



Bible time booklet—Preschool & reception

Joshua

Trust our promise-
keeping God



St Helen's Children's Ministry

Joshua

Can you think of a promise that someone has made you? My friend promised me a really big bar of chocolate. Not a small bar, not a medium sized bar but a GIANT bar of chocolate. Mmm, yummy! Can I trust my friend to keep their promise?

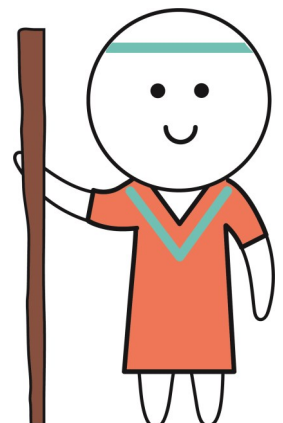
Our God has made really good promises to us! But can we trust him to keep them? We're looking at a book in the Bible called Joshua. In the book of Joshua, we see God keeping one of his really BIG promises. God had promised that he would give his people a beautiful land to call home. The book of Joshua tells the story of how God kept this amazing promise. As we read Joshua and see God keeping his promise to his people, we'll see that we can trust God to keep his promises to us.

Action rhyme

For each Bible story, the children will learn a rhyme to help them remember the big idea.

All the rhymes are to the tune of 'The Grand Old Duke of York' (cue lots of marching!) Each week we will repeat this first part of the rhyme before learning a new verse.

God keeps his promises.
His word will never fail.
He brought his people to this land.
He gave them a new home.



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 from the book of Exodus about the God who rescues.
- To give you an opportunity to dig into the passage with your child and clarify, reinforce, 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 bring up your children in the discipline and instruction of the Lord.

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. You could go through the study over a meal time or at bedtime.

Joshua 1-2 God is on his people's side

The story of Joshua starts on the edge of the beautiful land God had promised. God's people were excitedly peering in to their new home, waiting to enter. God had rescued his people from Egypt and brought them to this land. And now, God said, it was time to go in.

'Be very strong and brave' God said to Joshua, the leader of his people. 'I will keep my promise. I will be with you'. It was Joshua's job to lead God's people into the land and fight their enemies. So, God said Joshua had to be brave and strong. He had to trust God.

Before Joshua lead the people in, he sent some spies on a secret mission. Shh! The spies had to be very quiet and careful. Their secret mission was to tip toe into the land and check out the enemies. They crossed the river, went over the hills and into a big city called Jericho. They went into the house of a lady called Rahab. Rahab hid the spies to keep them safe! Shh!

Rahab said that she had heard how the LORD had powerfully rescued his people from Egypt. She knew that the LORD was giving his people this land. And so, all of God's enemies in the land were trembling with fear! Rahab knew that the LORD was on his people's side. And so, Rahab wanted to switch sides. She said, 'I know the LORD your God is God. Please save me and my family as I saved you.' They promised they'd keep her safe.

The spies tip toed back. Shh! They came back to Joshua and the people and told them; 'the LORD has given us this land, just as he promised. The people might look big and scary but guess what? They're scared of *us*! They know the LORD is on our side!' God's people didn't need to be scared! They could trust him to give them the land.

We've seen that the LORD is on his people's side. We've seen that we can trust him too.



Read

Pray and read Joshua 1:9



Look

Look at verse 9... Why doesn't Joshua need to be scared?



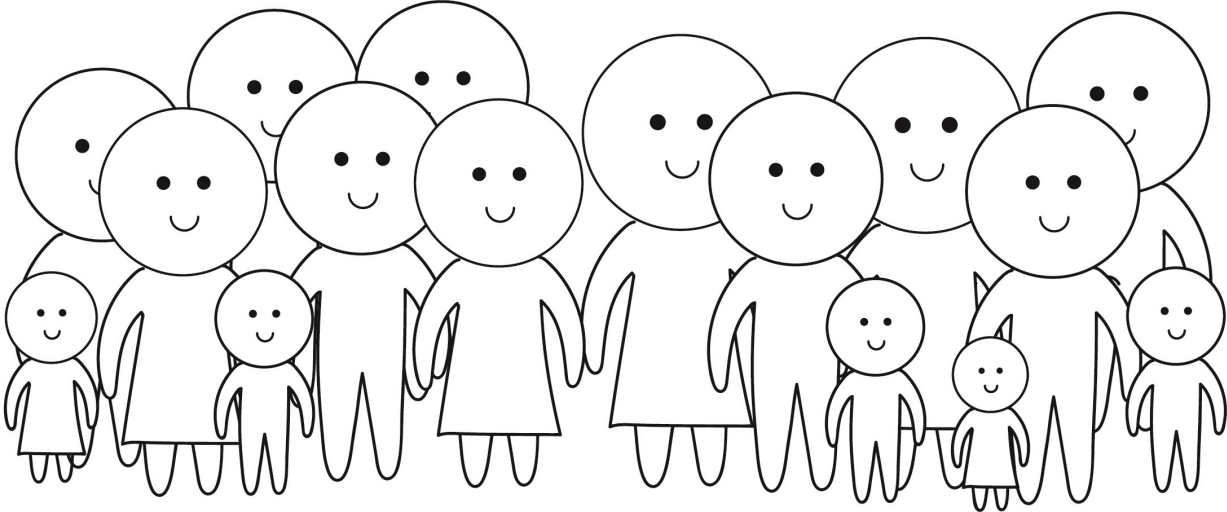
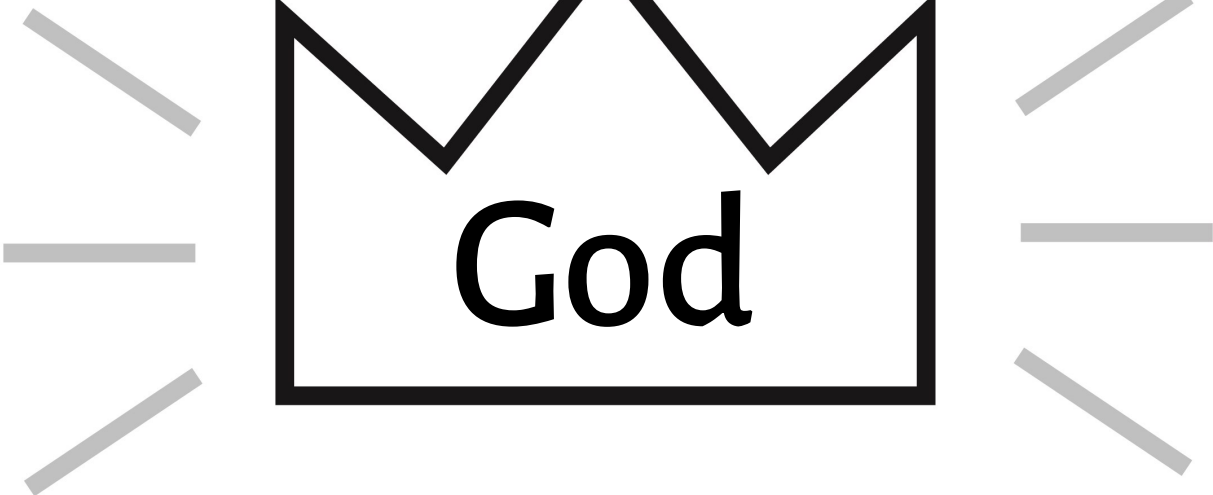
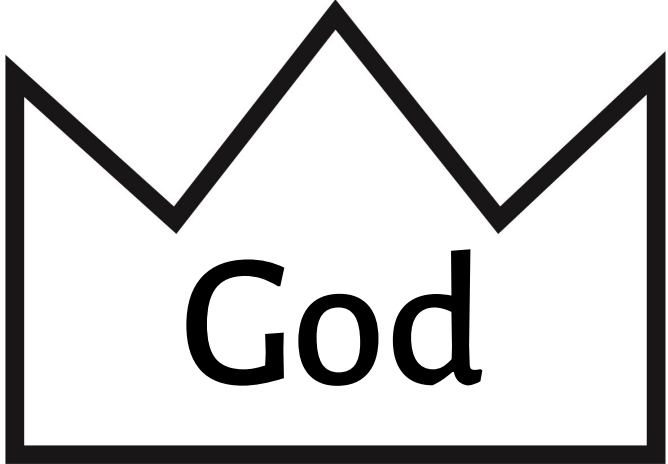
Pray

Thank you God that you are on your people's side.



Sing

God's enemies were strong.
So big and strong and mean.
But God is on his people's side,
So, they were scared instead!



Joshua 3 God delivers his people

Do you know what deliver means? Imagine your mum and dad wanted to buy you a new toy. So they go on their computer, they find one online, and they click 'buy'. Someone in a factory puts the toy in a cardboard box, tapes it up, and writes your address on it. It's then put in a van and driven to your house. And then, 'ding dong', you open the door, and the delivery man gives you the box. The toy has been delivered safely!

Today we're going to see the LORD delivering his people from Egypt and into the land he had promised. It's like God is a delivery man and his people are the package.

We saw God doing the first bit of his delivery in Exodus when God rescued his people out of Egypt. But God still needs to safely deliver his people into the land he'd promised.

God told Joshua to get all the people ready to go in. But... uh oh! There's a big, wide river in the way! It had lots and lots of water in it, like the river Thames. How were all of God's going to get across? Maybe they could go over it. But there were no bridges. Maybe they could go under it. But there were no tunnels. Maybe they could go across it. But there were no boats. They were stuck!

Do you remember how God parted the waters at the Red Sea? Well guess what? God did it again! The waters from upstream stopped flowing. They piled high in the sky as a big wall of water. And God's people walked through the river Jordan on dry ground. Just like God delivered his people safely out of Egypt, God delivered his people safely into the land.

God's people didn't need to worry! God was keeping his promises. They could trust him to give them the land. We've seen today that the LORD our God keeps his promises; he delivers his people. We've seen that we can trust him too.



Read

Pray and read Joshua 4:23-24



Look

Look at verse 23... How did God's people cross the river?



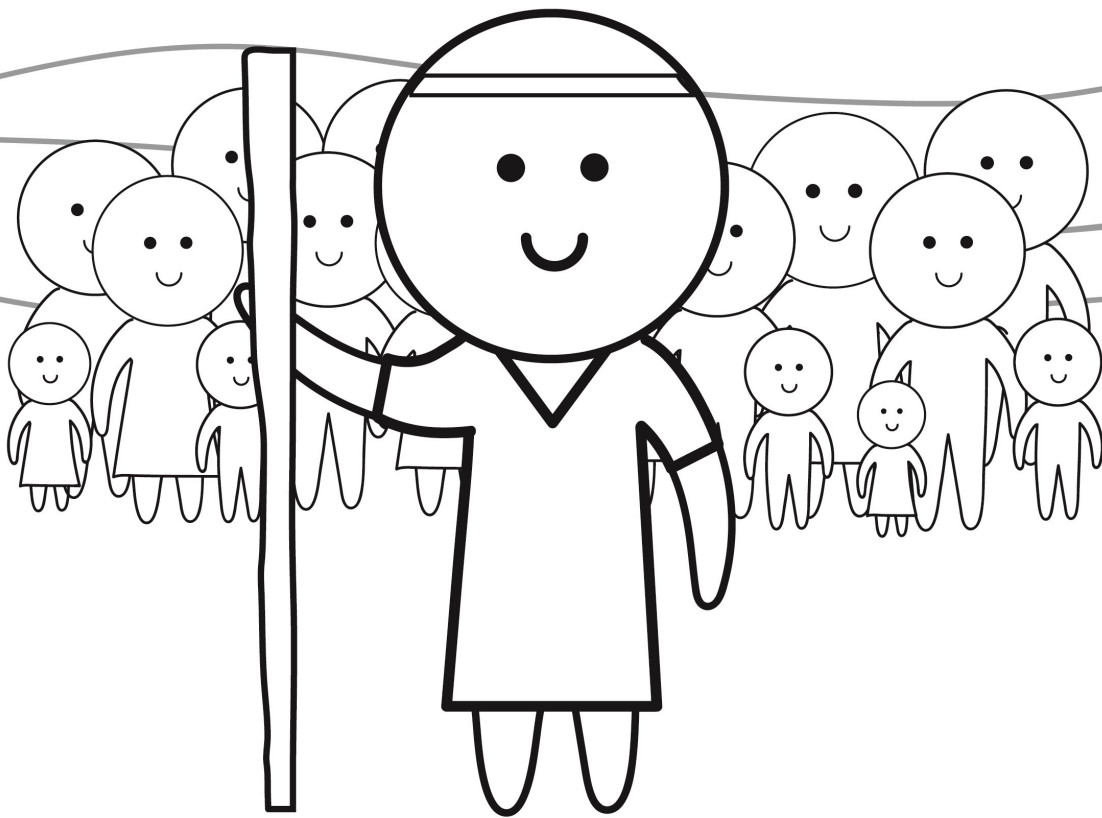
Pray

We praise you God that you deliver your people.



Sing

The river it was wide.
So big and wide and deep
But God he brought his people through.
He delivered them!



Joshua 6 God fights for his people

Think of a baby elephant. Ahh! There's lots of scary creatures and he's too small to fight them. Uh oh! But when a nasty snake comes along to try bite baby elephant, his daddy comes charging in and fights the nasty snake. The daddy elephant fights for his baby. Just like that, we're going to see that our God fights for his people.

God had brought his people through the river and delivered them safely into the land he'd promised them. But before God's people could settle into their new home, they had to fight. They had to go into battle with God's enemies living in the land and defeat them.

The first city God's people came to was Jericho, this was where Rahab lived. But... uh oh! Jericho had big walls all the way around it. So high you couldn't climb over them. So thick you couldn't bash through them. So strong you couldn't knock them down.

How were God's people going to defeat their enemies if they couldn't get into the city? This was how: God told his people to march around the city walls. The guards marched. The priests blew their trumpets. Toot! Toot! But no one else made a sound. Shh! Once they'd marched around the city they went back to their camp for the night. That was it! No fighting. No shouting. Just marching. They did this every day for six days!

But on the seventh day, God's people marched around the walls seven times. When the priests had blown their trumpets (Toot! Toot!) Joshua told them, 'Shout! For the LORD has given you the city!' So, they shouted: AAAAAH! And the walls fell down flat. God's people went in and destroyed everything apart from Rahab and her family.

God's people had many other battles after Jericho, and the LORD was always with them. God fought for his people. He defeated his enemies and gave the land into their hands.

The LORD our God keeps his promises; he fights for his people.



Read

Pray and read Joshua 6:2



Look

Look at verse 2... Who helped Joshua fight Jericho?



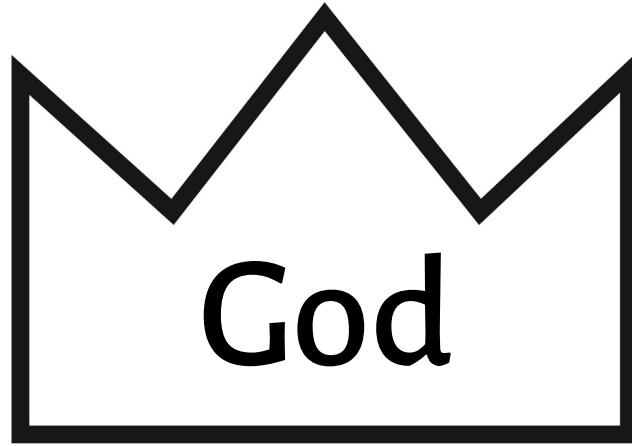
Pray

Thank you God that are strong; you fight for your people.

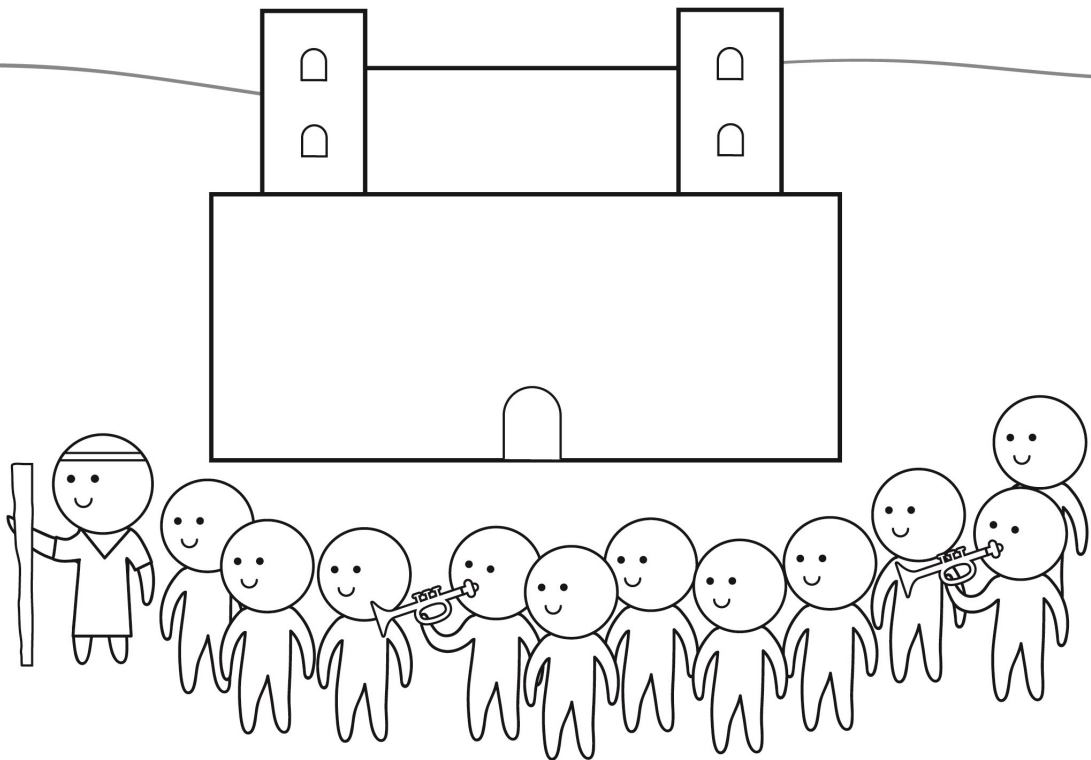


Sing

The walls they were so high.
So high and thick and strong
But God brought those walls tumbling down.
God fought for his people.



God



Joshua 14 God gives his people a home

I love Christmas morning, don't you? When all the presents have arrived and are sitting there underneath the tree. They've been given, we've got them, but now they just need to be handed out to everyone. It was a bit like that with the promised land. The LORD had delivered his people into the land, defeated their enemies. And could now give each of his people a bit of it. God had promised each one of his people a part of the land. It's like he'd divided it up between them and put name tags on each bit so Joshua knew who should get what. Just like all the presents under the Christmas tree have tags with names on them, so you know which present is for which person.

As Joshua was giving everyone their bit of the land, we hear about one man called Caleb. Caleb was a man who had trusted that the LORD would keep his promise. Caleb is someone who's been around for a while. A long time ago, Moses sent some spies into the land before Joshua did. Caleb was one of these spies. But Caleb didn't come back to God's people and frighten them like the other spies did! Caleb said 'God is with us. He will fight for us. Let's trust him!' The people didn't listen to him, they were too scared. But Caleb still trusted God. Caleb knew God would keep his promise. And now, Caleb asked Joshua to give him the special bit of land God had promised him. God gave Caleb the land. Caleb was right to trust God. God gave Caleb what he had promised.

Caleb helps us to think about how we can trust God. Our God has made a really good promise to us too. God has promised us a home in the new creation he will make. In God's new creation nothing will be sad and bad. Everything will be good and glad. It will be the most wonderful place to live. It will be our home forever, our home with God. God has promised each one of his people a part of his new creation. If you trust in Jesus, God has a place for you in the new creation.



Read

Pray and read Joshua 21:43 and 45



Look

Look at verse 2... How much did God keep his promise?



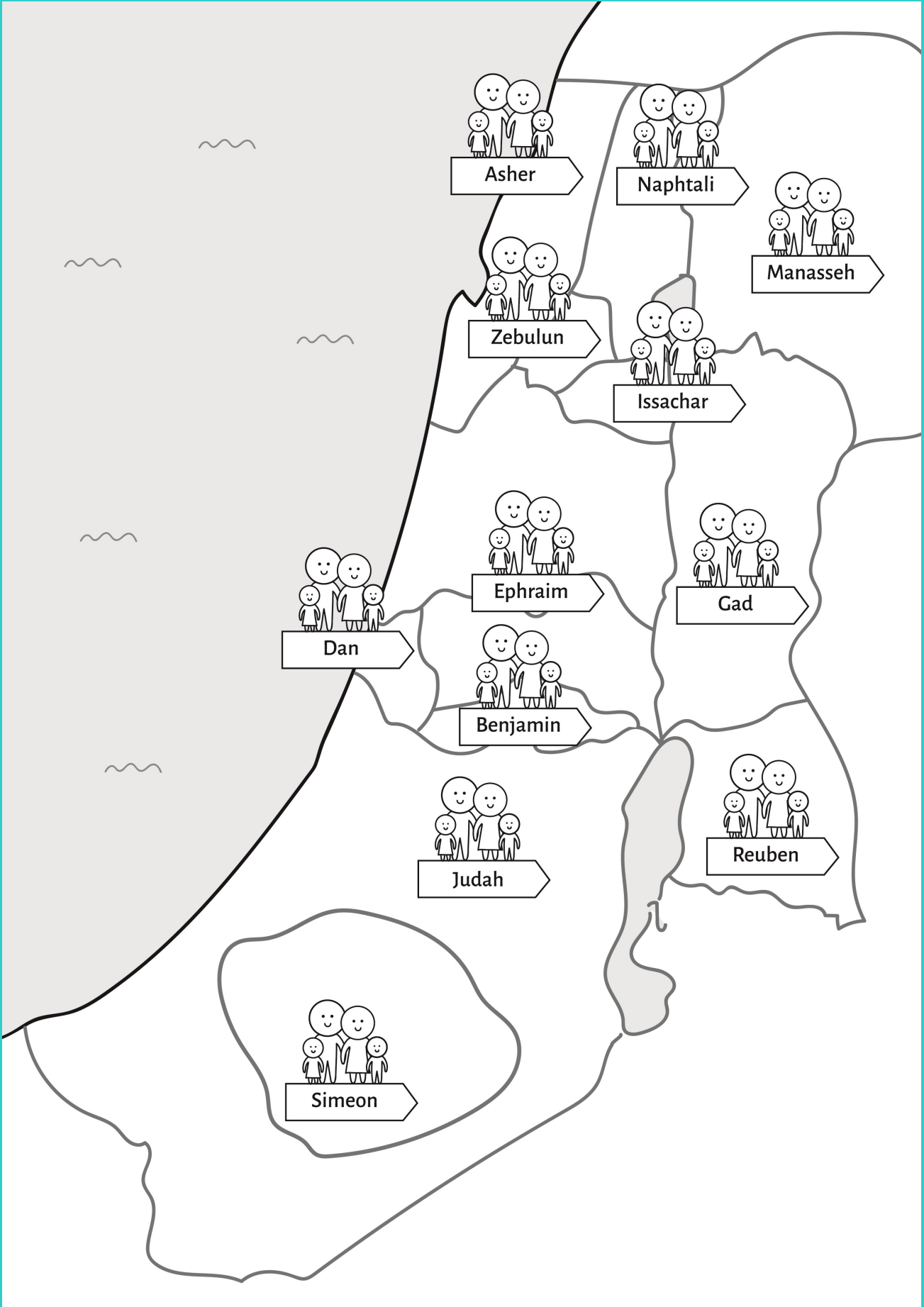
Pray

Please God help us to trust you to keep your promises like Caleb did.



Sing

God keeps his promises.
His word to us won't fail.
A new creation he will make.
Where we will have our home



Asher

Naphtali

Manasseh

Zebulun

Issachar

Dan

Ephraim

Gad

Benjamin

Judah

Reuben

Simeon

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