
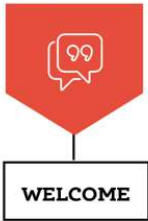




Morning At a Glance

	<p>God Encouraged Joshua</p>	<p>BIBLE PASSAGE: Joshua 1</p>
<p>BIG PICTURE QUESTION and ANSWER</p>	<p>What is the Bible? The Bible is God’s Word that tells us what is true about God and ourselves.</p>	
<p>CHRIST CONNECTION</p>	<p>God encouraged Joshua and promised to be with him as he led the Israelites into the promised land, where they would be victorious and find rest. We have victory over sin and rest for our souls in Jesus, who is with us always and leads us into the promised land of God’s kingdom.</p>	
<p>MEMORY VERSE</p>	<p>“Your Word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path”. Psalm 119:105 (CSB)</p>	

<p>8:45/10:45 - 9:13/11:13 OPENING ACTIVITIES</p> 	<p>SUPPLIES: Small Group Binder, Books of the Bible Cards, memory verse poster & cards, markers, crayons</p> <p>Offering Take Attendance Books of the Bible Memory Verse Review Coloring & Activity pages</p>
<p>9:15/11:15 – 9:55/11:55 LARGE GROUP</p> 	<p>SUPPLIES: Bibles, SG Binder</p> <p><i>Take your Small Group Binder with you – Attendance Roster is inside</i></p>
<p>9:55/11:55 - 10:15/12:15 SMALL GROUP</p> 	<p>SUPPLIES: timeline poster, Bibles, tennis balls, dice</p>
<p>10:15/12:15 PARENT PICK-UP</p>	<p>Connect with parents. Wipe the table with Clorox wipes, Put supplies away neatly. Erase white board.</p>



Be With Jesus

Read the Bible Passage: Joshua 1 INTRODUCTION

The book of Joshua tells us nothing about its authorship, but in Josh. 15:63 we have a clear indication that it was written before David's capture of Jerusalem.

The book tells the story of the crossing of Jordan, the conquest of the promised land and its division among the tribes, ending with the death of Joshua after he had obtained from the whole people a solemn promise (soon to be broken) that they would be faithful to God.

The apparent discrepancy between the seemingly universal conquest of Palestine (in 9–11) and the stubborn and often unsuccessful fighting referred to in the latter part of the book and in the early part of Judges, is explained by the fact that in 9–11 the united army of Israel was meeting and crushing organized resistance. But, after the division of the land, the Israelite army broke up into its component tribes, each of which attempted to possess its own lot, meeting with a stubborn resistance from those who had fled from the united army or had not come in its way. Other factors may have been the spiritual declension of the people and the ruling geographical factor of Palestine, the division into the hill country and the coastal plain. The latter remained unconquered until David's time.

The book is an account of the Israelites' fight to claim their promised inheritance. The lessons they learnt concerning the conditions of possession can teach us much about the conditions of our obtaining the blessings promised to us in Christ (cf. Heb. 4:1, 2, 8–11; 11:30).

JOSHUA 1

- Verses 1–9. Cf. Deut. 31:7, 8. List the promises God made to Joshua. What conditions of success was he given? What picture of Joshua is given in this chapter?
- What principles, warnings or encouragement to be found here can I apply to my own life?

Note. Verses 12–18. These Israelites wished to settle east of Jordan but had promised to help in the conquest of Canaan. See Num. 32.

Leader's Bible Study

We often think that fear is the absence of courage, and to some degree, it is. However, true courage is not someone who is free of fear. Courage comes to us most often, and especially when we are young, from the presence of another. In C. S. Lewis' *The Voyage of the Dawn Treader*, Lucy, the young heroine of Lewis' stories, was on a boat that went into the dark night of a cave where their worst fears were realized.

Going into the cave, they all were afraid. Inside the cave, their fears were realized. They were in the middle of the night and without hope, and Lucy (whose name means "light") asked Aslan to send help.

Aslan (the Christ figure in Lewis' work) answered by sending his light into their darkness and his word to her heart. He said, "Courage, dear heart."

The gospel tells us that our greatest enemy, sin, and our greatest fear, death, has no hold on us—not because of courage that rises up from within us, but from courage that came from outside of us. Jesus came from outside of us and said to us through His life, death, and resurrection, "Courage, dear heart."

The promise of peace, true rest that Moses and now Joshua sought, was not conditional on what they saw in front of them. It was based on the character of God. The promise God gave to Joshua was the promise of His presence in the middle of the dark night. This promise is true for us and is experienced in the person and work of Christ.

As you prepare to teach, take a moment to allow the Person of God's Spirit to whisper to your heart what God's Word proclaims to be true, no matter how difficult your week or dark your night. You are loved, you are cared for, you are not alone. Christ is with you. Christ has gone before you; Christ is interceding for you.

Remember the words God gave Joshua: "Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Josh. 1:9). What a promise. What a Savior.

PEOPLE TO KNOW - Joshua: One of the twelve Israelite spies appointed by Moses to scout the land of Canaan, chosen by God as Moses' successor to lead the Israelites to the promised land.



"God Encouraged Joshua"
(The text of the Bible Story Video)

God's people were near the land of Canaan (KAY nuhn). This was the promised land, the place God said Abraham's descendants would one day live. The Israelites had wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. The older generation had died. Moses, their leader, had died too, and now it was time for the remaining people to go into the land.

God chose Joshua to be the new leader of Israel. It was a big job, but God encouraged Joshua. He promised to give Joshua success in the land. God said, "No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. I will be with you, just as I was with Moses. I will not leave you or abandon you."

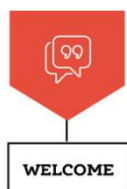
Then God said, "Be strong and courageous." God wanted Joshua to lead the people into the land because He had promised it to His people. God said, "Be strong and very courageous to obey everything Moses taught you. Study, remember, and obey the commands written in the book of instruction. If you do this, you will be successful in whatever you do."

God encouraged Joshua again: "Be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged, for I, the LORD your God, will be with you wherever you go."

So Joshua sent a message throughout the Israelites' camp: "Get ready! We are going to cross the Jordan River and take this land. God is giving it to us, just like He promised."

The Israelites agreed and got ready. “We will do everything you have commanded us,” they told Joshua. “We will go everywhere you send us. We will obey you like we obeyed Moses. We trust that God will be with you like He was with Moses.”

Christ Connection: God encouraged Joshua and promised to be with him as he led the Israelites into the promised land, where they would be victorious and find rest. We have victory over sin and rest for our souls in Jesus, who is with us always and leads us into the promised land of God’s kingdom.



Greet each student as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out the attendance roster, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

8:45/10:45-9:10/11:10 OPENING ACTIVITIES

Choose one of the games on the **Books of the Bible** and **Memory Verse** game posters (on the classroom wall) to help your kids learn the OT Books of the Bible and this month’s memory verse.

Opening Question: SAY Have you ever been afraid? What are some things you are afraid of? Were you able to overcome that fear?

Plug-In #1 – Coloring Page: If your children like coloring, invite them to color the page. **ASK** What do you think it means to be courageous? Can you list some things that make you feel courageous? **Connect to the lesson:** God’s Word shows us that we have lots of reasons to be strong and courageous. In today’s story we’ll hear what God said to Joshua, one of Israel’s leaders.

Plug-In #2 – Activity Page: Invite kids to complete the activity page. **SAY** It takes courage to do something you know is difficult or dangerous. That’s why God’s message to Joshua was ‘Be courageous.’ Joshua had a task ahead of him that was both difficult and dangerous, we’ll learn more in our Bible story today.

Optional Activity – GRIP TEST: Challenge kids to see how strong their grip is. Lead them through the following steps: **1.** Put a tennis ball or stress ball in the palm of your hand. **2.** Squeeze the ball using your fingers but not your thumb. **3.** Clench as tight as you can and then release your grip. **4.** Repeat this as many times as you can; try for at least 10! **SAY** Great job! Do you think it is important for a leader to be physically strong? Why or why not? Being strong also means being able to continue to do something difficult. Did you feel like giving up while squeezing the ball? Today, we will hear how God told Joshua to be strong. Joshua needed to persevere because leading the Israelites would not be easy.

Optional Activity – EVERYDAY COURAGE Before the session, write the numbers 1–6 on a dry erase board. Next to each number, list a location or time at which a kid might need to be courageous (at home, at school, in the car, alone, with friends, at night). Invite the kids to take turns rolling dice. Read the corresponding location or time and prompt kids to discuss how they might need to be courageous in that situation. For example, a kid might need to have courage to stand up to someone being unkind at school. Remind kids that they can always ask an adult for help. They can pray and ask God to give them courage. **Connect to the lesson:** We don’t always feel brave or courageous, but we can ask God to help us. In the Bible story we will hear today, Joshua was about to lead the Israelites into the promised land. God encouraged Joshua and told him to be courageous. I can’t wait to tell you more.

Clean Up and Transition to Large Group – TAKE SG BINDER WITH YOU!

3rd-5th before Large Group: Distribute Bibles and guide kids to open to Joshua 1. **SAY** In the Book of Genesis, we read how God promised that Abraham would have a big family and live in the land of Canaan. Abraham's descendants were called Israelites. After watching the Israelites experience slavery in Egypt, and many years wandering around in the desert, it has finally come time for the new generation of Israelites to enter this land of promise. Let's pay attention to our Bible story about how God encouraged Joshua as he prepares to lead the people.



LEARN

Please sit in the middle of your small group & help the kids remain quiet and engaged. If a child is disruptive, please have the Service Coordinator or staff call his/her parents.

9:15/11:15 - 9:55/11:55 LARGE GROUP (You may want to take notes during the teaching time to follow-up with your kids during Small Group).



LOVE



LIVE

9:55/11:55 - 10:15/12:15 SMALL GROUP

LOVE GOD by Applying the Story

BIBLE SKILLS & BIBLE STORY REVIEW (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles. Guide boys and girls to open their Bibles to Joshua 1. Explain that the Book of Joshua is in the Old Testament. In the Old Testament, the Israelites lived under the list of rules God gave them called the Law. In the New Testament, Jesus came to fulfill the Law. Choose a volunteer to read aloud Joshua 1: 1-2 and Joshua 1:9, or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

REVIEW: God encouraged Joshua and promised to be with him as he led the Israelites into the promised land, where they would be victorious and find rest. If you trust in Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you can be sure that He will always be with you and will lead you through His Word. Because He is always with you, you can talk to Him through prayer any time.

GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes) Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

ASK What are some situations in which we might need to be courageous?

Lead kids to consider experiences like making new friends, going somewhere for the first time, or standing up for what is right. Invite kids to share a recent experience where they needed courage.

ASK Do you think Joshua had a good reason to be afraid and discouraged? Why?

Point out that Joshua had been with the Israelites all through the wilderness. He saw how rebellious they could be. Now he was supposed to be the leader to take the new generation of Israelites to a place where they had never been. Prompt kids to discuss how they would feel taking on a task like that. (Option: Choose a volunteer to read Rom. 15:13.)

ASK When you are afraid or discouraged, how do you know Jesus is with you?

Explain that when Jesus was on earth, He told His followers that when He left He would send them another Helper, the Holy Spirit. Tell kids that Jesus gives His followers the Holy Spirit to dwell in them forever. Point out that when we are afraid or discouraged, we can trust the Holy Spirit to take our prayers to God, who knows and provides exactly what we need. God's children are never alone.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read John 14:16-17,26.)

P.(Pause) R. (Rejoice) A. (Ask) Y. (Yes to God's Will) (3-5 minutes – just before the kids leave)

Pass out the "REJOICE" cards. Then SAY Let's remember what P – R – A – Y stands for. P reminds us to PAUSE and be still and know that God is here and is listening to us. R reminds us that as we are praying, we can REJOICE in so many things – who God is, how He is ruling and in control of all things, how He provides for us every single day...A reminds us that God tells us to come to Him and ASK – to tell Him what is on our hearts and minds and give Him our requests, and the letter Y reminds us to YEILD (or say YES) to God. SAY This month we are back to using our REJOICE cards as we pray. Read aloud this month's Big Picture Question and Answer and invite the kids to pray to God by drawing or writing down how they would like to rejoice that God's Word tells us what is true about God and about ourselves! Remind them that the Holy Spirit is always ready and willing to help us!

LIVE THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

Review what was shared in large group about unreached people groups and the THUMB acronym.

10:15/12:15 PARENT PICK-UP

Try to connect with each parent as they arrive. Mention something their child said, how they answered questions, learned part of the memory verse, etc.

***Wipe the table with Clorox wipes. Check lids are on markers.
Neatly return all the supplies to the appropriate bin. Erase the whiteboard.***

THANK YOU FOR DISCIPLING THE NEXT GENERATION!