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WELCOME TO DISCIPLESHIP JR.!


Discipleship Jr. is a Bible-based, in-depth program that harnesses the power of *FUN* to build young disciples through interaction with Bible truth and with each other.

A complete, multiage children's ministry program, *Discipleship Jr.* is packed full of interactive stories and drama, Scripture memory, and themed snacks and activities that will engage every child! It's guaranteed effective because its principles and methods of instruction are *teacher-tested* and *kid-approved!*

Intensive student-teacher interaction within a learning community that is relational and supportive makes *Discipleship Jr.* an ideal program for including children with disabilities. Hands-on learning activities are easily adapted to include all students. For more ideas about inclusion, an excellent resource is *Let All the Children Come to Me* by MaLesia Breeding, EdD, Dana Hood, PhD, and Jerry Whitworth, EdD, (Colorado Springs: David C. Cook, 2006).

PUTTING THE PIECES TOGETHER



Get Set. We know you're busy, so we provide a list of materials and what you'll need to prepare for your lesson. You'll also need a photocopier and some basic classroom supplies: whiteboard, dry erase markers and erasers, paper, pencils, markers, butcher paper, scissors, glue, and index cards. When you see this icon  allow a little extra prep time.

Kids love to dress up! Many of our Bible lessons use costume props from the "Bible time dress-up box." This can be as simple as a box of items you gather from around the house or purchase inexpensively from a secondhand store. It should include: old sheet with neck hole (angel), fake beards, swords, headcloths and browbands, bathrobes, fancy "princess" dress, crown, decorative chains and belts for temple priests, shepherd's crook or stick, wolf ears, wigs.



Password, Please! (10 minutes)—Each week begins with an activity option to involve children as everyone is filtering into the class.

- The *Welcome Time Activity* will excite children's interest and help them connect with the Bible Truth for the week.



Climb In! (20 minutes)—Whole-group, interactive Bible lessons invite students ages 6–9 to participate in the entire lesson. Whether it's role-playing a hailstorm or squeezing through an obstacle course, kids will be engaged in exciting, hands-on lessons.

- Pre- and post-lesson discussion times encourage children to talk about their life experiences and tie their knowledge to the week's Bible Truth.



Use the Clues!—Practice is an important part of learning, and it helps us move information from short-term to long-term memory. Every week one significant object from the lesson is added to the *Use the Clues!* bag. In the weeks that follow, students are repeatedly challenged to remember the Bible Truth connected with each object. These "memory hooks" help Bible Truths stick with kids for a long time to come.



Hide ‘n’ Seek Bible Memory (5 minutes)—Toe tappin’ and finger snappin’ . . . there’s nothing like the power of *FUN* to motivate children. Movement, rhythm, and role-play make it easy for kids to hide God’s Word in their hearts (Psalm 119:11).



Prayer Hideaway (15 minutes)—Small-group prayer time for children. Wow! What an idea! Children break into small groups of three to five with an adult helper—we call them Lookouts. Using reproducible instruction cards (found at the end of each lesson), adults guide children to explore and practice new prayer skills. Together they’ll share concerns, praise God, and practice the four activities of prayer: praise, ask, confess, and thank.



(Optional) Treetop Treats and Activities (10 minutes)—You have options for snacks and activities tied to the theme of the lesson in which lesson truths are practiced and shared. Look for the activity-level icon, which shows the level of mess, energy, or noise required for the activity!

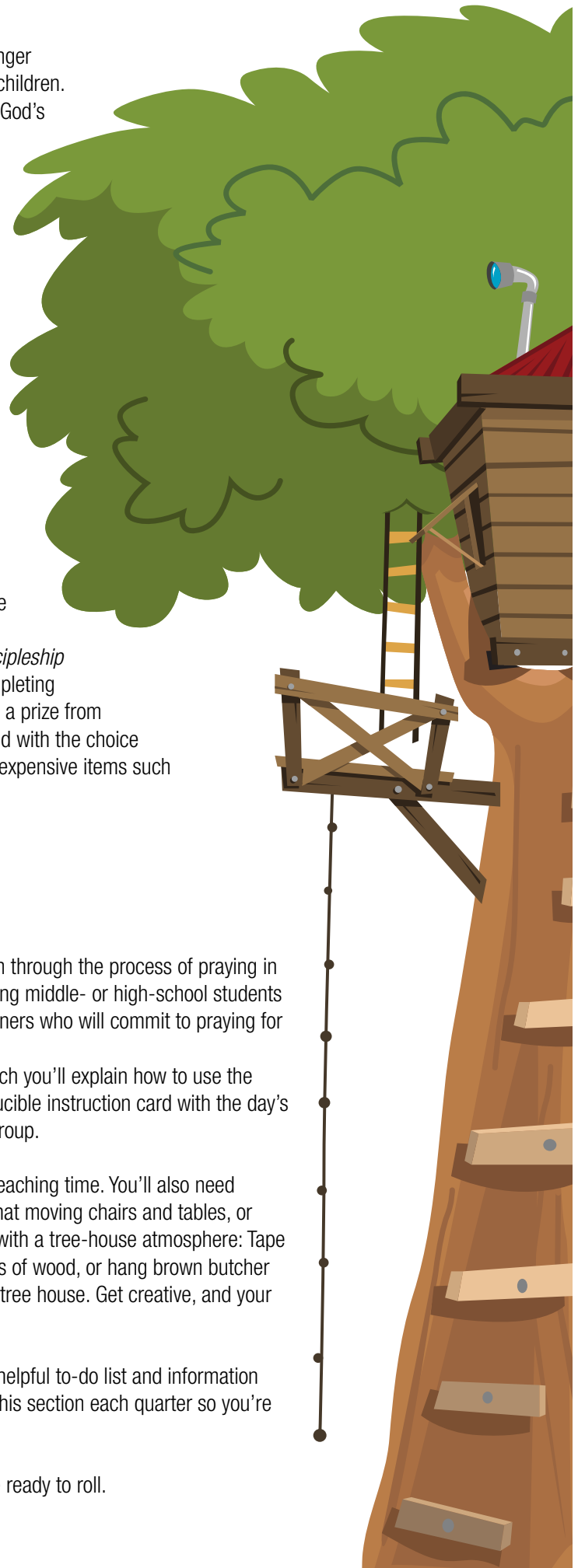


Zipline—Reproducible home-connection pages invite families to interact in and through fun activities and Bible memory. These pages can be found at the end of their corresponding lessons.

Are you looking for an additional way to motivate young learners? *Discipleship Jr.* includes an optional incentive program that rewards students for completing home-connection pages. Children return a signed *Club Pass* and choose a prize from the treasure box. If you have a new student, you might welcome that child with the choice of a treasure too! Simply cover and decorate a large shoebox. Fill with inexpensive items such as you might find at a party store.

HOW TO GET STARTED

1. **Begin by recruiting Lookouts**—adult helpers who will guide children through the process of praying in small groups. Don’t have enough adult volunteers? How about recruiting middle- or high-school students to shepherd a group? Also consider enlisting a few faithful prayer partners who will commit to praying for your class weekly.
Plan to have a brief training session with your new volunteers in which you’ll explain how to use the imPACT model of prayer. Each week you’ll give the Lookouts a reproducible instruction card with the day’s prayer theme and prayer suggestions to use with children in a small group.
2. **Set up your room.** You’ll need a big area for your large-group Bible teaching time. You’ll also need to identify spaces for each of your small prayer-groups. Don’t forget that moving chairs and tables, or moving groups to a hallway is always an option. Make your room fun with a tree-house atmosphere: Tape homemade or store-bought leaves to the walls, add boards and planks of wood, or hang brown butcher paper and use black paint to create the look of the wooden walls of a tree house. Get creative, and your kids will love entering their very own “treetop” clubhouse every week!
3. **Read This Quarter in Discipleship Jr. . . .** (page 6). This page has a helpful to-do list and information specific to the current quarter of *Discipleship Jr.* Don’t forget to read this section each quarter so you’re prepared when kids arrive in your classroom.
4. **Gather and prepare your materials,** set out your snacks, and you’re ready to roll.



Bible Basis:

Joshua 10

Bible Truth:

We pray because we trust God and depend on him.



The Day the Sun Stood Still

You Will Need:

- Use the *Clues!* bag
- 2 yellow balls
- 1 poster board
- markers or crayons
- tape
- beard, sword, and crown (from Bible time dress-up box)
- handful of craft pompoms
- Bibles
- butcher paper
- ZipLine #1* home-connection page
- Lookout Card #1*
- (optional) treasure box
- (optional) snack: small paper cups or coffee filters, popcorn
- (optional) Activity #2: large plastic tablecloth, unpopped popcorn kernels, popcorn popper



When you see this icon, it means preparation will take more than five minutes.

Memory Verse: The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song (Psalm 28:7).

Note: Early elementary verse in **bold** type.



GET SET!

(Lesson Preparation)

- Print today's Bible memory verse on a poster board: **The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song (Psalm 28:7).** Hang the poster at the front of the classroom.
- Print "We depend on God" with black marker on one of the yellow balls.
- Make a copy of *ZipLine #1* for each child.
- Make a copy of *Lookout Card #1* for each helper.
- Set out the *Use the Clues!* bag, yellow ball, and (optional) treasure box.
- For the Welcome Time Activity, tape a 10-foot length of butcher paper to a flat wall at children's eye level; set boxes of markers or crayons on the floor in front of it.
- Set up snack or outside play activities if you include these items in your children's ministry.



PASSWORD, PLEASE!

(Welcome and Bible Connection)

- **Objective:** To excite children's interest and connect their life experiences with the Bible Truth, children will make a mural and talk about depending on God.

Welcome Time Activity: Make-a-Mural

- **Materials:** butcher paper, markers or crayons, tape

As children arrive, direct them to the wall where you have taped the butcher paper. Have your Lookouts invite children to work together to draw a picture of some of the things they depend on God for (help in trouble, healing when sick, parents, food, his presence).

Sharing Time and Bible Connection

When everyone has arrived, call children to the lesson area and welcome them. Introduce today's lesson with this object lesson and discussion. As you talk, give every child the opportunity to say something.

- **What kinds of things are very hard or maybe even scary for you to do?**
- **How do you feel when a friend wants to be with you and help you with those things?**
(thankful, happy)
- **When you are afraid or sad or when you have something hard to do, whom do you depend on for help?** (God, parents, friends, teachers)

After this sharing time, help your students connect their discussion to the Bible story they're about to hear from Joshua 10:

God wants to be your best friend. He's always there to listen to us and talk with us. But how can we talk to God? We can't even see him! Pause to let children respond. **Yes, prayer is talking to God. We pray because we trust God and depend on him. In today's Bible story, a man named Joshua was in great danger. He needed help fast! Who do you think he talked to? Right! He talked to God. Let's learn more about it.**



CLIMB IN! (Bible Discover and Learn Time)

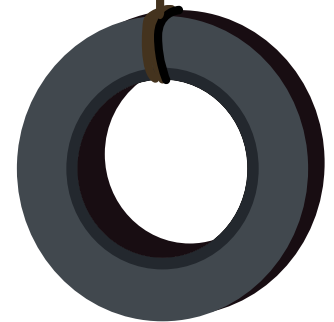
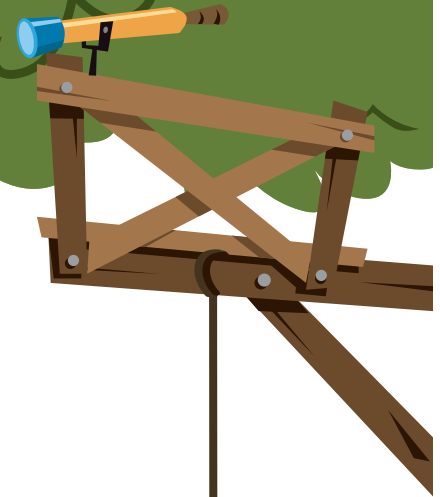
Joshua 10

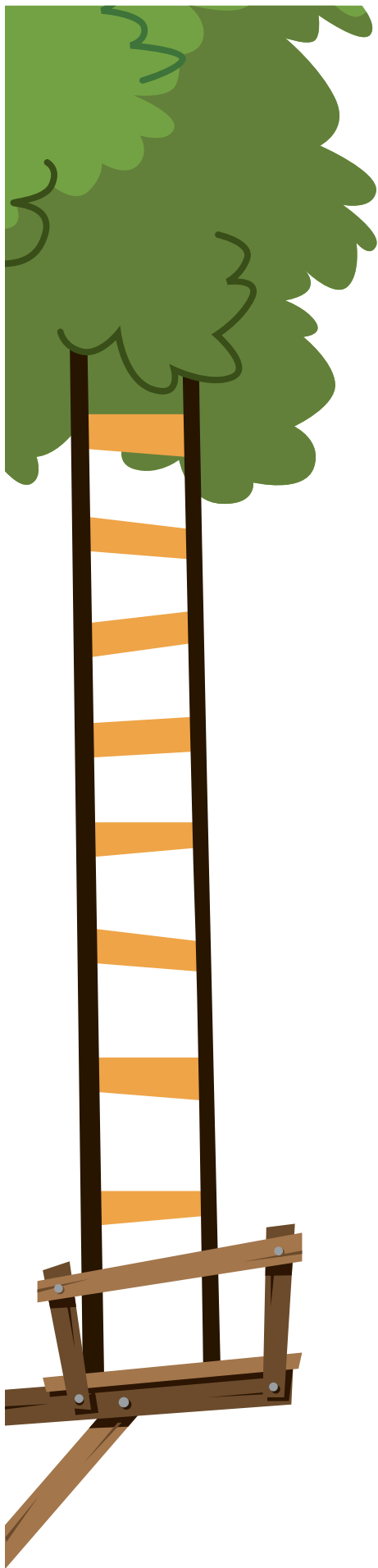
- **Objective:** Children will study Joshua 10 and hear that Joshua prayed because he depended on God.
- **Materials:** fake beard, sword, crown (from Bible time dress-up box); handful of craft pompoms; yellow ball; Bibles

I'm going to need five of you to help me tell this story. Give each person a prop, and ask him or her to stand across the front of the room where everyone can see. Then say:

(Name of child wearing beard) **is Joshua. When I point to Joshua, everyone should cheer, "Hooray!" Joshua, you should flex your muscles like a hero. Try that.**

(Name of child wearing crown) **represents the five kings and their armies. When I point to the king, everyone should say, "Boo!" King, you should make a mean face and shake your fist at us. Show us.** Have the children practice cheering and booing as you point to Joshua and the king.





(Name of child with sword) **will swish his/her sword TWICE for the battle. Only twice. When I point to this person, everyone else should punch the air twice and say, “Biff! Pow!” Try it.**

(Name holding the pompoms), **show us what you’re holding. What does this look like? Those are hailstones! When I point to the hailstones, you should all slap your lap with your hands to make a hail sound. Practice that. Hail, listen carefully for your part in the story. You’ll know what to do!**

(Name of child with yellow ball) **is the sun. When I point to the sun you should all say, “Ooooo.” Sun, you should walk in very slow circles around this group of story helpers when I tell you to start. Don’t stop until you hear your part in the story. Listen very carefully!**

Let the children practice saying “Hooray!,” “Boo,” “Biff! Pow!,” and “Ooooo” as you point to each story helper. **Very good! Now let’s begin our story. Today’s Bible story about Joshua** (point to Joshua and prompt children to say “Hooray!”) **comes from the Old Testament.** Encourage children who are still seated to turn in their Bibles to Joshua 10 and follow along.

Prompt the “sun” to start his orbit. **After Moses, the leader of Israel, died, God chose a new leader—Joshua** (point to Joshua). **Joshua was a faithful man who listened to God and obeyed him. One day, God told Joshua to lead the people of Israel across the river to the land he had promised to give them. It was a wonderful land, full of good things. But five kings ruled the land** (point to the king, and prompt children to say “Boo”) **with vast armies who did not love God or worship him. The bad news was that before Israel could move into the land, God said they would have to fight a battle with the kings** (point to sword). **The good news was that God said he would help them win.**

The kings were afraid! “We can’t fight Joshua (point to Joshua) **alone,” they said. “He’s too strong.” So the five kings** (point to the king) **joined together and sent their armies of soldiers against Joshua in battle** (point to sword).

Imagine . . . five armies! But God told Joshua, “Do not be afraid of the five kings or their armies. Not one of them will be able to beat you in battle (point to sword). **Joshua depended on God to help him win.**

All night Joshua and his army marched. The next morning, he came upon the five kings (point to the king) **by surprise. The Lord made the five armies confused and afraid. What do you think those five armies did?** Pause for children to respond. **Yes, they ran away!**

Joshua (point to Joshua) **and the army of Israel chased them down the road. As they ran, the Lord caused large hailstones** (point to hailstones) **to fall down on them from the sky.** Pause for hail to fall on king. **The Lord was fighting for Israel.**

But the battle (point to sword) **was not over yet! Joshua needed more time. So he prayed, “Lord, please make the sun** (point to the sun) **stand still until we finish fighting with our enemies.” And do you know what happened?** Pause for children to respond. **The sun** (point to the sun) **. . . stood . . . STILL.** Wait for the sun to stop walking. **It stopped in the middle of the sky for a whole day while Israel battled** (point to sword). **The sun** (point to the sun) **stood still until Israel won. It was a miracle from God! There was never a day like it before, and there has never been a day like it since.** Thank the volunteers for their help, and have them sit down again.



USE THE CLUES!

(Bible Review)

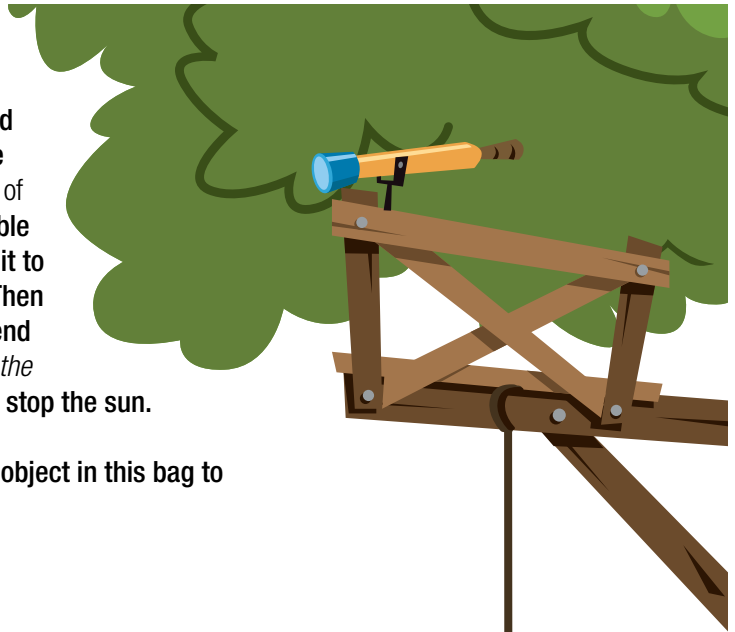
Okay, let’s see what you remember.

- **What did God tell Joshua to do?** (move into the promised land, fight the people who lived there)
- **How do you think Joshua felt when he saw the five armies against him?** (afraid, nervous)
- **How did Joshua show he trusted God?** (Joshua prayed and asked God for help)
- **What did Joshua ask God to do?** (he asked God to make the sun stand still so he could finish the battle)
- **How can we show that we trust God and need him for everything?** (We can talk to him about things that trouble us too)

- Do we need God to help us fight armies? (No, of course not) **What do we depend on God for?** (food, clothes, help in hard times, etc.)

When Joshua needed help, he talked to God. Joshua prayed and asked God for an amazingly long day. God wants us to talk to him too, because it shows that we trust him and need him for everything. Take the ball out of the bag and say: **Here's a yellow ball that reminds us of the sun in our Bible story today. The words on it say, "We depend on God." I'm going to toss it to someone and when you catch it, you should say, "We depend on God." Then I want you to gently toss it to someone else who will also say, "We depend on God."** Once everyone has had a chance to catch the ball, put it in the *Use the Clues!* bag. Say: **The yellow ball will remind us how Joshua asked God to stop the sun. Joshua needed God for everything. We depend on God too.**

Show the *Use the Clues!* bag. **Every week after our story we will put an object in this bag to help us remember what we have learned that week.**



HIDE 'N' SEEK (Scripture Memory)

Psalm 28:7

- **Objective:** Children will hide God's Word in their hearts for guidance, protection, and encouragement.

Read this week's memory verse from the poster. Point to each word as you read it: **The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks to him in song (Psalm 28:7).**

To help children memorize the Bible verse, have them act it out with you:

The LORD (*bow down to a king*)
is my strength (*show your muscles*)
and my shield; (*place both hands in front of you to form a shield*)
my heart trusts in him, (*pat your hand on your chest to sound like a heartbeat*)
and I am helped. (*grasp one hand with the other and shake it*)
My heart leaps for joy (*jump into the air*)
and I will give thanks (*bow head and fold hands*)
to him in song. (*cup hands around mouth*)
 (Psalm 28:7)

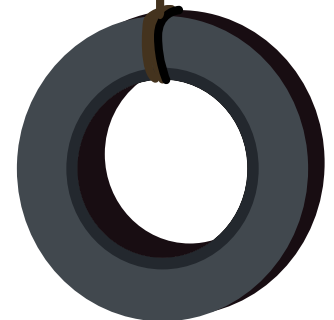
Act out the memory verse several times so children become familiar with it. If time allows, have the group turn around and say the verse again *without* looking at the poster. Be sure to include the Bible reference too!



PRAYER HIDEAWAY

- **Objective:** Children will explore and practice prayer for themselves in small groups.
- **Materials:** copies of Lookout Card #1 for each adult or teen helper

Break into small groups of three to five children. Assign a teen or adult helper to each small group and give each helper a copy of *Lookout Card #1* (page 17) with ideas for group discussion and prayer.





TREETOP TREATS: Heavenly Hailstones

(Optional Snack)

- **Materials:** a small paper cup or coffee filter for each child, popped popcorn

Fill paper cups with popcorn. As children snack, talk with them about the hailstorm in today's Bible story.

Note: Always be aware of children with food allergies and have another option on hand if necessary.



APPLICATION

- **Objective:** Children will have opportunities to show how the lesson works in their lives through activities and home-connection pages.

Some children's ministries may allow children to play outside at this point. If yours does not, choose one of the following activities.



Freeze

Today we learned that Joshua depended on God to make the sun stand still. Tell the children that they are like the sun, which is constantly moving. They should walk around the room until you say, **Freeze!**

When you say, **Freeze!** everyone should stand still. If someone moves, touch that child on the shoulder, and he or she can help you find others who are moving the next time you say "freeze!" Continue playing until only one person is left. You can proclaim that person the winner and then start the game over.



Hailstorm

- **Materials:** plastic tablecloth, popcorn popper, unpopped kernels

Cover the floor with a plastic tablecloth and sit the children on the floor around the perimeter. Set a popcorn popper in the middle of the tablecloth on something firm like a board. Pop some popcorn kernels, but leave the lid off the popper. As the popcorn flies in the air, let children eat any kernels that fall in front of them. Caution them to remain seated and wait until kernels are cool.



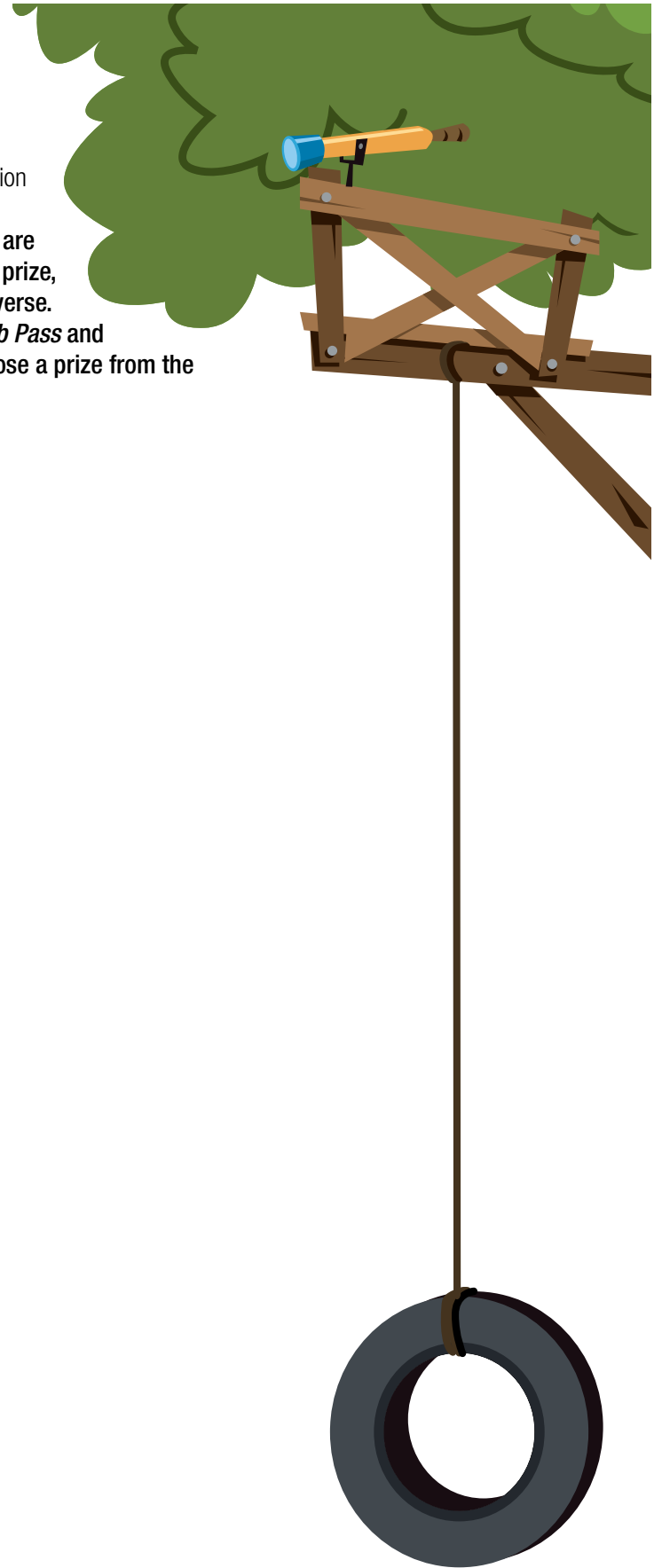
ZIPLINE

(Home-Connection Page)

Let children who brought back a signed pass from last week's home-connection page choose a prize from the treasure box.

Today I'm going to give everyone a *ZipLine* page to take home. There are activities to do and a Bible verse to memorize on each sheet. To earn a prize, you must complete all the activities at home this week and learn your verse. When you're finished, ask your parents or another adult to sign the *Club Pass* and bring it with you next week when you come. If you do, you'll get to choose a prize from the treasure box!

Distribute the home-connection pages just before children leave.



ZIPLINE – HOME CONNECTION #1

The Day the Sun Stood Still



Prayer Challenge

Ask your parents or someone in your family to pray with you this week. Together, ask God to help you trust him more every day. Are there some things for which you need help this week? Tell God about those too. Tell him “Thank you” that you can depend on him for everything you need.

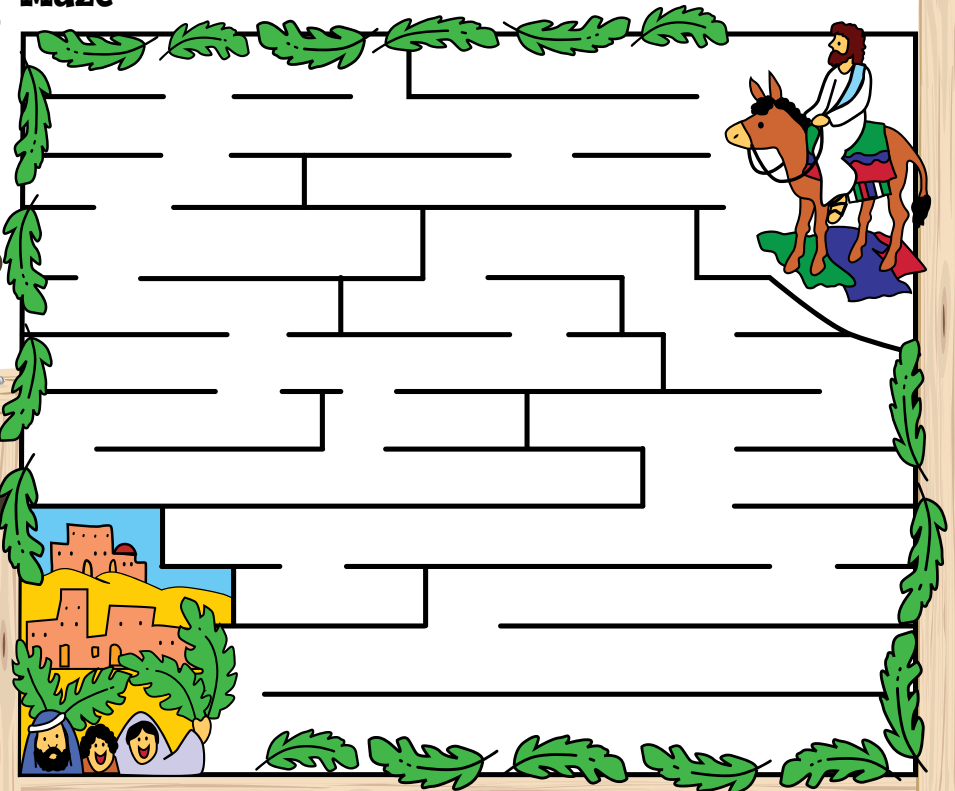


Memory Verse

The **LORD** is my strength and my shield;
my heart trusts in him, and I am helped.
My heart leaps for joy and I will give thanks
to him in song (**Psalm 28:7**).

Note: Early elementary verse in bold type.

Maze



Word Search (Younger children may have help with this word search.) Find these 18 words hidden in the puzzle.

S	S	A	U	H	S	O	J
A	T	Y	G	N	O	S	E
L	O	R	D	K	H	K	L
J	P	B	E	I	D	N	T
S	C	D	E	N	O	A	T
E	E	L	P	G	G	H	A
V	D	F	G	S	H	T	B
E	I	J	T	R	A	E	H
N	K	L	R	W	I	L	L
J	O	S	U	N	H	I	M
M	F	P	S	N	O	Y	G
P	I	A	T	H	A	I	L
Q	V	E	S	R	V	R	S
H	E	L	P	E	D	T	U

- | | | | |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
| LORD | JOSHUA | SHIELD | HEART |
| STOP | TRUSTS | HIM | PRAY |
| LEAPS | BATTLE | JOY | WILL |
| GIVE | THANKS | KINGS | SONG |
| PSALM | SEVEN | | |

Dear Parents and Guardians,
Please check off the items your child completed this week.

- Prayer Challenge
- Bible verse memorized and recited to an adult
- Word Search
- Maze

Adult Signature: _____

CLUB PASS

LOOKOUT CARD #1

Today your children learned from Joshua 10 that we pray because we trust God and depend on him. During your prayer time today, please lead your group in prayer according to the entire imPACT model (praise, ask, confess, and thank). As your children pray, focus their thoughts on today's lesson.

- **Praise.** In our Bible story today, we saw how God has control over the sun and hail. What other natural things does God control? Let each child praise God for one natural element he controls.
- **Ask.** Joshua depended on God to help him win the battle. Do you always remember to depend on God? Can you think of a time when you didn't? Let's ask God to help us depend on him more.

- **Confess.** Let's tell God we're sorry for those times we forgot to depend on him. You can set an example by asking for forgiveness for not trusting God more with day-to-day things.
- **Thank.** Let's tell God we're glad that he's so dependable. We can thank him that we can trust him.

Remember that no child should be forced to pray, but do encourage and invite each one. When you've finished praying, you can quietly talk to the children in your group until the next activity.

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