

## FULFILMENT OF THE PROMISE – TAKING POSSESSION OF CANAAN

### Objective

The children learn that God will fulfil his promise if we do his will.

### Contents

- Joshua's selection and Moses' death (Numbers 27:18–23; Deuteronomy 34).
- Crossing the Jordan (Joshua 3–4).
- The capture of Jericho and taking possession of the rest of the land (Joshua 6–12).
- The promise given to us.





## Lesson Plan

### Lead-In

Workbook, Exercise 1,  
Discussion

Work on exercise 1 together and briefly repeat the important points about the journey of the people of Israel.

### Implementation

Teacher's Presentation

At the end of the forty-year journey of the people of Israel, Moses was 120 years old. Shortly before the people entered into the promised land of Canaan, God told Moses that he would soon die, and repeated that Moses would not enter the promised land, but that he would see it in its full greatness.

The high priest, Aaron, had been dead for about a year. His son Eleazar had become the high priest after him (Numbers 20:24–29).

Question Prompt

What was Moses probably concerned about in this situation?

Discussion

- The people needed a new leader.
- The new leader had to be chosen by God.

Question Prompt

What did Moses do?

- Moses asked God for a new leader for the people.

The Lord chose Joshua for this purpose. Moses had Joshua step before Eleazar and the people as God had commanded, laid his hands upon him, and appointed him as leader of the people (Numbers 27:18–23).

Teacher's Presentation

Moses turned to the people of Israel and gave a big farewell speech. He reminded them that God had helped them again and again during their journey, and exhorted them to keep the Lord's commandments and laws for then the Lord would continue to be with them. Moses asked everyone to follow Joshua and to continue trusting in the Lord who would help them take possession of the promised land.

After this, the Lord led Moses up to Mount Nebo and allowed him to see the promised land. Moses died, and God himself buried him in the valley (Deuteronomy 3:28, chapters 31, 34).

God spoke with Joshua as he had already spoken with Moses (Joshua 1:1–9). He ordered him to have the Israelites gather three days' provi-



## Bible

sions and to move with the people toward the river Jordan. The Lord promised a miracle to enable them to cross the river and reach Canaan (Joshua 1:11).

The children read aloud how this happened:

Joshua 3:14–17:

*“And it came to pass, when the people removed from their tents, to pass over Jordan, and the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people; and as they that bare the ark were come unto Jordan, and the feet of the priests that bare the ark were dipped in the brim of the water, (for Jordan overfloweth all his banks all the time of harvest,) that the waters which came down from above stood and rose up upon an heap very far from the city Adam, that is beside Zaretan: and those that came down toward the sea of the plain, even the salt sea, failed, and were cut off: and the people passed over right against Jericho. And the priests that bare the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of Jordan, and all the Israelites passed over on dry ground, until all the people were passed clean over Jordan.”*

We supplement:

## Teacher's Presentation

Before crossing the Jordan, the Lord commanded that twelve men, one from each tribe, each take along on their shoulders one stone taken from the river. At Gilgal, situated between the Jordan and Jericho, Joshua erected these stones in remembrance of God's help in crossing the Jordan.

The first city which, according to God's will, the Israelites were to capture, was Jericho. It was surrounded by a strong wall. It therefore seemed impossible to take possession of this city. The Lord, however, once again arranged for a miracle (Joshua 6:11–20).

## Workbook, Exercise 2

The texts are read by different children.

## Discussion

Jericho was captured without using the usual means of warfare. Israel was victorious only because of God's help. This the Israelites experienced because they followed God's instructions. In this manner, God's greatness became clear to the Israelites, but also to the inhabitants of Canaan. The Lord also continued to determine how possession was to be taken of the land.

In this way the Israelites battled successfully against the kings of 31 cities, taking possession of their land, and found a new home in the land of Canaan (Joshua 11:23).

God had promised the land in which milk and honey flowed to the Israelites already before the exodus from Egypt. God directed every-

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