

Lesson 4: Joshua Takes the Lead

Objectives: Students will...

- 1) Learn that Joshua – one of the 12 spies, takes over as leader of the Israelites
- 2) Understand the importance of being strong and courageous like Joshua
- 3) Learn that even at a young age, we too can be capable and should be ready for great things

Accommodations: How will I accommodate individual needs of students?

- See lesson one for ideas in accommodations section

Supplies:

Teacher Materials (provided in classroom)

- Bible(s)
- Markers/Pencil Crayons
- Pens/Pencils
- Attendance Chart
- Stickers for Attendance
- Paper Towel Tube – one per child
- Masking tape - to share
- Green Crepe Paper or Tissue Paper - one sheet or section per child
- Scissors to share
- Glue to share
- Round plastic lid – one per child (from a yogurt container for example)
- Paper towel – to share
- Green construction paper – one sheet for every 4 students to share
- Blue construction paper – one sheet for every 4 students to share
- Joshua Ready to Serve Activity Sheet – 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:

- | | |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| - Grapes, Figs and/or Pomegranates | 1-4 pieces for each child |
| - Napkins for snack | one per child |
| - Water and cup | one per child |

Lesson:

1) Introduction to Lesson

2 minutes

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

Take attendance (using attendance chart supplied) and let each child put a sticker beside their name for this week.

Say to students:

Today we are going to finish looking at the book of Deuteronomy. We have seen so far that Deuteronomy is a repeating of the law that Moses gave on Mount Sinai. Now, across from

Jericho, the Israelites are preparing to enter the Promised Land that God had provided for them. We are going to study Chapter 31 of Deuteronomy and see that Joshua – one of the only 2 men who spied on this land 40 years earlier was able to enter with the young men and woman of Israel. He will be their leader. Caleb, the other spy who told the truth, is also going to enter as well. If you have your Bibles let's find Deuteronomy and turn there now.

2) Joshua Ready to Serve Activity Sheet and Study

15 minutes

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

Have students turn to **Deuteronomy 31**. Ask for a volunteer to read **Deuteronomy 31:1-8** and thank them for reading.

Questions:

Who was going over to the other side of the Jordan to conquer Israel's enemies?
God!

Who was to follow Him? The Israelites.

What were the Israelites to do in verse 6? Be strong and courageous – don't be afraid of the people in Canaan because God will be with the Israelites and take care of their enemies for them.

What was Joshua told in verse 7 and 8? Be strong and courageous too!



Have students turn to verse 23 and read **Deuteronomy 31:23** out loud.

Ask: **Who did Moses put in charge or inaugurate?** Joshua.

Hand out one Joshua ready to serve sheet to each child and read the instructions aloud. Hand out pencil crayons and help student if needed fill in the write faces to spell out the secret message.

Answer: **YES!**

3) Be Strong and Courageous Christians!

10 minutes

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

Ask, **who was supposed to be strong and courageous?** Joshua and the Israelites because they were entering into a new land and had to drive out all the people that were currently living there before they could settle in the new land. That might have been very scary.

Have you ever done something that you were scared to do? Care to share? Let students answer.

What does the Bible say we as believers in Jesus need to do when we are scared?

Ask students to turn to **1 Corinthians 16:13-14** and ask a volunteer to read it aloud or read yourself.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14

Be on your guard; stand firm in the faith; be courageous; be strong. 14 Do everything in love.

Ask students:

What should we be on guard for? Temptations, sins, people who will try and teach us things that are not in the Bible.

How does it say we can stand firm? Through our faith in Jesus. We believe that Jesus is King and Lord. He can and will take care of us so we can stand firm not letting people try and teach us things that are against what Jesus says.

What else do these two verses say? We too need to be strong and courageous and do it all in love.

What does that mean be strong in love? Be courageous in love? Not be a bully or push people around but be strong and firm not letting other's move us or change our minds about our love and belief in Jesus! Also it means when standing firm, we need to make sure that we respond to people in love and that includes respectfully and caringly sharing the Word of God with them because we love them.

What things should we do in love? EVERYTHING!

Then turn to **Hebrews 13:5** and read

5 Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you."

Why can we be content and not worry? Because God promises He will be with us and take care of us if we remain in Him and do His will.

We don't have to worry about money, things, people, death, sickness anything - because God will be with us and help us through all of our problems and He will guide us and give us the strength we need to get through whatever happens in our lives.

God is Good! God is great for loving us and taking such good care of us! We can trust in His promises. Even at our young ages, we can be strong and courageous knowing God the Great Ruler, Creator and King is on our side and looking out for each and everyone of us!

Did God ask Joshua to be ready to do great things? Yes!

We too should be ready to do great things - what things can we do this week that would help others and show our love for others? Let students answer

What ways can we be strong and courageous this week? Let students answer.

Pick a few of the things we discussed and do them this week!

4) 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. Then give each team a different colored fine-tip marker. Assign a section of the lesson to each team:

Team 1: Deuteronomy 31:1-8 - Joshua becomes leader

Team 2: Deuteronomy 31:7-8, Hebrews 13:5-6, 1 Corinthians 16:13-14 - Be strong and courageous

(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 verses you provide and write them down on their 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! If they do they have to put it back and get another. 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 its Popsicle sticks. The team with the most sticks wins!

5) Obey God and Flourish Tree Craft

10-15 minutes

Tell the students to get their Bibles and turn to **Psalm 1:1-3**. Read it aloud.

Say, **“today we are going to remember how good it is to obey God like Joshua did – we are going to make a tree craft to remind us that when we obey God – like Joshua – we flourish like a well-watered tree! We are blessed by God when we do what is right and take the lead to do good!**

Hand out one paper towel roll to each child along with some green crepe or tissue paper. Cut green crepe/tissue paper into 2 inch by 6-8 inch long pieces. Each child needs 8 strips of paper. Fringe the paper up to 1” on one side. (See picture). Gather the strips and take one of end of the strips and tape them to the inside of the paper towel roll. (See picture below) Once securely taped, fan the leaves of paper around to look like a palm tree (See picture). Next, tape the roll to the top of a plastic lid.

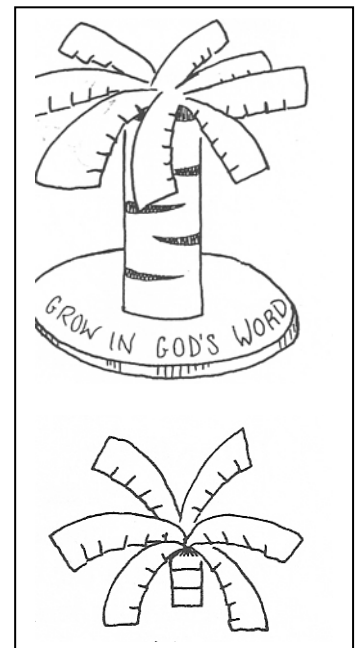
Hand out green and blue construction paper, allow students to rip the paper into small pieces and glue them onto the plastic lid to represent grass and water. Write on the tube in marker – **Psalm 1:3** and **Grow in God's Word** somewhere on their tree or island.

Ask the students:

Who did we study today? Joshua

Why was he allowed to enter into the Promised Land when everyone else his age, except Caleb, could not? Because he and Caleb were the only two who obeyed and had faith in God.

How can we obey God today and be like Joshua? Volunteer to help in church, take the lead when things need to get done, help put song books away, chairs away, read and follow the Bible, pray, go to church, tell others about Jesus, etc.



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: The Israelites March Activity Game**5-10 minutes**

Tell the students that you are the leader (like Moses). Tell them that they are the Israelites and they need to follow the leader and do what you do. *Make sure you have some room to play this game either outside or in.

Call out the event and have students follow:

The Israelites are captive in Egypt! (Form a big huddle and don't let anyone out.)

The Israelites escape thanks to God and run from Pharaoh! (Everybody runs to a certain place you decide.)

The Israelites cross the Red Sea! (March with knees high through the dry sea.)

The Israelites gather manna. (Everyone bends towards the ground and pretends to gather manna from the ground in their baskets.)

The Israelites wander around because they are lost. (Have group walk around in circles.)

The Israelites enter the desert. (Have everyone pant and fan themselves because of the heat.)

The Israelites reach the Promised Land. (Have the group hug and cheer and be happy.)

8) Optional - Snack: Grapes, Pomegranates, and or Figs**5 minutes**

Hand out snack to each child along with a glass of water to each child. Explain that, **"Today we saw that Joshua was to take over from Moses as leader of the Israelites. Joshua was one of the 12 spies who told the truth about how great the land was that God had prepared for them in the land of Canaan - the Promised Land. In that land Joshua and the others found and brought back grapes, figs and pomegranates for the Israelites to show the good food God was willing to give them. As we eat this, let's remember that God provides all good things for us - God is good and He wants us to be strong and courageous just like Joshua was!** Provide a napkin for children to clean their hands. Discuss any questions while snacking.

9) Optional - Songs**5 minutes**

Have children sing songs with you. Some examples are found in the song section.

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. Thank you that we can be strong and courageous because of You and Your Son being there for us. Help us in our faith to always remember that You are there with us and that we need to remember to pray, study and focus on Your Words day and night to gain strength for our days ahead.

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. Thank you for Moses and Joshua and their examples that we can look to for encouragement. 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!

Thank you for serving Christ in this way!