders today.

Silivanus Wani earned money as a houseboy to go to primary school. God led him to become Archbishop of the Church of Uganda.

Ang'apoza Etsea was an orphan. God led him to become president of CECA (Africa Inland Church of Zaire).

Pastor Peter Mualuko was a stone cutter from a pagan family. God led him to become a missionary to the Turkana of Kenya and the Taposa of Sudan.

Teach Memory Verse

Lesson 14 Gideon Destroys the Idols

Picture 14

Aim

To show that God is far greater than any idols made of wood or stone. God is all powerful, but idols are powerless.

Reading: Judges 6:25-32, Isaiah 44:9-20

Memory Verse: Isaiah 44:9

All those who make idols are worthless, and the gods they praise so highly are useless.



Lesson Plan

Introduction

Ask the class to tell you the name of some things which have power, like the motor car, or an electric generator, which gives light. Then ask them to tell you some other things which have no power like a stone or wood.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Our God is the source of all power, but the Israelites forgot that. They also forgot all the victories God had given them over their enemies. They worshipped gods made out of wood and stone. These were the idols of the Canaanite tribes, who were the enemies of Israel.
2. God told Gideon to cut down these idols made of wood and stone. The stones were to be used to make an altar to God, and the wood for the fire, 6:25-26.
3. Gideon was so frightened that he and ten men did the work at night. *Show picture 14.* Gideon wanted to obey God, but he was frightened by what people in the town would say, 6:27.
4. When the town people found out what had happened to their gods, they were very angry, and wanted to kill Gideon, 6:28-30.
5. But Gideon's father protected him. "If Baal and Asherah" (the names of these idols) "are powerful they will punish Gideon," he said. Nothing happened, because Baal and Asherah were just wood and stone: they were powerless, 6:31-32.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

Nearly twenty years ago a few Christians in the Kerio valley in Kenya prepared an airstrip. They had to cut down trees and move big boulders. They wanted a Christian Medical Safari to come to this isolated area bringing the Gospel as well as medical help. In the process, the Christians destroyed two big ant hills, which were believed to be sacred and powerful. The anthills were destroyed.

The Christians knew there was no power in them, and were not afraid to break them down. Today there are many Christian churches in that area.

Lesson 15 Gideon's Army Drinks Water

Picture 15

Aim

To show that God's power is sufficient.

Reading: Judges 7:1-7

Memory Verse: Psalm 98:1

By His own power and holy strength God has won the victory.



Lesson Plan

Introduction

Ask the class what they think a soldier should be like. Here are some suggestions. He must be brave, well-trained, obedient to his commanders, and alert.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. God called Gideon to lead the soldiers of Israel against the very large army of their enemy, the Midianites, 7:1.
2. God instructed Gideon to choose his soldiers in an unusual way. Many men from Israel came to join Gideon's army. But God said to Gideon, "You have too many men. Anyone who is afraid should go back home." Twenty-two thousand men returned home, 7:2-3.
3. God said to Gideon again, "There are still too many men. Take them down to the river to drink and I will choose the ones to fight," 7:4.
4. Gideon took the men to the river to drink. *Show picture 15.* Gideon watched the men drink. Many of them knelt down and drank like a dog does. Only three hundred men drank the water from their hands. God told Gideon to take the three hundred men only, to fight the very large Midianite army, 7:4-7.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

God only allowed Gideon three hundred soldiers against all the Midianites, so that they would see that only His power is needed, and would praise Him for their victory, 7:2. God does not need the strength of big numbers.

Soon after Zaire gained independence, a civil war began. The rebel soldiers, called 'Simbas', opposed Christianity. The Christians were frightened and believed the Simbas would kill them.

"This is God's work," said Akudri, a church leader. "We will preach to the Simbas. They need it more than our people do." Akudri was arrested, and six shots were fired at him. They all missed. Akudri was released and went on preaching. The church grew.

Lesson 16 Gideon's Three Hundred Defeat the Midianites

Picture 16

Aim

To show that God's power gave Gideon the victory over the enemy.

Reading: Judges 7:8-22

Memory Verse: Judges 7:18

The Lord is giving you victory over the Midianite army.



Lesson Plan

Introduction

Ask the class what equipment they think an army needs when it goes into battle. It will need well-trained soldiers, guns, tanks and ammunition, as well as radios to keep in contact with the headquarters.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Gideon was leading the Israelites against the large army of the Midianites. They had more men and camels than anyone could count. Gideon only had three hundred men, but God told him what to do, 7:8-9.
2. God encouraged Gideon by telling him to go with his servant Purah, secretly down to the Midianite camp, and listen to what they were saying about the Israelites, 7:9-10.
3. Describe how Gideon and Purah went and heard the Midianite soldiers talking. They were very frightened of Gideon and his little group of soldiers because they knew God was with Gideon, 7:11-15.
4. Gideon was encouraged by what he heard, but he gave his three hundred soldiers some unusual instructions and weapons. Describe how the soldiers were divided into three groups with one hundred in each. Every soldier was given a trumpet and a light inside a jar as well as his sword. Everyone had to watch Gideon and follow his example, 7:16-18.
5. Gideon led his soldiers to the Midianite camp. Describe what happened in 7:19-20. Each student can act this as the teacher tells the story. Everyone can blow through their hands to make the sound of the trumpets, and clap their hands to represent the jars breaking. The teacher could use a torch to make the light, and then everyone can shout, "A sword for the Lord and for Gideon."
6. The Sunday school class will make a loud noise, but Gideon's three hundred made a greater one. The Midianites were so frightened, some started fighting each other, while the rest ran away, 7:21. *Show picture 16.* God gave Gideon the victory.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

Cici is a little seven year old girl from a poor home in an Asian town, who likes to go to a Bible Club called Happy Wednesday with about seventy others. One day she arrived there when it was almost dark, long after everything was over. "I'm sorry I'm late," she said, "but when it was time to come my Dad locked me up in a room. He doesn't like me coming. I love hearing about Jesus. I prayed, what shall I do?" The leader and Cici prayed and arranged for her to come another day. God gave the little girl a victory.

Lesson 17 Samson the Strong Man

Picture 17

Aim

To show that God gives abilities to the leaders He has chosen.

Reading: Judges 13:1-5, 24-25; 14:1-20

Memory Verse: Judges 13:25

And the Lord's power began to strengthen Samson.



Lesson Plan

Introduction

Ask the students what they think a good man is like. How does he behave?

Some answers could include bravery, ability to work hard and strength.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Once again after Gideon died, the Israelites turned away from God. So God let the cruel Philistines rule them, 13:1-5. An Israelite called Manoah had no children. One day an angel told Manoah's wife that she would have a very special son, who would rescue Israel from the Philistines.
2. Manoah's son was called Samson. The Spirit of God made him very strong, 13:24-25. His long hair was the sign of his strength.
3. When Samson grew up he asked his parents to arrange for his marriage to a Philistine girl. The parents were sad about this, but Samson insisted, so they agreed. Samson believed he should marry a Philistine in order to quarrel with her people and set the Israelites free from Philistine rule, 14:1-4.
4. On the way to meet the girl, Samson met a lion. God's power made Samson so strong he killed the lion on his own, with just his hands, 14:5-6. *Show picture 17.*
5. Some time later, on the way to the wedding, Samson found that bees had made a nest inside the lion's dead body. Samson enjoyed the honey, 14:7-9.
6. At his wedding, to entertain his guests, Samson thought of what had just happened, and turned it into a riddle or puzzle, 14:14. If anyone guessed the answer, Samson would give him a prize of a new suit of clothes, 14:10-14.
7. The guests could not think of the answer. They became angry. "Samson is trying to trick us," they said. They even threatened the bride, 14:15. Describe how the bride tricked the answer out of Samson, 14:16-17.
8. When the men guests gave Samson the right answer, he knew they had tricked his wife. He was angry. The new clothes he had promised to the guests came from thirty Philistines whom Samson went and killed in another town.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

What gift did God give Samson? It was the gift of great strength; but Samson used it for his own enjoyment and to satisfy his anger with the Philistines. This story is a warning to us. God gives us abilities and gifts to enjoy and also to help others. We enjoy our gifts most when we share them with others.

Lesson 18 Samson and the Burning Foxes

Picture 18

Aim

To show that Samson's revenge did not bring victory over the Philistines.

Reading: Judges 15:1-8

Memory Verse: James 1:19

Everyone must be quick to listen, but slow to speak and slow to become angry.



Lesson Plan

Introduction

Begin the lesson by acting a little drama, which has been prepared beforehand. Two students both claim the same pen or exercise book. Both of them say it is theirs. An argument begins, bad words are said and then a fight starts.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. A wedding should be a happy celebration, but Samson's wedding ended in anger, and he went off without his bride. Some time later Samson went back to the Philistines to fetch her, but her father had given her to the best man, 15:1-2.
2. This made Samson so angry that he took terrible revenge on the Philistines. He caught 300 foxes and tied them together by their tails. Then he tied burning torches to the foxes and let them go in the Philistines' crops. All their harvest was burnt, 15:3-5. *Show picture 18.*
3. The Philistines were so angry they took revenge on Samson's wife and her father, but Samson returned and took his revenge by killing many more Philistines, 15:6-8.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

This lesson has been about anger and revenge. Did taking revenge solve the problems? No, it made the problems worse. Refer to the drama in the Introduction. Did the fight solve the problem of who owned the book or pen? No, it made the problem much worse. Anger, when it is uncontrolled, makes problems much worse. We need to ask God's help for victory over anger. The memory verse tells us what to do.

Lesson 19 Samson Loses his Gift of Strength

Picture 19

Aim

To show that when Samson disobeyed God, his gift of strength left him.

Reading: Judges 16:4-20

Memory Verse: Proverbs 14:17

People with a hot temper do foolish things; wiser people remain calm.



Lesson Plan

Introduction

If someone keeps asking you a question which you don't want to answer, you may pretend not to hear them, or just walk away. If the person goes on and on asking, you may get so tired of it you will finally tell them the answer.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Everyone kept asking the same question: "Why is Samson so strong?" Samson loved a woman named Delilah. She kept asking Samson the same question: "What is the secret of your strength?" 16:4.
2. Delilah was not faithful to Samson. The Philistine chiefs promised Delilah money if she could find out the secret of Samson's strength, 16:5.
3. The first time Delilah asked Samson this question, he told her to tie him up with seven new bow strings. Delilah did so, and cried out, "Samson, the Philistines are coming!" Samson's great strength broke the bow strings, and he went off free. The waiting Philistines were disappointed, 16:6-9.
4. Continue the story in the same way, with Samson's next two answers to Delilah's same question. Tying him up with new ropes, 16:10-12, and attaching his hair to a heavy loom (a machine that cloth is made on) could not hold Samson, 16:13-14.
5. Delilah got more and more upset with Samson's answers while Samson got tired of her continual questions. To keep her quiet he told her the truth. His long hair was the sign of his God-given strength, 16:15-17.
6. Describe what happened in your own words. Delilah sang Samson to sleep and the Philistines came and cut off his hair. *Show picture 19.* When Delilah woke Samson up with her shout, Samson could not escape. He was taken by the Philistines, 16:18-20.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

Samson did not honour God in the way he used his God-given strength. Suppose someone who had just been given a \$100 note as a gift tore it up and threw it away. You would be very surprised, because the gift had been wasted. Samson was like this. He wasted the gift God had given him. God allowed Samson to be punished to teach him the value of his gift.

Samson had a hot temper and did some foolish things.

Lesson 20 Samson Destroys the Philistines

Picture 20

Aim

To show that God gave Samson victory over the Philistines, but because of his previous disobedience, he did not live to see it.

Reading: Judges 16:21-30

Memory Verse: Psalm 51:1

Be merciful to me, O God, because of your constant love.



Lesson Plan

Introduction

If you watch a group of dogs or chickens, you will notice that they all attack the weakest one to drive it away.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. Samson had been a very strong man. *Show picture 19* and briefly review the story. He had lost his God-given strength because of his disobedience and ungodly way of life. Now he had been captured by the Philistines.
2. The Philistine leaders had put out his eyes and made him work in a grinding mill walking round and round to turn the big stones, 16:21.
3. The Philistine leaders made a sacrifice to their idol Dagon. They sent for Samson so they could make fun of him, 16:23-27.
4. Samson turned to God and asked for his strength to be returned. God answered Samson, 16:28.
5. Samson leaned on the pillars holding up the roof, and pulled the house down in top of them all, 16:29-30. *Show picture 20.*
6. Samson and all the Philistine leaders died together. God gave Samson victory over the Philistines, but because of his disobedience, he did not live to see it.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

The story of Samson's life is a warning to us. God gave him a great gift, but he did not see a lasting victory over his enemies as Deborah and Gideon had. We can thank God that Jesus has been sent to show us the way to everlasting victory over evil and disobedience.

Lesson 21 Jesus Drives Out Evil

Picture 21

Aim

To show that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, has defeated Satan and all evil powers.

Reading: Luke 8:26-39

Memory Verse: Luke 8:39

Go back home and tell what God has done for you.



Lesson Plan

Introduction

Ask one of the older students to come out in front of the class. Choose about six others to come and stand around him in a circle. When the teacher says, "Go", they must all at the same time tell him to do lots of different things: stand up, sit down, jump, raise your arms, clap your hands, shout, laugh, etc.

The person in the middle will be so confused he will not know what to do.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. One day Jesus met a man who was very confused. He had so many evil spirits living in him, each giving him different orders, that they drove him mad. Jesus lived many years after Joshua, Gideon and Samson, whose victories with God's power we have heard about. Jesus is God's Son; He has defeated Satan, and has victory over all evil spirits.
2. Describe how the man lived, 8:27. When he met Jesus the evil spirits recognised Him as God's Son and knew He had power over them. The man was very frightened by what the spirits might do to him because of Jesus, 8:28-29.
3. Jesus ordered the evil spirits to leave the man. (His name was Mob, which means a large number of angry people.) These demons were forced to leave Mob at Jesus' command. They were allowed to go into the pigs, who immediately drowned themselves in the lake, 8:30-33. *Show picture 21.*
4. Then Mob was like a new person. He asked if he could stay with Jesus, but instead Jesus gave him a new job to do. He was a changed person, 8:35, 38-39.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

Yoane Akudri, a young Zairean Christian was summoned back to his village when his eldest cousin died. "You must take your place as leader of the dance of sorrow," he was told. "That is what we trained you to be." How could a Christian take part in this? But how could he hurt his relatives, whom he'd not seen for a year?

He thought and prayed, and then said, "My dear brothers and sisters, I know your fear and sorrow. You fear because of this witch doctor and the power you think he has. I too have believed all my life as you do, but I have now come to know Jesus Christ. I will have nothing to do with the dance. I will show you a better path."

The witch doctor screamed, "Akudri is the prince of devils! Kill him!" He started after him with a razor sharp knife, but fell down in a convulsion. A higher power was in control.

Taken from Akudri by Peter Brashler

Lesson 22 Jesus Drives out Evil Men

Picture 22

Aim

To show that Jesus has the authority to rebuke evil.

Reading: Mark 11:15-18; John 2:13-21

Memory Verse: Mark 11:17

My temple will be called a house of prayer for the people of all nations. But you have turned it into a hideout for thieves.



Lesson Plan

Introduction

Ask the class to tell you what activities take place in the church.

They will probably say things like singing, praying and Bible teaching.

There are also celebrations, as at Easter and Christmas.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. When Jesus went to the Temple or House of God, where the Jews worshipped God, He found some very different activities going on. There was singing and teaching and worship offered to God. But before Jesus died as our sacrifice for sin, the Jews had to bring animal sacrifices to worship God. Animals for sacrifice were being sold in the Temple compound. But special money was needed to buy the animals, so ordinary money had to be changed.
2. Jesus saw that the traders were cheating the people. Their prices were too high. The money changers were not being fair. Jesus was angry, but it was not like the anger of Samson, John 2:13, 14. Jesus anger was controlled.
3. *Show picture 22.* Jesus drove the wicked traders and their animals outside. Jesus is God's Son. He had the right, the authority and the power to drive evil men out of His Father's house.

Say the memory verse.

Some Jews were angry and questioned Jesus's right to do it, John 2:15-18; Mark 11:15, 16.

NOTE: Jesus drove the wicked traders out of the temple twice in His ministry on earth. The first time was at the beginning of his ministry; this is the story told in John's Gospel. The second time was during the week before His crucifixion; this is the story told in Mark's Gospel.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

God wants us to honour Him when we worship Him. We can do this when we have fun as well as when we are serious. God looks at our hearts to see if we mean what we are saying, singing or doing, or whether we are just playing. Read Psalm 150. This Psalm is an example of how

God wants us to worship Him in His house.

Lesson 23 Jesus is Alive after Death

Picture 23

Aim

To show that Jesus had victory over death and is alive now.

Reading: Matthew 18:16-20

Memory Verse: Ephesians 1:22

God put all things under Christ's feet, and gave Him to the church as supreme Lord over all things.



Lesson Plan

Introduction

Ask the class who is the head of their family, their tribe, the state, the country. You do not need to hear actual names of people, just the position (father, chief, governor).

Main Points of the Lesson

1. God has put Jesus at the head of the church. Say the memory verse. Why has God done this? Today's picture will help us understand.
2. *Show picture 23.* Jesus is shown talking to His followers on a hill outside Jerusalem. Point to Jerusalem in the picture. Jesus had been sentenced to death by the government, the religious leaders and all the people in Jerusalem. He had died on a cross between two thieves. Show the crosses in the picture. Jesus, God's Son allowed Himself to be put to death, Matthew 27:33-44.
3. But God's Son Jesus could not remain dead. God raised Him to life. He defeated death. He can never die again. Point to the empty tomb with the large stone beside it in the picture.
4. Jesus called His disciples together and told them, "I have been given all authority in heaven and on earth." The disciples were to go to all people and tell them about Jesus, so that they too could follow and obey Him. Jesus promised His presence with them. He promised victory over sin and evil powers. Jesus' words are said to us now.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

Before Zaire's independence, some members of the colonial government tried to limit the spread of the protestant church. Yoane Akudri was a gifted and important church leader, whom the government arrested so that they could move him somewhere else. "That will be all right with me," said Yoane. "This gospel is not for the Kakwas only, but for all of our country." The government official was so impressed by Yoane's witness that he released him.

From Akudri by Peter Brashler.

Lesson 24 A Soldier for God

Picture 24

Aim

To show how God equips every Christian to be a victorious soldier.

Reading: Ephesians 6:10-18

Memory Verse: Ephesians 6:12

Put on all the armour that God gives you, so that you will be able to stand up against the devil's evil tricks.



Lesson Plan

Introduction

Everyone who lives in Juba has seen the soldiers in the town. Children like to watch them marching on the parade ground, and to run along beside the band when it plays.

Main Points of the Lesson

1. In the Bible there are many stories about soldiers. Joshua and Gideon both became soldiers and led the Israelites. Jesus calls us to be soldiers in His Christian army. Our armour and weapons are a little different from what the normal soldier has. The Christian is fighting against Satan and his unseen powers of evil, 6:12-13.
2. *Show picture 24.* The soldier is dressed like the Roman ones who lived when Jesus was on the earth. We shall look at each part of the soldier's armour and see what it means to the Christian, 6:16.
3. The soldier in the picture is ready facing the danger. He has a belt around his waist keeping the whole of his armour close to his body. (This belt is a little difficult to see in the picture as it is hidden behind the arm.) The belt stands for truth. The Christian soldier must be truthful and his life must show the truth of what he says. If he is thought to be playing or pretending, he will not be trusted, 6:13-14.
4. The breast plate protects the heart. When we think of the heart, we think of love. The Christian soldier wants to love God and his neighbours. The breast plate protects him from Satan putting evil desires in his heart, 6:14.
5. The soldier must have good shoes: he has to walk many miles. Wherever the Christian soldier goes he must be ready to take the gospel of peace. This will stop him slipping into Satan's ways, 6:15.
6. The soldier is holding up a shield to protect him from fiery arrows. These are the attacks and temptations Satan sends to the Christian. The shield stands for faith or trust in God to keep us safe, 6:16.
7. The soldier wears a helmet to protect his head. Our brain, which exercises power over our bodies, is in our heads. Jesus, through his death, has saved us from the power of death. The helmet is like salvation saving the Christian soldier from sin and death.
8. The soldier has one weapon, and this is all he needs because it is such a wonderful one. The sword stands for God's Word, the Bible. The Christian must read it; then he will know the difference between Satan's lies and God's truth.

Teach Memory Verse

Our Response to the Story

Followers of Jesus Christ need the armour that Jesus has provided to give them victory over Satan.

If the Sunday school has a blackboard, the teacher can draw simple pictures of the Christian's armour, asking the class what each piece represents. Write the answer beside each picture.