



## BE COURAGEOUS

### Joshua Challenged the People | June 12, 2022 | 1 year olds and 2 year olds

**BIBLE PASSAGE:** JOSHUA 23-24

**BIG PICTURE QUESTION:** What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.

**CHRIST CONNECTION:** As Joshua prepared for his own death, he left behind a legacy of obedience to God. After Jesus' death and resurrection, He appeared to the disciples and left them with a legacy: to obey Him by making disciples of all nations.

**BOTTOM LINE:** True courage obeys the Word of God.

**THE WIN FOR SUNDAY GROUPS:** Give kids a first look at The Bible, Jesus and our need for a Savior by embracing their physical needs or engaging their interests. Use The Code when necessary to help redirect kids and build relationships.

#### BIBLE PASSAGE CONTEXT

Joshua was getting along in years, so he gathered the people at the place where God had made a promise to Abraham. (See Gen. 12:6-7.) Joshua wanted the people to remember and to live based on what they knew to be true about God: God can be trusted. He is good, and He is faithful.

Joshua issued a challenge: "Be very strong and continue obeying all that is written in the book of the law of Moses." Reading, studying, and obeying God's Word is a mark of belief in God. Joshua reminded the people that they were successful over their enemies because of their obedience to God. Joshua also gave the Israelites a warning. Just as all the good things God promised had been fulfilled, so would all the bad things He promised if the Israelites disobeyed Him.

The Israelites had a choice: Continue to worship God or choose to serve other gods. In response to God's faithfulness to His promises, the Israelites renewed their covenant to be faithful to the Lord.

As you share the story of Joshua's legacy with kids, point them to a greater legacy found in Jesus Christ. Jesus gave a similar type of farewell speech at the Last Supper, exhorting His disciples to not only love God but love one another. After His resurrection, Jesus sent His disciples out to tell the nations about Him. Jesus calls all people who trust in Him to tell others about Him.

#### TAKEAWAYS

- Today's story reminds us of all that God has done since the beginning of time. He freed the people from slavery in Egypt, grew the Israelites into a great nation, and defeated His people's enemies in wonderful and surprising ways.
- Only God has the power to perform miracles and none of this is possible without God's miraculous power and His faithfulness to His promises.
- Near His death, Joshua challenged the people to keep trusting and to continue to obey God. Joshua wrote down God's law as a reminder.
- We can find God's laws and instructions in the Bible. The Bible records God's miraculous works and instructs us on how to live a life that is best for us and pleasing to Him.
- Jesus told the disciples (and you and me) to tell everyone about Him and to lead them to believe in Him.

- **Bottom Line:** True courage obeys the Word of God.

## Book of Joshua

Joshua 1:1- 5:12- Preparing the People

Joshua 5:13- 12:24- Conquest of the land

Joshua 13:1 - 24:33- Allotment of the land and worshipping God

**Small Group Prayer:** “Thank You God, for Your Wonders! You delivered Your people and kept all Your promises. You have given us the Bible so we will never forget what You have done. Please help us to remember Your goodness and obey You. Amen.”

### **SOCIAL ACTIVITY: Activity Dice**

**What You Need:** Activity Dice Play set

**What You Do:**

Set up the game according to set instructions. Feel free to modify game rules to fit your group. Celebrate any victory.

**Say:** That was a fun game to get us ready to watch our Bible video. Let’s pray and listen to our story today.”

### **Introduce the Story:**

Before group time, place stones throughout the classroom. Encourage preschoolers to gather the stones and bring them to group time. Help preschoolers as needed so that everyone brings a stone to the group. Place a basket in front of the children and instruct them to place the stones in the basket. Say this: “Thank you for bringing the stones to our group time area. In today’s Bible story, Joshua set up a large stone under a tree to help the people remember that they promised to love God, and that God always keeps His promises.”

**Play a Worship Song or 2 from DVD or Roku**  
**Play the Teaching Video on DVD or Roku**

### **RECAP the STORY:**

“When Joshua was old, he gathered God’s people together to tell them some important things. Joshua reminded the people of the things God had done for them. He told them to love God, obey God, and believe God’s Words. Joshua asked, “Will you worship only God?” He said, “My family and I will worship only God.” The people said, “We will worship only God! We love Him!” The people remembered that God had taken care of them and helped them. Joshua put a large stone under a tree and said, “When you see this stone, remember that you promised to love God. God always keeps His promises.”

Check diapers

### **APPLICATION ACTIVITY: God Loves Banner**

**What You Need:** heart cutouts (1 per kid), craft supplies to decorate the heart, glue sticks, hole punch, string or ribbon, marker

**What You Do:**

- Give each child a heart cutout with their name on it.
- Ask them to decorate their hearts with the craft supplies.
- When they are finished punch a hole in the top of the heart and string each heart onto the ribbon.
- Hang the banner in the classroom. Point to each heart and say, “God loves [toddlers name].”

**What You Say** “Joshua gathered the people. Joshua reminded the people of all that God had done for them and told them to worship God. We can also remember Jesus and worship Him today.”

### **TRANSITION ACTIVITY: Follow the Leader**

**What You Need:** no supplies needed

**What You Do:**

- Guide toddlers in simple motions and phrases to remind them of the Bible story.
- Demonstrate each motion:
  - Obey God (march in place)
  - Worship God (wave hands in praise)
  - Tell about God (turn and pretend to talk to a friend)

Explain that the people obeyed God and marched around Jericho; the people promised to love and worship God; and Jesus told us to tell others about Him. Continue as time permits, reviewing the story details each time.

**What You Say “**Joshua was the leader of God’s people. Joshua reminded the people of all that God had done for them and told them to worship God. We can also remember Jesus and worship Him today.”

### **DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:**

- **How can you do the right thing if no one is around you is?**
- **What will you say or do the next time you face a situation where those around you are choosing sin?**
- **Why did Joshua remind the people to obey God?** Remind kids that Joshua was near death. He didn’t want the people to forget all God had done. He wanted the people to remember the miracles God performed and how God kept His promises.
- **What would happen if the people disobeyed God and forgot about His covenant?** Lead kids to recall that God said He would no longer drive out the nations and the Israelites would lose the land God had given them. God would bring disaster upon the people if they broke His covenant. God would become angry.
- **How can we obey God?** Prompt kids to discuss how obeying God instead of doing whatever seems good to us can be hard to do! We can only obey God by the power of the Holy Spirit, who lives within us after we put our faith in Jesus. He helps us understand and remember God’s Word, and He gives us power to love God and obey His commands.

### **TRANSITION TO HOME: Prepare kids to talk with their family about what they learned today.**

- As family members arrive to pick up their kid, greet them and tell them one thing you noticed about their kid that day or something you talked to each kid about remembering this week.
- If there is time to chat with the family, ask how you can pray for them this week.
- Say bye to the kid and call them by name.