



FAMILY DEVOTIONAL

YEAR 2

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WELCOME TO *Generations of Grace*



This curriculum has been designed to deepen your own study of God's word so that you might be able to properly understand and accurately teach each lesson. It's our prayer that this curriculum would be a blessing to your ministry and home as God uses it to encourage your family.



Share the Lesson

- **Five-Day Devotionals** – Guides the family through the Generations of Grace lesson, a cross-reference passage, and a passage about Christ to lead the family through the whole counsel of God.
- **Generations of Grace Passages** – Reinforces the lesson that your child learned in Sunday School.
- **Cross-Reference Passage** – Points to another passage that reinforces the central truth of each week's lesson.
- **Christ-Centered Passage** – Connects each week's lesson to Jesus Christ and to the gospel.
- **Explain** – Communicates the truth of each day to the parent's heart and mind to prepare them to lead their child through the passage.
- **Ask** – Foster greater interaction between parent and children whether they're 3 years old or 11 years old.
- **Discuss** – Enable the conversation about the truth to progress to a deeper level.

Additional Resources

Use these additional resources to help support your lessons and to knit together the church and the home, ensuring that what is taught on Sunday matches what is learned throughout the week.

- **Coloring Book**
- **Craft Book**
- **Activity Book**
- **Student Journal**
- **Teacher Book**

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SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 4

God calls Joshua to be His servant

Joshua 1:1-9



DAY 1

God called Joshua to be His servant • Joshua 1:1-2

READ

Joshua 1:1-2

EXPLAIN

The truth of Joshua 1:1-2

Sometimes we think only about human leaders and forget that God is our true leader. Israel lost Moses, the man who had led them for so long. But God took care of Israel by picking a new leader. This choice shows us, first, that no one can just decide to be a leader of God's people (Jer 23:21). God decides. Second, God leads His people by choosing leaders who have already proven to be faithful servants (1 Tim 3:2-7). Joshua had been Moses' assistant for nearly 40 years, and he had led Israel's army to numerous victories (Exod 17:8-16). He had been one of only two faithful spies (Num 14:26). So Joshua had proven himself faithful in smaller roles before God called him to lead the whole nation (Matt 25:23). Third, God leads His people by empowering the leaders of His people. Moses had changed Joshua's name from Hoshea, which means "salvation," to Joshua, which means "God is salvation," as a reminder of who is really in charge (Num 13:16). Since God is the true leader, He raises up faithful men to lead His people.

ASK

- Who died just before Israel entered the promised land?
Moses.
- Who decided that Joshua would be the next leader?
God did.
- What kind of person does God choose to lead His people?
He chooses faithful servants who depend on God.
- What does the name Joshua mean?
Joshua means "The LORD is salvation."
- What was Joshua's mission?
To lead Israel across the Jordan and into the promised land.

DISCUSS

- What are some ways you can be a faithful servant now, so that you are ready to be used by God in bigger ways later?
- Read 1 Peter 5:1-4. How should leaders of God's people think of themselves?

DAY 2

God confirmed His promises to Joshua • Joshua 1:3–5

READ

Joshua 1:3–5

EXPLAIN

The truth of Joshua 1:3–5

Many times God calls us to do things that seem too difficult for us. Joshua, for example, wondered how he was to lead over 2 million stubborn people across a flooded river into enemy territory! You may not face that kind of difficulty, but God's answer is the same: trust and obey. God encouraged Joshua to trust His promise (Josh 1:3) and trust that God would give the victory (1:5). It did not depend on Joshua's small strength. But that did not mean Joshua could just do nothing. If you believe what God says, you will also do what He says. To have the victory God promised, Joshua had to act in faith and lead Israel into all the land (1:2–3). Joshua did just that, and at the end of his life he could look back and see that God had kept His promise (21:45). The good news is that if you are a believer, God is with you as He was with Joshua (1:5; Gal 2:20; 1 Cor 15:10). He will enable you to do all He calls you to do. You must simply trust and obey.

ASK

1. How did God encourage Joshua in his difficult task?
God reminded Joshua of His promises, His power, and His presence. God Himself would win the victory.
2. What did Israel need to do in order to enjoy God's promise about the land?
Israel needed to enter the land by faith—wherever they entered, God would give victory.
3. What was special about the way God promised to be with Joshua?
God promised to be with Joshua just like He had been with Moses.

DISCUSS

1. What are some difficult things you know you are supposed to do? What are some things you are afraid of?
2. Read Matthew 28:20 and Hebrews 13:5–6. Is Jesus with you? Do you have anything to fear?

DAY 3

God commanded Joshua to be strong • Joshua 1:6–9

READ

Joshua 1:6–9

EXPLAIN

The truth of Joshua 1:6–9

We are often afraid and feel like giving up, so God tells us over and over, “Be strong and courageous” (Josh 1:6, 7, 9; Matt 14:27). But where can you find strength and courage? You can find strength and courage, first, in God's word (Josh 1:7b–8). Joshua was to obey God's law carefully, without turning to the right or to the left (1:7; Deut 28:14). If he would do this, he would

have success. But to obey the law so carefully, Joshua needed to meditate on the law day and night (Josh 1:8). It was to be so much a part of him that it was constantly coming out of his mouth. Second, you can find strength and courage from God's presence. God told Joshua not to fear because He would be with him wherever he went (1:9). In the end, God's own presence would give Joshua success. These promises are for you too, if you believe. As you keep God's word (Jas 1:25) and depend upon God's presence (Rom 8:9), God will give you success. So be strong and courageous as you do what God calls you to do

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. What was Joshua supposed to meditate on and obey?
Joshua was supposed to meditate on and obey God's word.
2. What would happen if Joshua obeyed God's law?
Joshua would have success.
3. Who would give Joshua success?
God. God's presence protects, blesses, and gives success in doing His will.

DISCUSS 

1. Have you failed recently to do something God's word tells you to do? Was this because you lost sight of God's word? Did you stop depending on God's presence?
2. Read Psalm 119 until you can list 10 blessings that come from God's word.

DAY 4*The blessed man delights in the law of the LORD • Psalm 1:1–3***READ** 

Psalm 1

EXPLAIN **The truth of Psalm 1:1–3**

Joshua found strength, courage, and success by knowing and doing God's word. Psalm 1 describes how you also can enjoy all of God's blessings and experience deep joy in your relationship with God. So how do you get this blessing? First, by avoiding the wrong input: do not walk, stand, or sit with sinners (Ps 1:1). Don't even start down this road, because it goes from bad to worse. Walking turns into sitting. Listening to ungodly counsel—counsel that seems neutral but leaves God out—turns into openly scoffing at God. Second, you must then embrace the right input: delight in God's word (1:2). Love God's word above all earthly pleasures. Meditate on it at all hours of the day. Let your mind and mouth overflow with God's true words. Then, like a tree that always has water even when there is no rain, you will flourish even when life is hard. You will produce lasting spiritual fruit both in good times and in bad. As you treasure God's word above all, you will have success in all that God calls you to do.

ASK 

1. What does the blessed man not do?
He stays away from ungodly input into his life.
2. How do sinners go from bad to worse?
Passing through (walking) turns to staying (sitting). Leaving God out of your thoughts leads to openly mocking God.
3. What does the blessed man do?
He delights in God's word and meditates on God's word.
4. Why does the blessed man have success in everything he does?
Because he treasures God's word above all.

DISCUSS 

1. Do you delight in God's word? Compare the amount of time you spend reading, studying, and thinking about God's word with other activities in your life.
2. Can you think of a time when you remembered God's word and it gave you success?

DAY 5

Jesus is always with those who belong to him • Matthew 28:20

READ

Matthew 28:16–20

EXPLAIN

The truth of Matthew 28:20

When Joshua was afraid, God filled him with courage by promising to be with Him. Jesus did the same thing for the disciples when He was about to ascend into heaven. Without Jesus physically with them, what strength would the disciples have to take His message to the world? So Jesus focused their attention on Himself. He said, “I Myself” am with you (Matt 28:20). This promise is for you too, if you believe and proclaim Jesus. Jesus is Immanuel, “God with us” (1:23), and He stays with us until “the end of the age,” when He will return to judge the world and set up His earthly kingdom (cf. 13:37–50). The God who was with Joshua and the Israelites as they took possession of the Promised Land is the same God who is with you. But His presence is for a specific purpose. He is present with you not to get you what you want, but to give you success in making disciples by spreading the good news of Christ throughout the world. That is good news: by His presence, you can succeed in your highest calling.

ASK

1. What job did Jesus give to the disciples and to all believers?
He commands us to make disciples by teaching about Jesus all over the world.
2. This is a hard job. What strength do we have to do it?
He said that He Himself is with us.
3. How long do Christians enjoy the presence of Jesus?
Forever.
4. How powerful is Jesus’ presence?
All-powerful. He has all authority in heaven and on earth (28:18).

DISCUSS

1. Are you afraid of telling others about Jesus? What can you remember to overcome your fear?
2. Have you recently tried to obey God but failed? Were you relying on your own strength instead of trusting in the power of Jesus’ presence?

NEXT WEEK

God approves Rahab’s faith

Joshua 2:1–24



SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON
WEEK 5

God approves Rahab's faith

Joshua 2:1-24



DAY 1

Rahab protected the spies • Joshua 2:1-7

READ

Joshua 2:1-7

EXPLAIN

The truth of Joshua 2:1-7

Some people think that if God promises success, we wouldn't have a reason to do anything. But it's just the opposite: God's promise motivates us to act diligently, because we know the results will be worth it. That's how it was with Joshua. He trusted God's promise of victory (Josh 1:5-6), so he acted wisely. It was wise to send spies to gather information, and it was wise to keep the mission secret, so that a bad report would not lead to rebellion again (Num 13-14). The spies also acted wisely (Josh 2:2). They went to a harlot's home, not for sinful reasons, but because they wouldn't attract attention at her busy home. Her home was also a good place to gather valuable information, and since it was on the wall, it offered a quick escape. As Joshua and the spies acted with wisdom, God did as He promised and gave success. He arranged it so that this Gentile harlot had become a God-fearer! So when soldiers came for the spies, Rahab saved them, risking her own life for the sake of total strangers (2:4-7).

ASK

1. How did Joshua act wisely?
He sent two spies and kept their spy mission a secret.
2. How did the spies act wisely?
They stayed at the house of Rahab, a sinful woman.
3. How did God give success?
God brought the spies to just the right place. Who would have thought that a Gentile harlot would risk her life to save foreign invaders?

DISCUSS

1. Read Philippians 2:12-13. Does God's sovereignty excuse man from acting responsibly?
2. What are some areas of your life where you need to plan more carefully or work more diligently? How can the truth of God's sovereignty encourage you in this?

DAY 2

Rahab's actions were motivated by her faith • Joshua 2:8–16

READ

Joshua 2:8–16

EXPLAIN

The truth of Joshua 2:8–16

Why was Rahab willing to risk her life for Israelite spies? Because she believed. She had heard of God's mighty deeds, and she knew that God had given Israel the land (Josh 2:9). She understood that God had made Israel His own people at the crossing of the Red Sea (2:10). She realized that He would fight for Israel and defeat Israel's enemies, as He did to the two kings east of the Jordan (2:10). Along with the rest of the Canaanites, Rahab was afraid (2:11; Exod 15:15–16). But while the others reacted by trying to resist God, Rahab's fear caused her to run to Him. That kind of fear is good, because it realizes that only God can save us from His own holy power. But what about her lie? She is never praised for her lie, only for her faith (Heb 11:31; Jas 2:25). Lying is wrong (Prov 12:22; 1 John 2:21). But rather than focusing on her lie, be astonished by her faith—and be thankful that God evaluates you according to your faith, not based on your perfection (Rom 4:5).

ASK

1. Why did Rahab protect the spies?
Because she feared the God of Israel and sided with Israel by faith.
2. Why did Rahab fear God?
She saw evidence that God was fighting and giving victory to His people Israel.
3. Why was her fear a good fear?
Her fear was good because it was a proper awe of God. It caused her to run to God for rescue.
4. Was she wrong to lie?
Yes. Lying is wrong. But she is praised for her faith. We are all evaluated based on our faith.

DISCUSS

1. Do you fear God? What facts do you know about God that should cause you to fear Him?
2. Read James 2:18–26. Like Rahab hiding the spies, do your actions show that you believe?

DAY 3

Rahab was promised safety • Joshua 2:14, 17–22

READ

Joshua 2:14, 17–22

EXPLAIN

The truth of Joshua 2:14, 17–22

Faith is so important because it is the only way to receive God's grace (Rom 4:16). Because Rahab believed, she would escape death, along with any family member who stayed in her house (Josh 2:17–20). She received this promise by faith, when she obediently tied a scarlet thread to her window (2:21). Do you realize how great God's grace is? Rahab was a Gentile and a prostitute. She was not part of God's

people, and she was wicked. But God showed great favor to her. He saved her and made her part of Israel. In fact, Rahab's descendants included David, all the kings of Judah, and even the Messiah (Matt 1:5)! This is what God's grace does. God's grace takes people who were not His people and makes them His own (Gen 12:3; 1 Pet 2:10). His grace transforms sinners into saints (1 Cor 6:9–11). If you have experienced God's grace, thank Him again and remember that anything good in you is from His grace (1 Cor 15:10). If you have not known His grace, then be like Rahab, and put your trust in Him.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. Why did Rahab experience God's grace?
Because she had faith.
2. Did Rahab deserve to be saved?
No. She was a Gentile and a sinner.
3. How was God's grace magnified in Rahab's life?
King David and Messiah were her descendants.

DISCUSS 

1. Compare Rahab to the Samaritan woman (John 4:7-42).
2. Are you as wicked as Rahab was (1 Tim 1:15)?
Make a list of the ways God's grace has blessed you despite your sin, so that you do not take His grace for granted.

DAY 4*Rahab's testimony encouraged Joshua • Joshua 2:22-24***READ** 

Joshua 2:22-24

EXPLAIN **The truth of Joshua 2:22-24**

Sometimes we know the truth, but we still have a hard time believing it. Our faith is weak. But God knows we are weak, so He kindly strengthens our faith. That's what He did for Joshua. Even though He had already promised Joshua victory, God used Rahab and the spies to give Joshua encouraging news (Josh 2:23-24). When Joshua heard that God had melted the hearts of the Canaanites, he knew God was already winning the battle. This showed Israel that God is trustworthy to save. What about you? You have God's finished word, and that is enough. It is more complete, more permanent, and more authoritative than any experience (2 Pet 1:19). You have not just the evidence of the Red Sea, Sihon and Og, and Rahab and the spies. You also know how God crushed sin, Satan, and death through Jesus Christ (Col 1:13; 2:15). In addition, for those times when you still doubt or fear, He has also put His Holy Spirit in you, if you are a Christian (1 John 2:20). As you walk by faith, He will confirm your faith (2:27).

ASK 

1. Did Rahab give the spies good advice?
Yes. They were able to return safely.
2. What kind of a report did the spies give to Joshua?
An encouraging report. The hearts of the Canaanites had melted with fear (2:23-24).
3. How does God confirm our faith?
Through all the truth recorded in the Bible, through the work of Jesus to save us, and through the Holy Spirit within us.

DISCUSS 

1. Why is God's word greater than anyone's experience (1 Pet 1:19-21)?
2. Ask your parents to tell you some stories of how God gave them evidence of His power and love for them.

DAY 5

By faith Rahab did not perish • Hebrews 11:31

READ

Hebrews 11:29–31

EXPLAIN

The truth of Hebrews 11:31

What is true faith? Rahab shows us. First, faith is not blind. Rahab believed based on what she had heard about God, showing that faith is a right response to evidence given by God (Exod 9:14). Second, faith is the fear of God, trembling in awe before His might (Josh 2:9; Prov 9:10). Third, faith is trust in God alone (Josh 2:12; Deut 4:39; 6:4). True faith is not half-hearted. It does not leave room for two masters (Matt 6:24). Fourth, faith does not stop with recognizing God's supremacy—it presses on until it rests upon God's mercy (Josh 2:12). True faith trembles before the power and wrath of God, but instead of running away from God it runs toward God for refuge. Fifth, true faith cares for others (2:13). Love for God cannot be separated from love for one's neighbor (Mark 12:30–31). Sixth, true faith takes action, even at great risk—in Rahab's case, she hid the spies and enabled their escape (2:14–16; Jas 2:25–26). Do you have this kind of faith? Do you believe what God has said, run to God, and live for Him?

ASK

1. Is faith blind?
No.
2. Is fear of God a characteristic of faith?
Yes.
3. Does faith have to be exclusive trust in God?
Yes. *No one can serve two masters (Matt 6:24).*
4. Does faith result in action?
Yes.

DISCUSS

1. Have you ever felt like you had no hope except to trust God alone?
2. Can you think of a time you risked your comfort, reputation, or safety for the sake of what you believe?

NEXT WEEK

God reveals His might at the Jordan

Joshua 3:1–5:1



SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 6

God reveals His might at the Jordan

Joshua 3:1-5:1



DAY 1

God prepared Israel to learn from the miracle at the Jordan •
Joshua 3:1-13

READ

Joshua 3:1-13

EXPLAIN

The truth of Joshua 3:1-13

Every day we see amazing things, but we are not always ready to see what God is showing us. So when God led Israel across the Jordan, He made sure they were ready to see. The ark of the covenant would lead the way to show that God's presence was with them (Josh 3:3). Also, the people were to consecrate themselves to be ready to see the great wonder God was about to do (Josh 3:5). Why did God want Israel to be ready to see? Because He was going to show them that the "living God" was present with them (3:10). He wanted them to see that He is "Lord of all the earth," with power in Canaan just like His power in Egypt (3:13; Exod 15:8). God also would do this great thing to prove to them that Joshua was His chosen leader (3:7; 4:14). God has amazing things to show you too, both in creation (Rom 1:20) and in the Bible (Ps 19:10). Is your heart ready to see (Ps 119:18), or is it darkened because you are not ready to honor God (Rom 1:21)?

ASK

1. What was supposed to lead the way across the Jordan River?
The ark of the covenant.
2. What did the ark of the covenant represent?
God's presence.
3. What were God's purposes in showing His power at the Jordan River?
To show His presence, show His power, and confirm Joshua's leadership.

DISCUSS

1. How can you prepare in the morning to see God's presence and power throughout the day?
2. How can you prepare before the Sunday school lesson or sermon, so that you are ready to see amazing things about God when you come to church?

DAY 2

God miraculously stopped the Jordan River • Joshua 3:14–17; 4:10–18

READ

Joshua 3:14–17; 4:10–18

EXPLAIN

The truth of Joshua 3:14–17; 4:10–18

What would you think if you saw a raging river just dry up? Normally, the Jordan River is about 90 to 100 feet wide and 3 to 10 feet deep, but it was harvest time, so the river was flooding over all its banks (3:15). The Jordan valley was also overgrown with a dense thicket that was really hard to move through. Why would God lead Israel to cross at such a bad time and such a difficult place? So that it would be even more amazing when he piled up the river 15 miles upstream (3:16). God made it like the miracle at the Red Sea (Exod 15:8). He specifically put Israel in a hard spot in Egypt in order to display His great power (Exod 14:2–4). So again He put them at a hard spot at the Jordan to show His power again. He had redeemed them by His power, and now He was bringing them into their inheritance by His power. So when things are hard in your life, remember that God loves to show His power in our weakness (2 Cor 12:9).

ASK

1. What made Israel's crossing of the Jordan River so amazing?
The Jordan River overflows was flooded at that time, and the valley was also overgrown with a dense thicket.
2. What did God do to the river making it possible for Israel to cross?
He held back the waters in a heap near the town of Adam, about 15 miles to the north (3:16).
3. Why did God choose such a difficult time and place?
As He did at the Red Sea, God put His people in a tough spot to show His power and remind that His power alone saves them.

DISCUSS

1. Why was stopping the water of the Jordan River easy for God to do (Job 38:8–11)?
2. How does your redemption and inheritance depend on God's power (Col 2:12; 1 Pet 1:5)?

DAY 3

God instructed Israel to remember • Joshua 4:1–9, 19–24; 5:1

READ

Joshua 4:1–9, 19–24; 5:1

EXPLAIN

The truth of Joshua 4:1–9, 19–24; 5:1

Have you ever forgotten something important? God did not want Israel to forget the power they had seen at the Jordan. He commanded Joshua to make a memorial out of 12 stones taken from the middle of the Jordan (4:1–3). This would remind them God's great power (4:6–7). Joshua actually built two memorials, one in the river and one at their camp after crossing (4:9). Now descendants of Israel for generations could return to the

memorial and remember once again how powerful their God is (4:19–22). They could remember how He broke the enemies' fighting spirit (5:1). If He could defeat the raging river, He could also defeat their enemies. And if He was with Israel, He is also with everyone who belongs to Him (Rom 8:31). So remember the Jordan. You might like to see miracles all the time, but that is not the way God chooses to act. Instead, you must remember. The power He showed at the Jordan is the same power at work for all who believe, even if it doesn't come in the form of a miracle.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. What did God tell Joshua to do after crossing the Jordan River?
To build a memorial out of 12 stones taken from the midst of the river.
2. Why did God tell Joshua to build a memorial?
So that their descendants could return to the memorial and remember God's great power.
3. What did God do to the Canaanites by bringing Israel across the Jordan on dry ground?
He caused the Canaanites to lose their courage. He was keeping His promise to give Israel victory.

DISCUSS 

1. Read Romans 8:31–39. What are some enemies these verses talk about? Why don't you need to fear them if you belong to God?
2. Come up with a way to record times God showed His goodness and power to you, so that you can remember in tough times (Ps 4:1), and also tell your children.

DAY 4*God established boundaries for the sea • Job 38:8–11***READ** 

Job 38:8–11

EXPLAIN **The truth of Job 38:8–11**

Sometimes life doesn't seem fair, and Job wanted to complain about it to God. So God appeared to Job and asked him to explain. But things didn't go the way Job thought they would, because Job couldn't answer any of God's questions. One of God's questions for Job was about His work on the third day of creation (Gen 1:9). On that day God showed His great power over the sea by giving it boundaries and forming the continents (Job 38:8–11). The great sea, with its rushing waters and roaring waves, was like a baby before God. God was like the ocean's parent, dressing the sea with clouds and swaddling it in thick darkness (38:8–9). Then He put the sea to rest, like putting a baby in its crib. There is no rebellious wave or troublesome tide before God. He sets its limits (38:10–11). Could Job do any of that, or even explain how it was possible? No. So it was better for him to quietly trust God and not try to tell God how to do things. Since God is so powerful, you should trust Him too.

ASK 

1. Was Job able to explain why his suffering was unfair?
No. He could not answer any of God's questions about how the world worked.
2. On what day of creation did God demonstrate His power over the sea?
The third day of creation (Gen 1:9).
3. How does God describe the sea?
As a baby before Him.
4. Who established the limits for the sea?
God. He has told the sea how far it may go.

DISCUSS 

1. Are you facing any difficulties in your life recently? If the ocean is like a little baby to God, do you think He has power over your problems?
2. When hard things happen in your life, do you complain, or do you quietly trust and faithfully obey God?

DAY 5

In Remembrance of Me • 1 Corinthians 11:23–26

READ

1 Corinthians 11:23–26

EXPLAIN

The truth of 1 Corinthians 11:23–26

Joshua set up a monument to remember God's power at the Jordan, and Jesus gave us a memorial to remember God's power at the cross. Just before being betrayed, Jesus made the bread of the Passover meal a reminder of His body, and He made the cup of wine a reminder of His blood. His body died in our place, and His blood was shed for sin. His blood also began the New Covenant, which brings us forgiveness of sin and new life by the Spirit. So Christ's work on the cross was powerful. It crushed sin, defeated Satan, and offers new life. We remember His great power every time we celebrate the Lord's Supper, just like Israel remembered God's power when they saw Joshua's monument. Their children would ask what it meant, and they would explain, just like we explain to our children what the elements of the Lord's supper mean. The bread and the cup tell the story of the gospel. And the gospel is the power of God for salvation to everyone who believes (Rom 1:16).

ASK

1. What does the cup symbolize?
The blood of Jesus.
2. What does the bread symbolize?
The body of Jesus.
3. Why did Jesus tell us to keep celebrating the Lord's supper?
So that we would not forget the gospel.
4. What is the gospel?
It is God's power to save through Jesus' sacrifice on the cross.

DISCUSS

1. What are some other events each year that remind you of God's powerful work (Christmas, Easter, etc.)?
2. Jesus did not seem powerful as He died on the cross. How is the cross a display of God's power even greater than the crossing of the Jordan?

NEXT WEEK

God gives Jericho to Israel

Joshua 5:13–6:27



SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 7

God gives Jericho to Israel

Joshua 5:13–6:27



DAY 1

The preparation: God came to Joshua • Joshua 5:13–6:5

READ

Joshua 5:13–6:5

EXPLAIN

The truth of Joshua 5:13–6:5

In the first five chapters of Joshua, God kept encouraging Joshua and the Israelites, while at the same time instructing them to trust Him and obey. Now again, before the first battle, God encouraged and instructed Joshua again (Josh 5:13–14). When the captain of God's army appeared, Joshua was encouraged, because he saw that the battle was not just between the Hebrews and the Canaanites. There was a third army fighting to achieve God's purpose, an angelic army (1 Kings 22:19; Ps 103:21). This mysterious warrior was actually God Himself, the second person of the Trinity. God then instructed Joshua how to defeat Jericho. Jericho was tightly shut, and normally it would take a siege of several months to starve a city like this until it surrendered (6:1). But God told Joshua to attack the city in a very unusual way, so that He could once again show His unusual power (6:2). So rather than asking God to be on his side, Joshua needed to put himself on God's side, even if that meant following strange-sounding instructions.

ASK

- Who met Joshua before the battle of Jericho?
The captain of God's army met Joshua.
- Whose side was the captain of God's army on?
Neither. God doesn't join our side. We must join His side.
- How did this encourage Joshua?
It reminded him that this battle did not depend on his own small strength.
- How did God instruct Joshua?
God told Joshua to march around and blow rams' horns. This strange behavior would make it clear that Jericho's fall came from God and not from man.

DISCUSS

- Do you tend to rush into tasks each day, or do you stop to worship God first (Josh 5:15)?
- How can you prepare each day to fight the spiritual battle (Eph 6:10–20).

DAY 2

The battle: Joshua and Israel obeyed God's instructions • Joshua 6:6–20

READ

Joshua 6:6–20

EXPLAIN

The truth of Joshua 6:6–20

Have you ever ignored instructions, because you thought your way was better? God gave Joshua strange instructions (Josh 6:3–5), but Joshua and the people carefully obeyed. Joshua repeated the instructions (6:6–7), the people followed them (6:8–16), and the story even stops to repeat them again (6:17–19). Because they obeyed, they succeeded, because God is the one who gives success. As Israel circled Jericho, the ark represented God's presence with them, just like it did when crossing the Jordan. It was at the center of the column, and it is mentioned in almost every verse (6:6–14). As Israel obeyed, God was present and powerful to give them success. If you belong to Him, He does the same for you (Matt 28:20). He is present with you to give you victory (1 Cor 15:57). But if you choose to do things your own way, by your own strength, His power will not be with you (Rom 8:5–8). So put your trust in God, as Joshua did at Jericho (Heb 11:30). If you really trust God's power, you will do what He says.

ASK

1. Where was the ark of the covenant while Israel marched around Jericho?
In the center of the Israelites.
2. How many times did Israel march around Jericho on each of the first six days?
One time.
3. How many times did Israel march around Jericho on day seven?
Seven times.
4. What happened to the walls of Jericho on the seventh day?
The walls of the city fell down flat and the Israelites captured the city.

DISCUSS

1. Why did the Israelites win the victory at Jericho?
2. One of God's instructions for you is to obey your parents (Eph 6:1). How careful are you to follow their instructions?

DAY 3

The results: victory, judgment, salvation, and fame • Joshua 6:20–27

READ

Joshua 6:20–27

EXPLAIN

The truth of Joshua 6:20–27

When you obey God by faith, you are on the winning team. Because Israel trusted God, they won the victory. The victory clearly came from God, because the entire wall fell except for the part that was Rahab's house. Because Rahab trusted God, she and her family received mercy (6:17, 22, 23, 25). Rahab gets as much attention as Jericho itself, showing God's love for the one lost

sheep, the despised, and the rejected (Matt 18:12–14; 15:21–28; 1 Cor 1:18–31). Because Joshua trusted God, God made him famous (Josh 6:27). He kept His promise to give Joshua success (1:5–9). So it is good to be on God's side! But it is bad to be against God. Jericho was sinful and resisted God, so Jericho was utterly destroyed. Every man, woman, child, and animal was killed (6:21). Everything except the metal was burned (6:24). What do you think? Is it worth it to go against God? It is much better to be like Joshua—be bold and courageous, believe in God's presence, and cling to His law (1:8).

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. What did Joshua say to the two men who spied out the land?
Go to Rahab's house and rescue Rahab and her family.
2. Was it possible for someone in Jericho to be saved?
Yes, if they turned to God as Rahab did. God showed her great mercy.
3. What were the only items of the city that were spared from the fire?
Only the silver, gold, and vessels of bronze and iron were spared.

4. What did Joshua say would happen to the person who rebuilt Jericho?
He would be cursed and forfeit the lives of his oldest and youngest sons.

DISCUSS 

1. How much does God punish sin (Rom 6:23; Rev 21:8)?
2. Why does the battle of Jericho talk as much about Rahab as it does about Jericho (Matt 18:12-14)?

DAY 4*God's justice in destroying Jericho • Joshua 6:20-27***READ** 

Joshua 6:20-27

EXPLAIN **The truth of Joshua 6:20-27**

How could a good God demand the deaths of all the Canaanites? The slaughter was painful and sad. God Himself grieves over the death of the wicked (Ezek 18:23), and so should we. However, it was just for the Canaanites to be killed. First, they got **justice** because they got what they deserved. The Canaanites were very wicked (Deut 9:5). They were well-known for idolatry (Lev 18:24-25), child sacrifices (Deut 12:31), and all kinds of sexual sin (Lev 18:3-30). Second, their sin was also contaminating, like a disease. In fact, when Israel failed to clear out all the land, they joined the Canaanites in their sin (Deut 20:18; Ps 106:34-42). Third, it was just because God was very patient. He patiently waited 600 years before judging (Gen 15:16). Fourth, it was just because God is merciful. God forgives even the wickedest nations if they repent (Jonah 4:11; Jer 18:5-10). The Canaanites could have followed the example of Rahab and turned to the true God but, sadly, they did not. The hearts of the people of Jericho remained as closed as their gates.

ASK 

1. Why did the Canaanites deserve God's judgment?
They were very wicked.
2. How did the Canaanites' sin contaminate Israel?
Instead of killing all the Canaanites, Israel joined the Canaanites in their sin.
3. How long did God wait before punishing the Canaanites?
600 years.
4. How is God merciful?
God forgives even the most wicked people when they repent.

DISCUSS 

1. Are you better than the Canaanites? Do you deserve God's mercy (Rom 3:10-20)?
2. Should you rejoice in God's justice (Ps 35:1-9)?

DAY 5

Your will be done • Matthew 6:10

READ

Matthew 6:1–15

EXPLAIN

The truth of Matthew 6:10

When you pray, what do you want most? Prayer is not to get God on our side. Prayer is not to make God your personal helper to get you what you want (Jas 4:3). Then what should be your main desire in prayer? God's glory. It is about putting yourself on God's side and praying for what He wants. Why? Because the story of Jericho has shown us that God fights for His own glory and accomplishes His own will. You may never bow before the captain of God's army as Joshua did (Josh 5:13–14). But you do bow before God in prayer. When you do, your greatest desire should be for His glory, His kingdom, His will. In prayer you must submit your will to His. You must loosen your grip on your own desires and let God remake them to match His desires. You must stop trying to be the boss of your own life, and let God be your King in all things. As you do, God will use your prayers to advance His kingdom, and you will be blessed to be on the winning side—God's side.

ASK

1. When we pray, what should be the main goal of our prayers?
God's glory, God's kingdom, God's will.
2. How can we align ourselves with the will of God?
By letting God change our own desires to match His own.
3. How should God's kingship affect your prayers?
By letting Him control your life, and by praying for Him to establish His kingdom.

DISCUSS

1. If someone listened to you pray, what would they think is your goal in prayer?
2. How self-centered are your prayers? Do your prayers tend to focus more on your needs, your plans, your wants, or the establishment of God's kingdom and God's will?

NEXT WEEK

God judges Achan's sin

Joshua 7:1–26



SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 8

God judges Achan's sin

Joshua 7:1–26



DAY 1

God was not present to give victory • Joshua 7:1–5

READ

Joshua 7:1–5

EXPLAIN

The truth of Joshua 7:1–5

It's easy to think that our sin is our own problem. But it's not. Your obedience or disobedience affects the people around you. Rahab's faith led her entire family to safety (Josh 6:25). But Achan's unfaithfulness brought God's burning anger upon all Israel. Achan ignored Joshua's warning (6:18), and as a result, Israel was defeated at Ai (7:3–4). Thirty-six Israelites died (7:5). That doesn't seem like a lot, but it showed that God was not fighting with them (7:8–9). It also showed their enemies that they could be beaten, even by the relatively small army of Ai. Before, the hearts of the Canaanites melted in fear (2:9), but now Israel's own hearts melted in fear (7:5). God's anger would continue to burn against Israel as long as this sin remained (7:11–12). All this was because of Achan's *sin*, when he chose to go against God's command. So be careful not to think that you can sin without hurting others. When you are tempted to sin, stop and consider the consequences: will you bring blessing or trouble to those around you?

ASK

1. Why did the God's anger burn against Israel?
Because Achan took some of the things devoted to God.
2. What did the spies tell Joshua about Ai?
That only a small number of Israelites needed to go up there.
3. What happened to the Israelite army at Ai?
They were defeated and thirty-six Israelites were killed.
4. What happened to the hearts of the Israelites after the defeat at Ai?
They melted and became as water. The people were afraid.

DISCUSS

1. How has your obedience or disobedience this week affected the rest of your family?
2. When you fail, do you re-strategize, or do you consider whether you have sinned? If you have sinned, do you seek God's mercy (1 John 1:9)?

DAY 2

God explained why He was not present • Joshua 7:6–15

READ

Joshua 7:6–15

EXPLAIN

The truth of Joshua 7:6–15

What had happened? God had promised Joshua that no one could stand against him (Josh 1:5), but now Ai had stood against him! When things are confusing, Joshua shows us how to respond. First, he remembered that God was still in control when he addressed God as “Lord God” (7:7). Second, he was most concerned about God’s glory (7:9). He was confused by Israel’s defeat, but he cared more about what Israel’s defeat would say about Israel’s God. God answered Joshua’s righteous prayer, explaining that Israel had sinned (7:11). Through Achan, Israel was guilty of taking things set apart for destruction (7:10–11), so God declared that He had set apart Israel for destruction (7:12). Without God’s presence, Israel was doomed, because it is only God’s presence that provides courage and wins the victory (1:5, 9: 3:7, 10; 4:14; 6:27; Exod 33:15–16). But God is always merciful, so He provided the solution: get rid of the sin (Josh 7:13–15). This solution applies to you too. When trouble in your life causes you to realize you have sinned, you also must get rid of the sin (Jas 5:16).

ASK

1. What did Joshua do after Israel’s defeat at Ai?
He tore his clothes, bowed down before God in prayer, and put dust on his head.
2. What was Joshua’s main concern in his prayer?
God’s glory, the honor of God’s name.
3. What did God tell Joshua to do?
Get rid of the sin.
4. How would Joshua know who had sinned?
God promised to show Joshua.

DISCUSS

1. What do your words and actions say about God to the people around you?
2. Do you ask God to expose your sin so that you can follow Him (Ps 139:23–24)?

DAY 3

God restored His presence • Joshua 7:16–26

READ

Joshua 7:16–26

EXPLAIN

The truth of Joshua 7:16–26

How quickly do you make things right after you sin? Repenting is hard, because it means you have to admit that you’re wrong. It hurts to be humbled, and it’s hard to change your attitude and actions. But let Joshua show you how to deal with sin. He got up early to deal with sin quickly (Josh 7:16). He let God expose the sin instead of trying to hide it (7:16–18; Ps 139:23–24).

Then he tore up the sin by the roots: Achan, his family (who probably knew what Achan had done), and his animals were stoned to death and then burned (7:24–25). The remains were treated like the remains of an enemy (7:26; 8:29). Then the pile of stones over Achan became a monument to remind Israel for years to come of God’s deadly wrath against sin and God’s gracious restoration when sin is dealt with (7:26). So deal with your sin. Let God expose it, repent quickly, get it completely out of your life even if it hurts, and never forget the pain of sin or the joy of restoration.

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. Was Joshua eager to deal with the sin?
Yes. He got up early in the morning to do it.
2. Where had Achan hidden the stolen items?
In the earth inside his tent.
3. What were the consequences of Achan's sin?
Achan, his family, and his animals, were stoned, burned, and buried under a pile of stones.
4. Did God turn from His burning anger?
Yes. After Achan was punished (7:26).

DISCUSS 

1. When your parents get you in trouble for disobeying, how long does it take you to make things right—in your heart, with your parents, and with God?
2. If Achan had waited, he would have been able to keep plunder from Ai (Josh 8:2). Have you ever missed out on good things because you were impatient?

DAY 4*Sin separates from God • Isaiah 59:1–2***READ** 

Isaiah 59:1–2

EXPLAIN **The truth of Isaiah 59:1–2**

When we sin, often we don't want to admit it. So we pout and grumble and are not happy (Ps 32:3). That's because sin separates us from God, just like Achan's sin separated Israel from God's power to give them victory. As many years went by, Israel kept sinning and grew farther and farther away from God. God was still strong enough to save and He could still hear their prayers (Isa 59:1; 58:9; 65:24). But because of their sins, God hid His face from Israel (59:2). By separating themselves from God, Israel lost the Promised Land and all its blessings. The same is true for you. You have sinned (Rom 3:23), and your sin separates you from God. When you hide your sin, you are miserable. So do you want to be happy and close to God? Then confess your sin and find forgiveness (Ps 32:1, 5). Repent quickly and turn away from your sin (Acts 3:19), get rid of anything leading you back to sin (Matt 5:29–30), and make things right with the people you sinned against (Matt 5:22–23). It's hard, but it's worth it.

ASK 

1. What separated Israel from God?
Their own sin.
2. What was life like for them when they were separated from God?
They lost their land and everything good, and got only evil.
3. Repentance is hard, but in the end is it happy or sad?
Happy, because when we repent, we get rid of sin, make things right with those we've wronged, and stop being separated from God.
4. Why is repentance the only way to be happy?
Because when we repent, we are humble, and God only gives grace to the humble (Jas 4:6).

DISCUSS 

1. When was the last time you confessed your sin to God?
2. What do you say and do when you get in trouble at home or at school?

DAY 5

The wages of sin is death • Romans 6:23

READ

Romans 6:23

EXPLAIN

The truth of Romans 6:23

When you sin and don't repent, you are not happy. That's because your sin separates you from God. But your sadness is only a taste of something much worse. It is a taste of spiritual death, because, like Achan, your sin earns you death (Rom 6:23a). This death is being completely separated from God and from everything good forever. Isn't that terrible? So it is good news that God has made a way for you to escape from death and have eternal life. This gift is through Christ: His life, death, and resurrection can count for you, if you receive Him by faith (Eph 2:8-9). Like Achan, you deserve God's wrath (Rom 2:8). But if you turn to Christ, then God's wrath is removed forever (8:1). You will still sin, and your sin will still provoke God's anger. But now God's anger does not condemn you. Instead, it draws you back to Him (Jas 4:5; Heb 12:7-10). His anger against you may last for a moment, but His favor toward you is forever (Ps 30:5). So flee from your sin, run to Jesus, and thank God for His kindness.

ASK

1. What does your sin earn?
Spiritual death.
2. Do you deserve eternal life?
No. It is a gift, and gifts cannot be earned.
3. How are you like Achan?
We have all sinned (Rom 3:23) and deserve to die (Rom 6:23).
4. How can you escape God's anger against you for your sin?
By turning to Christ (Rom 8:1).

DISCUSS

1. Do you feel like you are always guilty? Do you feel like you are always in trouble with God? How can a right view of God's grace free you from guilt and sin (Rom 8:1-4)?
2. Are you thankful when God uses your parents to discipline you, so that you will be restored to God and to your parents?

NEXT WEEK

God is chosen by Israel

Joshua 23:1-24:29



SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

WEEK 9

God is chosen by Israel

Joshua 23:1–24:29



DAY 1

Joshua urged Israel to continue the conquest by faith in God •
Joshua 23:1–16

READ

Joshua 23:1–16

EXPLAIN

The truth of Joshua 23:1–16

When everything is going well, it's easy to forget God. It's easy to stop feeling your need for God. Everything had gone well for Israel, so Joshua warned them not to forget God. God had been faithful to fight for Israel (23:1–5), so Joshua called Israel to stay true to God and to His word (23:6). As with Israel, God's goodness should cause you to trust Him, not forget Him (23:9–10). You should be especially careful not to love idols instead of God (23:7). In Canaan, gods were represented by statues, but these idols stood for the same things that people worship today: money, health, success, fame, sexuality, power, and violence. In fact, every sin involves idolatry (Col 3:5). Like Israel, if you want to continue enjoying God's blessing, you must completely turn from idols. You must even stay away from those who would lead you into idolatry (Josh 23:11–12). Do not enjoy the company of those who do not honor God (Ps 15:4). Be warned: if you do not stay true to God, God will take away the good things He has blessed you with (Josh 23:14–16).

ASK

1. Did Israel possess all the land at this time (23:3–5)?
No. God had removed the main threats, but Israel need to finish the job by faith.
2. How would Israel continue to have success possessing the land (23:6–8)?
By keeping and doing everything written in the Law of Moses, not mixing with the nations and their gods, and clinging to God.
3. Why had Israel been so successful so far (23:10)?
Because God fought for Israel, just as He had promised them.

DISCUSS

1. How often do you need to remember that your happiness depends on God, and what can help you do that (Josh 1:8)?
2. What do you really want? Have the people you like to be around influenced your desires? Has your desire for these things become idolatry (Col 3:5)?

DAY 2

Joshua reminded Israel of God's blessings of grace • Joshua 24:1–13

READ

Joshua 24:1–13

EXPLAIN

The truth of Joshua 24:1–13

Do you realize how gracious God is? Look how gracious God was to Israel. He chose Abraham, called him out of idolatry, and made him a great nation (Josh 24:2–3). He defeated Egypt and set Israel free (24:5–6). He provided for all their needs for 40 years in the desert, despite their grumbling (24:7). He defeated the nations east of the Jordan (24:8), and He even forced Balaam to bless Israel (24:9–10). He shattered Jericho's walls and defeated the Canaanites, with such power that it was clear that victory came from Him and not from Israel's own strength (24:11–12). Finally, He gave Israel land, cities, and crops that they did not have to plow, build, or plant (24:13). He is so generous! If you are a believer, He is generous to you too. In Christ you enjoy grace upon grace (John 1:16). You were saved not by any goodness of your own, but purely by God's grace (1 Cor 1:29). You also live out your faith not by your own strength but by His power (2 Cor 4:7, 15). Thank God that He is so good!

ASK

1. Who did Joshua gather at Shechem (24:1)?
All the tribes of Israel. The elders, heads, judges, and officers of Israel met with him before God.
2. How did Joshua remind Israel of the blessings of God's grace?
He retold God's faithfulness and kindness towards Israel throughout their history.
3. How is the history of Israel similar to the history of every believer?
We all experience the overwhelming, underserved grace of God.

DISCUSS

1. How has God recently met your daily needs (Matt 6:11)?
2. Because of God's grace, what should the main attitude of your life be (Eph 5:20; 1 Thess 5:18)?

DAY 3

Joshua called Israel to choose to serve God alone • Joshua 24:14–29

READ

Joshua 24:14–29

EXPLAIN

The truth of Joshua 24:14–29

As you think about God's grace, how does it affect your attitude and behavior? It should encourage you to obey, fear, and serve God sincerely and faithfully (24:14). This kind of faithfulness means you must choose (24:15). You cannot serve both God and idols (Matt 6:24). Either God will rule your life, or something else will. You must make a careful decision. When Israel confidently promised not to forsake God

(Josh 24:16–18), Joshua reminded them how big a commitment it is to worship God alone (24:19–20). This decision is very serious, because God is very holy. He does not tolerate those who worship Him but also make room for idols (24:19). The people said again that they would serve God (24:21), and as long as Joshua and the older generation was alive, they did (24:31). But the very next generation quickly turned to idols (Judges 2:11–12). This shows that Israel did not fully take to heart Joshua's warning. Do you? Do you realize that you cannot stay true to God so long as you also hold onto idols in your heart?

DAY 3 CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

ASK 

1. What did Joshua challenge Israel to do at Shechem?
Choose to serve God by completely giving up your idols.
2. How did Abraham feel about God's promise of a son?
They said that they would serve God.
3. Why did Joshua challenge the people a second time?
So that they would realize how serious this is. God does not tolerate those who try to worship Him and idols at the same time.

4. Did Israel continue to worship God?
Only for a short time. The very next generation turned quickly to idols.

DISCUSS 

1. Do the television shows you watch, the music you listen to, and the internet websites you browse show that you are still keeping idols in your heart.
2. How can you hope to stay true to God to the very end (Jude 1:21, 24-25)?

DAY 4*No one can serve two masters • Matthew 6:24***READ** 

Matthew 6:24

EXPLAIN **The truth of Matthew 6:24**

Some people work at two jobs and have two bosses. But no one can have two masters. That's because the word "master" or "lord" describes a slave owner. A slave owner has complete control over his slave, and the slave belongs completely to his master. He has no time of his own to give to a second master. This shows us what it means to be a Christian. Christians are slaves of Christ and Christ's righteousness (Rom 6:16-22). If Jesus is your Lord, you cannot live for anything or anyone else, not even for yourself. Whenever you disobey God's will, you are giving your service to another master, to your own passions rather than to Christ. When you love sin, you are hating Christ. But if you love Christ, you will hate sin. So be careful not to be like Israel. Israel promised allegiance to God, but they were led astray by idols that promised prosperity. So be careful that you are not led away from God by loving money or any of the things money can buy. If you want to belong to God, you must belong completely to Him.

ASK 

1. Why is it impossible to serve two masters?
A slave belongs to his master. He has no time or energy left over to serve another master.
2. How do Christians demonstrate their allegiance to Christ?
By obeying the will of God.
3. Is it possible to love two masters at the same time?
No. One will be hated and the other will be loved.
4. What has drawn many away from devotion to Christ?
Money, prosperity, and possessions.

DISCUSS 

1. Think through your day. How did you use your time? Your energy? Your resources? Who or what did you prioritize?
2. Do you use your possessions to honor God, or do your possessions control you?

DAY 5

Love the Lord your God • Mark 12:30

READ

Mark 12:28–34

EXPLAIN

The truth of Mark 12:30

Did you know that there is one command in the whole Bible that is more important than the others? The Pharisees carefully followed many laws, and they even made many more to add to Scripture. But they loved their own righteousness more than God. They forgot the one thing all the other laws are all about: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength” (12:30; Deut 6:5). Love Him with everything you are and everything you have. This is what Israel told Joshua they would do, but they did not (at least not for very long). They began to love the Canaanites, people who did not honor God. They became friends with them and married them. Then they also began loving the idols of the Canaanites, because they thought these idols could give them what they wanted. Who or what do you love? Do you love God more than anything? Do you love Him with all of your thoughts, emotions, choices, words, and actions?

ASK

1. What did the scribe ask Jesus?
To identify the greatest commandment.
2. How did Jesus answer the scribe's question?
He quoted Scripture. He summarized the law in two parts: (1) love for God and (2) love for man.
3. How does love for God involve the entire person?
It includes every part of our being: intellect, emotion, will, and energy.

DISCUSS

1. Jesus based His answer on God's word. Why must your love for God be based on the truth God has recorded in Scripture?
2. Make four lists of ways you can love God: one for loving God with your thoughts, one for loving God with your emotions, one for loving God with your choices, and one for loving God with your words and actions.

NEXT WEEK

God is rejected by Israel

Judges 1:1–3:6

