

# Lesson 11: Joshua and Caleb and the Division of Land

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) See that God blesses those who stand up for Him
- 2) Understand that because Joshua and Caleb followed God – He rewarded and honored them
- 3) Learn that we too should stand up for and follow God

**Accommodations:** How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- See Lesson 1 for ideas

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## Supplies:

### Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart (See Template)
- Stickers for Attendance
- Circle Templates – printed on white cardstock or construction paper – one template for every 4 students
- Ribbon – thin ribbon – 3 x 2 foot lengths of ribbon – one set of ribbons per student
- Fine-tip markers or pens – enough to share
- Scissors – to share
- Glue sticks – to share
- Map of Tribes of Israel in Canaan – one for class to share
- Color the Tribes of Israel Map – one per student

### **Optional:**

- Popsicle Sticks – 5 for every 2-4 children
- Blank Paper – one for every 2-4 children
- Different colored fine-tipped markers (one for every 2-4 children)
- Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

### **Snack:**

- Cheerios or grapes something small 12 for each child
- Napkins for snack one per child
- Juice or water and cup one per child

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## Lesson:

### **1) Introduction to Lesson**

**2-5 minutes**

As students enter, welcome them and help find a chair to sit at. Thank them for coming.

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied). Let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week. Say to students:

**What book in the Old Testament are we studying now?** Joshua

**Does anyone remember what we studied last week?** We studied that Joshua asked God to stop the sun for a day – and God did! We saw that God is powerful and able and willing to hear our prayers if we follow Him – just like Joshua did. We also saw that Joshua and the Israelites conquered the lower part of Canaan with the help of the Lord.

Say: **Today we will look at the Israelites as they continue to conquer Canaan. We will see God's mighty and powerful hand helping the Israelites because they obeyed and followed Him.**

## 2) The Land is Divided

10 minutes

**Optional:** Storybook or visuals of this story to show kids (if available)

Ask students to turn to **Joshua 11:23**. Read or have volunteer read **Joshua 11:23**.

### Discussion Questions:

**Who took the land?** Joshua and the Israelites

**Who received it as an inheritance from God?** The Israelites

**How was it divided?** By each tribe which were originally the 12 sons of Jacob.

**What happened to the people then?** They rested from war.

Now let's turn to **Joshua 14**. Can I get someone to read **Joshua 14:1-5**?

\*Show the map of the land divided

### Discussion Questions:

**Why do you think some areas of land are bigger than others?** Let students answer – It is based on numbers of each tribe – some tribes were bigger in number/population and therefore needed more land.

**Why were the Levites not given land?** See **Joshua 18:7** – the priesthood was their inheritance.

**How was it decided who received what part of land?** By lot (**See Joshua 14:2**) Like picking a number from 1-12 or by picking sticks small to large or some idea like that. Casting lots in this case was ordered by God (**See Joshua 14:2**) and was done by Moses before the Israelites entered Canaan. We do not have verses in the New Testament telling us that God wants us to cast lots.

The last time casting lots was mentioned is when the apostles needed to pick a new apostle to replace Judas.

\*Show map of land and how it was to be divided to the tribes of Israel. Then go to next activity.

## 3) Color the 12 Tribes of Israel

10-15 minutes

Hand out one sheet to each student along with pencil crayons. Explain that since we discussed the division of land today for the 12 tribes of Israel, we are going to color in each section a different color of the land each tribe received.

\*Place the colored map of the 12 tribes on the table so kids can see an example.

\*Note: tell students that these are approximates – a close but not perfect representation of what the divisions were.

Discuss any questions while coloring.

\*Remember Joseph's land was given to his two sons Manasseh and Ephraim so he got two portions and the Levites did not get a portion of land since they served God as priests. So 12 sons with one son getting two portions equals 13 lots of land, minus 1 lot because the Levites did not receive any = 12 lots of land for 12 tribes!



#### 4) Caleb and Joshua Rewarded

10-15 minutes

**Now let's see how Caleb was rewarded for his faith. Can anyone remember who Caleb is?** He was one of the 12 spies who originally went to Canaan 45 years earlier. He and Joshua were the only two of the twelve who correctly said that God was with them and they could have conquered the land then. But because the other 10 spies did not agree, the Israelites were punished by God for their lack of faith and God had them wander the desert for 40 years for their unbelief in Him.

**Let's read Joshua 14:6-14.** Ask for a volunteer to read or read yourself.

#### **Discussion Questions:**

**What does this tell you about short term compared with long term results of standing up for God and sometimes going against the crowd?** Even though it took 45 years, Caleb was rewarded for his faith and trust in God. He stood up against the crowd of Israelites and the other 10 spies – God blessed him with land in the Promised Land even though no one else his age (except Joshua) was allowed to enter because everyone else their age did not believe in God's ability to help them conquer Canaan and so died in the desert.

**Finally, let's turn to Numbers 27:15-21. We saw Caleb's reward for faith and obedience. Now will we be reminded of Joshua's reward. Can someone read verses 15-21 please?**

**Who was rewarded for their faith and obedience to God?** Joshua and Caleb

**What did Joshua receive?** Became leader of the Israelites

**What did Caleb receive?** The land of Hebron (formally called Kirjath Arba)

**Why were they rewarded?** Because they stood up to the other Israelites who were not faithful and trusting that God would help them conquer the people of Canaan. Joshua and Caleb were the only two men allowed to enter Canaan who were 20 years or older because they were the only two who remained faithful to God.

**What can we learn from this?** We need to trust God too and at times - even in a group of believers – we need to stand up for God and remind others that God is capable - what God says, He will do! We can also learn that we will be rewarded for our labor in the Lord, just like Joshua and Caleb. It might take 45 years but it will happen!

**Let's turn to 1 Corinthians 15:58**

#### **1 Corinthians 15:58**

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters, stand firm. Let nothing move you. Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord, because you know that your labor in the Lord is not in vain.

**What does it mean your labor in the Lord is not in vain?** Vain can mean useless – so it means that when we work for God it is not useless – but useful! It is not a waste of time or effort. So we should always give ourselves fully to doing God's will and work for it is useful, helpful, and purposeful for us and others! It is a good way to spend our time – just like Joshua and Caleb we need to work for the Lord and do His will even if it means we are the only ones around us who are.

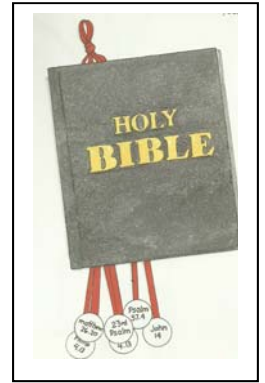
#### 5) Follow God Like Joshua Bookmark Craft

10-15 minutes

\*Before class print one circle template on white construction or cardstock paper – one page for every 4 students. Cut the circles into strips so that each child gets a strip of 12 circles. They will cut out the

circles during class. Or if you are short on time or have students who have trouble cutting, you can cut them out in advance.

Say, **“Joshua and Caleb followed God and stood up for Him and because they did, they were rewarded. How do we learn what pleases God and what we need to stand up for? We need to study God’s Word – the Bible! To help us do that we are going to make a bookmark craft. Each mark will have a special spot to write a verse or words to help you remember a special place in the Bible to study. Our first spot will be in Joshua to remind us of the importance of following God. Let’s turn to Joshua 1:7 and be reminded of what God said to Joshua and how God wants us also to follow Him and be strong and courageous.**



### **Joshua 1:7**

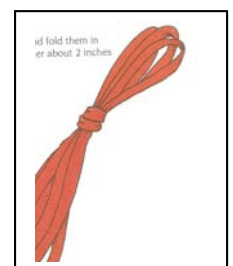
“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.

**What did God promise Joshua?** That if Joshua followed God and was strong and courageous, God would give him success. And He did!

**Now let’s write Joshua 1:7 on one of our circles.** Hand out one strip of 12 circles to each child along with markers/pencil crayons, scissors and glue to share. After the students write “Joshua 1:7” on one of the circles, have them cut out all the 12 circles. While they cut say, **“ As you study the Bible, I want you to add verses that you come across that have a special meaning for you onto each circle. We are going to tie them with ribbon so that you can put up to 6 bookmarks into the Bible to keep track of different areas of the Bible you study or to keep track of where your favorite verses are. If we all write on our circles the verses that stand out for us – we will grow closer to God and by studying His Word we will be able to obey and follow Him even better – just like Caleb and Joshua. You can keep this or give it to someone as a gift!**

**When you are done cutting out your circles. I am going to hand out three 2-foot long lengths of ribbon to each one of you. Take the ribbons and hold them together and then fold them in half. Knot them together about 2 inches down from the fold. (See picture) I will go around the room helping you with your ribbons if you need a hand making the knot.** Help students. One end will have 6 strings and the other end will be a knot with a loop at the top.

**Next, we will take our circles and put glue on the backs of each side. We will then take our two circles and put them together – glued side to glued side with the end of a piece of ribbon between them. (See picture). We will do this with all the circles and ribbons and then let them dry.** Help students as needed. Show them picture if they need help understanding what it looks like.



**As we do this, we are going to go around the room – and I want each student to say something about what we learned today. Just pick one thing and share it, then we will go to the next person. If someone takes your idea, try to come up with another one if you can.**

**\*If students need help you can ask**

**Who was rewarded for their faith and obedience to God?** Joshua and Caleb

**What did Joshua receive?** Became leader of the Israelites

**What did Caleb receive?** The land of Hebron (formally called Kirjath Arba)

Ask students to help clean up before moving on to the next activity.

## 6) Practice Memory Verse

**Deuteronomy 31:6** – Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.”

Have students repeat this verse with you a number of times. Say a few words, then have them repeat a few times. Once everyone has that done, go to another few words and have them repeat, keep going until they have said the entire verse a few times. The goal is to learn this verse by the end of the quarter.

## 7) Optional: Popsicle Stick Quiz

**10-15 minutes**

Form teams of two to four kids. Give each team five Popsicle sticks and a sheet of paper. The give each team a different colored fine-tip marker. Assign a section of the lesson to each team:

Team 1: **Numbers 27:15-21 – Questions on how Joshua was rewarded for standing up for God**

Team 2: **Joshua 14:6-14– Questions on how Caleb was rewarded for standing up for God**

(Try to ensure younger children are put with older children so they can have help and guidance in reading and writing). Have each team make up five questions and answers from the lesson and write them down on a sheet of paper. Teams should number the questions and the Popsicle sticks one through five. For example: if you have three teams you will have 15 sticks numbered in three different colors. Collect all the Popsicle sticks. Have kids sit in a circle or at the table with each team sitting near each other. Drop all the sticks in a small pile in the middle of the circle or table.

Choose one team to go first. The team sends one person to pick up a stick – it can't be theirs! Only one stick can be moved. If any other sticks move, the team forfeits its turn like in the game Pick-up Sticks. Have the player read the number and the color of the stick he or she picked up. The team with that color reads the question with that number. The team that drew the stick answers the question. If the team members answer correctly, they keep the stick, if not, they must return the stick to the pile.

Then, the next team draws a stick. If a team picks their own stick, they must put it back and get another one. (For younger students, you may want to allow them to get a stick even if they move others as it will be more difficult for them). The game is over when the sticks are all gone from the pile in the middle. Have each team count their Popsicle sticks. The team with the most sticks wins!

## 8) Optional – Snack: 12 Tribes of Israel Cheerios or Grapes

**5 minutes**

\*Check for allergies before handing out snacks.

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water or juice. Explain that, **“Today we discussed the 12 tribes of Israel and how their land was divided. We also saw that Caleb got a special part of the land for standing up for God along with Joshua when the 10 other spies would not. We**

**studied the importance of trusting and having faith in God – if He says we can do something – we can! Let’s each count out our 12 snack treats and while we count them out, let’s sing the song of the 12 tribes of Israel!** (Song is below). Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking. See how many tribes the students can name.

### 9) Optional – Songs

5 minutes

Have children sing songs with you. An example is:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ySUyzYl3uiQ>

You can show the students a video from this site if you have computer access.

**Jacob Had 12 Songs  
(tune of Jesus Loves me)  
(written by: Dene Ward)**

Reuben, Simeon, then Levi,  
Judah, Dan and Naphtali,  
Gad, Asher, Issachar, Zebulon,  
Last were Joseph and Benjamin.

Chorus  
Jacob had 12 sons  
Yes, he had 12 sons  
Jacob had 12 sons  
The children of Israel.

Repeat song 2-3 times

### 10) Close in prayer

\*If desired, ask the children if they have any prayer requests and write them down to help you remember. Then ask all children to bow their heads and fold their hands to pray.

Dear God thank You for your might and power, thank You for your everlasting ability to always take care of us as You did Joshua, Caleb and the Israelites. Thank you that we can be strong and courageous because of You and Your Son being there for us. Help us to remember that You God are powerful, strong and able to do anything including making the sun stand still and rewarding us for serving You as You did Caleb and Joshua!

Father be with our families and friends and those who were unable to be here today because of problems or sickness. Bring those people back safely next week. Help us to be strong and courageous in sharing the good news that Jesus is alive and able to save all who come to Him through baptism. Help us to love and respect You because You are mighty and awesome. Bless us as we enter this new week, keep us from sin and temptation. We pray that you will lead us this week and that Your perfect will be done in our lives. Thank you for being our wonderful God, in Jesus precious name we pray, Amen!