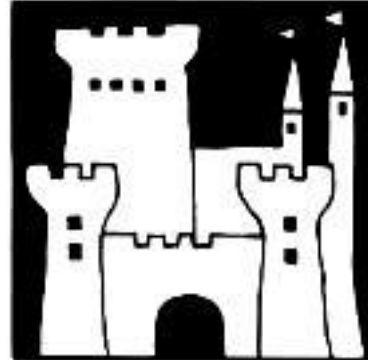


Year 4

God is Protector 3 Weeks



Outcomes

At the completion of this module students will understand:

- As God's people, He expects us to obey Him
- God is with those who are doing His work
- God can provide special protection for those doing His work

Related classroom topics for Science, Social Studies and Health:

The senses: Taste and smell

Link between "God is Protector" and classroom topics:

God has given us five senses for protection. The senses of taste and smell alert us to foods that may be rancid, and our sense of smell alerts us to dangers such as fire and toxic substances in the air.

Values:

Responsibility, safety and security, peace, faith, care for self

Biography:

Colin Marsden, (Saved from the sea)

God is Protector

Week 1

God protects His people

Bible reference

Joshua 1 Rahab helps God's people

Bible lesson: Rahab and the spies

We remember from last term that God chose Moses to lead His special people, the Israelites, out of slavery and into a new land. But Moses did not see the new land. He died just before they entered it. Joshua was the leader who followed Moses, and he was the one who led God's people into the new land.

One day God came to Joshua and said, "Joshua, Moses is dead. I want you to take these people across the River Jordan into the Promised Land. Just as I was with Moses, I will be with you. Be strong and full of courage. Don't be afraid for I will go with you."

Joshua told all the people to get ready to cross the river. "In three days," he said, "we will pass into our new homeland."

First Joshua wanted to find out just how things were in that country. He chose two men to go quietly across the river without anyone seeing them. They were going to be spies. He told them to sneak into the first city, called Jericho. They were to look around and see how they could take over the city of Jericho.

The two men swam across the river when no one was looking. The city of Jericho had a big wall all around it to keep out enemies. There was one gate through which people could come and go, but at night the gate was locked. The men managed to walk through the gate with no one noticing that they were strangers. They walked around and saw what they wanted to see. Then they went to a woman's house and asked if they could stay there. The woman's name was Rahab and her house was built on the city wall. She invited the men to come into her home.

Rahab talked to the two men. Their whole city had heard about the great things that God had done for the Israelites – How He had taken them across the Red Sea and how the Egyptian army was drowned in the sea; and how the enemies of Israel had been defeated on their journey. "My people are afraid of the Israelites," Rahab said to the men.

Now the two men were in danger because someone had seen the two men go into Rahab's house. They ran and told the king. The king sent his soldiers to Rahab's house. "We want the men who came to your house," they said.

Rahab knew that these two men were God's men. She also knew that God was going to take Jericho away from the people who lived there. So she decided to protect her visitors, in the hope that they might help her escape in the future. She decided not to tell the soldiers

where they were. She said to the soldiers, "Two men were here but I didn't know them. They have already gone. Just as it was getting dark they hurried to get through the gate before it closed. If you run you should still be able to catch up with them."

The soldiers ran quickly to find the men. They went as far as the River Jordan, but of course they did not find them. For the men were still in Rahab's house. She had hidden them on her roof, under some plants she was drying.

When the soldiers were gone, Rahab went up to the men on the roof. She told them what had happened. She begged them to be kind to her as she had been kind to them. "Please promise me that you will save me when you come to take our city," she said.

Then she got a red rope and secured it so that the men could climb out the window and down the rope, over the city wall. Then she said, "Go and hide in the mountains for three days. By then the soldiers will have stopped looking for you."

The two men looked at Rahab and said, "If you promise not to tell anyone why we were here, then we will save you. Bring your father and mother and your relatives into your house. Then when we come back with our soldiers, hang the red rope out of the window. In that way our men will know which house is yours and we will save you and your family."

The two men hid in the mountains for three days. Then they swam across the river and went back to Joshua. They told him all the things that had happened, and that the people of the city were afraid of the Israelites. Now Joshua had to work out how to get all the people and animals across the fast-flowing Jordan River which was in full flood.

God told Joshua how to cross the river. First Joshua told twelve priests to each go and find a big stone to carry across the river. Then carrying their stones, they went to the river's edge. The people followed, picking up their tents and all their belongings. As soon as the priest's feet touched the water the river stopped flowing. The water piled up like a high wall making a path from one side of the river to the other, just like when Moses led the people through the Red Sea many years before. The priests went first, carrying their stones. All the Israelites and their animals followed them. In the middle of the dry riverbed the priests piled up their stones to make a big pillar which was to be a monument. Then they continued on to the other side, followed by the people. When all crossed the river safely, the water came back to where it belonged. But the pillar of stones could be seen above the water. Joshua said to the people, "Now you can always show your children this pillar, which marks the place where the Lord took us across the river. Then all the people of the earth will know that your God is mighty!"

Discussion

Why was the red cord important?

It was a lifeline.

Let's count the people saved by the red cord:

- 2 spies got away using the red cord
- Rahab and her family were saved by putting the red cord out the window, so that Joshua could see that this was her house and it was not to be destroyed.

The Old Testament has many symbols of the New Testament.

In the New Testament we read that everyone in the world can be saved by a red lifeline. That lifeline is the blood of Jesus.

When we say thank you to Jesus for dying for us, and decide to follow Him, we can be saved from our sin.

God is Protector

Week 2

God is in charge of everything.

God is great, strong and mighty.

Bible references

Matthew 17:20 Nothing will be impossible.

2 Samuel 22:33 It is God who arms me with strength.

Joshua 6 The walls of Jericho.

Introduction

In last week's lesson, we learned that God's people, the Israelites, had travelled through the desert for many years. They finally reached the Jordan River, and across the river was the beautiful land that God had promised to them. Moses was not their leader anymore. He had become very old. A new leader would take them into the Promised Land.

Who was the new leader of the Israelites?

How many spies did Joshua send across the river to investigate the new land?

What was the name of the city?

Why did it have a wall around it?

What did Rahab do to help the spies?

What did they promise her?

How did the Israelites get across the fast-flowing River Jordan?

Bible lesson: Joshua and the walls of Jericho

Once the Israelites were across the River Jordan they camped on the river bank. The women and children and the animals stayed here while the men went out to fight their enemies. Jericho was the first city against which they had to fight. The people of Jericho worshipped false gods and there was much wickedness in the city which displeased God. They had built a huge wall around the city to protect themselves from attacks. The people of Jericho knew that the Israelites were close by and they were afraid. They locked the city gate and would not let anyone in or out.

God told Joshua exactly how they would take the city. Every morning for a week the Israelite soldiers marched around Jericho. The people of Jericho watched from behind their walls. They became more and more afraid. They knew that the God of Israel was fighting for His people.

On the seventh day the Israelites got up at sunrise. They marched around the city seven times instead of only once. Then the priests blew their trumpets long and loud. Joshua called to the people, "Shout, for the Lord has given you the city!"

So the priests blew their trumpets and the people shouted. Suddenly the huge walls of Jericho fell down flat. The Israelite soldiers walked over the broken walls right into the city. The wicked people of Jericho were killed, but Rahab, who had been kind to the two spies, was saved. So was all her family. The two men found Rahab's house and brought her and her

relatives to the camp of Israel. From that day onward Rahab and her family followed the true God. She married one of the Israelites, and she became part of the family tree of Jesus.

After the city of Jericho was destroyed, the soldiers gathered all the gold and silver from the city and put it in the Lord's house. So the Lord was with Joshua and the people of all the cities around heard of God's greatness.

Discussion

In the days of the Old Testament, God's people had to fight many enemies. God promised to be with them and protect them from their enemies, as long as they worshiped Him alone and no other gods.

Joshua's army could never have taken the city without a powerful miracle. No one could normally win a battle by just marching and blowing trumpets. It was really God's great power that caused the walls to fall. God is just as powerful today. If we trust in God, He will help us fight different sorts of battles: battles against the enemy Satan.

Here are some of the battles we might have to fight against Satan:

- getting angry
- wanting to do wrong things
- being afraid
- hating others
- other people hating us
- forgetting about God

If we want God to protect us from the works of Satan, what do we have to do?
Why is Jesus able to protect us from Satan?

Answers to the questions in the workbook:

What is the name of the city in the background? *Jericho*

Why was God not pleased with the people of the city? They worshipped *false* gods and were very *wicked*.

How many times did Joshua's army march around the city on the 7th day? *Seven*

God protected the people of Israel from the enemies through His great *power*.

God's power can protect us from our enemy *Satan*.

God is Protector

Week 3

With God, nothing is impossible.

God helps us when we serve Him.

Bible references

Joshua 10 The day the sun stood still.

Jeremiah 10:12-13 God made the earth by His power.

Luke 1:37; Luke 18:27 Nothing is impossible.

Revision

God's special people, the Israelites, had to fight many battles in Old Testament times. They had to fight enemies in order to survive, but God protected them in their battles when they trusted in Him. The Israelites were important to God, because from this group of people, Jesus would come. Once Jesus was born, all people had the chance to know God, and there was no longer need for these kinds of battles.

Bible lesson: The day the sun stood still

Not long after Jericho was defeated, the Israelites defeated another city. All the kings in the land of Canaan knew how powerful the Israelites were in battle. One of the kings, the king of Gibeon decided that he wanted to be on Joshua's side because it would be safer. However, five other kings in Canaan did not like this. They joined together and formed one big army to fight the Gibeonites.

Joshua and his soldiers joined with the Gibeonites.

"Don't be afraid," Joshua told his army. "God is with us."

Joshua and his army marched all night until they met the five kings and their army. There was a big battle. God helped Joshua win the battle. Soon the enemies were running away. God sent huge hail stones from the sky. (Hail stones are balls of ice.) The hail stones fell on the enemy.

The battle went on all day. It would soon be night. Joshua knew they could not fight in the dark so he commanded the sun to stand still until the battle was over. God caused the sun to stand still. Night did not come until the battle was over. God worked a miracle because Joshua trusted in Him. God has power over everything He has made and can do amazing miracles to protect His people.

The Bible says, "You created the moon to mark the months, and the sun knows the time to set" (Psalm 104:19 GNB). God is in charge of everything.

Discussion

This miracle shows us God's power to do unusual things. The earth is always spinning around in space. God made it that way. And yet, if He needs to, God can even change the patterns in nature.

God can do unusual things for people today too. There are some people who are so sick that the doctor said they could never become well again. There are some people who are born blind or deaf, with no chance of ever getting better. However, God can do unusual things for people like this. He can heal them through His great power, even though doctors say that they cannot be cured.

Activity

In the olden days, people did not have clocks like the ones we have today. They measured time by the sun. They could tell the time by the length of the shadow made by a shadow stick. (These were also called sun-dials)

You can make one of these by placing a stick in the ground, or mounting it on a piece of cardboard, then drawing along the line made by the shadow every hour. The shadow will move as the sun moves across the sky.

What would have happened to the sun-dials on the day that the sun stood still?

Think

Was it really the sun that stood still when Joshua prayed, or was it the earth?
(When we see the sunrise and set, it is really the earth that is moving, not the sun.)
Ask students to name the planets in order, (See diagram in workbooks)