



**Mustard Seed Children's Lesson Summary for September 6, 2009  
Released on Wednesday, September 2, 2009**

**"Joshua: God's Chosen Leader"**

**Lesson Text: Joshua 1:1-11, 16,17**

**Background Scripture: Joshua 1**

**Memory Verse:** "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1:9).

**Joshua 1:1-11, 16, 17**

**1** Now after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, it came to pass, that the Lord spake unto Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying,

**2** Moses my servant is dead; now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

**3** Every place that the sole of your foot shall tread upon, that have I given unto you, as I said unto Moses.

**4** From the wilderness and this Lebanon even unto the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and unto the great sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your coast.

**5** There shall not any man be able to stand before thee all the days of thy life: as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee.

**6** Be strong and of a good courage: for unto this people shalt thou divide for an inheritance the land, which I sware unto their fathers to give them.

**7** Only be thou strong and very courageous, that thou mayest observe to do according to all the law, which Moses my servant commanded thee: turn not from it to the right hand or to the left, that thou mayest prosper whithersoever thou goest.

**8** This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous, and then thou shalt have good success.

**9** Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest.

**10** Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying,

**11** Pass through the host, and command the people, saying, Prepare you victuals; for within three days ye shall pass over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land, which the Lord your God giveth you to possess it.

.....

**16** And they answered Joshua, saying, All that thou commandest us we will do, and whithersoever thou sendest us, we will go.

**17** According as we hearkened unto Moses in all things, so will we hearken unto thee: only the Lord thy God be with thee, as he was with Moses.

## **TEACHER'S NOTES**

God had made a covenant with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob to develop their descendants into a great nation. Through Moses He had given them laws by which they would govern their nation and by which they were to live.

As the book of Joshua opens, God had already chosen Joshua to succeed Moses, who had died perhaps only thirty days earlier (Deut. 34:8-9). It was now time to enter the Promised Land. God pointed out that the land was quite large and occupied by people who were firmly entrenched. In spite of these factors, God assured Joshua that he would conquer the land and divide it among the twelve tribes.

God cautioned Joshua—and all Israel—that it would be impossible to accomplish the goal without obedience to God's law, which Moses had finished writing perhaps only about a month earlier. Joshua was to meditate on the law constantly and obey it.

Joshua could be strong and brave, for God would be with him wherever he went, helping to make him the kind of person who would be morally fit to lead God's people and helping the nation defeat their enemies. Success was guaranteed, but only if Joshua and Israel would obey God's law.

The book of Joshua and especially this challenge are applicable to Christians today. We need to be warned and encouraged by it. God is as able today as He was then.

## **THE OBJECT IN VIEW:**

Show the children that God gave Joshua a big job to do but that He promised to help him do it.

## **TRUTHS TO STRESS:**

1. God promised that He would give His people a land of their own.
2. God told Joshua to conquer the Promised Land and promised to help him do it.
3. Children should remember that God loves them, stays with those who trust Him, and helps them obey Him.

## **PLANNING VISUAL AIDS**

For Telling the Lesson, bring a map of Israel, preferably one that shows the Exodus route. Be prepared to show the picture of Joshua on page 5 of this publication.

For Helping to Remember, bring a half sheet of construction paper for each student, crayons or markers, and glue or tape. Print or copy the golden text on pieces of white paper that will fit inside the folded construction paper.

## **BEGINNING THE LESSON**

"Tie your shoe, Jason," said his father. "You might trip on your shoe-laces."

"But I cannot do it!" Jason wailed. "It keeps coming loose. You tie it for me."

Jason's father was patient. He said, "I will show you again how to do it, but I will not keep tying your shoes for you. You can do it. Try it again."

Dad tied Jason's shoe as he told him again how to do it. Then he untied the shoe and said, "I will keep helping you as long as it takes. I will not leave you until you can do it. Now it is your turn."

Jason tried it again several times. Each time, the knot came loose, but finally he got the knot to stay.

"Look, Dad! I did it!" Jason almost shouted as he walked around. The knot stayed tight. "Thanks for staying with me and helping me, Dad. Now I can do it by myself."

In this week's lesson we will see that God promised to stay with Joshua and help him do something very important.

## **TELLING THE LESSON**

After the people of Israel left Egypt, they spent the next forty years living in the desert. (Show map.) Near the end of that time, the people arrived at the Jordan River, which was part of the border of the land that God had promised them. Their leader, Moses, had died, and the Lord had made Joshua their new leader.

Joshua had been Moses' helper, and he had seen how God talked to Moses and helped him lead this new nation. Now God spoke to Joshua. (Show picture.) God told Joshua that He was about to take the people of Israel across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land. (Point to map.) God had promised to give them this land, and now He was about to bring them into it.

God told Joshua that every piece of land that Joshua's feet stepped on would become part of the land of Israel. God had already given it to the people so that they could become a nation with a land to call their own.

God told Joshua that one boundary of the land would be the great wilderness, or desert, to the south. (Point to map.) To the north, the boundary would be the mountain range called Lebanon. To the east, their land would stretch all the way to the great Euphrates River. The boundary to the west would be the coast of the great Mediterranean Sea.

This was a large land for such a small group of people to occupy, but the number of Israelites would grow enough to fill it. At this time, however, the land was filled with many other people who had no right to be there. The Canaanites were one of the largest groups of people living there, and the Hittites were another. There were others too, and these people thought of the land as their own. They would not give up their cities and farms and pastures easily.

God promised Joshua that for as long as he lived, none of these other nations would be able to stop him. God would be with him just as surely as He had been with Moses. God promised that He would never forsake Joshua.

God said that Joshua would indeed divide up the land among the twelve tribes of Israel, but he would have to be strong and brave to do it. Joshua would have to lead Israel in many battles, but before he even started to fight, Joshua—and all the people of Israel—would have to be faithful to God.

Through Moses, God had given Israel a book of laws to help them. If they obeyed the laws, they would be helping themselves as well as serving God. God told Joshua not only to read the book of laws but also to talk about it, think about it all the time, and obey it. If he and the Israelites did that, they would be successful in conquering the people who were already in the land and would have all that they needed after making the land their own.

It would be hard to obey this command. Sometimes they would be afraid or discouraged, but God would be with them wherever they were and would help them.

The next thing Joshua did was tell all the officers over the tribes and families of Israel what God had told him. He ordered them to tell the people to get ready to enter the land that God had promised them. They would need to pack up all their belongings and get some food ready, for they would be crossing the Jordan River within three days.

Joshua gave other orders as well, and the people answered that they would do all that Joshua commanded them. They said they would willingly go wherever he sent them. They promised that as they had obeyed Moses, so they would obey Joshua.

## **TELLING HOW TO LIVE**

Is living for Jesus hard for us to do? We know that the Bible tells children to obey their parents and others who have authority over them. The truth is that we often resent being told what to do, especially if it is something really hard.

God told Joshua to take the people of Israel into a land where they would have to go to war with the people already there. This would be difficult to do, and they could easily become discouraged.

God would be with Joshua and Israel always and would help them do all that He had told them to do because God is faithful.

God will be with us too and will help us obey all that is written in the Bible. If we remember that Jesus loves us and gives us the Holy Spirit to help us obey Him, it will be easier. Following all His commands is good for us as well as honoring to Him.

### **HELPING TO REMEMBER**

Give the children half sheets of construction paper and help them fold them in half. They can print "Holy Bible" or draw a cross on the front. Have them glue or tape the golden text inside. Read the verse, or ask one of the students to do it.

### **EXPLAINING THE GOLDEN TEXT**

**"Be strong and of a good courage; ... for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1:9).**

When God told Joshua to be strong and courageous, there were plenty of reasons for him to be weak and frightened. Joshua had to lead a group of people who had not always been willing to cooperate. He was supposed to take them across a flooded river and into battle against fierce people living in walled cities.

It would be a tough job, but God promised to be with Joshua wherever he went. That meant that God would keep the promises He had made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob—their descendants would be a nation in their own land—and God would do it soon! Joshua could be sure that he would be able to do anything God told him to do.

Christians can also be sure that God will be with them and will help them do what He has told them to do. Read Matthew 28:19-20 and 1 Corinthians 15:57-58.

### **CONCLUSION:**

When we elect our leaders, we need to know that God has called them to that position. We also need to be reassured that they will put God's law before them as their standard and example for life. When God goes before us and we follow His laws, there is no dangler of failure.

### **PRAYER:**

Dear God, thank You for godly leaders who keep the book of law before them and encourage others to follow. In Jesus' name. Amen.

### **ANTICIPATING THE NEXT LESSON:**

The next lesson the Angel of the Lord told Gideon that God would help him defeat the Midianites. Study Judges 6:1-3, 7-14

### **LESSON SUMMARIZED BY:**

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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE:**

**"Joshua: God's Chosen Leader" (Joshua 1:1-11, 16,17)**

S E S G O D F L X E T D N G F  
T V A U H S O J L W N E R Y M  
A I J K C O Z P A A A E J O K  
N G P H X C O L P S V X I T L  
D I I Q J E E L A R R F X W E  
C O K A P X I S E K E D L G Q  
P R O S P E R E S A S N A F O  
M L B Y P K U L T J R R I O F  
D E D N A M M O C A U S W R N  
G H Q T D F B F R O T R I S U  
N L I A F H Q U C I I I L A Z  
O B Q G Q M P D Z T V A D K O  
R X P S G M F E T G N E S E C  
T Z K Q K Z D E N D T D R H M  
S K I Z D C N M O S E S Z D O

COMMANDED  
FORSAKE  
ISRAEL  
LAW  
MOSES  
RIVER  
STRONG

COURAGE  
GIVE  
JOSHUA  
LORD  
PEOPLE  
SERVANT  
SUCCESS

FAIL  
GOD  
LAND  
MEDITATE  
PROSPER  
STAND  
WRITTEN

21 words were placed into the puzzle.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLE SOLUTION:

### **"Joshua: God's Chosen Leader" (Joshua 1:1-11, 16,17)**

S E S G O D + + + E T D + + +  
T V A U H S O J L W N + R + +  
A I + + C + + P A + A + + O +  
N G + + + C O L + + V + + + L  
D + + + + E E L + + R + + + E  
+ + + + P + + S E + E + + G +  
P R O S P E R E S A S + A F +  
+ + + + + + + T + R R + O +  
D E D N A M M O C A U S W R +  
G + + + + + + R O T R I S +  
N L I A F + + + C I I I L A +  
O + + + + + + + T V A D K +  
R + + + + + + + T + N E + E +  
T + + + + + + E + D + + R + M  
S + + + + + N M O S E S + + +

(Over, Down, Direction)

COMMANDED (9, 9, W)  
COURAGE (9, 11, NE)  
FAIL (5, 11, W)  
FORSAKE (14, 7, S)  
GIVE (2, 4, N)  
GOD (4, 1, E)  
ISRAEL (13, 10, NW)  
JOSHUA (8, 2, W)  
LAND (13, 11, SW)  
LAW (8, 4, NE)  
LORD (15, 4, NW)  
MEDITATE (15, 14, NW)  
MOSES (8, 15, E)  
PEOPLE (5, 6, NE)  
PROSPER (1, 7, E)  
RIVER (9, 10, SE)  
SERVANT (11, 7, N)  
STAND (1, 1, S)  
STRONG (1, 15, N)  
SUCCESS (3, 1, SE)  
WRITTEN (13, 9, SW)

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