



Sabbath Keeping Youth

The book of Psalms is a beautiful collection of hymns, poems and prayers. Psalm 136 reminds each of us to trust God because of who He is. I encourage you to read the entire Psalm to your children. Below are the first nine verses.

Psalm 136:1-9

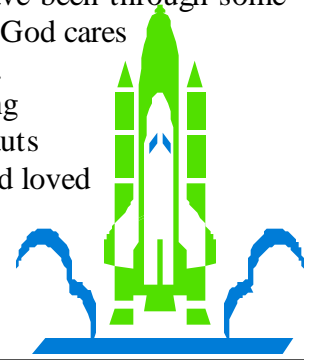
“Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good. His love endures forever.
Give thanks to the God of gods, His love endures forever.
Give thanks to the Lord of lords: His love endures forever.
To him who alone does great wonders, His love endures forever.
Who by his understanding made the heavens, His love endures forever.
Who spread out the earth upon the waters, His love endures forever.
Who made the great lights, His love endures forever--
The sun to govern the day, His love endures forever,
The moon and stars to govern the night; His love endures forever.”



The song goes like this, “God of wonders beyond our galaxy. You are holy, holy. The universe declares Your majesty. You are holy, holy.” That’s the chorus to a worship song that was played as an early morning wake up call for the astronauts on board the space shuttle Columbia. The wife of shuttle captain Rick Husband chose the song. She picked the song because Rick Husband was a man who loved God with all his heart. He was an astronaut who believed God created the earth, stars, and galaxies he explored.

Last month our nation faced tragedy as Rick and six other astronauts aboard the space shuttle Columbia died when the shuttle broke apart on its return to earth. Millions of people watched the video of the tragedy on the news. Children like you talked about it at home, in their classrooms, and in their churches.

Disasters like this are never easy, especially to those children who lost a mom or dad in the accident. That’s why it’s important for people, including kids to pray for the families of those who died in the accident. God is not only an amazing creator who set the stars in place; He is also a God who takes care of people in the most difficult of times. Maybe you have been through some difficult things yourself in the last few weeks or months. God cares about you. He is right there with you through everything. Talk to God about your feelings and let His presence bring peace in your life. That’s what the families of the astronauts need. So pray that the God of wonders that Rick Husband loved so much will also comfort these families.



The Parents Corner

Here are a few space treats that are sure to keep your young astronauts flying high!!

Moon Drink

Drop one large scoop of lemon sherbet in a tall glass of Sprite or 7up.

Cheese Moonwich

Split bagels, cut in ½ (crescent shaped), top with shredded cheddar cheese, toast.

When Tragedy Strikes

Tragedies come to pass and it is impossible to keep your children unaware of the bad things happening around them. Mass media today has the ability to paint very graphic pictures of calamities that occur in the world. Bad things come in many forms and they cross social, economical and racial boundaries. In other words, no one is safe from being touched by a tragedy.

There are natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes or hurricanes. Man-made crises come in the form of plane, car and space shuttle accidents. National tragedies can occur when others set out to harm us. The terrorists who attacked us on September 11, 2001 were men who took not only our nation but also the world into suffering. When God created man, he gave us the ability to choose between good and evil. As long as there are men and women who choose to do evil, others will be hurt by their choices.

When a tragedy strikes a nation, your community or your home, how do you explain it to your children? The question of “Why do bad things happen to good people?” is a question many have asked. There are a variety of reasons or causes for suffering. Rather than ask why this has happened, a better question may be how should you react?

A principle rule in parenting is taking life’s difficult moments and turning them into teachable moments. Your children look to you for comfort and reassurance. They trust you have the knowledge and information to help them cope with difficult situations. Here are a few tips that may help you in your time of crisis.

- Show love, warmth and affection more than ever. You want them to feel secure, calm and assured that you have everything under control.
- Be available to talk about the disaster, death, illness or whatever it is that you are facing.
- Let them know emotions of anger, sadness or fear are natural emotions and are OK.
- Don’t emphasize the “why” has this happened to family, our nation, or me, but rather how can I meet the challenge?
- Teach God is in control. He is not defeated by calamity, disaster or sorrow. If you haven’t already, have your children memorize Romans 8:28.

- Teach them to trust in the power and the love of the Lord. “Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and don’t lean on your own understanding” (Proverbs 3:5). Help them to see how a difficulty may be beneficial.
- Tell them Bible Stories about people who trusted in the Lord. Job, Daniel, David and Joseph are a few people who learned to trust in God during very difficult times.
- Teach your children to give thanks even in times of trouble. (I Thessalonians 5:18). Help them to view events from God’s perspective.
- Teach them fear comes from a lack of understanding and viewing things from man’s point of view not God’s. “The Lord is my light and my salvation: whom shall I fear? The Lord is the strength of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?” (Psalm 27:1)
- Teach your children that while life is not always fair, God is.

God can use troubles to mold us into better people. You can make that possible when you ask how should you respond to a tragedy, not why is this happening? Teach your children to seize the moment and rise to meet the difficult challenges of life.

The Sun and Moon Stand Still

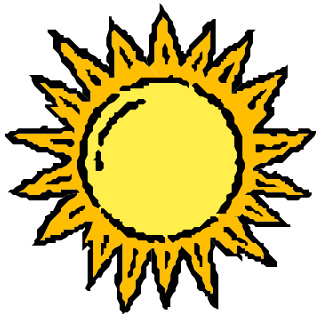
Joshua 10:2-15

Joshua, the leader of the Israelites, made a promise with the people of Gibeon (Gibeonites) to protect them from harm if they would be his servants. When the King of Jerusalem heard this news, he became very afraid. Gibeon was an important royal city and its men were famous for their might. So, the King of Jerusalem decided to join forces with four other kings in the land. They called themselves the Amorites.

The Amorites took their positions against Gibeon and attacked the city. The Gibeonites sent a message to Joshua asking him to keep his promise. The message was, “Do not abandon your servants. Come up to us quickly and save us! Help us, because all the Amorite kings from the hill country have joined forces against us.” (Joshua 10:6)

The Lord spoke to Joshua saying, “Do not be afraid of them; I have given them into your hand. Not one of them will be able to withstand you.” (Joshua 10:8) So, Joshua responded to the Gibeonites request. He marched all night to Gibeon with his entire army. Even his very best fighting men went.

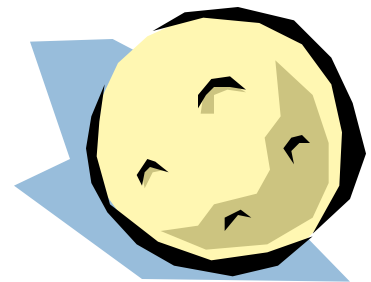
The Amorites didn’t expect to see Israelites. It was quite a surprise for the Amorites when the Israelites appeared to help the Gibeonites. To cause even more difficulty for the Amorites, the Lord confused them, allowing the Israelites to defeat them in Gibeon. Those who remained fled the city. As they ran, the Lord hurled large hailstones down on them from the sky. More of the Amorites were killed by the hail than by the sword.



The battle still wasn’t over though. Joshua said to the Lord, “O sun, stand still over Gibeon, O moon, over the valley of Aijalon.” God did just what Joshua asked. He made the sun stop in the middle of the sky for a full day. Joshua and the Israelites were able to defeat all five of the kings and win the battle.

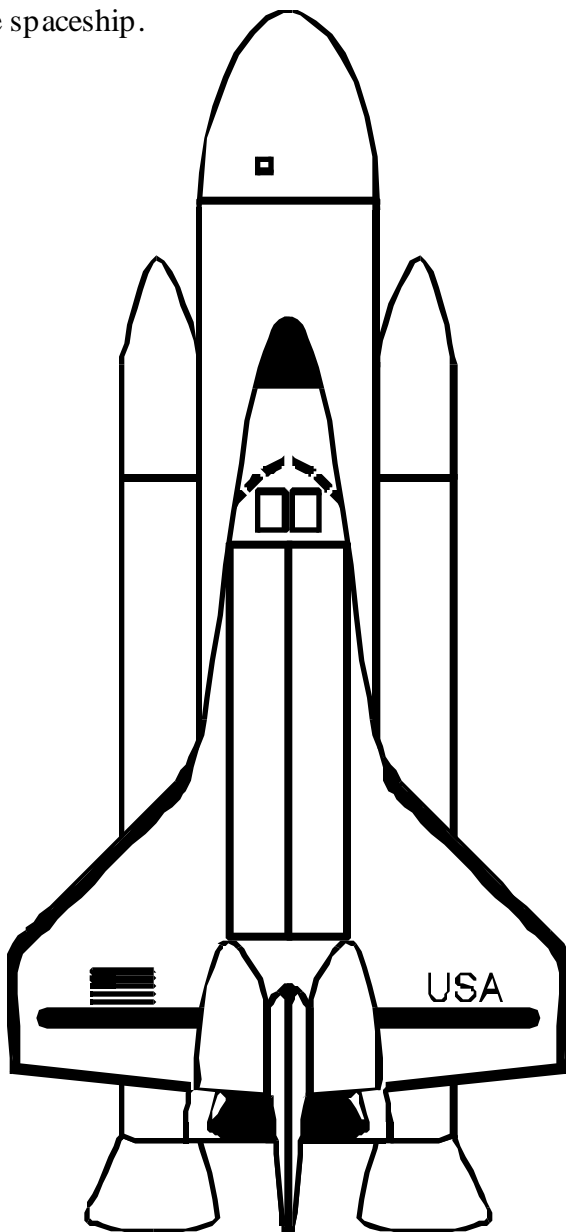
God had told Joshua before he went to battle that the enemy wouldn’t be able to withstand him. Joshua believed and trusted God. When he told the sun and moon to stand still, he did so with faith in God. “There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the Lord listened to a man. Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel.” (Joshua 10:14)

While we know the earth travels around the sun, don’t let the language in this story confuse you. God performed a miracle by prolonging the day. This miracle allowed the Israelites to win the battle.



Sabbath Keeping Youth

Color the spaceship.



◆
◆ *Space Glasses*

◆ Cut frames out of poster board and tape
◆ different colored cellophane paper
◆ inside for the lenses.

◆
◆ *Space Flight*

◆ Get some friends together, make some
◆ paper airplanes and have contests for
◆ the following:

- ◆ • Rocket Launch! See whose
◆ plane flies the farthest.
- ◆ • Fighter Planes! See whose plane
◆ does the wildest loops

◆
◆ *Clay Globes*

◆ You need: 1 cup salt, ½ cup
◆ cornstarch, ¾ cup cold water, blue and
◆ green food coloring.

◆ Use this recipe to make a batch of blue
◆ and a batch of green clay. Stir all
◆ ingredients over low heat. Stir
◆ constantly. In 2-3 minutes it will
◆ thicken until it can't be stirred. Turn
◆ mixture onto wax paper. Let cool.
◆ Squish with fingers until clay is
◆ smooth. Using the green and blue clay,
◆ mold into a globe, let it air dry.

◆
◆ *Parachute Fun*

◆ Get an old sheet. Have friends hold on
◆ to edges. Place a light ball on sheet.
◆ Have fun tossing ball into air without
◆ letting it bounce off sheet.

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