

1

Don't Do Something; Just Stand There!

Community
We reveal God's love in our families.

POWER TEXT

"You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you" (2 Chronicles 20:17, NIV).

KEY REFERENCES

- 2 Chronicles 20:1-30
- *Prophets and Kings*, chap. 15, pp. 190-203
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 5, pp. 107-110
- Student lesson on page 22 of this guide

OUR BELIEFS

- No. 14, Unity in the Body of Christ
- No. 10, The Experience of Salvation
- No. 22, Christian Behavior

OBJECTIVES

The students will:

- **Know** that if God's people unitedly seek Him and trust in Him in times of crisis He will give them the victory.
- **Feel** secure that God is in control of our battles.
- **Respond** by praising God and sharing with others the victories He has given us.



When we praise God together, He wins the victory for us.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

When the enemies of Judah prepare for battle, King Jehoshaphat calls his people to join him in prayer. The king prays, "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you" (2 Chronicles 20:12, NIV). God's messenger tells them to take courage and go out against the enemy, for the Lord will fight for them. With the promise of victory, the choir goes ahead of the army singing songs of praise to God and the enemies are defeated.

This is a lesson about community.

The story of Jehoshaphat is a powerful example of God's miracle-working power to give victory to His people who unitedly seek and trust Him. As this story illustrates, often those who unite in prayer for a common goal, only need to trust God and wait for Him to give them the victory. It is our privilege to praise God together, as Jehoshaphat's choir did, for the victories He has already won for us.

Teacher Enrichment

"Somebody in the middle of that worshiping congregation stands up and says, 'I've got a word from the Lord.' His name is Jahaziel. We've never heard of him before in the Scriptures, and we'll never hear of him again. But he has a word—a word of hope, a word of faith, a call to courage. . . .

" 'It's not your battle,' Jahaziel tells them. . . . 'Just stand there. Quit wringing your hands. Quit scurrying around rearranging the deck chairs on the *Titanic*. Stand still and see your God fight your battle for you.' . . .

"As they chanted the psalm, the victory arrived. And when they rounded that final corner, they looked out on a defeated enemy. Without one sword, God had delivered His people. . . .

"God waits for a praying people who sense their helplessness, who invite Him to do what only He can do, and who covenant to spend eternity with Him, celebrating the victory He will win" (Dwight Nelson, "Our Eyes Are Upon You," *Adventist Review*, July 30, 1998, pp. 10-13).

How do I respond to the victories that God has won for me? What are ways I like to express my praise and thanksgiving to God for His many blessings? How do I share with others my gratitude for the victories the Lord has won in my life?

Welcome

Welcome students at the door and direct them to their seats. Ask them how their week has been. Encourage learners to study their Sabbath School lesson regularly, and use several minutes to debrief students on the previous week's lesson.

Ask: **What was the most interesting part of the Bible story? What activity did you find the most helpful? Which activity was the most fun?** Invite students to share their experiences and/or the handiworks they created for Sabbath School during the week. (The leader should be familiar with the previous lesson to be able to direct the discussion.) This is also a good time to have students recite the power text.

Have students begin the Readiness Activity of your choice.

Program notes

LESSON SECTION	MINUTES	ACTIVITIES	MATERIALS NEEDED
Welcome	Ongoing	Greet students at the door. Ask about their week.	
1 Readiness	10-15	*A. Battle Plans*	paper and pencils, art supplies
		B. Interpretation Art	Bibles, large sheets of paper, markers, crayons, or watercolors, modeling clay (optional)
* Prayer & Praise	15-20	See page 17. Prayer & Praise may be used at any time during the program.	songbooks, world map, pushpins, letter to parents (p. 144), decorated offering box
2 Bible Lesson	15-20	Introducing the Bible Story	five copies of *Net Kids* script (p. 145)
		Experiencing the Story	Bibles
		Exploring the Bible	Bibles, pens, pencils, paper
3 Applying the Lesson	10-15	*God's Job*	pencils, paper, large envelopes, paper shredder or scissors
4 Sharing the Lesson	10-15	*Carry the Light*	two candles, matches
* Closing		A. Prayer and Closing Comments	
		B. Reminder to Parents	
		C. Coming Up Next Week	

1

READINESS ACTIVITIES

Select the activity or activities that are most appropriate for your situation.

A

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ art supplies
- ☐ markers or pencils

Battle Plans

Divide the class into groups of three or four. Where all can see, draw a map of an imaginary country. Include a river, a mountain range, and one or two large cities on your map. Place a large X just outside the country.

Say: **This is your country. The enemy is approaching rapidly from point X. You must quickly come up with a battle plan to defeat the other army. Your battle plan may be in the form of a drawing (like the ones coaches use in ball games), a written document, or by a physical representation, such as using figures on a board (as in chess).**

Allow time for groups to discuss and prepare plans, then have each group share their plan.

After all plans have been presented, tell the groups to crumple, tear, or knock over their plans, or you do it. The students will probably react with surprise or annoyance.

Debriefing

Ask: **How did you feel when I destroyed or had you destroy your battle plans?** (surprised, annoyed) **Why did you feel that way?** (put a lot of work into them; didn't expect to have them destroyed) **How are our best plans and efforts in the eyes of God?** (Our plans and our best efforts mean nothing. We can have victory only if we depend on Him.) **What are some of the ways we try to fight our own battles?** (We make rules, we tell others what to do, we get busy trying.) **Let's say together our power text, 2 Chronicles 20:17:**

"You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you" (2 Chronicles 20:17, NIV).

Our power point reminds us that

When we praise God together, He wins the victory for us.

B

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ large sheets of paper
- ☐ markers, crayons, or watercolors
- ☐ modeling clay (optional)

Interpretation Art

Distribute large sheets of paper and watercolor paints, markers, crayons, or pastels. (If possible, supply optional mediums such as modeling clay.)

Ask students to read 2 Chronicles 20:17, first part, in as many translations as there are in the group. (The King James Version reads, "Set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you"; the New International Version reads, "Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you.")

Ask students to draw or paint a picture of what obeying this verse would look like in their own lives. (You can offer the option of writing a song or preparing a skit.) Adults should circulate and offer inspiration and affirmation.

Debriefing

Have students explain their artwork (picture or clay image) and how it depicts their understanding of how they can stand still and allow God to work in their lives. Affirm all presentations. **Let's say together our power text, 2 Chronicles 20:17:**

"You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you" (2 Chronicles 20:17, NIV).

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Accommodations for students with special needs

Students with special needs may experience difficulty with this activity and may need additional assistance. Have them work with a partner or with an adult who can help them.

Prayer & Praise

Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors. Close with a prayer that God will show everyone in your Sabbath School, adults and students alike, a way that He would have them "stand still" in their lives and allow Him to win victories for them.

Suggested Songs

"The Battle Belongs to the Lord" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 85)
"Be Still" (*Praise Times*, no. 59)
"Cares Chorus" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 141)

YOU NEED:

- ☐ world map
- ☐ pushpins
- ☐ letter to parents (p. 144)

Mission

Use Adventist *Mission* for youth and adults (go to www.juniorpowerpoints.org and click on MISSION) or another mission report available to you. Using a world map, have the students identify and mark with pushpins the location where the mission story is taking place.

Send a letter to the parents, informing them about the mission offering (see letter to parents on p. 144).

Offering

YOU NEED:

- ☐ decorated box

Find a picture of your church or take a digital picture, or have a student draw one to glue onto a box that has a small slit cut in the top to put the money in. You can continue to use this for the rest of the month. Say: **This month our theme is reflecting God's love in our families. We are also a church family that helps one another.**

Prayer

As a large group, brainstorm ways we can thank God for the many ways He has already won the battle for us. Ask for volunteers to join you in praying aloud. Close with a prayer for the students' joys and sorrows, for the birthday and other special event celebrants, as well as for the visitors.

Notes

2

BIBLE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ five scripts (p. 145)

Introducing the Bible Story

You will need scripts for five students, simulated computers, and name tags and/or flags with the names of the Net Kids on them. To introduce the Net Kids to your class, say: **The Net Kids are an imaginary international group of children ages 11-14 who communicate regularly through e-mail. Emiko and Darren met in a teen Christian chat room and found out that they were both Seventh-day Adventists. They then created a chat room for Adventist juniors and teens, and the other four joined. They get together as often as they can through the Internet.**

Ivan: 12-year-old boy from Russia
Tendai: 12-year-old boy from Zimbabwe
Ana: 13-year-old girl from U.S.A.
Darren: 13-year-old boy from Australia
Emiko: 14-year-old girl from Japan
Ulla: 11-year-old girl from Sweden

Make five copies of the *Net Kids* script found on page 145 of this guide. Distribute to the students you have selected as early as possible. Allow practice time before using this activity. Present the skit.

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles

Experiencing the Story

Have the students find 2 Chronicles 20:1-30 in their Bibles. Say: **We are going to read about Jehoshaphat's choir in these verses.** Assign readers and texts as listed below, then proceed with the reading.

Narrator, an adult (or good student reader)—2 Chronicles 20:1-6, first part
King Jehoshaphat's prayer—verses 6-12
Narrator—verses 13-15, first part
Jahaziel's speech—verses 15-17
Narrator—verses 18-20, first part
King Jehoshaphat—verse 20, last part
Narrator—verse 21, first part
All—verse 21, last part
Narrator—verses 22-30

Debriefing

After the reading is complete, ask: **When did Jehoshaphat's choir sing?** (as the people went to battle, before the battle) **On their way to battle, what was the message of their song?** (They thanked God *before* the battle for what they knew He would do for them. They knew God would be with them; He would fight the battle for them.) **What kind of music did they offer to God when they got back to Jerusalem?** (joyful, happy instrumental music, using harps, lutes, trumpets) **Let's stop right now and sing a song of praise to God for winning our battles.** Lead the group in singing "The Battle Belongs to the Lord" (*He Is Our Song*, no. 85).

3

APPLYING THE LESSON

Exploring the Bible

YOU NEED:
- ☐ Bibles
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pens/pencils

Have students form six small groups (small churches, assign this to individuals). Each group is to select a scribe who will take notes during this activity. Distribute pens/pencils and paper to the scribes.

Ask students to turn to the last few psalms in Psalms.

Say: **We're going to look at some psalms of praise. Each group is to read a psalm and create hand signals for each of the things for which the psalmist praises God.** Assign each of Psalms 145 through 150 to a different group. Suggest that they read the entire psalm, then study it verse by verse. Have teachers/facilitators help as needed. Allow time. Ask the scribes to report their findings.

Debriefing

Ask: **Why is it important to praise God together?** (To acknowledge His goodness to us; to share the joy of His salvation with others; to let others know that God has blessed us; it lifts our spirits; God likes to hear our praise.) Say: **Writing a psalm of praise is one way to tell God how you feel. What other ways do these psalms suggest? Let's say together our power text, 2 Chronicles 20:17:**

"You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you" (2 Chronicles 20:17, NIV).

End this activity by saying the power point together:

When we praise God together, He wins the victory for us.

God's Job

YOU NEED:
- ☐ paper
- ☐ pens/pencils
- ☐ large envelope for every 10 students
- ☐ paper shredder or scissors

Prepare in advance 10 large envelopes with the words "GOD'S JOB" written on the outside in large letters.

Divide the class into groups of 10. Each group needs an adult facilitator.

Give each student a piece of paper and a pen or pencil. Ask them to write down something about which they feel afraid or hopeless. Go around the circle and invite each student to reveal what is written on their paper, *if they choose to.*

As you go around the circle, each student should place their paper in the "God's Job" envelope as the rest of the students say: **"(Name), you will not have to fight this battle. Take up your position, stand firm, and see the deliverance the Lord will give you."** Have each person, including the adult group facilitator, take their turn.

As the last person's paper goes into the envelope, say: **We have given these things to God, knowing that He has already won the battle for us.** Take the envelope and run it through the paper shredder and say: **We don't need to think about them anymore; they are "God's Job" now.**

(If you are unable to get a paper shredder, find another way of disposing of the papers. Disposing of the papers will increase students' participation if they are confident that no one will look at their responses later.)

Say: **The power point is a promise to us that**

When we praise God together, He wins the victory for us.

4 Closing

SHARING THE LESSON

YOU NEED:
- ☐ two candles
- ☐ matches

Carry the Light

Have students share if they had the chance during the past week to remind someone that it is God who wins our battles. Ask: **What are some of the battles that God has won in your life? Did you tell someone about the victories that God has won in your life?**

Have two rows of students stand four feet apart, up to 10 students per side. Give one person a candle. Keep a candle lit up front by you. Tell the student to carry the candle through the rows of other students without letting it go out. Tell the other students to try to blow out the candle. When the candle goes out or the person reaches the end, call someone else to try. Relight the candle from your source candle. If students are getting through with candles still flaming, bring the rows closer.

Debriefing

Ask: **What can you learn about defeat from this activity?** (It happens to everyone; you can keep going back to the source to relight the candle; you don't give up. Jesus' victory keeps the candle lit.)

Say: **Let's repeat once again our power point:**

When we praise God together, He wins the victory for us.

Prayer and closing comments:

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). If they have given you permission, share one or two special items from students' Bible study during the week. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special, warm greeting to all visitors. Close with a prayer that God will show everyone in your Sabbath School, adults and students alike, a way that He would have them "stand still" in their lives and allow Him to win victories for them.

Reminder to parents:

Say: **Check out the student Bible study guide to find Parents' Pages for your use in family worship, or however you wish to use them to guide your children spiritually. You may listen to the podcast of the lesson online at www.juniorpowerpoints.org/podcast.php?channel=1.**

Coming up next week:

Say: **An aunt saves Baby Joash. God wants us to care for one another in the family.**

Notes

Student lesson

Don't Do Something; Just Stand There!

Have you ever been, or seen anyone, "frozen with fear"? Many times we need to stand as still as if we were frozen in order for God to fight our battle and win the victory for us. A long time ago an entire army won a battle that way, just by standing still and praising God.

King Jehoshaphat knew that the Moabites and Ammonites, warlike neighboring tribes, were moving quickly toward Jerusalem, and he wanted information. He knew he had no time to waste. Turning to his aide, the king said, "Get this message out to all the people. Tomorrow we will all fast and ask God to tell us what He wants us to do. Tell everyone to meet me at the Temple in the morning."

Jehoshaphat went out to walk on his terrace and be alone with God. He had enough troops to fight the battle, but when he had relied on his own strength in the past, nothing had gone right. This time he would ask God first, before planning.

The morning sun reflected from the white columns surrounding the Temple. As Jehoshaphat watched the crowds gather, he felt God's presence with him.

A hush fell over the crowd as the king stood up to speak. Fathers lifted their children to their shoulders for a better look. Jehoshaphat raised his hands to quiet everyone, then he began to pray:

"LORD, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you. Our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your Name, saying, 'If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.'

"But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them. See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance. Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you" (2 Chronicles 20:6-12, NIV).

Everyone wondered what would happen next. Suddenly a man named Jahaziel pushed his way toward the center of the crowd. "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you'" (verses 15-17, NIV).

Jehoshaphat fell to his knees and bowed low to worship God. Everyone followed his example and thanked God for His promise of victory. They knew God had heard their prayers, and they would see a mighty victory.

The next day men, women, and children streamed toward the meeting point. Once again Jehoshaphat stood before the people. "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem!" the king said. "Have faith in the LORD your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful" (verse 20, NIV).

Jehoshaphat appointed singers to lead the army as they made their way toward the battle place. Together they sang, "Give thanks to the LORD, for his love endures forever" (verse 21, NIV).

As Judah began to sing, God set ambushes for their enemies. This confused the Moabites and the Ammonites. They began to fight each other. When Jehoshaphat and his singing army came over the crest of the hill and looked out over the desert, not a single soldier was left standing. Their enemies had killed each other!

King Jehoshaphat led his people back to Jerusalem. Arriving at the city, they gathered at the Temple to thank God for the victory He gave them. Accompanied by harps, flutes, and trumpets, the people sang praises to God.

Soon word of God's victory for Judah spread to other countries surrounding Judah. For many years those countries left Judah alone. Because the people had asked God to fight the battle, they lived in peace for many years.

KEY REFERENCES

- 2 Chronicles 20:1-30
- *Prophets and Kings*, chap. 15, pp. 190-203
- *The Bible Story* (1994), vol. 5, pp. 107-110
- Our Beliefs, nos. 14, 10, 22

POWER TEXT

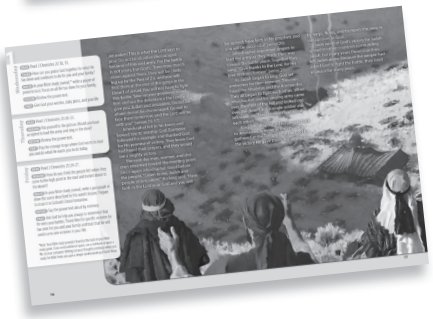
"You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you" (2 Chronicles 20:17, NIV).

POWER POINT

When we praise God together, He wins the victory for us.







Sabbath

DO Do the activity on page 18.

Sunday

READ Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-4 and this week's story, "Don't Do Something; Just Stand There!"

THINK How could Jehoshaphat and his people trust God for this victory?

LEARN Begin learning the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you trust Him more.

Monday

READ Read 2 Chronicles 20:5-12.

WRITE Write down the power text and place it in your room where you can see and read it every day this week.

REVIEW Repeat the power text.

PRAY Ask God to help you stand firm in the battles you are facing and to trust Him to give you the victory.

Tuesday

READ Read 2 Chronicles 20:13-17, the prayerlike speech that Jehoshaphat made before all the people in the Temple.

REVIEW Review the power text.

OUTLINE Write the verses beside each part of Jehoshaphat's prayer (see 2 Chronicles 20:5-17).

1. Praise to God for who He is (verses _____)
2. Praise to God for what He has done for Israel (verses _____)
3. How God has led His people in the past (verses _____)
4. The current problem (verses _____)
5. Asking for God's help (verses _____)
6. Admitting their helplessness and giving the problem completely to God (verses _____)

THINK What are specific ways the Lord has blessed your family? How has God used you to reflect His love in your family?

PRAY Use this outline as you tell God about a specific problem you face today.

Wednesday

READ Read 2 Chronicles 20:18, 19.

THINK How can you praise God together for what He has done and continues to do for you and your family?

WRITE In your Bible study journal,* write a prayer of praise to God. Focus on all He has done for your family.

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Give God your worries, daily plans, and your life.

Thursday

READ Read 2 Chronicles 20:20-23.

IMAGINE Put yourself in the picture. Would you have accepted to lead the army and sing in the choir?

REVIEW Review the power text.

PRAY Pray for courage to go where God wants to lead you and do what He wants you to do today.

Friday

READ Read 2 Chronicles 20:24-27.

IMAGINE How do you think the people felt when they came to the high point in the road and looked down to the desert?

WRITE In your Bible study journal, write about a paragraph or draw the scene described in this week's lesson. Prepare to share it in Sabbath School tomorrow.

REPEAT Say the power text aloud by memory.

PRAY Ask God to help you always to remember that He wins your battles. Thank Him for specific victories He has won for you and your family and trust that He will continue to win victories in your life.

* Your Bible study journal is found at the back of your Bible study guide. If you need additional space, use a notebook or open a file on your computer. Writing out your thoughts and ideas when you study the Bible helps you gain a deeper understanding of God's Word.