



Bible time booklet—Year 1-6

Joshua

We can totally trust our
promise-keeping God

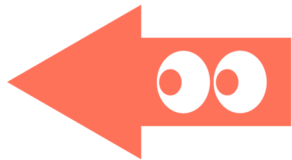
St Helen's Children's Ministry

Joshua

Why are we looking at the book of Joshua?

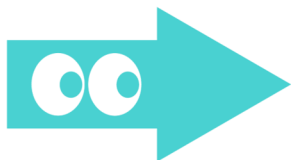
We're not reading Joshua just because it's a book of fun stories about battles, like a bedtime story book. We're not reading Joshua just because it's a book of true stories, like in a history book. No, we're reading Joshua because this book will help us to **have TOTAL TRUST in the Lord to keep his promises to us.**

How is Joshua going to do this? Well, we're going to look back... in order to look forward.



We look back...

As we look back at the book of Joshua, we see that the Lord kept all his good promises to the Israelites.



...to look ahead

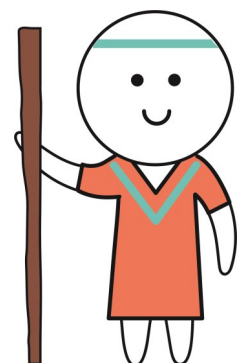
This helps us to look ahead with TOTAL TRUST in the Lord to keep his even better promises to us.

Memory verse

This is the memory verse we'll be learning as we go through the book of Joshua

**Not one of all the
Lord's good promises to
Israel failed; every one
was fulfilled.**

Joshua 21 verse 45



Using the material – a guide for parents

We hope these studies will help you:

- To know what we've been teaching in Sunday school - so you can talk to your child about it and pray for them as they hear about the Lord from the book of Joshua
- To give you an opportunity to dig into the passage with your child and clarify or build their understanding
- To give you an opportunity to help your child think through further how they are responding to what they're hearing in God's word.

We hope that this will enable us to better partner with you as you continue to teach your children about the Lord Jesus.

Why not get into the habit of praying with your child, asking for God's help, before you start the study. Then cover as much of the study as you feel able to with the age and attention span of your child.

Much of the narrative of the book of Joshua is a really exciting read. We've suggested just a few verses to read with each study but why not use the rest of the week to read through all of that section and see what it adds to our understanding.

You could go through the study over a meal time or at bedtime. You could also do the study over a whole week, doing a question each day.

Here are some ideas:

- For small children, you might choose to read 'Look Back', 'Look Ahead', think about the first 'look' question and then pray.
- Slightly older children might be able to look at one of the 'think' questions too, and the oldest may manage to cover all the questions.
- If you have older children, who want to go further than the study, you could read the rest of the passage (full passage indicated in at the top of each page) with them and perhaps think together what it adds to our understanding of the big idea.

Genesis 12 The Lord's promises

Look back The Lord's promise to Abraham

A long time ago, God had made a promise to a man called Abraham. God had promised to give Abrahams family a good land to live in. What an amazing promise! But you might remember that Abraham's family ended up as slaves in Egypt, uh oh. This wasn't the only problem: there were also people already living in the promised land! But God still promised to bring Abrahams family into the land, and give everyone a place to call home. What an amazing promise. Will God be a promise keeper? We'll have to wait to find out.

Read

Pray and read
Numbers 33:50-54

Look

Look at verse 50... God has brought his people out of Egypt.
Where are they now?

Look closer at verses 51-54... What does God say will happen?

Think

Hm... Imagine you were standing with the Israelites on the edge of the promised land. What might you have seen? How might you have felt?

Hmm... Do you think God will keep his promises?

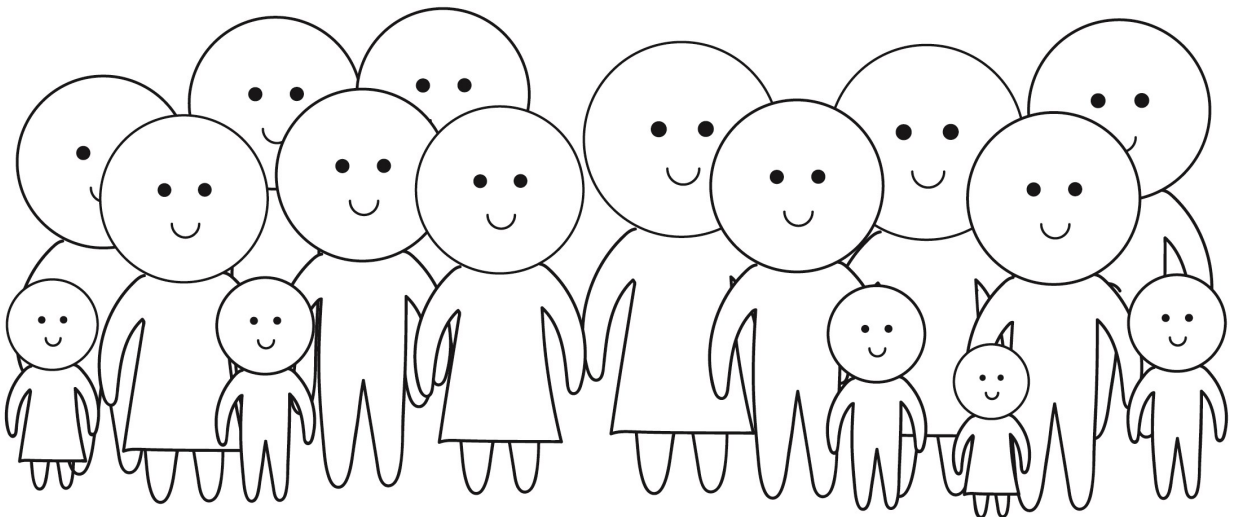
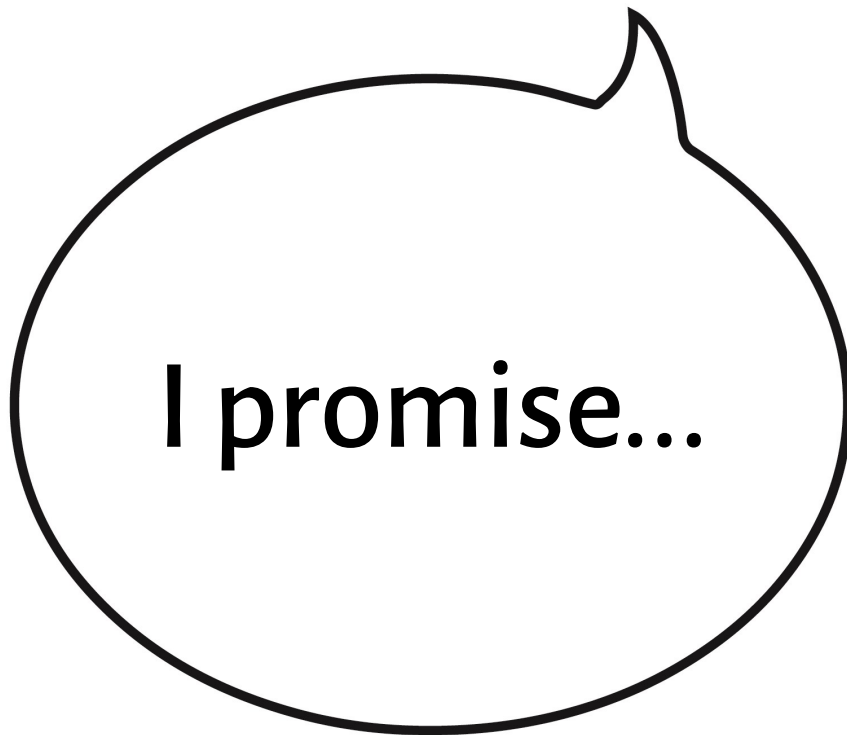
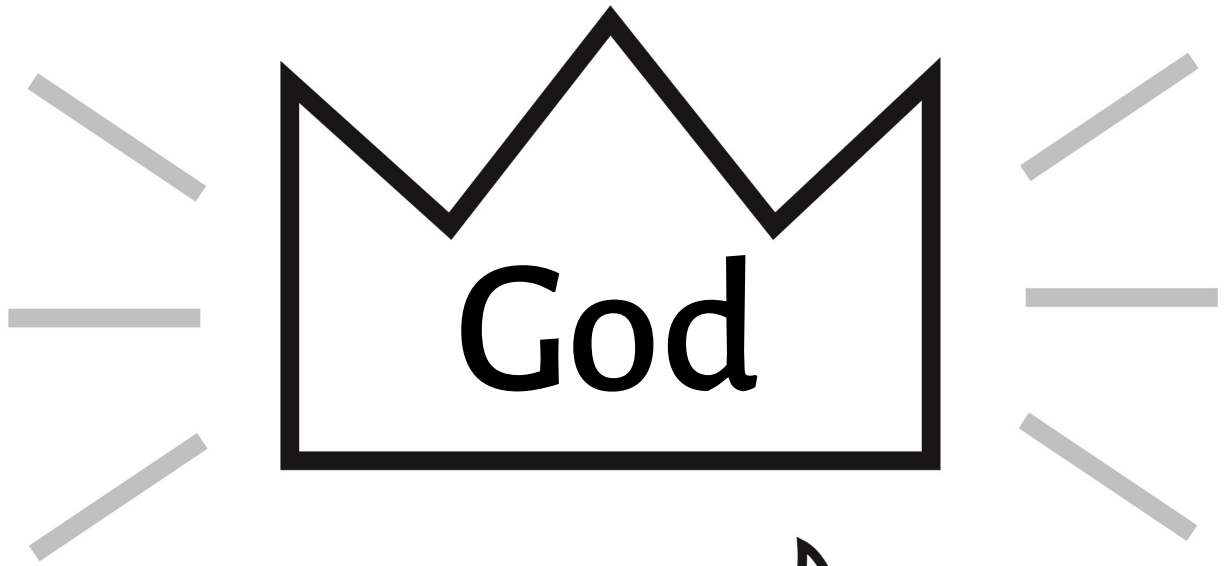
Hmmm... Why do you/do you not think God will keep his promises?

Look ahead The Lord's promise to us

God has made a promise to us. It's like the promise he made to Abraham, but better! God has promised that he will deliver us from this broken world of sin and death, and bring us to his new creation. His new creation will be perfect and good. Imagine all the good bits about this creation without the bad bits. God will bless us and live with us. What an amazing promise! But will he keep it? In Joshua, we'll see whether God is a promise keeper.

Pray

Let's **thank** God for making us an amazing promise.



Joshua 1 **Hero handover time!**

Look back

God uses Joshua to keep his promise

The Israelites were on the edge of the promised land, just waiting to go in. But they didn't go in straight away, they needed to get ready. The first few chapters of Joshua are like the 'get ready... get steady' at the beginning of a race, before you hear 'go!' So what did Israel need to get ready? Well Moses had just died, so God gave Israel a new leader, Joshua. Joshua would be a strong and courageous conqueror. God would use him to bring the Israelites into the promised land. As we look back, it looks like God will keep his promise.

+ Read

Pray and read
Joshua 1:1-6

👁️ Look

Look at verse 6... What will Joshua do?

Look closer at verses 5-6... Why will Joshua be able to lead the Israelites into the promised land?

💭 Think

Hm... How was God going to keep his promise to Abraham?

Hmm... What might have happened to the Israelites if they didn't have Joshua?

Hmmm... Think about why God's people need a mighty leader.

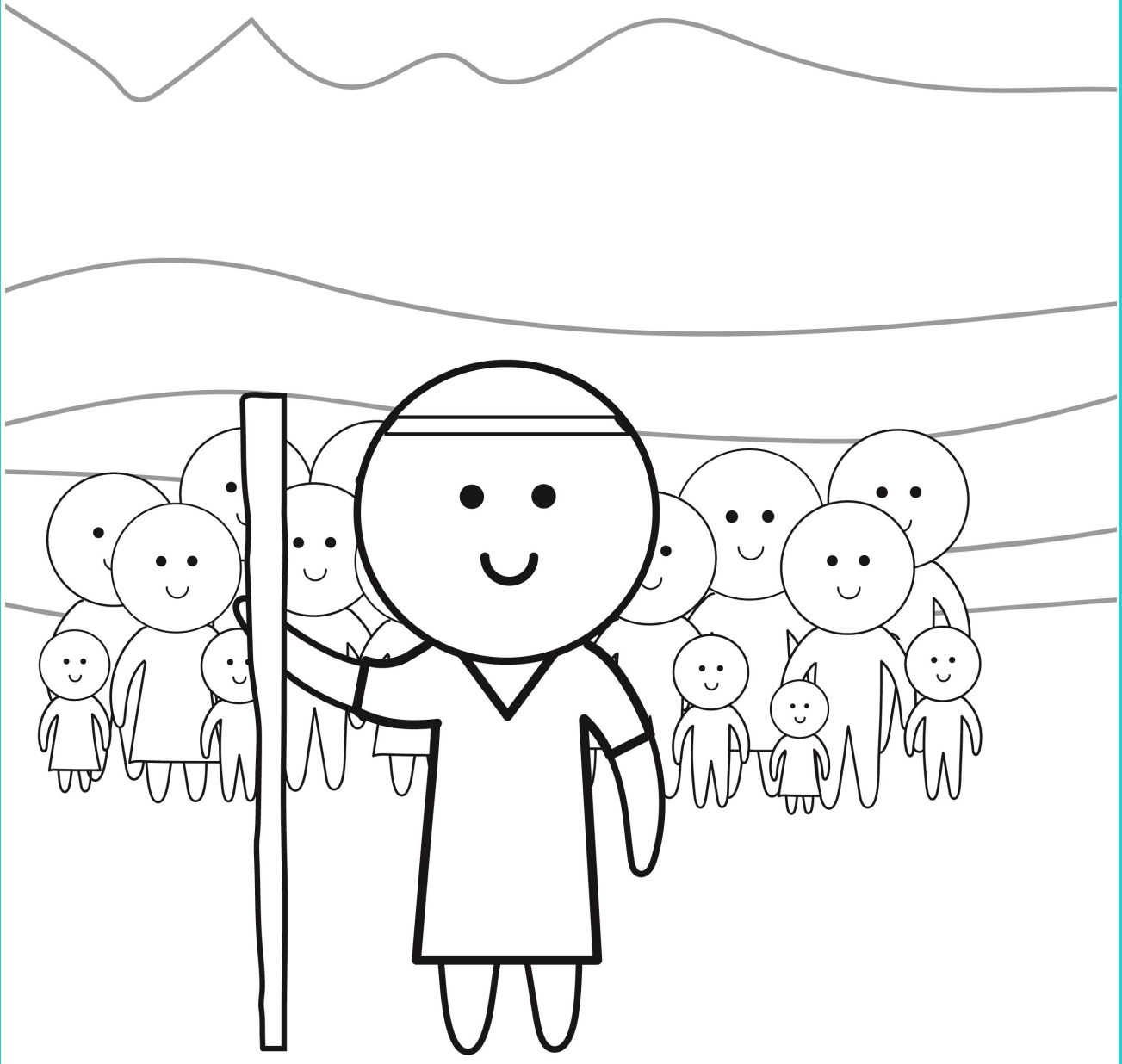
➡️ Look ahead

God uses Jesus to keep his promise

Israel's mighty leader, Joshua, points us forward to our mighty king, Jesus. Just as God used Joshua to bring the Israelites into the promised land, God uses Jesus to bring us into the new creation. Jesus is strong and courageous. He conquered sin and death—two of the enemies that prevent us from entering. A leader this mighty will surely bring us into the new creation. It looks like God will keep his promise.

💬 Pray

Let's **thank** God that through Jesus, he will keep his promise.



Joshua 2-5 **The LORD delivers his people**

Look back

The LORD delivers the Israelites into the promised land

To get into the promised land the Israelites had to cross the river Jordan. But how could they when there was so much water! They couldn't go over it because there was no bridge. They couldn't go under it because there was no tunnel. They had to go through it. God caused the flowing water to stop, and the Israelites walked across on dry ground - just like what happened at the Red Sea. And just as he delivered the Israelites out of Egypt, God has now delivered them into the promised land. He has kept his promise to Abraham.

Read

Pray and read
3:12-17

Look

Look at verse 16... What did God do?

Look closer at verse 17... What happened to the Israelites?

Think

Hm... Is God a promise keeper?

Hmm... Why is this promise so good? (Think about where they've come from and where they are going)

Hmmm... Can anything get in the way of God keeping his promises?

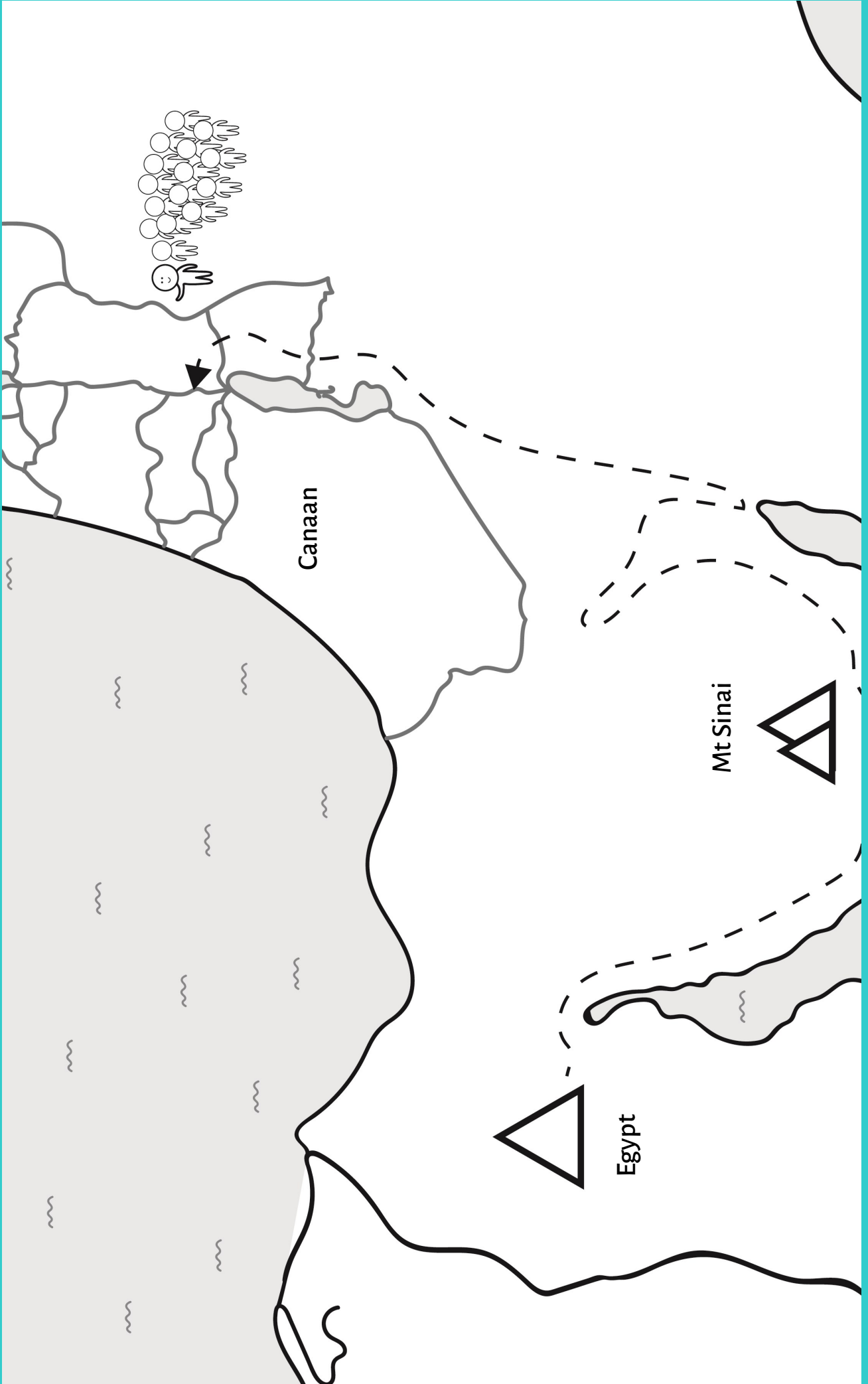
Look ahead

The LORD Jesus delivers us into the new creation

God's delivery of the Israelites out of Egypt and into the promised land gives us confidence that he delivers us from this broken world of sin and death into the new creation. You may have spotted that he's already started! If you believe in Jesus, then he has delivered you from serving Satan, delivered you from the power of sin, and delivered you from God's anger at your sin. If he's delivered you from these, he's already started his delivery, and he will finish it! He will keep his better promise to you and bring you into the new creation.

Pray

Let's **thank** God for delivering us.



Joshua 6-8 **God gets the victory**

Look back

The Lord mightily fought for his people

The Israelites had crossed the river Jordan, but there was another big problem. There were already people living in the land. And they lived in mighty cities. This wasn't a problem for God though. He gave the city of Jericho into his people's hands. All the Israelites had to do was to march around it lots of times. God then caused the walls to come tumbling down. He was the one who mightily fought for them and won the victory. God was doing all that was needed to keep his promise.

Read

Pray and
then read
Joshua 6:1-5

Look

What does God say he's going to do?

Look closer... What do Joshua and the people of Israel have to do?

Think

Hm... Could a mighty city stop God from keeping his promise?

Hmm... Why was God able to defeat Jericho without the Israelites help?

Hmmm... How does this story make you feel about God?

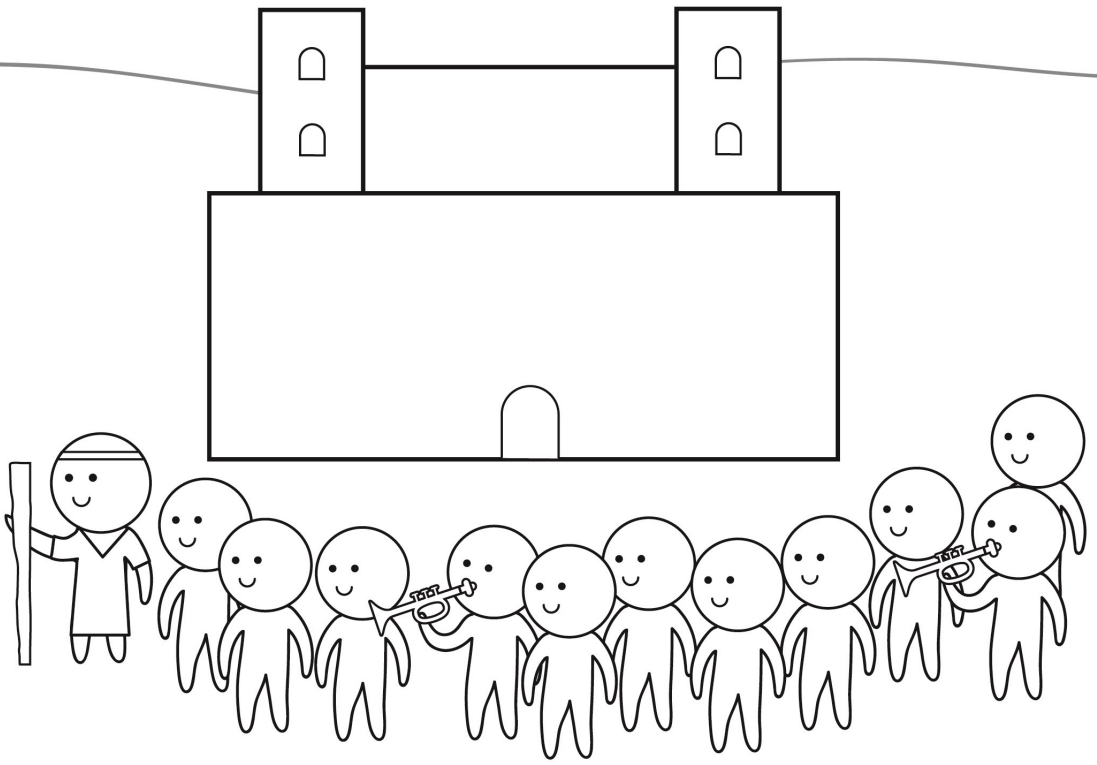
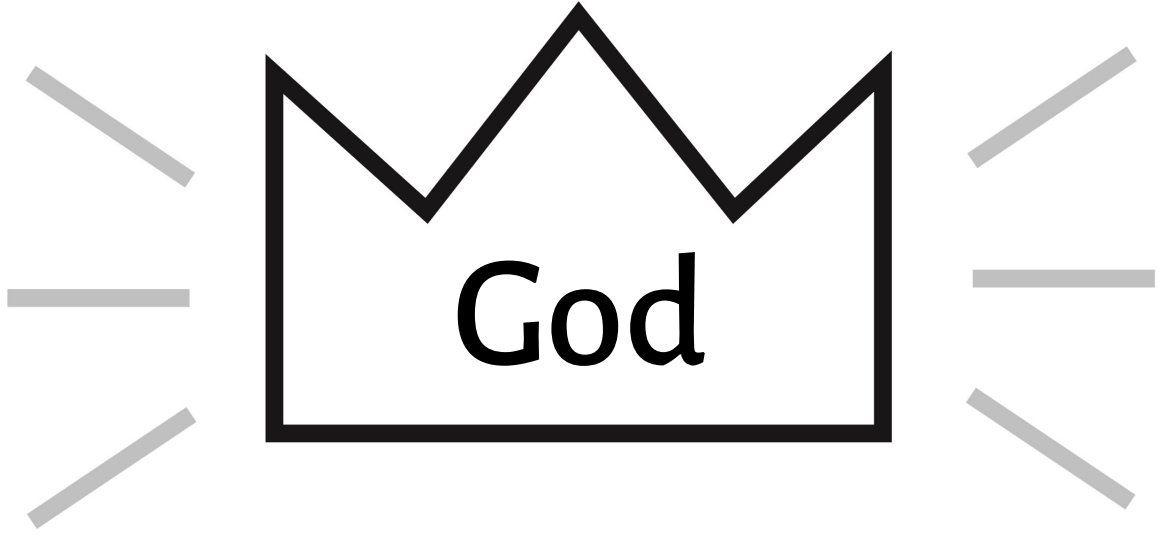
Look ahead

The Lord will mightily bring us into his new creation

The mighty city of Jericho couldn't stop God from keeping his promise. Nothing will stop God from keeping his promise to us. There are no people too strong, no walls too tall, no powers too powerful, to stop him. He is mighty. Nothing stands in his way. He will bring us into his new creation. So let's keep trusting him.

Pray

Let's **ask** God to help us keep on trusting him.



Joshua 9-12 **Destruction!**

Look back Joshua conquered the land

Warning! Warning! Scary content. Warning! Warning! There were lots of other people living in the promised land: the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites. These people did not serve God and did not like God's people. Because they were God's enemies, God had promised to destroy them. So, God caused the kings of the land to come and fight Joshua and the Israelites. But God was on the Israelites side, and Joshua destroyed all the people and took the whole land. He conquered the kings of the South, then the kings of the North. He conquered every city, and struck every king. Just as God promised, he destroyed his enemies and gave his people the land. God has kept his promise!

Read

Pray and then read 10:7-11 and 11:16-20

Look

Look at 11:16 & 17... How much of the land did Joshua conquer?

Look closer... What happens to God's enemies?

Think

Hm... Is God a promise keeper?

Hmm... Why did God destroy the people of the land?

Hmmm... How scary would it be if you weren't on God's side?

Look ahead Jesus will destroy all God's enemies

Warning! Warning! Scary content. Warning! Warning! One day God will send Jesus back to earth. When this happens he will destroy all his enemies. God is the one and only God who deserves everyone's praise. Those who serve him will be safe; but those who don't, will not. The ungodly will be destroyed. God is a promise keeper and will one day destroy his enemies. But he's being patient. He's giving people time to turn to King Jesus.

Pray

Let's **thank** God that he saves us from destruction

Joshua 13-21 **God's children receive their inheritance**

Look back

The Lord gave his people their inheritance, as he promised

God had promised Israel an inheritance. An inheritance is like a gift, that is passed down in a family. Israel's inheritance would be the promised land. So far God has kept his promise. He's delivered them into the land, removed all the inhabitants, and now he tells Joshua to divide it up so that everyone gets a piece. Like cutting a cake so everyone can have a slice. Or like deciding which bedroom everyone in your family will have when you move house. Joshua divided the land between all the tribes of Israel. Everyone got a piece.

+ Read

Pray and then
read Joshua
13:6b-8

👁️ Look

Look at verse 6b... What was the inheritance God gave them?

Look closer... Who was given an inheritance?

💭 Think

Hm... God promised to give the Israelites the land. Has he kept his promise?

Read Joshua 14:6-14 as we zoom in on a man named Caleb...

Hmm... How did Caleb trust God?

Hmmm... Did God keep his promise to Caleb?

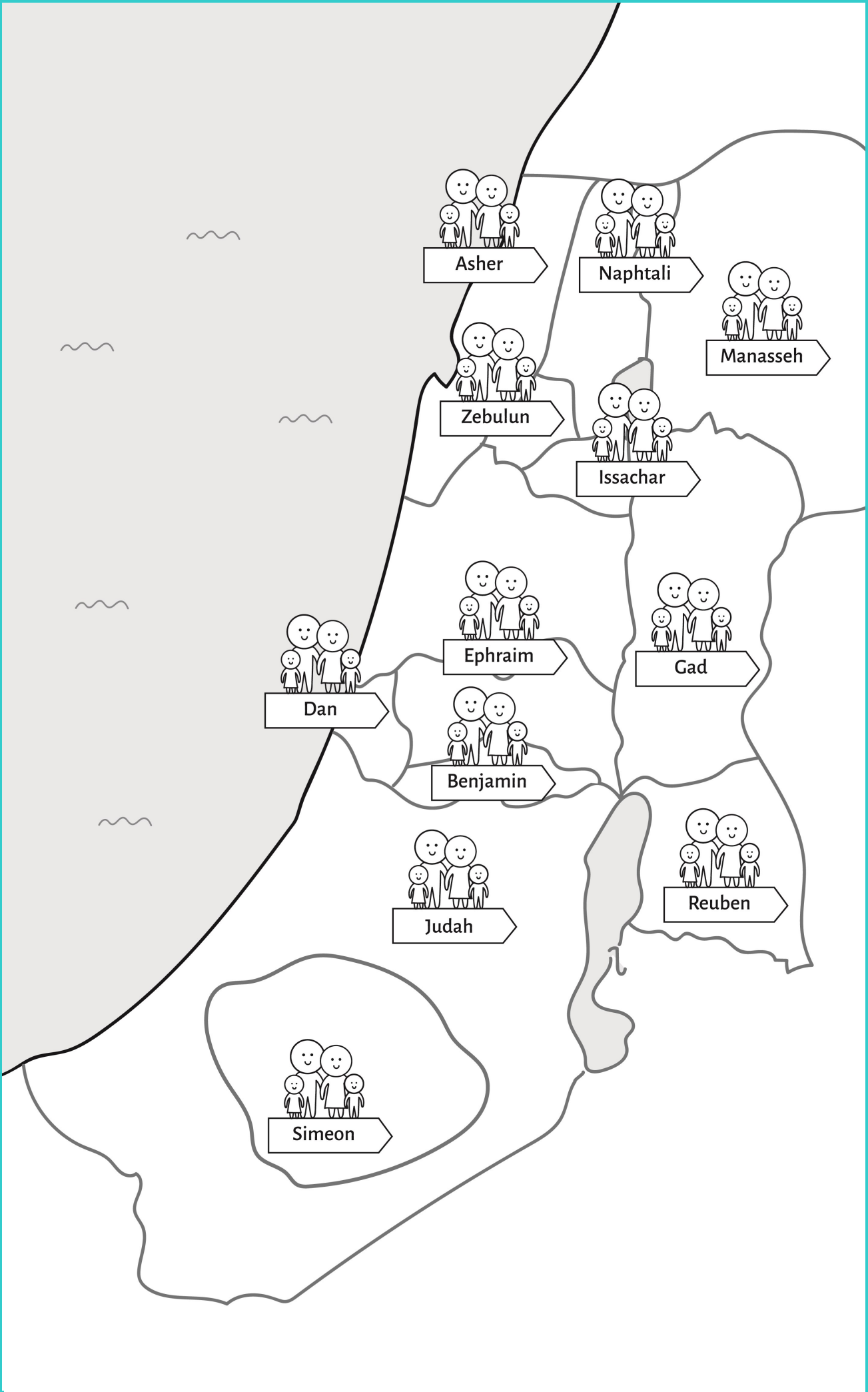
Look ahead

The Lord will give us our inheritance, as he promised

If we trust in Jesus, we are God's children. And like the Israelites, God has promised us an inheritance too. But it's not a chunk of land on this earth, it's way better than that! One day God will create a new heavens and a new earth. It'll be a wonderful place of goodness and blessing where God himself will live. And he's promised each of us a place in this new creation. Just as God kept his promise to the Israelites, he will keep his better promise to us.

🗨️ Pray

Let's **thank** God that he will give us an inheritance.



Asher

Naphtali

Manasseh

Zebulun

Issachar

Ephraim

Gad

Dan

Benjamin

Judah

Reuben

Simeon

Joshua 21:43-45 **God keeps all his promises**

Look back God kept all his good promises

Remember back to the start of Joshua: Gods people were on the edge of the promised land. God had promised many good things to them. He had promised to deliver them from Egypt and into the promised land, destroy the inhabitants of the land, and give each of the Israelites an inheritance of land. God had made many good promises. Looking back, we see that God had kept them all. God is a promise keeper.

Read

Pray and then read 21:43-45

Look

Look at verse 45... Is God a promise keeper?

Look closer... at verses 43 and 44. Write a list of what God promised (sworn)? Tick those he kept.

Think

Hm... Does God keep all his promises to his people?

Hmm... God also promised to punish the Israelites if they don't serve him. Would he keep this promise too?

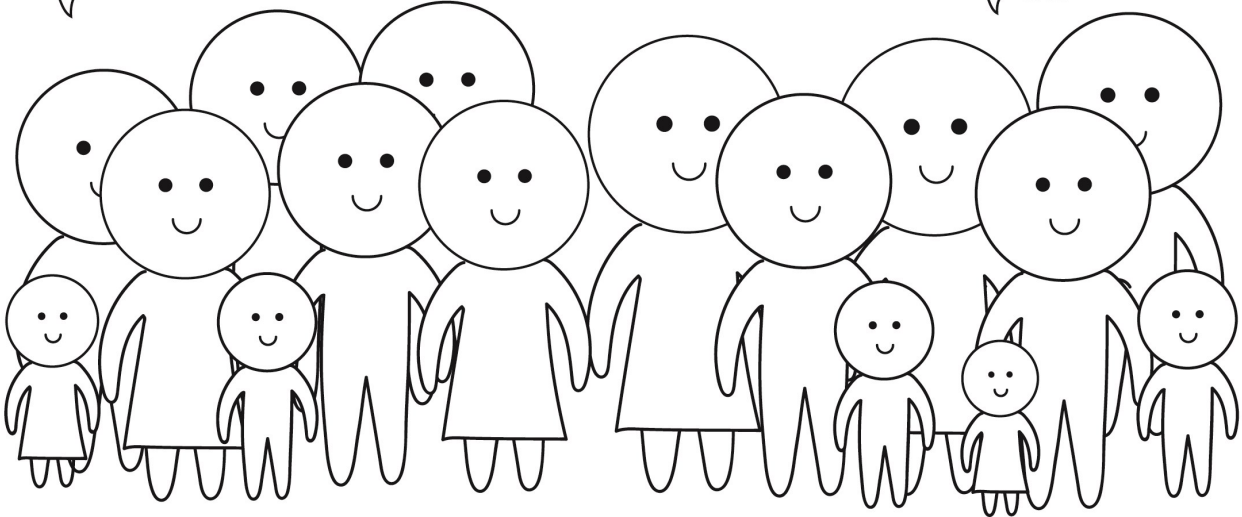
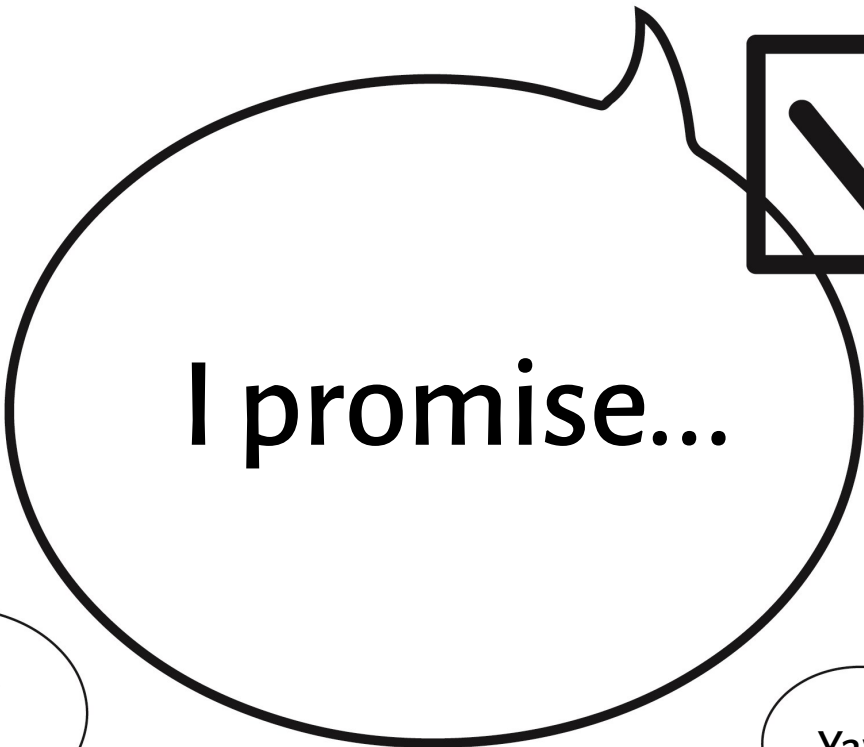
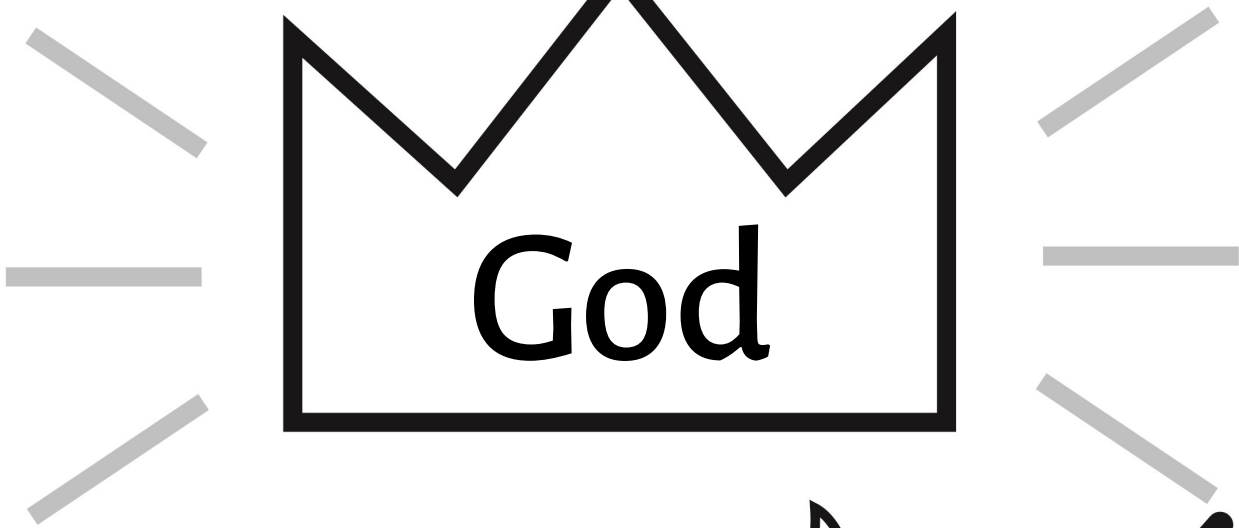
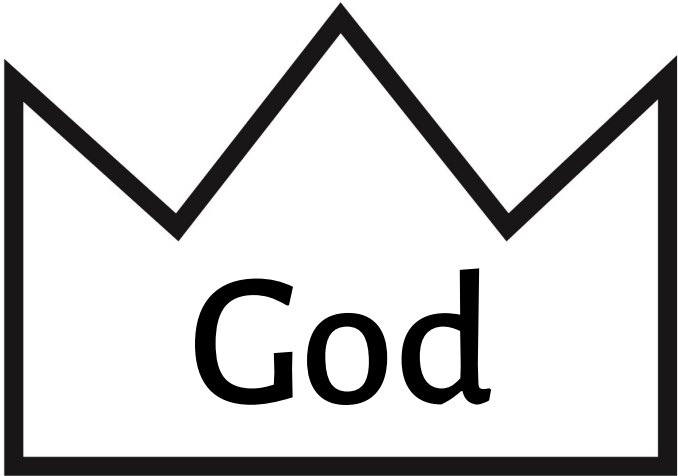
Hmmm... Why do we need better promises than the ones God made to Isra-

Look ahead God will keep all his better promises to us

As we've gone through the book of Joshua we've also seen Gods better promises to us. God has promised, to deliver us from this broken world of sin and death and bring us into his new creation, to one day destroy all his enemies, and to give us an inheritance in his new creation where we will live with him and be blessed by him. God has made some amazing promises to us. We know that God is a promise keeper because he kept all his promises to the Israelites. So we can totally trust him to keep all the good promises he's made to us.

Pray

Let's **praise** God for being a trustworthy promise keeper.



Joshua 22-24 **And they lived ever after.**

Look back An unhappy ending

At the end of the book, Joshua gave Israel a goodbye speech. He reminded them that God had kept all of his good promises. God always keeps his promises! But God also said that if they sin against him, they would be kicked out of the land. Joshua told the people they must hold fast to God. The people said “we will!” But Joshua knew they wouldn’t. The people would sin, and God would do what he threatened and kick them out of the land. Oh no! For people to live with God we need a promise which fixes the problem of sin.

Read

Pray and then
read Jeremiah
31:31-34

Look

Look at verses 33-34... What will God do?

Look closer... at verse 34. What will we know?

Think

Hm... Why couldn't Israel hold fast?

Hmm... Why will God have to kick them out of the land?

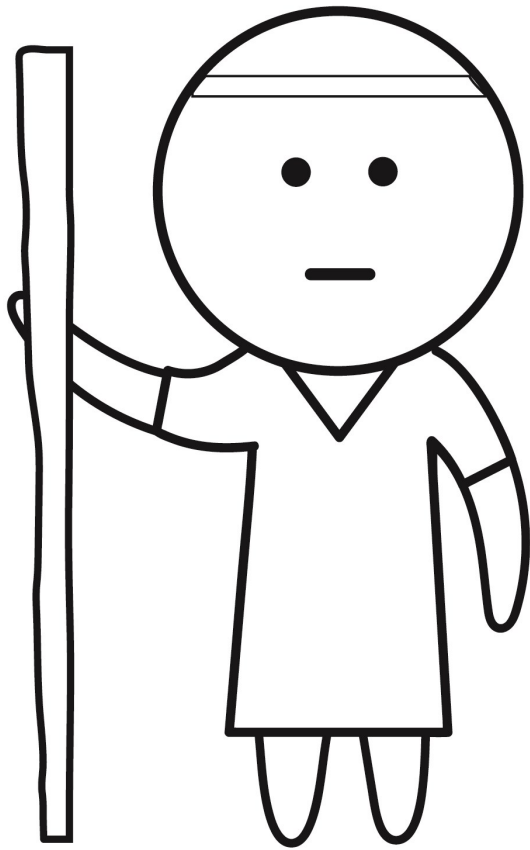
Hmmm... Why won't God kick you out of the new creation?

Look ahead Our happily ever after

God has promised us an inheritance: A place in his new creation. A place we can call home. A place where we will live with him. But because we sin, might what happened to the Israelites happen to us? No! God promised to forgive you of your sins and give you a heart that holds onto him. God fulfilled these promises in Jesus. If you trust in Jesus, he has forgiven your sin and given you a new heart. What happened to the Israelites can never happen to you. You cannot lose your inheritance. You will inherit your place in the new creation, just as God has promised. Here you will live with him, happily ever after.

Pray

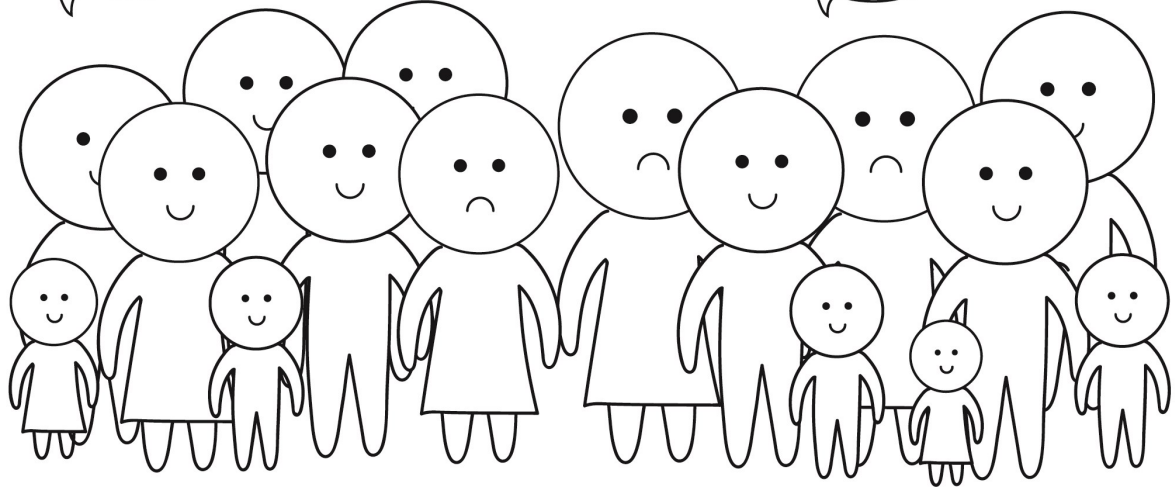
Let's **thank** God for his promises to us.



You won't be able to obey...

Yeah we will!

Oh no!



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