

Conquering the Land and Fighting Giants



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

Suggested Theme: God works through all ages of people to do His will. Elderly people can serve God too.

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, Zebulon, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and Dan.

Caleb had been 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 group. "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!"

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."

"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 or other group participation.

Be selective. Each teacher is unique, so only use the illustrations that best relate to how YOU tell the story in THIS lesson. Too many illustrations can be confusing, so eliminate any that cover other stories or details you do not wish to emphasise in this lesson.

[Click here for visual aids and more storytelling methods.](#)

Tim King has created the slideshow below and has given permission for download.

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Review and Reflection Questions:

Review questions help children remember and know the facts of a story. Reflection questions encourage them to internalise the meaning and implications for their lives. Asking at least one of each type of question can help strengthen a child's spiritual development and help them connect to God. [Click here to learn more about review and reflection questions.](#)

Review:

- After the Israelites entered the Promised Land, who were the two oldest people in Canaan? (Joshua and Caleb)
- How many parts was the land divided into? (12)
- Who fought and defeated the giants of Hebron? (Caleb)
- Did God's people possess all of the land the Lord promised? (Yes)
- What might have surprised people about Caleb fighting the giants of Hebron? (Caleb was old)
- What did Caleb learn from this experience of conquering the land?
- Where did Caleb and his family live after defeating the giants? (They lived on the land the giants had lived on)
- Does God ever break His promises? (No)
- What promise did God keep in this story? (To let Caleb enter the promised land, and to own part of it)
- Why is it important to keep any promises you make?
- What did you learn about God from this story?

Reflection:

- Imagine you are very old, but you have been faithful to God and believed in Him for your whole life. This is what Caleb was like, but he wanted to help fight the giants of Hebron he'd seen when he was a young spy for Israel. Why do you think God let Caleb fight, even though he was old?
- Does God still use older adults to do important things for God? Can you think of any examples of this?
- How do you think Caleb felt when God helped him defeat the giants of Hebron?
- Who do you know that is an older adult and loves God?
- How could you show love and respect this week to an older adult you know? (Suggestions include asking them about God and what He's done in their life, asking them how to live wisely and please God, asking them what is most important in life, making a card or gift for them, spending time with them, pray for them, etc.)
- What do you want to be like when you are an older adult? How could you show God you love Him when you are old? What about when you are young?
- God remembered His promise to Caleb and let him enter and own part of the promised land (Caleb lived in Hebron). What promises has God made to us?

Prayer:

It is important to guide children in learning how to pray. In prayer, children can connect with God and learn that He hears and answers them. God can become a life-long friend who is with them every moment of their lives. Try using a variety of prayer methods from time to time so that the children can learn to connect with God in different ways. Note that you can pray at any time throughout your lesson. [A variety of prayer methods are found here.](#)

Song Suggestions:

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

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Activities and Crafts:

- [How to choose the best learning activities for my teaching situation.](#)
- [Visit the activities and songs pages for additional activities and crafts.](#)

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 join the group 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 join the children in making crafts with the children. How about doing hand-prints together?

Invite the children to respond to this story using the adaptable "God's Story" printable reflection page. [Free printables for this story.](#)

Crafts:

- Provide paint and paper so that adults and children can make handprints together. Use any blank paper or print this blank template: [Multi-age handprints.](#)

Old or young, big or small we know God loves us all!



Illustration: Adult and child (or mother and child) are a small amount of water hand print to make handprints. ©www.missionbibleclass.org. Copy may be made for ministry purposes only. Do not sell.

- 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 and use these free bookmarks, trading cards or timelines. [Free printables for this story.](#)

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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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Date

2026/06/10