



JOSHUA

Young Preschool • #OT14 • September 10, 2023

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 forgive their sins and to be with them as they obey 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">About 10 small cardboard bricks <p>Lesson:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Read Aloud Stories Vol. 4, Ella K. Lindvall	<p>Learning Activity #1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Printed page with city on one side and wall on the other, 1/childCrayons, markers

*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

Incorporation Lg. Group

Introduction Lg. Group

Lesson Lg Group

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.

Activity Stations:

- **Building Activity**

- **Instructions:** When children first come in, have them set up the doll house (or assortment of other toys) from the classroom and then create a wall around the city, using either cardboard bricks or masking tape. This should be done in the teaching area of the classroom.

Game – Follow the Leader

Instructions: Let a few children take turns being the leader. Finally you be the leader and have the children circle around the “city” and then sit on the floor in a circle.

Did you like playing “Follow the Leader?” Did you like being the leader or the one who follows? 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.

Joshua and the Big Wall

Instructions: Read the story on pages 67-95 of the Read Aloud Bible Stories Vol. 4. Then reenact the story as a summary using the following.

Joshua led God’s people after Moses died. When Joshua started his job as leader, God told him, “Be strong and courageous... for God is with you.”

Sure enough, when the people followed Joshua and marched very quietly, God was with them. (March children around the wall. If you know the song “Be Strong and Courageous,” you might sing it quietly as you march, or you can count the times you march around. After six times, stop and sit down.) Then came the seventh day. Would God still be with Joshua? When God’s priests blew their horns, Joshua and all the people shouted as they marched. (March around the city one last time, singing/shouting the chorus of “Be Strong and Courageous.”) (Knock the wall down to reveal the city behind it. Then have the children sit again.) The walls of Jericho fell down and God’s people moved into the city of Jericho.

You know, God has work He wants us to do, just like He had work He wanted Joshua to do. Joshua knew what God wanted Him to do. He also knew that God was with him. God promised Joshua, “If you obey me you can be strong and courageous because I will be with you.”

Lesson Continued

It helps me to know that when I obey God He will be with me. I decided I wanted Him to forgive me for my bad choices because I want to be with Him forever. And now, like Joshua, I can be strong and courageous because God is with me.

Let's pray and thank God that He wants to be with us. You can pray that you will remember that you can be strong and courageous because God will be with you if you have a relationship with him.

Transition

Let's make a craft that reminds us that God was with Joshua.

Learning Activity#1

Craft – Jericho

Instructions: Give each child a printed page. Color the pictures on both sides. Fold the paper in half along the dotted line so that the wall is on the front. Shout and pull down the wall to expose the people running away.