
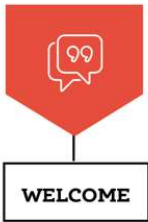




## Morning At a Glance

	<p><b>Joshua Challenged the People</b></p>	<p><b>BIBLE PASSAGE:</b> Joshua 23-24</p>
<p><b>BIG PICTURE QUESTION and ANSWER</b></p>		<p><b>What is a miracle?</b> A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.</p>
<p><b>CHRIST CONNECTION</b></p>		<p>As Joshua prepared for his own death, he left behind a legacy of obedience to God. After Jesus' death and resurrection, He appeared to the disciples and left them with a legacy: to obey Him by making disciples of all nations.</p>
<p><b>MEMORY VERSE</b></p>		<p>"You are the God who works wonders; you revealed your strength among the peoples." Psalm 77:14 CSB</p>

<p><b>8:45/10:45 - 9:13/11:13</b> OPENING ACTIVITIES</p> 	<p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Small Group Binder, Books of the Bible Cards, memory verse poster &amp; cards, markers, crayons</p> <p>Offering Take Attendance Books of the Bible Memory Verse Review Coloring &amp; Activity pages</p>
<p><b>9:15/11:15 - 9:55/11:55</b> LARGE GROUP</p> 	<p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> Bibles, SG Binder</p> <p><b>Take your Small Group Binder with you - Attendance Roster is inside</b></p>
<p><b>9:55/11:55 - 10:15/12:15</b> SMALL GROUP</p> 	<p><b>SUPPLIES:</b> timeline poster, Bibles, Blindfolds</p>
<p><b>10:15/12:15</b> 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 23-24 Joshua 23

- Verses 1–13. To whom was Joshua speaking on this occasion? On what conditions does the fulfillment in verse 5 depend?
- How is the faithfulness of God shown in this chapter? Cf. the similar statements in 21:43–45 and 1 Sam. 7:12. Can you endorse these?

### Joshua 24

- Note the place chosen by Joshua for this occasion. Cf. Gen. 12:6, 7; 33:18, 19; Josh. 8:32–35; Acts 7:16. In what other ways did he seek to make this as impressive and memorable an event as possible? Consider verses 2–13; 14, 15; 19, 20; 22, 23; 25–28.
- What evidence is there in this chapter, despite all that God had done, of the superficiality and instability of the Israelites' religious life? Cf. Hos. 6:4.

### Leader's Bible Study

Joshua was getting along in years, so he gathered the people at the place where God had made a promise to Abraham. (See Gen. 12:6-7.) Joshua wanted the people to remember and to live based on what they knew to be true about God: God can be trusted. He is good, and He is faithful.

Joshua issued a challenge: "Be very strong and continue obeying all that is written in the book of the law of Moses." Reading, studying, and obeying God's Word is a mark of belief in God. Joshua reminded the people that they were successful over their enemies because of their obedience to God.

Joshua also gave the Israelites a warning. Just as all the good things God promised had been fulfilled, so would all the bad things He promised if the Israelites disobeyed Him.

Further, Joshua reminded the leaders of their nations' history—from the birth of Isaac to Israel's escape from Egypt. Over and over, God had demonstrated His power and goodness to the Israelites. Their ancestors had repeatedly turned from God to worship the false gods of other nations.

Joshua said, "Choose for yourselves today: Which will you worship ... As for me and my family, we will worship the Lord" (Josh. 24:15).

The Israelites had a choice: Continue to worship God or choose to serve other gods. In response to God's faithfulness to His promises, the Israelites renewed their covenant to be faithful to the Lord.

As you share the story of Joshua's legacy with kids, point them to a greater legacy found in Jesus Christ. Jesus gave a similar type of farewell speech at the Last Supper, exhorting His disciples to not only love God but love one another. After His resurrection, Jesus sent His disciples out to tell the nations about Him. Jesus calls all people who trust in Him to tell others about Him.

## BOOK OF JOSHUA

**Joshua 1:1–5:12:** Preparation for the land **Joshua 5:13–12:24:** Victories in the land

**Joshua 13:1–21:45:** Allotment of the land **Joshua 22:1–24:33:** Worship of God



### **“Joshua Challenged the People”** (The text of the Bible Story Video)

Many years had passed since Joshua and the Israelites had defeated Jericho, Ai (AY igh), and the kings of the land. God had allowed the Israelites to rest from battles against their enemies. Now Joshua was getting old. He gathered all the people of Israel because he had some important things to say to them.

Joshua said, “You have seen everything the LORD your God has done. He has fought your battles for you. The rest of the land will be yours too, just as the LORD your God promised.

“Therefore,” Joshua continued, “Be careful to obey everything that is in the book of the law of Moses. Do not turn aside from it; do not mix with the nations in this land or worship their gods. Keep clinging to God. He fights for you! Love the LORD your God. If you disobey God, He will no longer help you win these battles. In fact, you will die here if you disobey Him.”

Joshua reminded the people about the things God had done in the past: God had called Abraham and had given him a son, Isaac. He had given Isaac two sons, Jacob and Esau. Jacob’s children had become slaves in Egypt, where God had sent Moses and Aaron. God had rescued the Israelites from the Egyptians, bringing them safely across the Red Sea. They had fought and won many battles because God was fighting for them. God had done so many great things for His people!

Joshua commanded the people, “Fear the LORD and worship Him. Or will you worship false gods? As for me and my family, we will worship the LORD.”

The people replied, “We will not abandon the LORD! We know how much God has done for us, and we love Him!”

Joshua warned the people, “If you do abandon God to worship other gods, God will turn against you. He will destroy you.”

“No!” the people replied. “We will worship the LORD!”

On that day, Joshua made a covenant with the people. He wrote it down and also set up a large stone under an oak tree. Joshua said, “This stone will be a reminder of your duty to serve the LORD, who kept every promise in bringing you into this land.” Then Joshua sent the people back to their homes. After that, Joshua died. He was 110 years old.

**Christ Connection:** As Joshua prepared for his own death, he left behind a legacy of obedience to God. After Jesus’ death and resurrection, He appeared to the disciples and left them with a legacy: to obey Him by making disciples of all nations.



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** Welcome everybody! I'm happy to see you. I'm curious, did you face any challenges this week? Did anything get in the way of what you wanted to do? What happened? When we face challenges, we might work through them or run the other way! In today's story, we'll see what the Israelites did when Joshua gave them a challenge.

**Plug-In #1 – Coloring Page:** If your children like coloring, invite them to color the page.

**Plug-In #2 – Activity Page:** Invite kids to complete the activity page "This or That ". **SAY** On our activity page we are asked to make choices. In the Bible story we will hear today, Joshua told the Israelites they had a choice to make. Do you ever have a hard time deciding between one choice and another? How do you choose?

**Optional Activity – THE BLINDFOLD CHALLENGE:** Invite a kid to draw an animal of her choosing on a dry erase board. First, blindfold the volunteer. As she draws, the rest of the group will have one minute to guess the animal. Whoever guesses the animal first will take the next turn drawing an animal while blindfolded. **Connect to the lesson:** Drawing an animal while blindfolded is a challenge! But that didn't stop you from trying to get the group to guess correctly. Today we will learn about the time Joshua challenged the Israelites to do something incredibly difficult. What do you think he challenged them to do?

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



LEARN

**3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> before Large Group:** Distribute Bibles and guide kids to open to Joshua 23-24.

**SAY** Over the last few weeks we have heard how God chose Joshua to be the new leader of the Israelites, and how He has shown His power through miracles, again and again. Today we are going to hear about Joshua as he comes to the end of his life, and a message that he has for the Israelites. Let's listen in large group to see what happens!

**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).**

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**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 Chapter 23-24. Explain that the Book of Joshua is directly after the Book of Deuteronomy, and it is the first book in the History division of the Old Testament. Remind the kids that the History division of the Old Testament includes all the books from Joshua to Esther. **Choose a volunteer to read aloud Joshua 23:1-3** or ask the kids to follow along as you read the verses aloud.

**REVIEW THE STORY:** Joshua reminded the people that God had fought for them and given them victory, and he reminded them of all the miracles God had accomplished on the Israelites' journey out of Egypt, through the wilderness, and into the promised land. **What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.** The Israelites listened to Joshua and said they would worship and serve the one true God.

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

**ASK Why do you think Joshua wanted the Israelites to meditate on and obey God's Word?**

*Joshua knew that God's word would help direct the people and show them how to live. The Bible helps us to follow God's plan for our lives. It helps us to know and follow Him.*

**(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 46:9.)**

**ASK How can we obey God?**

*Prompt kids to discuss how obeying God instead of doing whatever seems good to us can be hard to do! We can only obey God by the power of the Holy Spirit, who lives within us after we put our faith in Jesus. He helps us understand and remember God's Word, and He gives us power to love God and obey His commands.*

**ASK Joshua 24 says that the Israelites also buried Joseph's bones in the promised land. Why was this significant?**

*Joseph represents the generation who went to Egypt at the end of Genesis. Joshua represents the generation who returned to the promised land. The burials of Joseph and Joshua connect the beginning of this big story to the end. It shows the completion of this part of the journey for God's people, and it helps emphasize God's faithfulness. He did what He said He would do. God does amazing things. **(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ex. 13:19.)***

**ASK How can we respond to the truth that God is all-powerful?**

*Joshua reminded the people of the many miracles God had worked, and then he told them to choose whether or not to follow God. When we remember that God is all-powerful, we can respond by deciding to follow and live for Him. We can respect, honor, and worship Him, and we can have faith, courage, and confidence. **(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Josh. 24:15.)***

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

*Pass out the "ASK" 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 **ASK** cards as we pray. Read aloud this month's MEMORY VERSE and invite the kids to pray to God and **ASK** Him, by drawing or writing on the postcard, to continue to reveal Himself to them through His Word, and that the Holy Spirit would alert them, and remind them, of God's presence with them.

### **LIVE THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL**

Review what was shared in large group about **MISSIONS MONTH**.

### **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!***