



Date: _____
Series: **God is Awesome!**
Summer Year 2, Lesson 8

The Sun Stands Still

Bible Event: Joshua 10:5-14

Take Home Point: **GOD IS AWESOME! – Trust God to do hard things.*

*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson. The leader will say the first part of the phrase (*CAPS*). The children respond with the second part of the phrase (*italics*).

Jesus Link: Jesus did the hardest job of all when he died on the cross for our sins.

What kids will learn about God in this worship experience:

- Children will learn that God is an awesome, powerful, miraculous God! He can do anything – even make the sun stand still. Kids will learn to trust God’s awesome power and they will learn that God uses that power to help them with hard things. Kids will take home the point: ****GOD IS AWESOME! – Trust God to do hard things.***
- Children will respond to God’s love as they pray to him, thanking him for loving them and giving them Jesus. They will offer him their songs of worship, their offerings, and their actions of love as they actively learn God’s word.



Welcome Zone: (15-20 minutes)

Purpose: While kids arrive, give them a simple learning readiness activity that requires minimal supervision. This might include a video, games, blocks, or puzzles.

Video Suggestion: Choose a video and list it here.

Activity Suggestion: Blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons.



Opening Worship: (10-15 minutes)

Children can bring forward the cross, candles, Bible, offering plate, and treasure box. The treasure box contains the props used to tell or dramatize the Bible event. Open with a simple prayer, having the children repeat after you. Collect offering and talk about how God will use it.

Praise Songs:

Choose two or three songs and list them here.

Bible Event: A Visit from the Traveler

The traveler is a character costumed in traveling gear: backpack, walking stick, hiking hat, and shoes. He explains that he has traveled all around the world discovering wonderful deeds that God has done. He tells of an adventure he just discovered in God's word as he pulls the Bible out of his backpack. As he tells the Bible event, he pulls out objects from his backpack that illustrate the story.

Kids, lets welcome the Traveler today. He(she) is going to share the Bible event with us about the time the sun stood still.

Traveler: This is a true Bible event. Once upon a time, five evil kings (pull out five crowns to place on children's heads) **decided to attack the kingdom of Gibeon. Joshua and the Israelites had made a deal with Gibeon that they would come help if anyone attacked them.** (Pull out play swords.) **So Joshua and the Israelites traveled all night to come and help the Gibeonites fight against the five evil kings.** (Boooo!)

On the way to Gibeon, the Lord spoke to Joshua. This is what the Lord said: "Do not be afraid! I've given them into your hands." When Joshua and the Israelites got there, the Lord confused the evil kings and the evil soldiers and sent them running about everywhere. As the soldiers ran away, God sent hailstones down on them. (Take out several small white balls, like ping-pong balls, to throw out at the children.) **The evil kings and soldiers kept running to hide in the woods. Joshua stopped and asked the Lord for help. He asked God to make the sun stand still in the sky so they could have**

more daylight to find the enemies. And God did it! (Show a large yellow ball to represent the sun.) **Joshua and the Israelites were able to find and destroy the evil kings and their soldiers. Gibeon was safe! It was a great victory. It would have been a very hard fight to beat the evil kings, but with God's help, it was easy.**

There is one job that was not easy, though. When Jesus died on the cross for our sins, it was a very hard job. God loved us so much that he sent his very own Son to save us. Whenever we have a hard job that needs to be done, we should remember the hardest job of all that Jesus did for us. Remember: **GOD IS AWESOME! – Trust God to do hard things.*



Action Zones: (20-30 minutes)

Purpose: Children move at their leisure to the activities according to their interest. Adults are assigned to oversee each of the zones, watching for safety, assisting any activity, and helping the children connect to the lesson of the day. All zones are introduced at the beginning of Zone Time. Some suggested zones are included below. It is usually best to have all children go to the Snack Zone first. Sing a blessing song or say a snack prayer together before dismissing to the zones.

During the Zone Time, children may arrive from mid-service dismissal if this is an option at your church. Be prepared to welcome the children and invite them to choose a zone.

Snack Zone: Provide either a Ritz cracker with spray cheese, or a round slice of orange to represent a sun. Lay Bugles around the edge as sunrays.

HEALTHY SNACK OPTION: The round slice of orange is a great healthy snack. Try using skinny slices of carrots or celery as the sun's rays.

Drama Zone: Let the kids reenact the story from the Bible Event, using all of the props (crowns, swords, ping pong balls, large yellow ball, plants to hide behind).

Messy Zone: Provide large blank paper and finger paints for the children to draw a sun, or any other part of the story.

Felt Zone: Use felt board materials to show the story of the sun standing still from today's Bible event.

Craft Zone: Trace hands onto yellow paper (may want to pre-make these, or you can have the children trace their own hands, if you have time). Glue, tape or staple several copies of the hands, finger-side out, around a small paper plate to create a sun. Attach pre-made label that says, "God can make the sun stand still."

Play Zone: Play Red Light, Green Light. Use masking tape to mark a starting line on the floor.

Quiet Reading Zone: Provide a floor lamp to be the "sun" that children can read under.

Music Zone: Your choice of music. *Option:* Let the children march with percussion instruments to the song, "Awesome God."

Coloring Zone: "The Sun Stands Still" coloring page.



Closing Worship: (20 minutes)

Purpose: As you empty the zones and clean up, begin the music so the children can start wandering over.

Worship Songs:

Choose one or two songs and list them here.

Bible Application with Puppet Presentation:

Purpose: The puppet demonstrates the need that will be met in today's lesson. The scripts are not written verbatim, but give a story line in which the group leader can interact with the puppet.

Bubba comes onto stage, looking very concerned. The large group presenter asks him what is wrong. Bubba says that he disobeyed his mom by not cleaning his room when he was supposed to. His mom said it was a sin and now Bubba is worried that he won't make it to heaven. The large group presenter explains that the hardest job we have is to try to be perfect like Jesus. No one can do it. It is too hard for us to be perfect enough to get to heaven on our own. We all make mistakes sometimes - even when we are trying not to. We can't be perfect. It is impossible. We all sin.

But Jesus didn't sin. He lived a perfect life for us. He lived a perfect life and then he died on the cross to take away all of our sins. Jesus knew that we couldn't live a life without sin, so he did it for us. That is how you and I get to heaven. Jesus did the hard job for us. Remember: ***GOD IS AWESOME! – Trust God to do hard things.**

Prayer Time:

Purpose: Allow children to contribute their own prayers. This will teach them to turn to God in both good times and in times of trouble. End with the Lord's Prayer.

"Children Pray" Options: (select one from the options below)

_____ **Prayer Train Option:** Children line up and take turns stepping in front of the microphone and speak their brief prayers of thanksgiving.

_____ **Prayer Chair:** Children stand in a circle around one child sitting on a chair in the middle. All children in the circle will lay a hand on the child sitting in the chair as they say a prayer together.

_____ **Popcorn Prayer:** The leader moves through the crowd with a microphone and taps children on the head to stand and speak their prayer.

Lord's Prayer: Lead the children through the Lord's Prayer, phrase by phrase, or let them pray the entire prayer along with you.

Blessing:

May God, who is all around you,
pour his love upon you.

(Beginning at the bottom of the circle, slowly make a large circle with your hands. Finish by bringing your hands down and wiggling your fingers to resemble rain.)

And Jesus, his life a sacrifice,
walk right there beside you.

(Slowly make a large sign of the cross. Then move your hands out to the sides.)

And may God's Holy Spirit,
the one who lives inside you,

(Cross hands over your heart.)

keep you strong,
comfort, lead and guide you!

(Move to a "strong man" position. Then cross your arms with your hands on corresponding upper arms to communicate comfort. Bring one hand forward with "lead" and the other with "guide" to complete the blessing.)

Song of Sending:

Choose one song and list it here.



Closing Zones:

Purpose: Children go to an activity zone, such as the coloring zone, quiet reading zone, and children's Christian music video zone, as they wait for their parents.

Safety and Security: Safety and security procedures are important for each church to carefully define and implement according to their unique needs. The security, safety, illness and accident procedures described in this curriculum are provided for example purposes only and may not be appropriate, applicable or adequate for every situation. Each church is responsible for determining whether any security, safety, illness and accident procedures contained in the curriculum are appropriate, applicable or adequate for its unique situation. The activities described in this curriculum require adult supervision and may not be suitable for each child and each situation. Each church is responsible for ensuring that adequate adult supervision is provided for all activities and for determining whether an activity is appropriate for each child and each situation. Kids Kount Publishing disclaims all liability for the implementation of any procedures or the performance of any activities described in this curriculum.

Supplies:

Welcome Zone:

- blocks, toys, puzzles, paper, and crayons

Opening Worship:

- Bible
- five crowns
- play swords
- several small white balls, such as ping pong balls
- large yellow ball

Action Zones:

Snack:

- Ritz crackers and spray cheese or round slices of orange
- Bugles

Drama:

- crowns
- plants
- play swords
- small white balls
- large yellow ball

Messy:

- large blank paper
- newspaper to cover tables
- smocks or old shirts
- paper towels to wipe hands
- various colors of finger paint

Felt:

- felt board materials to act out the story "The Sun Stands Still."

Craft:

- yellow paper
- pencils
- scissors
- small paper plates
- glue, tape or stapler
- pre-made labels, "God can make the sun stand still"

Play:

- masking tape

Quiet Reading:

- floor lamp
- basket of books

Closing Worship:

- Bubba, the puppet

Closing Zones:

- colored pencils
- paper
- basket of books