

LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

There is always time to serve God.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God gives us the time we need to do his will.

KEY PASSAGE:

Joshua 10:1-15, The Sun Stands Still

INTRO

What would you do if you had a time machine? Would you go to the future – find out what gizmos and gadgets will be created in the next hundred years? See if life in the future looks the way it does on Star Wars?

Or would you travel into the past? Go back and fix mistakes you've made? Or stop bad things from happening to the people you care about? Or would you simply use it to give yourself more time to do all of the things on your "to do" list?

We don't have time machines – and we probably never will – but twice a year, we all do a little time traveling, of sorts. It's called daylight savings time. Every fall – usually in November – the clocks move back one hour. It happens overnight, so you may not ever realize it's happening. But for that one day in November, you've gained an extra hour in your day.

Then in the spring – in March, usually – the clocks spring ahead one hour. That sounds cool, like we're moving into the future. But in reality, you're losing that hour you gained back in November. And you're losing an hour of sleep. It's on that day in spring when you may really feel like there's never enough time to do all of the things on your "to do" list.

But the truth is, there is a season for every activity under heaven. God gives us enough time to do all that he has given us to accomplish.

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Today's Bible story is about the time Joshua needed a little more time to get the task done. And God gave it to him in an unexpected way.

READ Joshua 10:1-15

MAIN POINT

The people of Gibeon were friends with the Israelites. They had made a peace agreement. So when a group of kings banded together to battle Gibeon, the Israelites went out to the battlefield to defend Gibeon against their enemies.

God told Joshua beforehand not to be afraid; that they would win the battle. Joshua and his men marched all night to meet the enemy army. Then they launched a surprise attack. They battled into the day.

God was fighting on the side of Joshua and the Israelites. He rained down large hailstones that fell on many of the soldiers from the other armies. God did something else too: he stopped the sun from moving.

Joshua prayed to God and basically asked him for more time to win the battle. He asked God to make the sun stand still, so they would not have to fight in the dark or give up the fight. God heard Joshua's prayer and he gave him what he asked for. The sun stopped right there in the sky for almost a full 24 hours.

DRIVE IT HOME

You might feel overwhelmed sometimes by how quickly the days go. There isn't enough time to do everything you have to do. You sure could use one of those days where the sun stops completely.

You're probably out of luck there. The Bible says there had never been a day like it before or ever been one since. It was a one-time deal. But here's what isn't a one-time deal: God is on your side. He is there for you through whatever you are going through. He wants to see you through whatever stress or struggles you are dealing with.

You've been given many tasks to do in a day: school, homework, family time, after school activities, church, more homework. It may get overwhelming at times. But when it gets rough, and you're wishing you had a time machine to go back and give you more hours, do what Joshua did. Pray.

Give God your worry and your stress. Tell him about what has you feeling overwhelmed. And ask for his help. He won't stop the sun in the sky, but he will give you what you need. He'll give you peace. He'll take away your worry. He will provide help to get the task done – either by bringing you other people to assist or by giving you a clearer head to finish the work.

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Or he might help you to see which things have to be done today and which ones could actually wait until tomorrow.

Remember: You don't need a time machine. You have an all-access pass to God, the one who made time. And he will make sure that you have enough time to do all of the things that he has given you to do.

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

There are so many ways we can spend our time. Please help us to do the things that you want us to do, and thank you for helping us to get it all done.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*