



BE COURAGEOUS

God Encouraged Joshua | May 1, 2022 | 3 year olds and 4 year olds

BIBLE PASSAGE: Joshua 1

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: What is the Bible? The Bible is God's Word that tells us what is true about God and ourselves.

CHRIST CONNECTION: God encouraged Joshua and promised to be with him as he led the Israelites into the promised land, where they would be victorious and find rest. We have victory over sin and rest for our souls in Jesus, who is with us always and leads us into the promised land of God's kingdom.

BOTTOM LINE: True courage isn't the absence of fear, but big faith in 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

We often think that fear is the absence of courage but it's more than that. True courage is not the absence of fear. Courage comes to us most often from the presence of another. That's the encouragement and challenge that God gave to Joshua. Why was Joshua encouraged to be strong and courageous? Because God was with Him. Why would Joshua lead the people into the promised land despite his fear? Because God was with Him.

When we know that God is with us and that God is for us, we can be strong and courageous like Joshua. The ultimate understanding of having God's peace because He is with us is found in Jesus and God's gift to us. We can face our fear of death because Jesus is with us and we can face our fears in life because Jesus is with us.

As you lead your group, lead them to see that God encouraged Joshua and promised to be with him as he led the Israelites into the promised land, where they would be victorious and find rest. We have victory over sin and rest for our souls in Jesus, who is with us always and leads us into the promised land of God's kingdom.

TAKEAWAYS

- True courage is not the absence of fear.
- The promise God gave to Joshua was the promise of His presence as He led the people.
- Jesus gives us peace and courage when we believe in and follow Him.
- We can be strong and courageous because Jesus is with us.
- **Bottom Line:** True courage isn't the absence of fear, but big faith in God.

People to Know

Joshua: one of the 12 spies appointed by Moses to scout the land of Canaan, chosen by God as Moses' successor to lead the Israelites to the promised land.

Small Group Prayer: "God thank You for going with us wherever we go so we don't have to be afraid. Give us courage and wisdom to obey You and tell others about 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

Place items to represent different kinds of professions in a bag such as a stethoscope, a firefighter helmet, and construction worker vest. Gather children together for group time. Remove an item from the bag and invite preschoolers to guess which type of leader uses the item in his job. Continue the process, removing all the items from the bag. Say this: "You guessed who uses the different items in their jobs. People have different jobs. Many people lead and help others in their jobs. Today we are going to learn about Joshua. God chose Joshua to be a leader of the Israelites. It was a big job. Let's listen and learn how Joshua led God's People."

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

RECAP the STORY:

"It was time to go into the land God had promised His people. God said to Joshua, "Be strong and brave. I will be with you wherever you go." So Joshua told the people: "We are going to cross the Jordan River. God is giving us the land, like He promised. " The people said to Joshua, "We will do everything you have told us to do and will go where you tell us to go. We believe that God will be with you."

APPLICATION ACTIVITY: Create Encouragement

What You Need: High 5 Cards (1 set per kid), stamps, stickers, crayons

What You Do:

- Show preschoolers how to give each other a "high 5" with their arms up high.
- Then, invite them to think of other ways to give high 5s or encouragement to friends and family.
- Offer suggestions such as holding their hands down low, over to either side of their bodies, or behind their backs.
- Now ask them to decorate their high five cards and think of people who to share them with.

What You Say "WE gave each other high 5s in different ways. Giving a high 5 is a way we can encourage others. Another way we can encourage is by saying kind and helpful words. God encouraged Joshua. God told Joshua to be strong and brave, and not to be afraid. What are some ways you can encourage your friends?"

TRANSITION ACTIVITY: Follow the Leader

What You Need: no supplies needed

What You Do:

- Guide preschoolers to form a line behind you.

- Lead them around the room using a variety of movements such as marching, walking slowly, or walking on their tiptoes.
- Invite preschoolers to take turns being the leader.

What You Say “We took turns being the leader of our group. What was your favorite part of being the leader? We learned about Joshua today. God chose him to be the leader of the Israelites. How do you think Joshua felt when God chose him to be the leader? God said to Joshua, “Be strong and brave. Do not be afraid. I will be with you wherever you go.’ Why do you think Joshua needed to hear that from God?”

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

- **What should you do if a friend or family member consistently points out your mistakes?**
- **How can you encourage or build others up with your words?**
- **What are some situations in which we might need to be courageous?** Lead kids to consider experiences like making new friends, going somewhere for the first time, or standing up for what is right. Invite kids to share a recent experience where they needed courage.
- **How can knowing God is with us help us be brave?** Encourage kids that they are not alone. Remind kids that God helped the Israelites face an impossible task and succeed. Invite kids to consider God’s power, mercy, and wisdom in every situation.
- **Who can we encourage by telling them that God is with them?** Invite kids to think of friends or family who might be encouraged to know God is with them. Encourage kids to share about God when their friends or family feel scared. Ask kids if they can think of any other situations when it could help to know God is with them.

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.