



UNIT 1: GOD OF PROMISES

LESSON 4: JOSHUA

LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

We should serve God.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn that God expects us to serve Him. There are consequences when we disobey, but we are blessed when we obey.

KEY PASSAGE:

Joshua 24; Joshua Tells Israel to Serve the Lord

MEMORY VERSE:

"Never stop reading this Book of the Law. Day and night you must think about what it says. Make sure you do everything written in it. Then things will go well with you. And you will have great success." Joshua 1:8 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

As their new leader, Joshua reminds the Israelites all God has done for them. He also reminds them that they have a choice. They can serve God or something else. Serving God will bring a blessed life, but serving something or someone else will bring consequences.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for loving us. Help us to always choose to serve You.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

LARGE GROUP LESSON

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OBJECTIVE:

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KEY PASSAGE:

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INTRO:

Do you all like making choices? Some choices are easy, and some are hard. I have some 'Would You Rather' questions for you to think about. After I ask the question, you can shout your answer out to me.

Would you rather be a master at drawing or be an amazing singer?

Would you rather be able to jump as far as a kangaroo or be able to hold your breath as long as a whale?

Would you rather have a magic carpet that flies or be able to see through something?

Would you rather go skiing or go to a waterpark?

Would you rather live in a cave or live in a treehouse?

Would you rather brush your teeth with soap or drink sour milk?

These are pretty silly questions, but in today's Bible story, the people had a serious question to answer.

READ JOSHUA 24:1-20, 23-27, 31**MAIN POINT:**

As we continue learning about God's big story, we come to a point where Joshua was the new leader of the Israelites, God's people. They have finally made it through their wandering. They have fought many battles, and have been given a new land, just as God promised it to them.

In verses 1-13, Joshua gathered up all the people to remind them of all the things God had done. He chose Abraham to make a covenant with, a promise that God's people would be many. He sent Moses to help get the people out of their slavery in Egypt.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

He helped them fight against many enemies so they could have their new land.

Then Joshua told the people that God wanted them to make a choice. They had to choose whom they would serve. They could choose the one true God who had brought them this far, or they could choose the gods of other people.

The people said they would serve the Lord, the one true God. They remembered that He had brought them out of slavery, protected them, and did miracles for them. Joshua warned the people that God's expectation was that they ONLY worship Him. There would be consequences if they disobeyed. The people's desire was to serve and obey God, which would bring blessings to their lives.

After their decision, Joshua made a covenant for the people. He wrote it down in the Book of the Law and also put a large stone in a place where the people could see and remember their promise to God.

DRIVE IT HOME:

At the time, maybe it was easy for the people to say that they would choose to serve God. But as life went on, they often forgot their promise. God's desire for people to serve Him was not just for the Israelites. His words are still true for us. We have the choice. Whom will we serve? Some days it's easy to choose to serve God. But other days, things get in the way. It can be easy for us to forget about God, putting our focus on other things. School, friends, and activities are all things that can take our focus away from God. Those things are ok to do, but we must remember that when we choose to put God first, those other things can't get in the way of us serving Him.

Here are some 'Would You Rather' questions for you to think about now.

Would you rather come to church to worship God or sleep in?

Would you rather commit to reading your Bible or to making it to the next level on your favorite video game?

Would you rather pray and talk to God about your problems or only talk to your friends about your problems?

This week think about your choices. Are you choosing things that are helping you serve God or helping you serve yourself?

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

Thank you for giving us good things. Help us to choose to serve You this week.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER:

If you had to pick one of these things right now, what would you choose – getting all A's in school until you graduate or being the best athlete in your school? Either one could be great! We have lots of choices in life, and they can bring us rewards or consequences.

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY:

Kids will repeat the verse, saying it just like the leader says it. After reading the verse all together, the leader will say one sentence at a time, with the kids echoing. The leader should say the verse in different ways such as using a high voice, low voice, quiet voice, loud voice, etc.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY:

This will be a continuation of 'Would You Rather'. In your small group, divide kids into pairs. Ask a 'Would You Rather' question then give the pairs 20 seconds to tell their answer to each other. Call on a few kids after each question to answer, "what would be the reward or consequence" for whatever they chose. Discuss how our choices can affect what happens next.

Example 'Would You Rather' questions:

Would you rather live in a house shaped like a circle or a house shaped like a triangle?

Would you rather have a magic carpet or a see-through submarine?

Would you rather meet your favorite celebrity or be on a TV show?

Would you rather have a special room you could fill with as many bubbles as you want or have a slide that goes from your roof to the ground?

Would you rather eat a whole raw onion or a whole lemon?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

Who came together to listen to Joshua? (Joshua 24:1)

Who did Joshua choose to serve? (Joshua 24:15)

What is something that God did for the people? (Joshua 24:17)

Who did the people choose to serve? (Joshua 24:24)

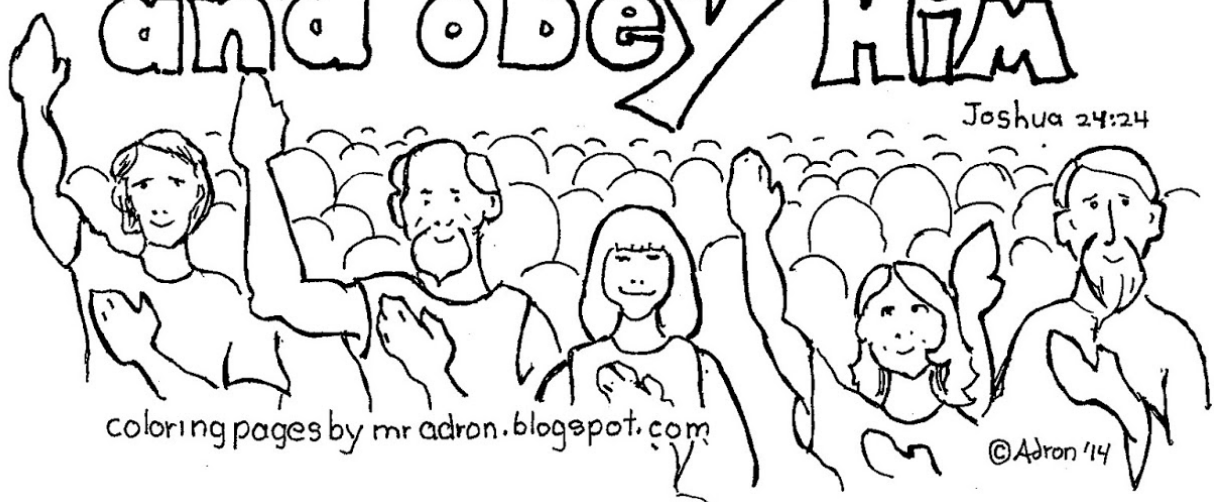
What did Joshua make with the people? (Joshua 24:25)

What did Joshua put under the oak tree? (Joshua 24:25)

SIMPLE PRAYER: *Dear God, Thank You for helping us obey and serve You.
In Jesus' name, Amen*

And the people
Said to Joshua
We will serve
The LORD
Our God
and obey Him

Joshua 24:24



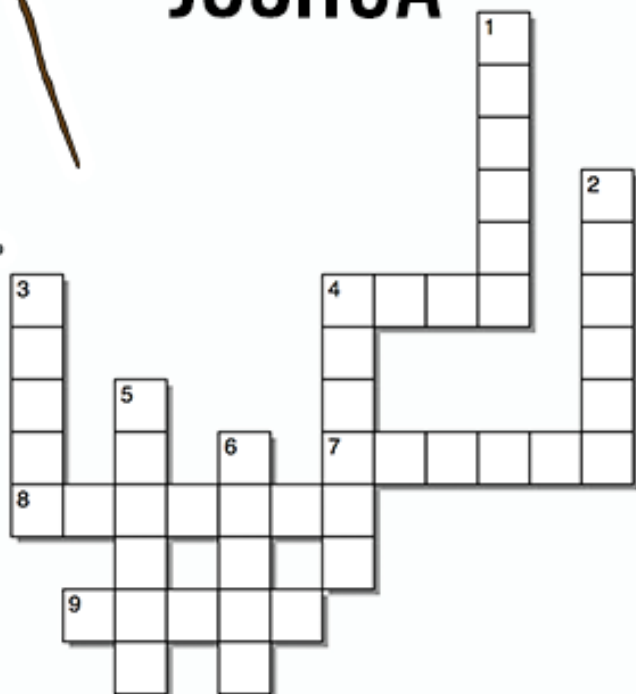
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Bible Pathway Adventures

CROSSWORD

JOSHUA



ACROSS

- 4) The sun stood still and the ____ stopped. (Joshua 10:13 ESV)
 7) "Moses called ____ the son of Nun, Joshua." (Numbers 13:16 ESV)
 8) Joshua the son of Nun, the ____ of Yah (God), died when he was 110 years old. (Joshua 24:29 ESV)
 9) "On the seventh day, march around the city ____ times." (Joshua 6:4 ESV)

DOWN

- 1) The Israelites crossed this river on dry ground. (Joshua 3:17 ESV)
 2) "The Lord was with ____ and his fame was in all the land. (Joshua 6:27 ESV)
 3) "Just as we obeyed ____ in all things, so we will obey you." (Joshua 1:17 ESV)
 4) Joshua chose 30,000 ____ men of valor and sent them out. (Joshua 8:3 ESV)
 5) Joshua apportioned the land to the people of ____, to each his portion. (Joshua 18:10 ESV)
 6) Of those men who went to spy out the land, only Joshua and ____ remained alive. (Numbers 14:38 ESV)



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

The Year Long Bible Journey Joshua

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: JOSHUA



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

This week we learned about how Joshua made a promise with the people. They were asked who they would choose to serve, either God or other gods. They could only choose one, and they chose to serve the one true God because of all He had done for them. Joshua 24; Joshua Tells Israel to Serve the Lord.



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real: Ask your child to make a choice about something this week, remind them of the rewards or consequences that choice can bring.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- What's a way our family is serving God?
- What's a way our family can begin serving God?
- What are some things that get in our way of putting God first?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"Never stop reading this Book of the Law. Day and night you must think about what it says. Make sure you do everything written in it. Then things will go well with you. And you will have great success." Joshua 1:8 (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

What you need to know:

Our children are watching. They will talk like we talk. They will do what we do. Make it a goal this week to show your child how you are serving God. Invite them to do it with you.

JOSHUA

Supplemental Week 4 Readings

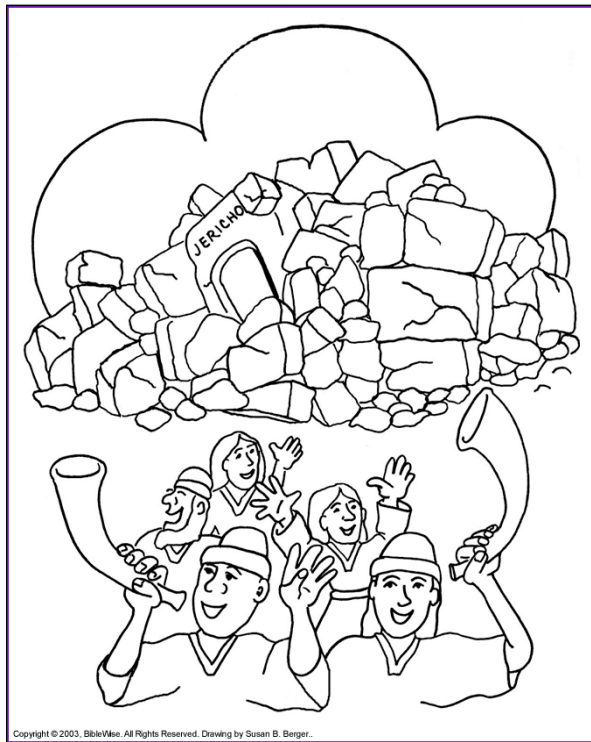
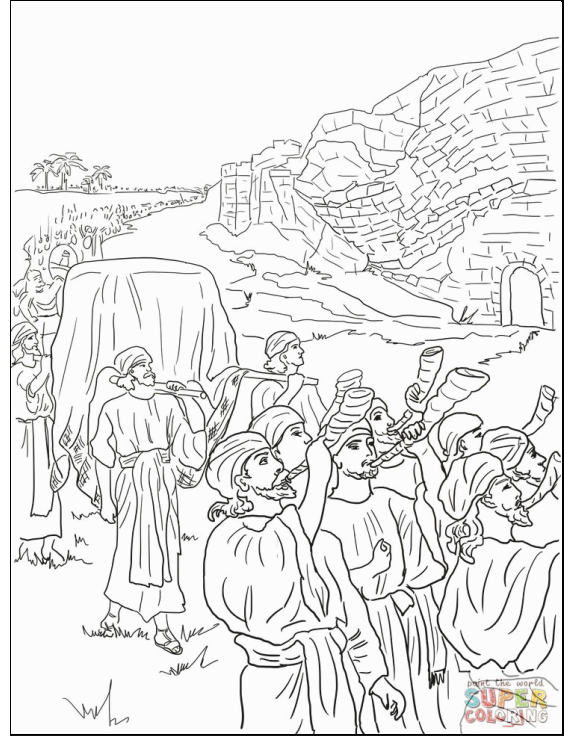
Entering the Promised
Land Ch 1-5

Fall of Jericho Ch 6

Battles fought Ch 6-12

Israel divided Ch 13-21

Death of Joshua Ch 24



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