



JOSHUA

Preschool-K • #OT14 • September 8, 2024

Concept

God was with Joshua.

Goal

Children will learn that Joshua was a good leader because God was with him. They, too, can rely on God to be with them as they choose to follow Him.

Passage

Joshua 1-6

Key Verse: "Be strong and courageous... for God is with you," Joshua 1:9

Planning Ahead

Lesson Supplies	Craft Supplies
<p>Activity Station:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laminated, magnet-backed pictures of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Stones from #OT25 ◦ Joshua ◦ Israelites 	<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Printed cardstock with city on one side and wall on the other, 1/child • 13" printed strips with figures, 2 strips/child • Scissors • Glue sticks • Crayons, markers • Transparent tape

*TEACHERS PLEASE NOTE

For clarity, the italicized areas in the Planning Ahead section indicate supplies that are in—and should be returned to—your classroom SHARED SUPPLY bag.

Background Information/Teacher Helps

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As we move from the wilderness wanderings to entering into the Promised Land, there is a change of leadership for the Israelites. Moses has been buried with God's own hand and Joshua is commissioned by the Lord to enter, overcome and possess the Promised Land. In chapter one of Joshua, we see God commanding him to "Be strong and courageous! Do not be troubled or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). This is interwoven with knowing the Word of God as revealed to Moses, as well as an experiential sense of God's presence with him. (God was actually speaking and interacting with Joshua.) Joshua's knowledge of "God with Him" included, but was not limited to, the awareness of God's proximity. He also knew who God was, what God's heart was toward him and his purpose in life.

Joshua steps out in faith, leading the people across the flooded Jordan River in the manner prescribed by the Lord. He recognizes the significance of this act and commemorates it. He leads all the people to a personal commitment to the Lord in the national circumcision. Then he faces Jericho.

Joshua had acted in faith, moved forward by his interactions with the Lord. He then hits something really big. "The inhabitants (of Jericho) boasted of the river that lay between them and the invading army on the other side. They were proud of their city, of its walls, and of its fortresses . . ."[1] Joshua fretted over the methodology. Having sent out spies (Joshua 2), he then goes himself to inspect the city (Joshua 5:13). At this juncture, the Lord meets Joshua's need to again be reminded, "Be strong and courageous . . . for the Lord your God is with you . . ." As he stands by the city, he meets the Lord. Note how Joshua's mindset is challenged. In his horizontal, man against man, mindset he asks, "Are you for us or for our adversaries?" The Lord's reply is mind boggling, "No, rather I indeed come now as captain of the host of the Lord." The Lord does not view the inhabitants of Jericho as adversaries. He is for everyone who accepts His leadership. Joshua is called to remember from whence he began—his strength and success are due to the Lord's presence and his submission to the Lord's methods. He had to lay down his way in trust that the Lord of Hosts would accomplish His will.

[1]Alan Redpath, Victorious Christian Living, © 1955, Fleming H. Revell Co., p. 39.

Set Up

- The week before class: Read Joshua 1-6. Pray for God to use this in the lives of the children in your class, as well as your own life.
- The day of class: Cut the paper strips of marching Israelites and use scissors to cut the 2 marked slits at either end of the city wall on the printed cardstock for Learning Activity #2.

Incorporation Lg. Group

Activity Stations:

- **Build a City**
 - **Instructions:** When students first come in, have them draw houses on the white board to make a city. Then use the magnet-backed stones to cover up the city. The city will be used for the Lesson.

Introduction Lg. Group

Game – Follow the Leader

Instructions: Play the game "Follow the Leader" to start off the lesson. Let a few children take turns being the leader.

Who liked playing the game "Follow the Leader?" Did you like being the leader or the one who followed? What do you have to do to be the leader? (You have to choose where everyone will go, make decisions, etc.) What do you have to do to be the follower? (You have to obey the leader, follow, etc.) Today we are going to learn about a great leader. His name was Joshua. Let's find out why he was such a great leader.

Lesson Lg Group

Instructions: Make a circle of chairs in the middle of the room to be "Jericho" before you start. As you tell the story, have the kids silently walk around the chairs to illustrate the Israelites walking around the city. Then count to 6, showing them how many days they did that. Then tell the kids they are going to walk around 7 times (count as they go) and all shout together once after.

The story: Joshua led God's people after Moses died. When Joshua started his job as leader, God came to him and said, "Be strong and courageous... for the Lord is with you." Every time I say Joshua (hold up Joshua character), you say "Be strong and courageous... for the Lord is with you." Okay? Let's try it, Joshua (children should say "Be strong and courageous... for the Lord is with you.>"). God was the one who made Joshua a good leader (children should say "Be strong and courageous... for the Lord is with you.>").

Joshua's job was to lead the people into the land God had promised them. Joshua knew that they would have to fight the people who lived in this land. The first city they had to conquer was Jericho, a city with a big wall. Joshua met with the Lord before trying to fight the people who lived in Jericho. The Lord told Joshua that he should lead the people in a march around the city for six days. For six days Joshua and all the people were to be very quiet as they marched.

Lesson Continued

On the seventh day, they were to shout and look for God to do the work because Joshua knew the Lord was with them.

Sure enough, when the people and Joshua marched (put your finger to your lips so the children whisper “Be strong and courageous... for the Lord is with you.”) very quietly, God was with them. (March Joshua and people around the wall on the white board.) Then on the seventh day, when God’s priests blew their horns, Joshua (cup your mouth so the children shout “Be strong and courageous... for the Lord is with you.”) and all the people shouted as they marched. (Pull the stones off the board to show the city the children drew.) The walls of Jericho fell down and God’s people were able to take the city of Jericho.

Transition

Let’s get into our small groups to talk about what it means to trust God.

Learning Activity#1 Sm. Groups

You know, God has work He wants us to do, just like He had work He wanted Joshua to do. Sometimes God’s way seems confusing, like marching around a city. But God promised to be with Joshua and Joshua chose to trust God.

- When your mom and dad asks you to do something, do you ever get confused? What happens when you obey and do what they ask?

Joshua knew what God wanted Him to do and believed that God was with him. God promised Joshua, "If you obey me you can be strong and courageous because I will be with you." It helps me to know that as I obey God He will be with me.

- What are some ways you can obey God?
- How can we learn to trust Him more?

Let’s pray and thank God that He wants to be with all of us. You can pray that you will remember that you can be strong and courageous because God will be with you.

Transition

Let’s make a craft that reminds us that Joshua could be strong and courageous because God was with Him.

Learning Activity#2 Lg. Group

Craft – Jericho

Instructions: Give each child a piece of printed cardstock and two paper strips with marching people. Color the pictures on both sides of the cardstock page. Fold the cardstock page in half along the dotted line so that the wall is on the front. Color the people on the strips and glue two strips together end to end. Push the ends of the glued strip through the slits in the wall, join together around the back and glue the two ends. Make sure the ends are glued or taped down so the strip can be pulled around through the slits to see the Israelites marching. Shout and pull the wall down to reveal the city with the people running away.