

Conquering the Promised Land-Pt. 1

Materials I Need:

Legend:



= Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade

= Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade

Memory Work:

“And it came about at the seventh time, when the priests blew the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, ‘Shout! For the LORD has given you the city.’” Joshua 6:16

Aim Questions:

1. What was God’s battle plan for overtaking Jericho? What would you have thought about that plan if you were one of the Israelite soldiers?
2. What did God command the people to take and not to take? Why do you think He commanded these items?
3. What failed at the battle of Ai? Why was Israel defeated?
4. Who was Achan and what was his sin? What happened as a result of his sin?
5. What did Joshua and the entire nation do after these two victories that God commanded Moses to do earlier?

Hook:



Coveting (Discussion). Ask the students what they might wish for if they could have 3 wishes. Record these desires on a piece of paper. Then ask them what they would do if they were given a million dollars. Give them time to think and write down their answers. Have them read their answers to the small group. Use these as fuel for your discussion on coveting. What is the driving force behind our desires? Do we ever compare what we have in relation to what others have? Working toward attaining a certain goal is not wrong unless God’s principles are sacrificed along the way. We will hear this morning once again how God feels about coveting.



Mighty Armies/Mighty Weapons (Activity/Discussion). The boys in the class should think this is really cool. Bring in pictures of different weapons or types of warfare. These could be presented in an historical overview format from the crudest weapons to the most sophisticated weapons of today. Describe the fortress-like structure of the city of Jericho and ask the students what weapons or tactics they would have used to conquer this city. They might be surprised to see what weapons God uses in battle.



Take What “WE” Want (Activity). Put out a tray of items, all of which would be appealing to those in your class. Put these in the center of your table and invite all of the students at the same time to take what “they” want. Sit back and watch what happens. Will they grab quickly before someone else does? Will they negotiate with each other? Will they choose not to participate? Or will they each offer to choose last, leaving the others to have the first selection? We will hear about someone very greedy and selfish in our Bible Adventure today, and find out what happened to him.

☐ **Treasure Hunt (Game).** This could be an effective Hook tool if planned properly. The objective here is to cause the students to see that obedience goes along with making the right choices. In addition to this they should see that exact obedience without compromise comes first, and blessings or rewards will follow. Set up this treasure hunt game so that the students are tempted to take what does not belong to them, or to take a short cut on their instructions. Divide up into several teams. Set up similar treasure maps for each team which cause them to cross over each other's treasures. As they cross over another team's treasure, they must be instructed NOT to plunder any other team's treasure along the way. The instructions for each team must be followed exactly, or they will not be allowed to collect their reward at the end of the game. The instructions given may include things that seem strange or silly to them, but they must obey in order to collect that reward. Hopefully, the teams will successfully complete their hunts and follow their instructions, allowing them their rewards. If not, you can use them as examples during the BOOK time.

☐ **What if...(Discussion).** Joshua needed more time to totally annihilate his foes. It was noon and the sun was directly overhead and the moon on the horizon to the west. He prayed to God asking that the Sun and Moon stand still. We know that the sun does not move around the earth, but that the earth rotates on it's axis which causes day and night. Joshua addressed the sun rather than the earth because he was speaking from the perspective and appearance of things on earth. We speak of the sun rising and falling and measure the times of them and everyone knows what we are talking about.

The best answer to the long day of Joshua chapter ten is that God caused the rotation of the earth to slow down so that it made one rotation in 48 hours instead of 24 hours. The rotation speed was cut in half. God stopped cataclysmic effects that would have naturally occurred. **But what would happen if the natural effects did occur and how fast is the earth moving?**

The Earth rotates once in a few minutes under a day (23 hours 56 minutes 04. 09053 seconds). This is called the sidereal period (which means the period relative to stars). The sidereal period is not exactly equal to a day because by the time the Earth has rotated once, it has also moved a little in its orbit around the Sun, so it has to keep rotating for about another 4 minutes before the Sun seems to be back in the same place in the sky that it was in exactly a day before.

An object on the Earth's equator will travel once around the Earth's circumference (40,075.036 kilometers) each sidereal day. So if you divide that distance by the time taken, you will get the speed. An object at one of the poles has hardly any speed due to the Earth's rotation. (A spot on a rod one centimeter in circumference for example, stuck vertically in the ice exactly at a pole would have a speed of one centimeter per day!). The speed due to rotation at any other point on the Earth can be calculated by multiplying the speed at the equator by the cosine of the latitude of the point. (If you are not familiar with cosines, I wouldn't worry about that now, but if you can find a pocket calculator which has a cosine button you might like to try taking the cosine of your own latitude and multiplying that by the rotation speed at the equator to get your own current speed due to rotation!).

Computing the speed of Earth's rotation (at the equator):

Circumference of Earth = 40,075 kilometers

Time for one rotation = 24 hours

Speed of rotation = Distance/Time = 40,075 km / 24 hr = 1670 km/hr

But what would happen if the earth's rotation speed at the equator slowed from 1670 km/hr to 835 km/hr? This would be like traveling at a speed of a little more than 1000 miles per hour and then suddenly slowing to a speed of 500 miles per hour.

Newton's First Law of Motion states that every object in a state of uniform motion tends to remain in that state of motion unless an external force is applied to it. This is called the inertia of an object. This is why heavy objects such a freight trains and fully loaded concrete trucks take a long distance to stop.

Any object at the equator, water, rock, mountain, tree, or person would continue to travel at the speed of 500 miles per hour until it was forcibly stopped. Discuss what would happen to the oceans,

a person other objects. Where would the safest places to be if this happened? The inertia effect on water could be illustrated by moving quickly across the room with an open bowl of water and then suddenly stopping. Be prepared to clean up!

The extra long day was indeed a miracle, but God stopping the natural affects was a greater miracle.



Book:

Presentation Ideas –

Bible Adventure –

The men who planned and built the city of Jericho did well. In a time in history when it was common to be attacked by neighboring nations, the planners built Jericho in a perfect spot: Jericho stood on top a hill six miles west of the Jordan River. On its west side were mountains that protected it. On the east, the river guarded it. The city walls were double--an outer wall 6 feet thick, and an inner wall 12 feet thick. There were homes resting on these walls. The only way to attack the city was to climb the steep hill up to it and prevent anyone from coming out or going in. In this way, it was hoped, you could starve the city into surrendering, but this could take several months.

It would have been easy for the Israelites to look at Jericho and wonder how they were ever going to conquer the city. They had an army, but they had no equipment for making war on such a city, nor did they have any military training. But you know, the children of Israel were in just the place God wanted them to be. They had nothing in and of themselves that would help them win this battle, but they had their great and awesome God! God delights in doing the impossible. He gave Joshua the battle plan for conquering Jericho. It was a most unusual plan. The Israelites were to march around the city of Jericho one time per day for six days. The priest carried the ark of the covenant around the city, and seven other priests blew on trumpets made of rams' horns. After they had marched around the city, they would return to camp. The next day they got up and did the same thing. This went on for six days, as God had instructed them. Do you think the Israelites might have been wondering what good marching around the city was going to do? Or do you think they were remembering how God had parted the waters of the Jordan for them to cross and were waiting to see what He would do next?

On the seventh day, they all got up very early and instead of marching around Jericho once, they marched around it seven times. And on the seventh time around, when the priests blew their trumpets, Joshua told them, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city!" So when the Israelites heard the trumpets, they all shouted for all they were worth. God had told them He was giving them the city. Imagine their excitement when those thick, strong walls came crashing down! Joshua told the people that God had doomed Jericho to be destroyed. They were to destroy every living thing, with one exception. Rahab and her family were not to be harmed, because she had hidden the Israelite spies from the king of Jericho. The only items God's people were to take out of the city were the items of gold, silver, bronze and iron. These were to go into the treasury of the Lord. Nothing else was to be taken. After these things were gathered and Rahab and her family brought out, the city was set on fire. God had given His people complete victory over the city of Jericho! Joshua's fame spread through out the country.

Wasn't that an unbelievable way to conquer a city? It happened in a way that no Israelite could take credit for--only God could do that. The Israelites had to totally trust in God's power, not in their military strength. God received the glory for the victory at Jericho, not the Israelites. There were probably many among them who thought God's plan was strange, maybe even useless. Think about Abraham being asked by God to take the life of his son, for whom he had waited so many years. It must have seemed senseless for God to ask such a thing of him, but Abraham was going to obey. His faith and obedient heart led to victory and blessing for him and for Israel. Regardless of what we think or how the situation looks, God's ways are the best and only ways.

Everything seemed to be going well for the Israelites, but there was trouble ahead. One of them, a man

named Achan, did not listen to God's warning not to take any of the items from Jericho except the ones that went into the treasury. This man saw some things he liked, so he took them and hid them, and did not tell anyone about it. Joshua, not knowing Achan's secret, sent some men to another city, Ai, to spy it out. The spies returned to Joshua and told him not to send all the Israelite army there, only three thousand men, because there were not many men in Ai. Joshua did as they suggested, but things did not go well at Ai. The men of the city came after the Israelites, chasing them away and killing about thirty-six of them. The Israelites couldn't believe it. They were frightened to be defeated so easily. Joshua fell on his face before the ark of the Lord and asked God why they were defeated. He was concerned that the other nations around them would think that God had no power. He was concerned for God's great name.

God answered Joshua right away. He told him to get up, because there was sin in the camp that needed to be dealt with. He told Joshua of Achan's disobedience, and that this was the reason the Israelites were defeated by the men of Ai. God told Joshua He would no longer be with the Israelites if Achan's sin was not dealt with. In the morning, God said, the ones who were guilty would be destroyed.

Early the next morning, each of the tribes were gathered together. God let Joshua know he must look in the tribe of Judah for the guilty ones. Then each of the families was examined, and God showed Joshua the family of Achan. Joshua asked Achan what he had done and Achan admitted he had taken a beautiful Babylonian robe, 200 shekels of silver, and a wedge of gold from Jericho, even though God had warned against this. Achan took them and hid them underneath his tent.

Joshua took the stolen items, Achan, his family, and everything Achan owned to the Valley of Achor. There, all the Israelites stoned Achan and his family to death and then burned their bodies with fire. After this they piled a heap of stones over them to remind the rest of the people of God's fierce anger against sin and of the punishment for disobedience. Achan let his desire for something God had forbidden become more important than loving and obeying God. His family helped him by not saying anything about the stolen items. Does God take disobedience seriously? You bet He does.

Now that Israel's sin had been taken care of, God told Joshua not to be afraid to go back to Ai and conquer it. This time, Joshua placed 5,000 men on the west side of the city, where they would not be seen. Joshua and the rest of the men attacked from the north. The king of Ai and his army rushed out to fight against Joshua and did not see the 5,000 men on the west side. Joshua and his men pretended to be frightened and ran away from the city. Soon there was not a man left in Ai. The 5,000 Israelites got up from their hiding places, went into the city, and set it on fire. The king and his men saw the fire, but now Joshua and his men turned back to them and destroyed them all. He allowed them to take animals and other riches from the city this time. God gave His people complete victory at Ai that day.

In thanks to God, Joshua built an altar and the Israelites offered sacrifices on it. He also wrote on stones a copy of the law of Moses. Then the Israelites did something with Joshua that they had done with Moses when he was alive. They divided in two, half of the people standing in front of Mount Gerazim and half in front of Mount Ebal, and the Levites with the ark of the covenant standing in the valley between. They agreed to all the blessings and cursings of the law, and Joshua read all the words of the law to them--men, women, children, and strangers who traveled with them.

We continue to see, looking at the story of the Israelites, the importance God places on obedience and the deadliness of sin. Think of what Achan did. He saw the items in Jericho, and the more he looked the more he wanted them. Instead of turning away, he kept wanting them. His heart was so eaten up with desire, he finally took the items. Then he added to his sin by covering it up. This is the result of all sin. We try to hide it from God and from others.

Achan also thought that stealing just a few items from Jericho was no big deal. There were so many riches--who would miss a few shekels of gold and silver? He couldn't have been more wrong. Achan's sin had serious consequences--36 men died at Ai because of it! His sin had an awful effect on those around him.

Our sin affects others, too. It affects the entire body of Christ--parents, brothers and sisters, friends, and our church family. Your sin does not just affect you. God's people are tied together in a community and

the choices you make reach out and touch others' lives. Be as serious as God is about sin. Deal with it right away when it raises its ugly head, and don't try to hide it. God knows about it anyway, right? Turn away from it, purpose never to do it again, and rejoice that God wipes your slate clean and gives you a fresh start.



Look:

- Numbers in Joshua (Worksheet).** 1JOS02.GF? Find the numbers by looking up the verses. Add up the numbers to get the total. This can be done as a speed drill or simply a fun exercise.
- Joshua (Crossword Puzzle).** Use this worksheet to review some of the key ideas in Joshua chapters 5 through 9,
- God's Weapons of War (Worksheet).** 1JOS02.GF? Look up the verses and unscramble the words.
- The Ultimate Weapon (Worksheet).** 1JOS02.GF? Unscramble the words to find the answers to the Ultimate Weapon. Answers are in this order: Calvary(y), lance, sling, javelin(a), soldiers, bow, arrow(r), darts, quiver(e), shields, horses(r), sword, chariots, spear(p). God uses many different weapons in war, but this secret word is the ultimate weapon of all!! Ultimate answer: prayer
- What Did He Say? (Worksheet).** Unscramble the clue words from Joshua 6:16 and find a secret message, 1JOS02.GF?? Answer: God has given us Jericho.
- Promised Land 3-D Topographical Map (1 per classroom / ongoing craft):** This morning you will have the opportunity to begin on your first piece of the 3-D relief map of the Promised Land. Each week you will be completing a portion of this puzzle. We will be studying the book of Joshua for 5 weeks. At the completion of our study, your class will display their map to the remainder of the classes as well as to the church.

Each classroom is supplied with a set of basic supplies. A sample map has been provided for you to look at during our study. You may add to your own map with additional supplies however you choose. If you request your supplies a week in advance, the children's ministry will do their best to provide those for you.

Follow the instructions for completion each week so that your map will be finished by the end of our study.

Please note that in your collection of supplies for this project you should have been given push pins and flags, 1JOS02.GF?? to use to mark the cities and mountains.

Map Piece #2 The Destruction of Jericho.

Items to be completed this week are: Carving the walls of the city of Jericho so that they appear to have fallen, the City of Ai, Mt. Ebal, Mt. Gerazim, mountains and desert/plains to the West of the Jordan River.

- Passage Review Questions (Worksheet).** 1JOS02.GF? This booklet contains many questions from the scripture passage covered in today's lesson. Students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home.



Took:

- Sin Affects Those Around Us (*Object Lesson*)**. The domino-affect can be used to illustrate how the sin of one person can cause a ripple affect to those close to him. Set up dominos in a pattern. Try a snake-like line or a star pattern. Use something to begin the fall such as a ping pong ball. Talk about how sin causes troubles for many of those around us. We know what God thinks of sin, and this morning we learned how the sin of one person affected so many others. Have there been times recently that you can recall where your sin has caused heartache for others?
- You Can't Hide From God (*Discussion*)**. God is aware of all of our sins, even when we don't tell Him. Spend some time talking about weaknesses that we each have. Confess these before God and thank Him for the forgiveness we receive through Christ.
- Trusting God (*Praise and Prayer Time*)**. God's ways may seem strange to us but He can accomplish anything. Those things that seem most impossible to us are easy for God to take care of. Spend some time looking up verses which can be reassuring to us during tough times, taking prayer requests and praising God for His answers, power, and sovereign control over His creation.
- Obedience = Rewards (*Activity*)**. Just like the Israelites, we too can be blessed (rewarded) through our obedience. Here is an opportunity to set up incentive for obedience within your classroom. You could spend this time today putting this chart together, and then use it for the remaining three weeks of Joshua. Construct a "Wall of Jericho" from squares of construction paper. Each time a student responds to a teacher in an obedient manner, remove one square from the wall. Each time a student is reluctant to follow the teacher's instructions, put one square back up on the wall. You might number the blocks so that they are taken off the wall in a certain manner. Once the blocks have been totally removed (obedience over the next three weeks), a surprise is revealed behind the wall. If possible, try to keep them guessing as to what the reward will be, until the very last block is removed. Not only will they want to be obedient, but this will also help them to see how the disobedience of one student can affect all the other students.

Numbers in Joshua

Number of days God told the Israelites to circle the city of Jericho. Joshua 6:2
Number of priests added to the number of trumpets they carried. Joshua 6:4
Number of times the Israelites were told to circle the city on the 7th day. Joshua 6:4
The approximate number of men sent initially to try to capture the city of Ai. Joshua 7:4
Number of Israelite men killed in the first battle of Ai. Joshua 7:4
Number of shekels of silver that Achan took from the spoils of Jericho. Joshua 7:21
Number of bars of gold taken by Achan and hidden in the ground under his tent. Joshua 7:21
Number of warriors chosen by Joshua to fight the battle at Ai the second time. Joshua 8:3
Number of men left in Ai or Bethel during the pursuit of Israel. Joshua 8:3
Number of people from Ai who were killed in the battle. Joshua 8:25

Answers

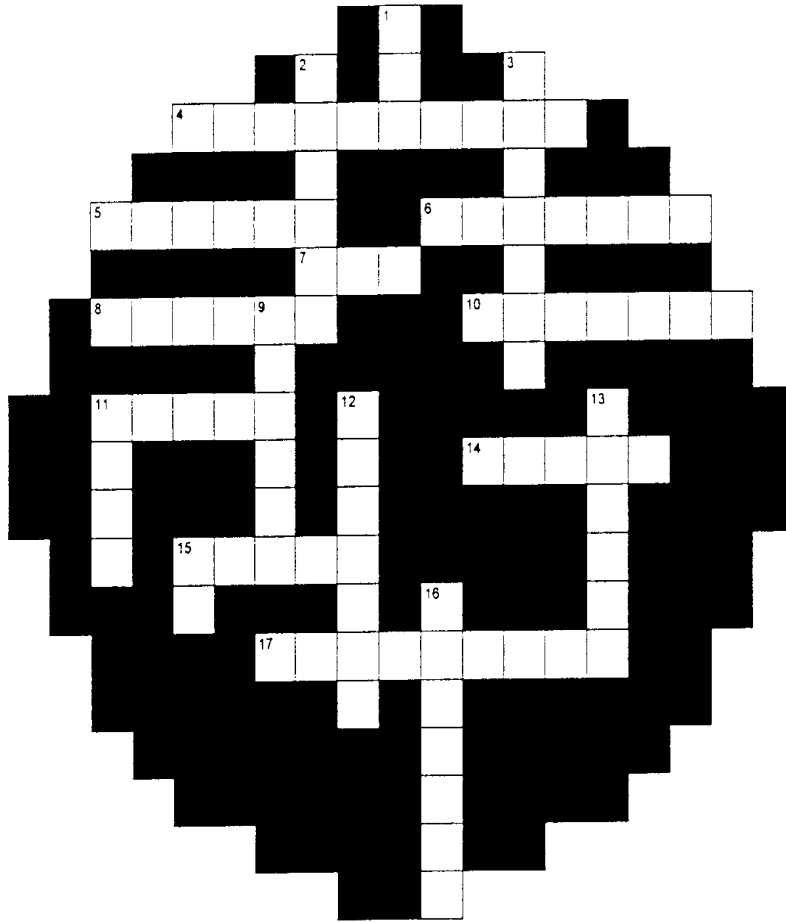
Total:

Numbers in Joshua Teachers Key

	Answers
Number of days God told the Israelites to circle the city of Jericho. <p style="text-align: center;">Joshua 6:2</p>	6
Number of priests added to the number of trumpets they carried. <p style="text-align: center;">Joshua 6:4</p>	14
Number of times the Israelites were told to circle the city on the 7th day. <p style="text-align: center;">Joshua 6:4</p>	7
The approximate number of men sent initially to try to capture the city of Ai. <p style="text-align: center;">Joshua 7:4</p>	3,000
Number of Israelite men killed in the first battle of Ai. <p style="text-align: center;">Joshua 7:4</p>	36
Number of shekels of silver that Achan took from the spoils of Jericho. <p style="text-align: center;">Joshua 7:21</p>	200
Number of bars of gold taken by Achan and hidden in the ground under his tent. <p style="text-align: center;">Joshua 7:21</p>	1
Number of warriors chosen by Joshua to fight the battle at Ai the second time. <p style="text-align: center;">Joshua 8:3</p>	30,000
Number of men left in Ai or Bethel during the pursuit of Israel. <p style="text-align: center;">Joshua 8:3</p>	0
Number of people from Ai who were killed in the battle. <p style="text-align: center;">Joshua 8:25</p>	2,000

Total: 45,264

Joshua



Words to choose from

Achan
 Ai
 ambush
 Ark
 Canaan
 Canaanites
 Jericho
 Jordan
 Joshua
 Judah
 mantle
 obedience
 plunder
 priests
 rams
 Rahab
 shouted
 sin
 victory

Across

4. people living in Canaan when the Israelites arrived
5. leader of Israelite army
6. carried trumpets
7. something in common between Noah and the tablets
8. river crossed
10. what the Israelites did to cause the walls to fall at Jericho
11. a harlot who lived in Jericho
14. the tribe that Achan and his family belonged to
15. man responsible for Israel's defeat at Ai
17. God gave the Israelites their rewards because of their _____.

Down

1. God hates all _____
2. Promised Land
3. first city conquered in Canaan
9. strategy used to conquer Ai the second time
11. trumpets were made from these animals horns
12. spoil from battle
13. stolen by Achan
15. city where Israel was defeated
16. winning the battle

God's Weapons of War

Read the verses and unscramble the words.

Joshua 6

rmcignah _____

uprttsme _____

mars-rohn _____

uhsot _____

Exodus 14:27-31

dashn _____

Judges 7:19-22

rochtse _____

purtmest _____

rectipsh _____

Joshua 10:6-11

staishionl _____

siosncoun _____

Judges 15:14-17

bawjeno _____

Exodus 23:27-30

northse _____

sonfouicn _____

Judges 16:18-30

goln-iahr _____

Joshua 1:9

“...Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

God's Weapons of War teachers key

Read the verses and unscramble the words.

Joshua 6

rmcignah marching

uprttsme trumpets

mars-rohn rams-horn

uhsot shout

Exodus 14:27-31

dashn hands

Judges 7:19-22

rochtse torches

purtmest trumpets

rectipsh pitchers

Joshua 10:6-11

staishionl hailstones

siosncoun confusion

Judges 15:14-17

bawjeno jawbone

Exodus 23:27-30

northse hornets

sonfouicn confusion

Judges 16:18-30

goln-iahr long-hair

Joshua 1:9

“...Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

The Ultimate Weapon

UNSCRAMBLE THE WEAPONS BELOW. THEN TAKE THE CIRCLED LETTER AND UNSCRAMBLE THEM TO FIND OUT WHAT THE ULTIMATE WEAPON IS.

CAVARLY _____ (C)

CALNE _____

LINGS _____

LAVJINE _____ (L)

DOLERISS _____

WOB _____

WORAR _____ (O)

STADR _____

STEN _____

VEIQUR _____ (V)

DLISHES _____

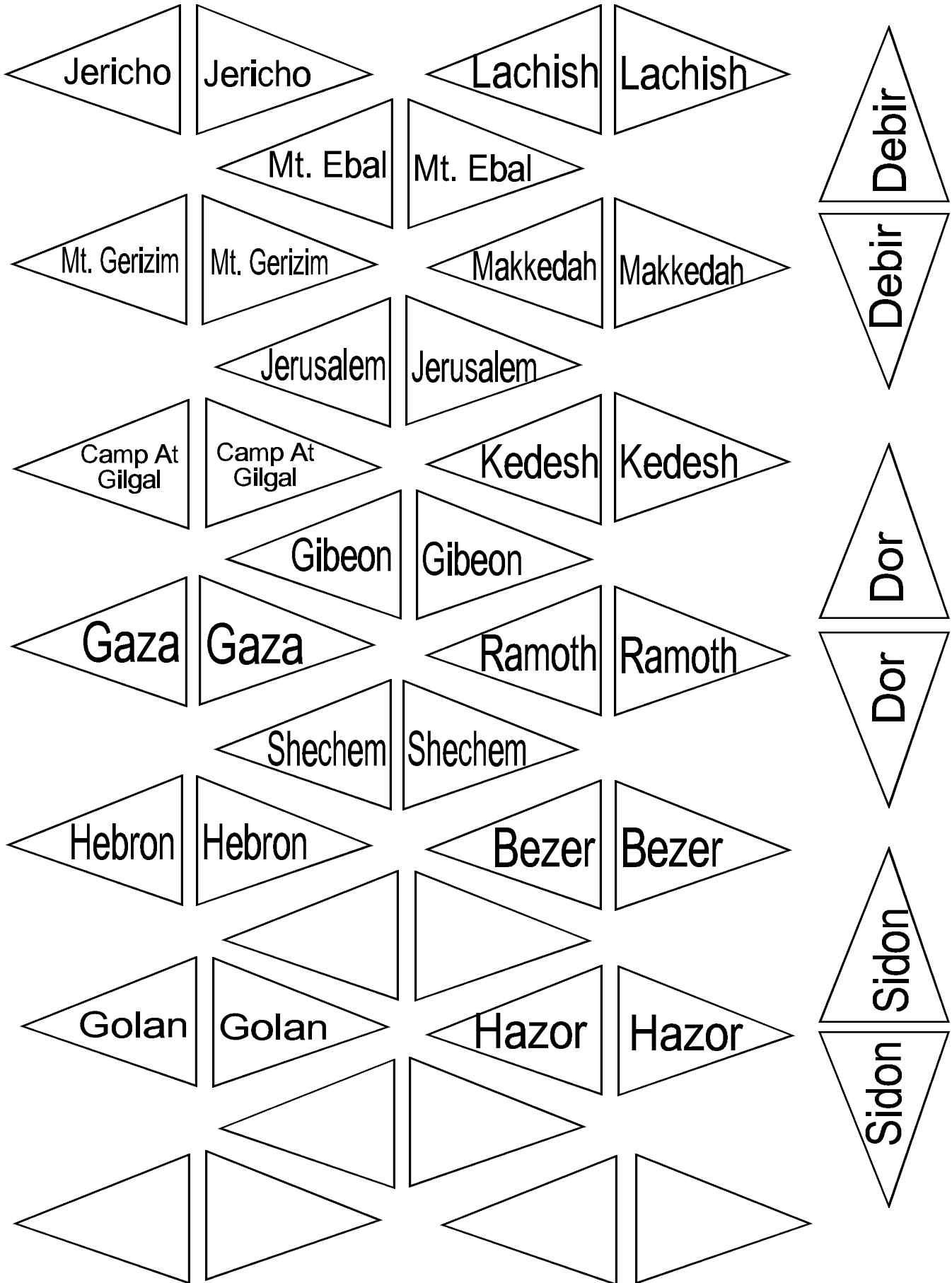
SHORES _____ (S)

WORDS _____

SOTCHAIR _____

PEARS _____ (P)

Promised Land 3-D Topographical Map



Promised Land Map

Faith Bible Church

July 1999

East
Manasseh

Manasseh

Reuben

Naphtali

Simeon

Judah Dan

Ephraim

Issachar

Zebulun

Benjamin Gad

Sea of Galilee

Dead
Sea

Mediterranean
Sea

Aram

Edom

Moab

Ammon

Asher

25. Who was the only person to be taken alive in the attack and what did they do to him? 8:23, 29

26. When the covenant was renewed at Mount Ebal, what was the altar made of? 8:31

27. What did Joshua read to the people of Israel on Mount Ebal? 8:34

28. How much of it did Joshua read? 8:35

29. Who listened to Joshua's reading? 8:35

Passage Review Questions

Joshua 6 - 8

1. The day after the Passover, what did they eat of the new land, and what did the Lord stop sending to them? 5:11-12

2. Who did Joshua see in 5:13?

3. Who delivered Jericho into the hands of the Israelites? 6:2

4. What did the armed men of Israel do around Jericho and how long did they do this? 6:3

5. Who marched with the men around Jericho, and what did they have with them? 6:4

6. What was suppose to happen on the 7th day? 6:4

7. What were the people to do when they heard the long blast from the trumpets and why? 6:5

8. While they were marching what was supposed to be continually heard? 6:9

9. Who were the only ones to be left alive in the city of Jericho? 6:17
10. Why were Rahab and her family spared? 6:25
11. Who took some of the devoted things belonging to the Lord? 7:1
12. How many men did Joshua send into Ai to spy out the region? 7:3
13. What was the Lord's answer to Joshua in 7:10-12
14. What were Joshua and the people of Israel to do to prepare for the next day when the Lord would find who the guilty people were? 7:13
15. How were the people to present themselves before the Lord? 7:14
16. What was to happen to the ones that were caught with the devoted things along with all that belong to them? 7:15

17. Who confessed to taking some of the devoted things? 7:19
18. What did he take? 7:19-21
19. Who went into Achan's tent and found all the items as he had said? 7:22
20. After the destruction of the ones who disobeyed the commands of the Lord, who did the Lord send to Ai to destroy this city? 8:1
21. The men were to destroy the city just like Jericho. What was the only thing different that they were to do from destroying Jericho? 8:2
22. What did Joshua use as a plan of attack to take the city? 8:3-8
23. How many men did Joshua use for the ambush of the men of Ai? 8:12
24. Did the King of Ai fall for the trick that Joshua tried to use to overthrow the city? 8:14-17