

# Lesson 12: Joshua Serves the Lord

**Objectives:** Students will...

- 1) See that Joshua remained faithful to God his entire life
- 2) Understand the importance of serving God as a family
- 3) Make a mail holder to remember to serve the Lord – Joshua 24:15

**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
- Mail Holder Craft Template – print one per student on white construction paper
- Stickers or decorations such as scrap paper, ribbons, sequins – enough for class to share
- String – one 18 inch piece per student
- Hole Punch – one for class to share
- Paper Plates – two 8 or 9 inch round paper plates per student
- Scissors – to share
- Glue sticks – to share
- Stapler – to share

### Optional:

- Blank Paper – one for class to share
- 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     |
- 

## 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 divided the land they had conquered and gave it to the tribes of Israel with the exception of the Levites because their inheritance was to serve the Lord as priests. We also studied that Caleb and Joshua were rewarded for their faith and trust in God.

Say: Today we will look at the Israelites after they had conquered Canaan and God had given them rest from war. We will see that Joshua reminds the Israelites to follow God. We will make a craft to help us remember to follow God and to serve Him – just as Joshua did!

## 2) Joshua Addresses the Israelites

10-15 minutes

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

Ask students to turn to **Joshua 23:1**. Read or have volunteer read **Joshua 23:1-9**.

### Discussion Questions:

**What does it say about Joshua's age?** He was old and advanced in years at this point.

**Who did the fighting for Israel?** God did in verse 3

**Who gave the Israelites rest in Canaan?** God

**What did Joshua warn the Israelites in verses 6-7?** Do not fear but be strong and stay away from the neighboring people's false gods.

Ask students to turn to **Joshua 24:14-15**. Ask a volunteer to read.

### Discussion Questions:

**What is Joshua asking the Israelites to do in verse 14?** Get rid of any foreign/false gods they have and serve the Lord.

**Who does Joshua's family serve?** The Lord God.

**What does it mean "as for me and my house we will serve the Lord?"** Let students answer. The idea is that Joshua was declaring that He and those he was responsible for – wife, children, those born in his household, himself – would only serve God and no other false gods. Joshua is saying that he will do what it takes to make sure his family knows, understands, believes, and follows God!

**How does this relate to us today?** We too should serve God and when we grow up – we should marry a person who believes in God and follows God and we should train our children to grow up knowing and believing in God too!

**Let's turn to Luke 4:8. Listen while I read the verse. Here Jesus is having a conversation with Satan. What does Jesus say we are to do today?** Serve God only!

### Luke 4:8

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God and serve him only.'"

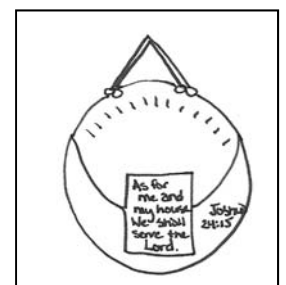
**To help us remember Joshua's faith and his great statement that He and his family will serve the Lord. We are going to make a mail holder - one so that our whole family can see it and the verse that Joshua spoke whenever one of our family members gets the mail!**

## 3) We Shall Serve the Lord Mail Holder Craft

10-15 minutes

\*Before class print one mail holder template on white construction – one per student.

Say, "Joshua said he and his family would serve the Lord – we should too! To help our family remember that we should all serve the Lord, we are going to make a mail holder to hold the mail that comes into our homes. On it we will



**write out the verse we learned today from Joshua – As for me and my house we shall serve the Lord – Joshua 24:15.**

**First I am going to hand out one mail holder template to each of you with some markers and scissors so you can write out the verse inside the rectangle and then cut out the pattern as described in your instructions on your page. The words you need to write are already written on your template sheet so you have something to look at while you copy the verse.**

\*Read through and help students go through the instructions on their template sheets to make their mail holder. Ensure students have paper plates, hole punch, scissors, glue, string, a stapler, and decorations as needed to complete their mail holder. Have students show each other their creations when they are done and ask them to help clean up before moving on to the next activity.

#### **4) 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.

#### **5) Optional: Name that Answer Clue Game**

**10 minutes**

Form two teams – make sure younger and older students are placed together so that the younger ones can receive help from the older students.

Tell the teams that you are going to name a topic. You will then ask Team 1 how many clues they think they need to guess the answer. For example say, “The topic is the book of Joshua. How many clues do you need to guess the answer?” A representative from Team 1 will talk to his or her group and tell you how many clues they need from 1-6. Team 2 then gets a chance to try and answer in fewer clues by making a lower bid. Ask them if they think they can.

Have the teams bid until one of the teams decides it can't go any lower. That teams will get to try and name the answer!

Read aloud the number of clues underneath the answer without saying what the answer is (See list below) that the lowest team bid. If the team can guess the answer, it scores a point. (Have a sheet of paper to write down each team and how many points they collect) If the answer isn't right, the other team has a chance to answer and may ask for one more clue.

In the next round, start the bidding with Team 2. Continue until you've gone through all your answers and topics. The team that scores the highest wins!

#### **Answers:**

##### **Moses**

##### **Clues**

1. Followed God
2. Did not go in
3. Knew the Law
4. Led the people

##### **Book of Joshua**

##### **Clues**

1. Number 6 in the series
2. Named after the man it's about
3. Contains Israel's conquests
4. Where we learn of Joshua

##### **Serve**

##### **Clues**

1. What God expects of us to do.
2. Our family should take part
3. To give
4. A kind act

5. Used a staff or rod
6. Great Prophet

5. 24 Chapters
6. Book of Bible

5. Puts others first when done
6. Joshua did this

### Laws

1. Given by God
2. Repeated by Joshua
3. Some were on stone
4. Starts with "L"
5. Rules to live by
6. Contained blessings if done

### Canaan

1. Name for Land
2. Promised by God
3. Starts with "C"
4. Where they were headed
5. Promised Land
6. We sing a song about it

### Joshua

1. Stood firm
2. Obedient to God
3. Had a good friend
4. Starts with "J"
5. Was one of 12
6. Was a servant of God

## 6) 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 that Joshua and his family chose to serve the Lord and that Joshua asked all the tribes of Israel to decide whom they would serve. 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.

## 7) 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

## 8) 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 and the Israelites. We pray Father that our families will serve You only. 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!