

Materials I Need:

Legend:



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

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

Memory Work:

“And Joshua captured all these kings and their lands at one time, because the LORD, the God of Israel, fought for Israel.” Joshua 10:42

Aim Questions:

1. Why did the Gibeonites try to deceive the Israelites?
2. What was the Gibeonites' plan to get the Israelites to make peace with them?
3. What did Joshua and the other leaders do wrong in this decision?
4. What supernatural events took place in Israel's battle against the five southern Amorite kings?
5. How would you explain to someone who said to you, “The Bible is wrong because of Joshua 10:13”?

Hook:



What Battles Do You Face? (Discussion). The Israelites faced numerous battles during their conquest of the land of Canaan. But throughout each one, victory came, not by their military strength or strategies but by placing their trust in their all-powerful and all-sufficient Lord. What battles do you face each day? (e.g., temptations to disobey, to be a faithful witness at school, to be honest, to say words that build rather than tear down, etc...). Like the Israelites, you have a choice as to whom you will trust for the victories in your life. What can you do to ensure God's victory in those daily battles?





Looks Can Be Deceiving (Discussion). Bring photographs of people from a variety of sources, magazines, newspapers, snap shots, or advertisements. From looking at the picture, allow the student time to tell you as much as possible about that person. Are they happy, sad, athletic, wealthy, married, a student, a parent? What is their occupation? What makes the student think these things about the people in the photos? Could someone who is dressed in a football uniform actually be a klutz on the field? Do glasses make someone look smarter? If someone wears worn out western clothes, does that mean he is good with horses? Talk about how looks can be deceiving. We can't always tell a lot about someone simply by the way he or she dresses. We will hear how the Israelites were fooled into thinking something that was not true simply by what the visitors to their camp were wearing.




"Gibeonite" Visitor (Role Play). One of the teachers can dress up as a visiting "Gibeonite" and try

to fool the class into thinking that he has traveled from a far away land (wear worn sandals, carry a torn wineskin and moldy bread). Share with the class that you have heard about the Israelites and their God and that you want to make peace with them. Use this as the introduction to the guile of the Gibeonites in today's Bible lesson.

 **Important Decisions Take Time (Coloring Page/Discussion).** We are faced with decisions every day. Sometimes through advertising or peer pressure we are made to believe that some decisions need to be made quickly. We should consider what God would have us do in any decision we make. We should seek to do God's will in all we do. Through prayer and Bible study, together with seeking wise counsel from the leaders God has placed in our lives (parents, grandparents, teachers, pastors, church elders, etc.), we should not be making hasty decisions. Use this fun coloring page **1JOS03.GF1** to spur a discussion on ways we are led into thinking that we must make hasty decisions.

 **The Day the Sun Stood Still (Craft).** Construct the plate as shown in, **1JOS03.GF2 Pg. 1**. Talk about and demonstrate how during a typical day the sun rises in the east at approximately 6:00am, and then sets in the west as approximately 6:00pm. Explain, and demonstrate with the completed craft, how the sun will actually rise and set twice in a 24-hour period. Which is moving...the sun or the earth? Due to the earth's rotation, the sun appears to be rising and setting when actually the earth is moving. Wouldn't it be wonderful if the sun stayed up longer during the summer when we like to stay outside and play? We will hear today how God performed another miracle in allowing the sun to stay up in the sky longer so that the Israelites could fight their enemies during the daytime, rather than at night.

 **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 its 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 4.09053 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 as 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 or other objects. Where would be 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 effects was a greater miracle.



Book:

Presentation Ideas –



"Gibeonite" Visitor (Role Play). Use the visitor to help teach the Bible lesson regarding the deception of Gibeonites. Integrate the visitor and have them share "first-hand" information regarding how they deceived them and why.

Bible Adventure –

As news spread throughout the land of Canaan regarding all that the Lord was doing in and through the nation of Israel, how He had given the Israelites victory at Jericho and Ai, they were filled with fear. They realized that unless they joined forces to fight against Israel, they would eventually be destroyed. In the south, the people of Gibeon had a different plan. After hearing what God had done to the city of Jericho, they decided that instead of fighting, they would try to make peace with Israel through deception and trickery.

The plan was to go before Joshua and the leaders of Israel and to appear as though they were ambassadors from a far-away country. They took with them old sandals, torn wineskins, and moldy bread to make it seem as if they actually did travel from a distant land. When they came to Joshua, they asked that Israel make a covenant of peace with their people.

Joshua and the other leaders made a big mistake at this point! This was a sinful error because God had called them to destroy all the peoples of the land of Canaan. Instead of asking the Lord what they should do, they went ahead on their own and made a decision without God. Perhaps they thought this decision was too small to bother God with, so they made a hasty decision for peace. By going on their own, they not only violated God's command to totally destroy the peoples of the land of Canaan, but they also showed that their hearts were not depending only on God. In all our decisions, the very first Person we should go to for counsel, wisdom, and direction is God, through His Word. The Israelites did not do that, and three days later, they realized the Gibeonites had lied to them--they lived very nearby! The Israelites had sworn not to destroy the Gibeonites, so they made the Gibeonites their slaves--woodcutters and water carriers for the entire nation.

We often have to make decisions under pressure. Time may be short, or someone is urging us to make up our minds in a hurry. We can see from the example of the Israelites and the Gibeonites that small decisions do matter. Because we can't see ahead of time what results our decisions will have, it makes it that much more important to make sure we talk to God before making them. This is a matter of choice. We can learn to make our decisions God-centered, not self-centered, by taking every decision, even small ones, to God in prayer.

When the news of Jericho and Ai reached the Amorite kings of the south, they joined together to capture the Gibeonites who had made peace with Israel. This would give them an even larger fighting force to take on Israel. The kings of the cities of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon came and attacked Gibeon and three other towns. The Gibeonites then came to Joshua for help and Joshua took with him his army and conquered the armies of the five kings. As the enemy armies fled, God destroyed many of them with huge hailstones from heaven. In fact, more were killed by the hailstones than by the army of Israel and not one Israelite was killed (10:21).

While this battle was going on, an amazing thing happened. The Bible says that "the sun stood still and the moon stopped" (10:13). How could this have happened scientifically? We know that it is the turning of the earth that makes the sun seem as if it is traveling across the sky. Similar ideas are expressed in our use of the terms "sunrise" and "sunset." The sun does not rise nor set, the earth rotates on its axis around the sun. From our viewpoint here on the earth, it only seems as if the sun is moving. So how did it seem to stop? I'm sure you'll agree this was a most unusual, even frightening, event.

The Bible doesn't tell us exactly how God accomplished this feat. Many people have tried to explain it. Some say it could have been an eclipse, others say clouds over the sun, still others say the sun's rays were bent or changed direction. The best explanation is that the earth slowed its rotation so that it made a full rotation in 48 hours rather than 24. The terms used in 10:13 express the idea of "making haste" or slowing down. The earth didn't actually stop rotating, but moved slowly to give the appearance that the sun stood still.

This in no way lessens the miracle God performed on that day! Is it so hard to believe that the God who created the universe just by speaking would have any problem slowing down the rotation of the earth for a period of time? Not only that, but God also stopped the disastrous effects that certainly would have naturally occurred, such as monstrous tidal waves and objects flying around. Indeed, God was fighting for Israel as He gave them more daylight to finish the battle.

When Joshua defeated the five most powerful kings in southern Canaan, the remaining cities were as good as captured as well. As Joshua moved north to conquer northern Canaan, Jabin, the king of Hazor, gathered all the Canaanites of the North to fight against Israel. This was a huge army and this would have been the largest military battle up to this time. According to the Jewish historian Josephus, there may have been over 300,000 soldiers, 10,000 cavalry troops, and 20,000 chariots in the northern allied army. But once again God reassured Joshua and told him not to be afraid, because He was going to give Israel victory over these kings as well. He gave them specific instructions to hamstring the horses and to burn the chariots with fire. Joshua obeyed the commands of the Lord and God, once again, fought for Israel and gave them total victory. At this point, the majority of the land was conquered. It probably took around seven years from the time of the first battle to the major northern battle.

God had done amazing things through His people. He allowed Joshua and his army to conquer a total of 31 kings! During this time, only Gibeon made peace with Israel. In each of the battles that Israel fought, it was not their military strength nor their military planning that gained them victory. It was God who stood before them and defeated all the enemy armies of Canaan. In every battle, the Bible tells us, the Lord delivered the enemy city, or army, or king, into the hands of the Israelites. The Israelites were not to take any credit for these victories because the credit belonged to God alone. Listen to the words of Joshua 10:42: "And Joshua captured all these kings and their lands at one time, because the LORD, the God of Israel, fought for Israel."

God understands the human heart, how we can be tempted to take all the credit for our successes. We can fool ourselves into thinking we did it by ourselves. But we must always remember that God is behind each victory in our lives. We can not even breathe unless He lovingly allows it. Understanding that God is sovereign over all things and is actively involved can help you and me get our focus off of ourselves and on to our mighty God, where it belongs. God doesn't exist to give us success in everything we do, but He is there to help us in our day-to-day battles. He allows us to be part of His master plan for this world but we need to remember that it's His plan and His victory. Aren't you glad God loves you enough to let you be a part of His grand design?



Look:



God's Power Over His Creation (Worksheet). God created the entire universe and has absolute authority and power over all of it. In today's Bible lesson, we read of God slowing down the rotation of the earth. Read the following verses to see the different parts of His creation that He completely controls, **1JOS03.GF3**.



A "History of Haste" (Worksheet). Hasty choices usually result in hurtful consequences. God desires that we go to Him first to see what His Word says about the decisions we face in all of life. Look up the following verses to see the hasty choices God's people have made and the hurtful consequences that resulted, **1JOS03.GF4**.



Memory Verse (Worksheet). To find out how Joshua led the Israelites and conquered the land, you must follow the crowns through the maze, **1JOS03.GF5**.



Promised Land 3-D Topographical Map (One per classroom) (Ongoing craft). This morning you will have the opportunity to continue working on 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.

Map Piece # 3 Southern Territories

Items to be completed this week are: Gibeon, Southern cities conquered, Makkedah, Lachish, Gaza, Debir, Gilgal.



Passage Review Questions (Worksheet). 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, **1JOS03.GF6**.



Took:



Haste Makes Waste (Discussion). Impulsive decisions can cause trouble later. Have you ever made a quick decision and regretted it? The Israelites saw what can happen when you don't take the time to consult with God before making decisions. They felt that making a treaty with the Gibeonites (who appeared to be from somewhere else) was a trivial enough decision that they did not need to pray and ask for God's direction. How often do we proceed without consulting the LORD's will in events or situations in our own lives? Do we ever feel pressured into making decisions quickly? Use the same **1JOS03.GF1** page suggested for the Hook Time Activity (Important Decisions Take Time), but this time put a line through those advertisements which make you feel forced into making a hasty decision. Now add the following Scripture references to the page. Take turns looking up each of these verses and talk about ways to apply these truths to our daily lives.

Scripture verses: Proverbs 5-7, Proverbs 13:10, Proverbs 1:7, James 1:5-7, Luke 22:42, Isaiah 30:21, Philippians 4:6-7, Psalm 119:66, Psalm 25:4-5, Psalm 119:105, Psalm 37:23-24, Psalm 32:8.



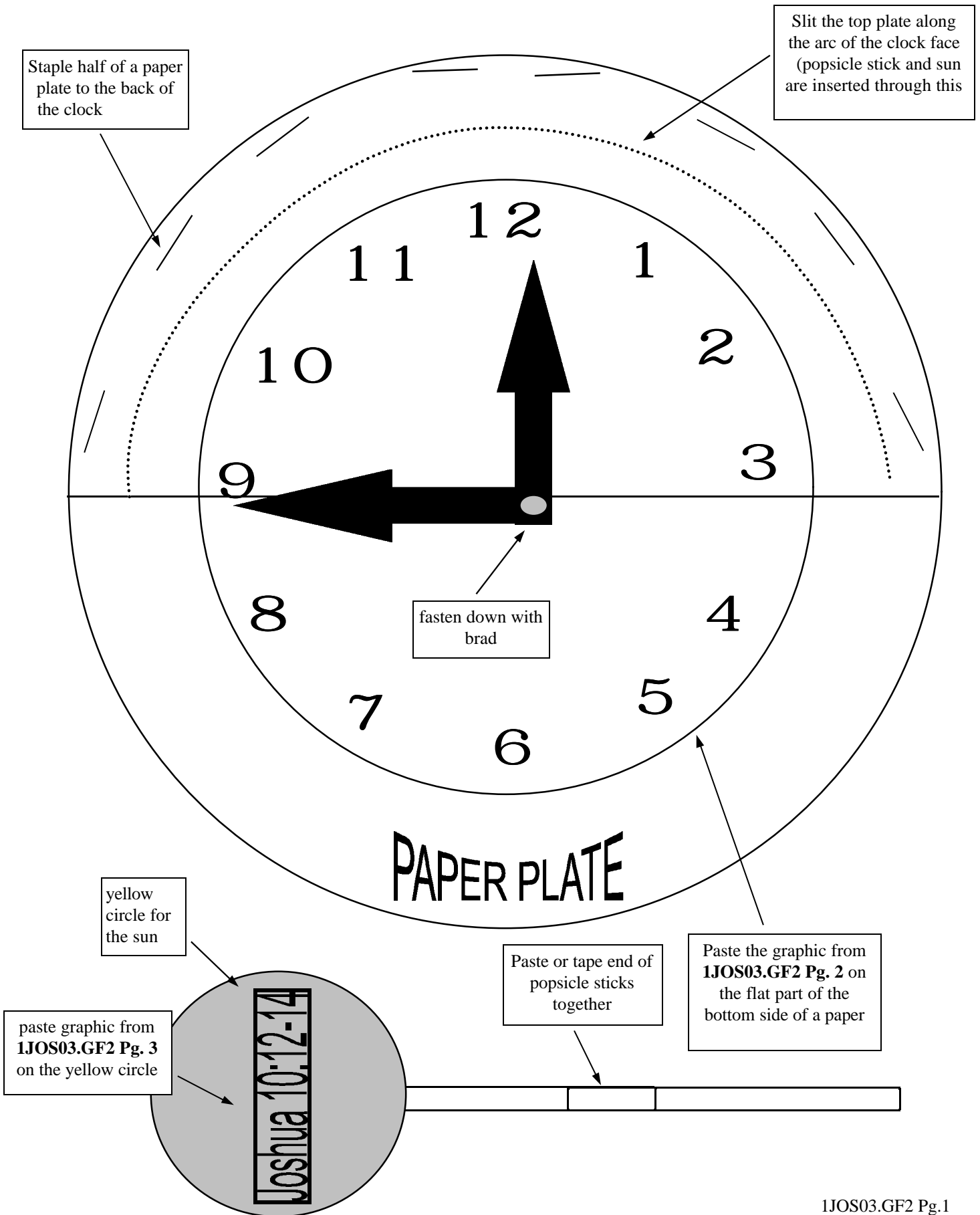
Decisions With Dependence (Craft/Activity). As we find our way through life's maze, we are constantly faced with decisions. God wants to lead us through that maze. Through prayer, Bible study, and counsel from those placed in authority over us, we can determine His will for us.

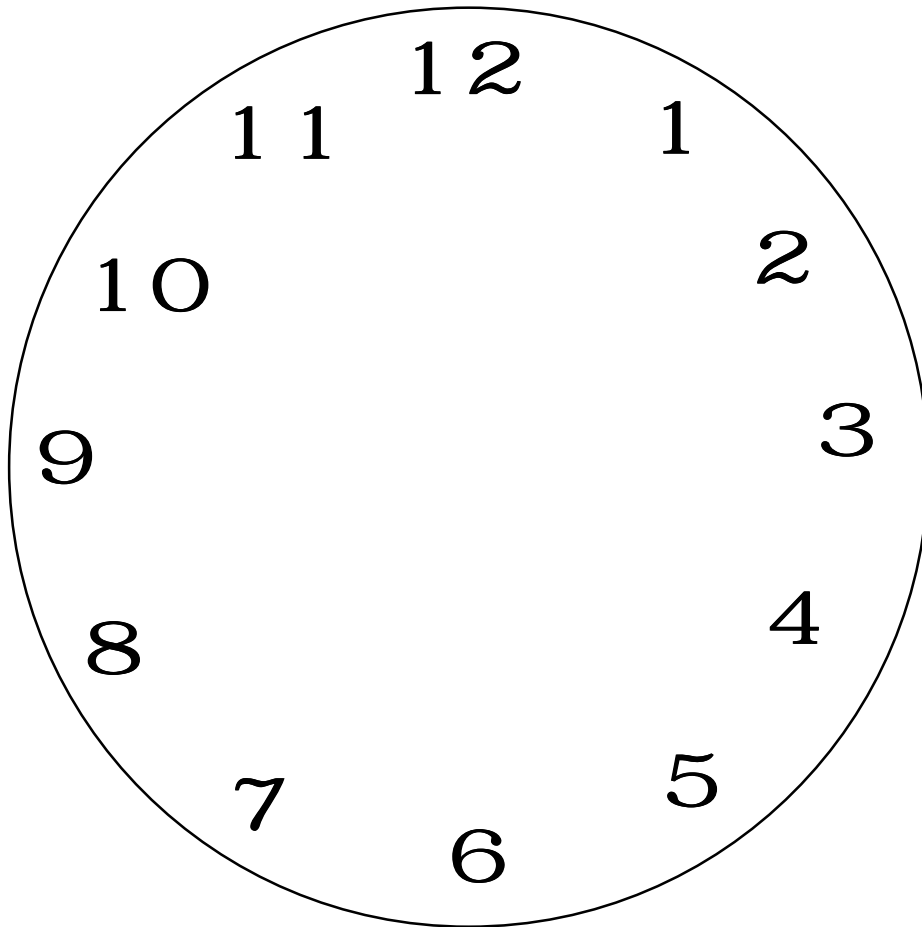
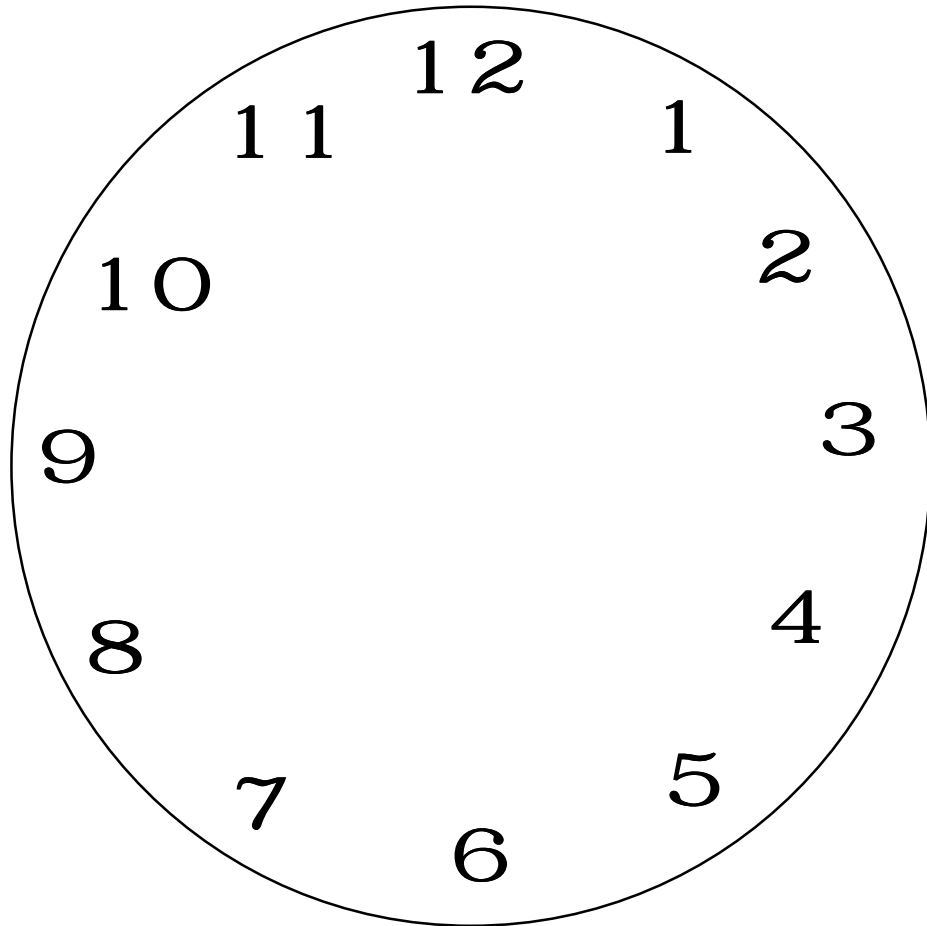
1JOS03.GF7 Pg. 1 is a representation of this idea and can be a fun project to work on as you explain the principles behind seeking God's counsel before we do anything. Cut out the maze and glue it to a backing sheet made from a manila file folder. Cut out the praying hands **1JOS03.GF7 Pg. 2** and tape it to the top side of a paper clip. Using a magnet on the bottom side of the folder, with the paper clip on the top, guide it through the maze from start to finish. Just as we should be praying and consulting God in all that we do, make sure the praying hands are pointing the direction you wish to go in your maze.



"Me" Meter (Craft). Who's in charge of my life? God or me? How am I doing today? Construct your "Me Meter" according to the craft sample, use the graphics on **1JOS03.GF8**. Encourage the students to challenge themselves in all of their decisions with this as a reminder during the week. Are they forging ahead without God, or have they been laying those choices before the LORD and seeking His wisdom, guidance and/or strength?

Instruction page for **THE DAY THE SUN STOOD STILL**





Joshua 10:12-14

Joshua 10:12-14

Joshua 10:12-14

Joshua 10:12-14

Joshua 10:12-14

Joshua 10:12-14

Joshua 10:12-14

Joshua 10:12-14

Joshua 10:12-14

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God's Power Over His Creation

God created the entire universe and has absolute authority and power over all of it. In today's Bible lesson, we read of God slowing down the rotation of the earth. Read the following verses to see the different parts of His creation that He completely controls. Draw a line from each verse

Numbers
22:20-35

Joshua
3:7-17

Joshua
10:12-15

Genesis
7:9-12

Genesis
19:23-25

Exodus
8:16-19,
20-31,
10:1-20,

Numbers
11:31-34

Exodus
9:1-7

Genesis
1:14-19

Exodus
19:16-25

Exodus
14:21-31

Exodus
8:1-6

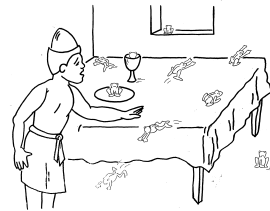
Parting of the Red Sea



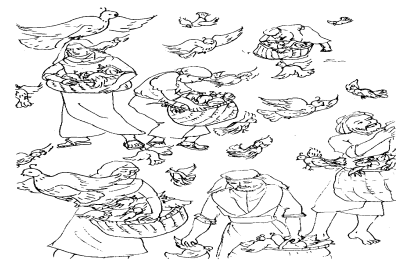
Thick clouds, Lightning, Thunder



Plague of frogs



Quail



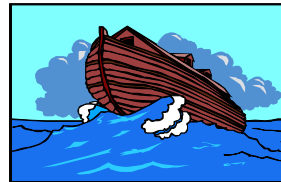
Balaam's donkey speaks



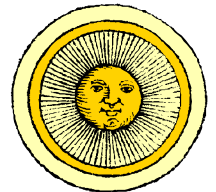
Plague of lice, flies and locusts



The Flood



Sun stood still



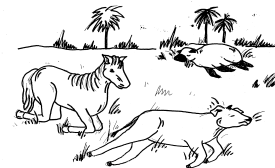
Creation of the sun, moon & stars



Destruction of Sodom & Gomorrah



Death of cattle and livestock



A "History of Haste"



Hasty choices usually result in hurtful consequences. God desires that we go to Him first to see what His Word says about the decisions we face in all of life. Look up the following verses to see the hasty choices God's people have made and the hurtful consequences that resulted.

Hasty Choice	Hurtful Consequences
Genesis 3:1-7	Genesis 3:16-19
Genesis 19:26	Genesis 19:26
Genesis 25:27-34	Genesis 27:36-38
Numbers 20:8-11	Numbers 20:12
Joshua 7:20-21	Joshua 20:24-26
Proverbs 21:5	Proverbs 21:5
Proverbs 29:20	Proverbs 29:20

Instead of making a "hasty choice," we should heed the words of:

PROVERBS 3:5-6

(write the verse below)

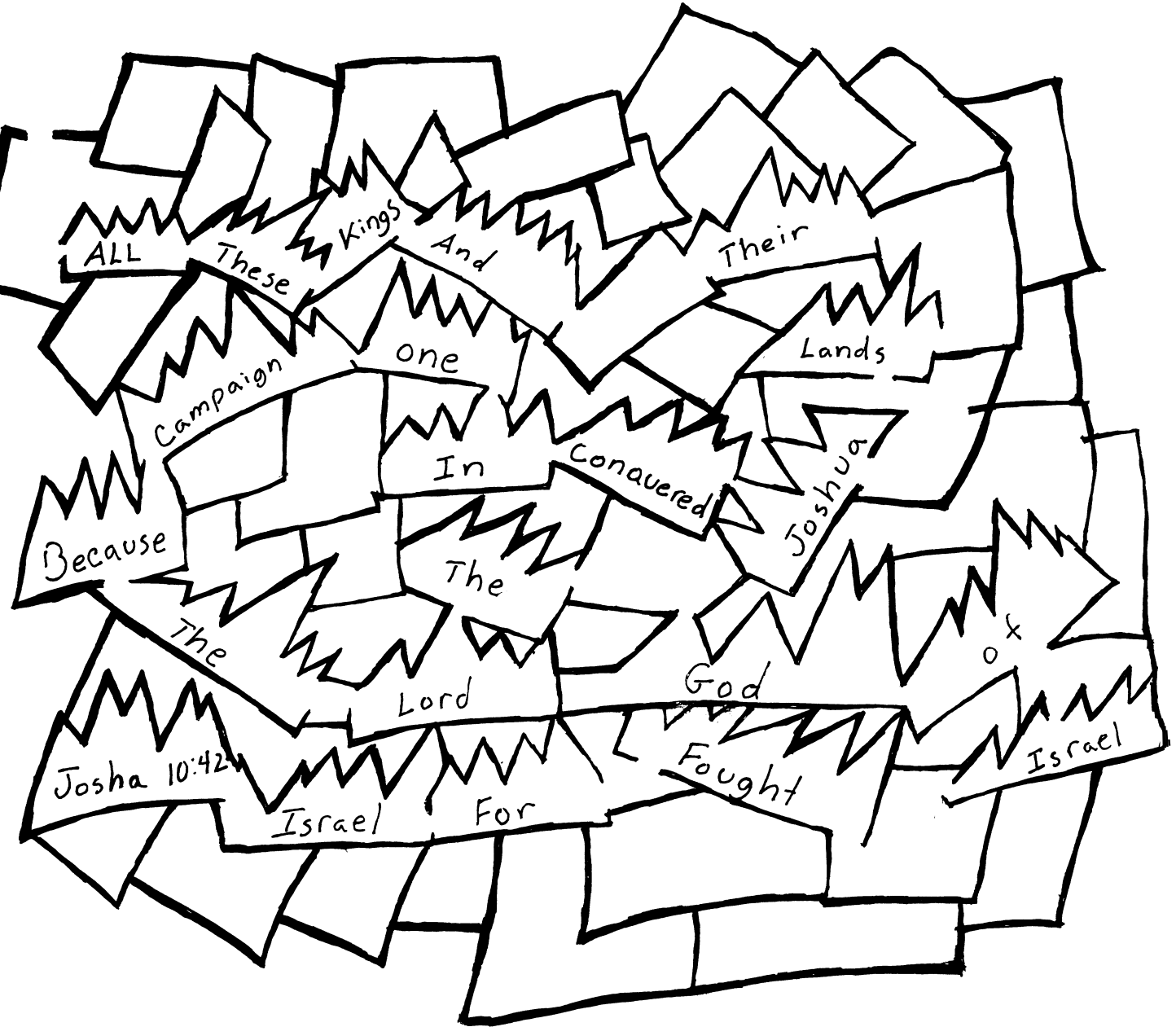
" _____

_____ "

TO FIND OUT HOW
JOSHUA LED THE
ISRAELITES AND
CONQUERED THE LAND
FOLLOW THE CROWNS
AND WRITE DOWN THE
WORDS YOU SEE. IT'S
BEEN STARTED FOR
YOU.

JOSHUA 10:42

ALL THESE



23. Who hardened the hearts of the people? 11:20

24. What happened to the land after all was done which the Lord had commanded? 11:23

25. How many kings were killed in all the battles which were fought? Chapter 12 is a complete list of them. 12: 2,4, 9-24

Passage Review Questions

Joshua 9 - 12

1. All of the kings west of the Jordan heard all the things that were happening and came together to make war on Joshua and Israel. When the people of Gibeon heard what was done to Jericho and Ai what did they decide to use on the Israelites? 9:4a

2. What did they send to the Israelites? 9:4-5

3. Why were the Gibeonites able to trick the Israelites? 9:14

4. How many days after the treaty did the Israelites learn that the treaty was with the Gibeonites and how close were they? 9:16

5. Who grumbled against the leaders because of the treaty? 9:18-19

6. Since the Israelites had to let the Gibeonites live because of the treaty and the wrath of the Lord if the treaty was broken by the Israelites, what did the Gibeonites become to the people of Israel because of their deception? 9:21-23

_____ and _____ for the entire - _____

7. Why had the Gibeonites lied to the Israelites? 9:24
8. Who was the king of Jerusalem? 10:1
9. When the King of Jerusalem heard of the Gibeonites surrendering to the Israelites whom did he go to to band together to attack Gibeon? 10:3

1.	3.
2.	4.

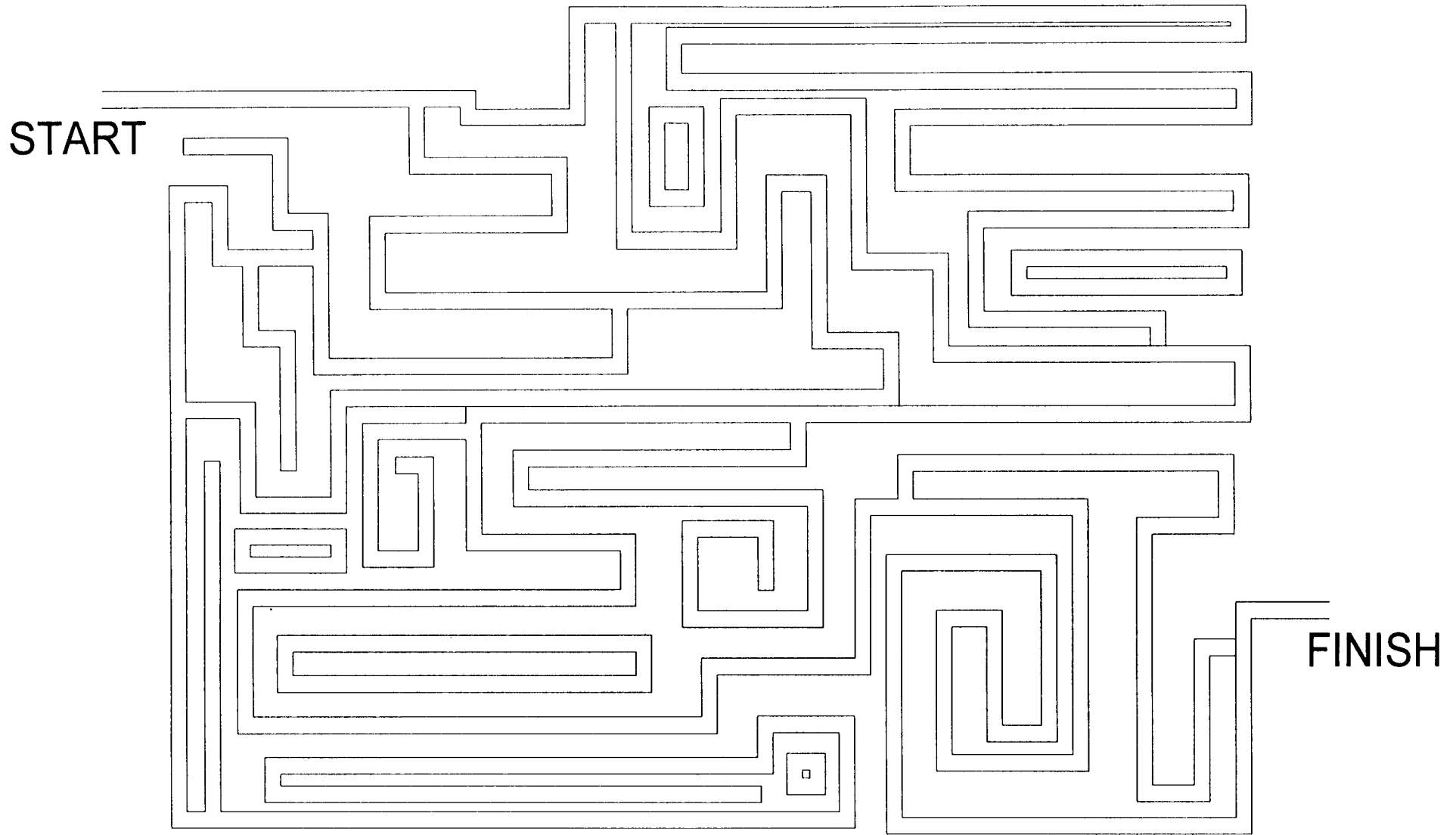
10. To whom did the Gibeonites send word for help? 10:6
11. While Israel was pursuing the Amorites, what did God send to help Joshua and his men? 10:11
12. What killed more men, the sword of the Israelites or the hail? 10:11
13. What happened to the sun and the moon during this great battle? 10:12-13
14. Where did the 5 kings hide after they fled? 10:16
15. What trapped these kings there? 10:18

16. After Joshua had taken Makkedah and Libnah, what city did he destroy next? 10:31
17. From verses 34, 36, 38, and 40, list all the cities that were conquered by Joshua and his men? 10:34,36,38,40
18. Why did Joshua and his men have such great success in their campaign? 10:42
19. Where did all the kings of the north gather together to fight against Israel? 11:5
20. Where was the main battle fought, and where were they pursued to until no survivors were left? 11:7-8
21. Why did the Lord want the Israelites to do what they did to their horses in 11:6?

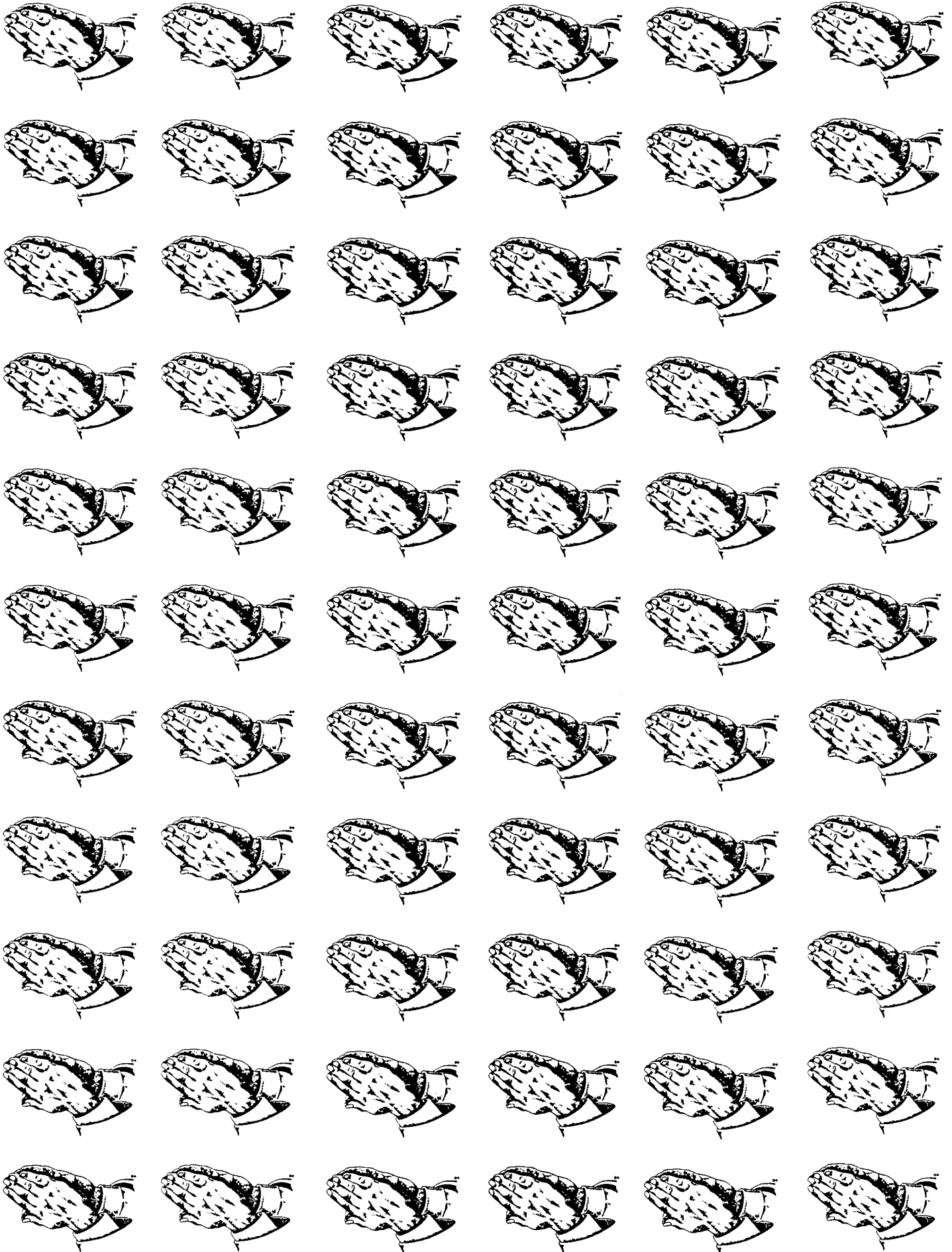
Because He wanted the Israelites to put all their _____ in Him and not in horses or chariots.
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22. Who had been the head of all the northern kingdoms? 11:10

Decisions with Dependence



As we wind our way through life's maze, we are faced with decisions constantly. God wants to lead us through that maze. Through prayer, Bible study, and counsel from those placed in authority over us, we can determine His will for us.



"ME" METER

How Am I Doing Today ?

Proverbs 3: 5-6

Me

God

Seeking His Wisdom in All That We Do