



BE COURAGEOUS

Joshua Challenged the People | June 12, 2022 | 3rd - 5th grade

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: Choose Your Own Game

What You Need: Socials Book, 3 pool noodles, masking tape, stopwatch/timer, score sheets, plastic cups, candy worms, lifesavers, paper clips, paper, bandaids, sticky tack/gum, scissors, stacks of books, 100 index cards, 50 pennies, ,scotch tape, measuring tape, 3 pool noodle circles, cones, I Spy activity pages, pencils

Objective: There are 5 activities in your Socials Book, kids will help decide the game of the day.

Winning: The goal is to get everyone in your group to participate in a game.

As kids are coming in, set up the game and ask kids to join you as you play the game. Games are a great way for kids to engage with each other and you as you get to know each other. Use this time to ask them questions about their week and any other important follow up questions to things you have talked about in the past.

What You Say: Ask this question: “Think back to when you were younger. What is one of your earliest memories? What is one of your favorite memories from your life so far? In the Bible story we will hear today, Joshua told the Israelites that they had to make a choice. Do you ever have a hard time deciding between one option or another? How do you choose?”

Play a Worship Song or 2 from your Worship DVD/Roku
Play the Bible teaching DVD/Roku

APPLICATION ACTIVITY: Outreach Mural

What You Need: Large sheet of butcher paper, markers, pencils, and crayons

What You Do:

- Guide kids to choose a spot on the paper to draw things that could help someone know more about God.
- Kids can create cartoons to show conversations, or an activity that could help someone know more about God, or a book or Bible verse that shows who God is.
- Ask kids to be creative to show how they have learned who God is and how that could help someone else know more about God too.
- As they are drawing and brainstorming, let each kid have a chance to explain what they included.
- When kids finish drawing, hang the mural on the wall.
- Encourage the kids to pray for each other about ways they can tell others more about God.

What You Say “Before he died, Joshua gathered the Israelites and challenged them to continue obeying God. When we meet for small groups we want for you to have fun, connect to other people in our church, and grow in what you know about God and Jesus. Our groups are not the only way for people to know about God though. You can be on mission wherever you are when you tell others the good news about Jesus. I want to pray for everyone to find ways to get more comfortable sharing Jesus everywhere you go. Let’s pray together.”

TRANSITION ACTIVITY: See and Decide

What You Need: three cups per group and one small item

What You Do:

Direct kids to form groups of three or four.

Give each group three cups and one small item.

Instruct one kid from each group to hide an item under a cup and then mix up the cups while the others watch.

Kids should then guess which cup conceals the item.

Within each group, allow kids to take turns hiding items and guessing.

What You Say “You had to watch closely to see and then decide which cup contained the item. In today’s Bible story, we will hear about some of God’s miracles that the Israelites had seen. God proved that He is all powerful. Joshua challenged the Israelites to decide whether or not to follow and worship God. What do you think they decided? Let’s look at our discussion questions to help us talk about this more.”

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.