



Conquering the Land and Fighting Giants



Scripture References:

[Joshua 14:5-15; 15:13-15; and 21:43-45](#)

Suggested Emphasis: Elderly people can serve the Lord.

Memory Verse: “Whoever serves me must follow me. Then my servant will be with me everywhere I am. My Father will honor anyone who serves me.” [John 12:26, ICB](#)



Story Overview:

When the Lord told the Israelites to divide the land, Caleb had a special request from Joshua. Caleb was an old man but remembered forty-five years earlier when he was one of the twelve spies who had spied out of Canaan. Because Caleb had faith that God would help Israel conquer the land (even though the enemy seemed like giants), Moses had promised him land. Although he was old, Caleb still believed that the Lord could help him fight the enemy. The Lord told Joshua to give the land of Hebron to Caleb. Caleb did indeed overtake the enemy and occupy Hebron.

Background Study:

Even though the Lord had given the new land to His people, they were still required to possess it physically. This meant that they had to conquer the nations that were living there. Israel gained control through two primary campaigns, the first one to the south and the second through the north. The southern campaign dragged on. It took nearly seven years for the land to be subdued.

After the land was under control, God instructed Joshua to divide the land among the nine full tribes and half the tribe of Manasseh, which had not yet received an inheritance. Prior to Israel's entry into the land, the tribes of Reuben, Gad and half the tribe of Manasseh had received their land on the east side of the Jordan River ([Numbers 32:28-33](#)).

The tribe of Levi received no land inheritance. Their inheritance was a share of the sacrifices (portions not consumed by fire in the actual sacrifice act [Joshua 13:14](#)). They were to live in assigned cities within the lands of the other tribes ([Numbers 35:1-8](#); [Joshua 21](#)).

Joshua, chapters thirteen through nineteen, records how the land was divided. We will highlight Caleb's story in today's lesson, but the following is a list of chapters concerning the other tribes:

- [Chapter 13](#): A description of the whole land and specification of the land allocated to Reuben, Gad and Manasseh east of the Jordan.
- [Chapter 14](#): Caleb's individual portion (*today's lesson*).
- [Chapter 15](#): Judah's portion.
- [Chapter 16](#): Ephraim's portion.
- [Chapter 17](#): the half-tribe of Manasseh's western portion. The "half-tribe" of Manasseh was so called simply because a portion of the people of Manasseh had already received it on the east side of the Jordan River ([Numbers 32:33](#)).
- [Chapter 18](#): the Re-assembly of the Nation at Shiloh. Benjamin's portion.
- [Chapter 19](#): portions allotted to Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and Dan.

Caleb had been about forty when he first entered Canaan as a spy. Because of his good report, Caleb was promised the land of Hebron as his reward.

Forty-five years had passed since the spies returned, and it was time to divide the land. Joshua and Caleb were the oldest Israelites. All Israelites who had been over the age of twenty when the people refused to enter the land died during the wilderness wanderings. Only Joshua and Caleb had been exempt from that punishment ([Numbers 13-14](#)). A leader as old and highly respected as Caleb could have left it to the younger men to conquer the country where the giants lived, but not Caleb. He knew that God could and would help him even though, by human standards, he was a very old man at eighty-five.

Caleb must have remembered the Anakites from when he was a spy ([See 12 Tribes and 12 Spies](#)). The other spies reported on the strength of the Anakites and that the Israelites were like "grasshoppers" in comparison ([Numbers 13:31-33](#)). Whether they were physically big or "giants" through their power, Caleb was not afraid to go and take the land from them ([Joshua 14:10-12](#)).

Joshua granted his request, and Caleb drove the giants out. Caleb wasn't afraid of anything the Anakites could do because he knew what God could do. He did not use his age as an excuse to stop working for God. He trusted in God, and God gave him victory. Caleb had trusted in God as a young man and continued to do so throughout his life.

It is extremely important that children witness the example of elderly people who still live full lives for the Lord.



Way to Introduce the Story:

Find out the ages of some of the elderly people in your congregation. Find newspaper articles about elderly people. Let the children share the ages of some of the oldest people they know. Spend a little time discussing how things must have been when these people were the ages of the children in your class. "The oldest two people in Israel at the time of today's story were Joshua and Caleb. They didn't say, 'I'm old now, I think I will stop loving God and doing things for Him.' Joshua and Caleb kept doing things for God even though they were very old!"

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The Story:

Long ago, the Lord promised to give His people their land. He made the promise to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Jacob's 12 sons, Moses and Joshua. After all those years, the Israelite people were in their own land. They fought many battles, but the Lord helped them.

Now, it was time to divide the land so that all of the tribes of Israel would have a place to live. The Lord told Joshua to divide the land among the twelve tribes of Israel. Ten of the tribes were named after ten of Jacob's sons. These tribes were Reuben, Simeon, Judah, Issachar, Zebulon, Gad, Asher, Dan, Naphtali, and Benjamin. Joshua gave each of these tribes their own land. The two tribes named after Joseph's sons were also given a share of the land. These were Ephraim and Manasseh. Now, the land of Canaan was divided between all of the tribes of Israel so that everyone had a share.

One man in Israel remembered a very special promise that Moses had made to him. Caleb came up to Joshua and said, "Joshua, do you remember a long time ago when Moses sent you and me into Canaan as spies? Do you remember how we came back and told Moses all about how good the land was?"

"Yes," said Joshua, "I remember."

"Even though all of the other spies did not have enough faith to conquer the land. Only you and I did. Do you remember how I told Moses I knew we could take over the new land because God would help us?"

"Yes," said Joshua, "I remember."

"And do you remember how Moses said that I could have part of the new land because I always follow God and do what He says?"

"Yes," said Joshua, "I remember."

"That was forty-five years ago," said Caleb. "Now I am eighty-five years old. But look at me, Joshua I am as well and strong now as I was back then. And I can do all the things now that I could do back then because I always follow God and do what He says!"

I know I am old, but I still want to follow God. I don't want something easy to do, Joshua; I want something hard! Do you know that mountain near Hebron? It has people living on it who are as big as giants! But I know it is the land God wants me to have, and He will help me against those giants!"

"Yes," Joshua said to Caleb, "God will help you because you always follow Him. Go and take the land, Caleb. You can fight the giants and then you can have the land."

God did help Caleb send away those giants and take over the mountain. Then Caleb took all his family to live with him there for the rest of his life. He kept following God and doing what God said, and God was always with him.

Joshua was happy that he had been able to lead the people of God into their own land. Now, Israel possessed all of the land that the Lord had promised. He hoped that the people would always remember to follow God. If they followed the Lord,, the Lord would always protect and take care of them.

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Ways to Tell the Story:

This story can be told using various methods. Always remain true to the facts found in the Bible, but help children connect to its meaning by using drama, visual aids, voice inflection, student interaction, or emotion.

[Click here for visual aids and story-telling methods.](#)

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Review Questions:

1. After they entered the Promised Land, who were the two oldest people in Canaan? Joshua and Caleb
How many parts was the land divided into? 12
2. Who fought and beat the giants of Hebron? Caleb
3. Did God's people possess all of the land that the Lord had promised? Yes

Song Suggestions:

- [I'm in the Lord's Army Song](#)
- Refer to the [Song Page](#) on this website for more options.

Learning Activities and Crafts:

[\(How to choose the best learning activities for my teaching situation\)](#)

ACTIVITIES:

- Many of the children will have a map in the back of their bible showing the division of the land. Show them how to read their map. You could also bring a bible atlas and use that.
- Invite an elderly Christian to class today and let them share some of the things they do for God. They could share their favourite scriptures, talk about their conversion, their prayer life, etc. Ask them to talk about what life was like when they were young.
- Visit an elderly member or even a nursing home.
- Invite older adults to class today and let them join in making crafts with the children. How about doing hand-prints together?

CRAFTS:

- Use any blank paper or print this blank template: [Multi-age handprints](#).
- Make cards for the elderly people in your church. Children might write the verse: "Stand up in the presence of the aged, show respect for the elderly and revere your God. I am the Lord." [Leviticus 19:32](#)
- Colour a map showing how the Promised Land was divided up for the spies.



- Print bookmarks, trading cards or timelines ([printable pages](#)).
- Visit the [Teaching Ideas](#) page for additional activities and crafts.

Other Online Resources:

- [Coloring page & puzzle worksheets about the Death of Joshua \(Calvary Curriculum\)](#)
- [Printable map of the division of the tribes from bible-history.com](#)
- [Other: Information about the Twelve Tribes \(kidsbiblemaps\)](#)

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