

LESSON 1

GOD'S FAITHFUL SERVANT, JOSHUA

OBJECTIVES

1. To understand what it means to trust in God and find courage in Him.
2. To understand what it means to be a Christian soldier.

MEMORY VERSE

"Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

(Joshua 1:9)

PRAYER

1. We thank God for gathering us here so that we can worship and learn more about His word.
2. Lord, please help us to be obedient children of God.
3. Please help us to remember Your word every day and to act upon Your word.
4. And Lord, You have given us so much, so please help us to repay Your love and learn how to be good servants to You.
5. May You help us focus on this lesson and apply its teachings to our lives.



Overview

1. Character Study on Joshua

- Who was Joshua?
- Joshua's qualities
 - o Joshua had the Spirit of God
 - o Joshua had the heart of a servant
 - o Joshua was a man of Integrity and courage from faith in God
 - o Joshua received training
- Major battles led by Joshua

2. Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs—One True God

3. Life Application

- Servant, Leader, Soldier, Spy: To understand what it means to be a Christian soldier.
- Trust and Courage: To understand what it means to trust in God and how to find courage to face our fears.

4. Activity—The Lord Is My Shield

- Design a "Coat of Arms" that reflects His protection and guidance.



Background Knowledge for Teachers

The Book of Joshua provides a record of the Israelite's preparation for entering Canaan, the conquest of the land, the tribal allotments, and issues regarding the covenant. Although Joshua defeated thirty-one kings, not all of these battles were recorded. The Book of Joshua is not simply an abbreviated military record of the conquest of Canaan. Rather, the battles that were selected for record are meant to point us to the main theme in the book, which is the power of God.

God makes covenants with man. Through these covenants, God reveals His plans to man and shows His faithfulness by keeping His side of the promise. As part of the covenant, man is expected to focus on God's promises and will. God empowers His faithful people to accomplish His will. And no matter what the odds are, God is, and always will be, completely reliable.



Reaching Out to Your Students

As an RE teacher, you are not merely a person who teaches your students about the Bible and tells them stories every week. You are also a mentor and an example to them.

Joshua's training under Moses was a prime example of the benefits of having a worthy mentor. For years, he remained close to Moses. He watched Moses as he followed God in an almost flawless manner. He learned from Moses how to pray in a personal way. He learned how to obey through the example of Moses. Joshua also learned from the negative example that cost Moses the joy of actually entering the Promised Land.

As an RE teacher, you are a mentor. Someone, somewhere, is watching you. Some younger person or someone that you are influencing is seeing how you live and how you react. Someone is learning from you. Someone will follow your example. Reaching out to your students encompasses far more than the words that you speak. Your life is on display.



Opener

5 Minutes

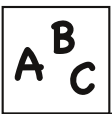
What are you most afraid of? As human beings, we all have fears. You could be afraid of the dark, being alone, clowns, bugs, or of something happening to a loved one. [Ask students to complete the following sentence, and then share a story in which they were fearful as a child.]

"When I was younger, I used to be afraid of _____."

What are some other things people may be afraid of? [Invite students to respond.] Yes, in addition to these examples you have given, I can tell you that there are a lot more types of phobias, or fears. Some people are afraid of certain kinds of bugs, some are afraid of certain animals, and some are afraid of a certain taste or even certain types of sensations, such as sounds or touch. Some people have certain disabilities or weaknesses that make them afraid of being exposed and made known. There are all different types of fears.

God knew that we would be people who struggle with fear. He knew that in our world darkened by sin, there would be many things to be afraid of. If you search the Bible, the word "fear" is mentioned over three hundred times. But, over and over again, God says, "Do not be afraid."

"Do not be afraid?" How is that even possible? Today, we're going to learn about a person in the Bible named Joshua, who relied on God to overcome all his fears and stood strong in the face of enemies, knowing that God was on his side.



Vocabulary

meditate: to think and reflect on something, especially in a calm manner; contemplate
commission: to grant certain powers or the authority to carry out a particular task or duty



Bible Discovery & Spiritual Teaching

30-35 Minutes

FOR TEACHERS

Hand out the Bible Discovery worksheet, and ask the students to fill in the blanks as you go over the information on the worksheet. The answers have been underlined.

Today, we will learn about God's faithful servant, Joshua.

I. WHO WAS JOSHUA?

Here is some background knowledge on Joshua, the focus of today's lesson.

Hometown: Joshua was born in Egypt, probably in the area named Goshen, in the northeast Nile delta. He was born a slave, like his fellow Hebrews.

Occupation prior the Exodus: Egyptian slave

Family Tree: Father – Nun; Tribe - Ephraim

Does anyone know what the name "Joshua" means?

It means, "**The Lord Saves**" (or "God is Salvation").

- Joshua was one of the twelve spies sent by Moses to spy the land of Canaan, and only he and Caleb gave encouraging reports.
- Joshua became the leader of the Israelites after Moses died.
- He dared to believe in victory when others predicted failure.
- He was a brilliant military leader who remained humble.
- He always marched forth with faith and courage, and determined to conquer the land that God had promised to the Israelites.
- Joshua and Caleb were the only two adults to both experience Egyptian slavery and enter the Promised Land. All the others died in the wilderness during the forty years of wandering.
- He was faithful to ask for God's direction in the challenges he faced.
- He was a true spiritual leader and a great example for us to learn from.

FOR TEACHERS

Make sure that all the students have filled in the blanks. You may choose to check for understanding by asking the students some questions about Joshua before continuing.

II. JOSHUA, THE NEXT LEADER OF ISRAEL

Our lesson begins with Joshua becoming the next leader of Israel. Let's open our Bibles to Numbers 27:12-23.

God instructed Moses to lay hands on Joshua and commission him to take over as leader of the Israelites. Moses was not allowed to go into the Promised Land, so God had chosen Joshua to lead His people into it instead.

Why do you think God chose Joshua? What are the qualities that Joshua possessed that made him a good choice to succeed Moses? [Let students brainstorm.] Let us look closely at some of Joshua's qualities that made him a good candidate to lead the people of God.

(1) Joshua had the Spirit of God

From verse 18 of the passage we've just read, we know that Joshua had the abidance of God's Spirit. This is the most fundamental prerequisite to being a worker of God.

(2) Joshua had the heart of a servant

Let's read Joshua 24:15. This is an important verse that sums up Joshua's life:

"And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

Yes, this verse tells us that Joshua had the heart to serve God. Before God can even choose us, we must have the heart to want to do His work first. In Joshua 24:15, Joshua was saying that the Israelites needed to choose for themselves who they wanted to serve. But for Joshua, he had determined to serve God no matter what the others chose. Because Joshua promised to serve the true God and obey His commands, he was able to successfully lead the Israelites to victory during their battles.

(3) Joshua was a man of integrity and courage, rooted in his faith in God

Let's read Numbers 13:27-33; 14:1-10.

Moses sent twelve spies, one representative from each tribe, to go into Canaan to survey the land. This is the scene that occurs right after the spies return. Ten of the twelve spies were afraid of the "giants" in the land, so the people did not want to go conquer the land. Joshua courageously stood up and spoke words of faith. Then, the glory of God appeared. We can see that Joshua is a person who speaks the truth and has faith in God.

(4) Joshua received training

Let's read Exodus 17:8-13.

Who was the leader of the army in the battle against the Amalekites? It was Joshua.

Joshua had already started learning how to be a leader while Moses was still alive. This training process is very important for a leader of God's people. Joshua also understood from this incident the importance of prayer and reliance on God. This training became the guiding principle for him when he led God's people into the land of Canaan. Let's look at Joshua 12.

This chapter shows a list of all the lands and kings that Joshua defeated with the Israelites. Verse 24 tells us that he defeated thirty-one kings in all! "And these are the kings of the country which Joshua and the children of Israel conquered on this side of the Jordan, on the west, from Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon as far as Mount Halak and the ascent to Seir, which Joshua gave to the tribes of Israel as a possession according to their divisions, in the mountain country, in the lowlands, in the Jordan plain, in the slopes, in the wilderness, and in the South—the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites" (Josh 12:7-8). This was all possible because Joshua was faithful and fearless, and he relied on God.

III. MAJOR BATTLES LED BY JOSHUA

We will now study some of the battles in which Joshua led the Israelites. The following is a short summary of the battles.

The Fall of Jericho (Joshua 6)

When the Israelites followed God's instructions, the walls of Jericho fell by His power.

Battle of Ai (Joshua 7-8)

The first attempt to conquer the city ended in defeat because Achan sinned. After he was punished, the Israelites burned the city down on the second attempt.

The Battle of Gibeon (Joshua 10)

Joshua prayed to God for the sun to stand still for one whole day.

The Fall of Jericho

Let's take a closer look at the Battle of Jericho, the first battle the Israelites fought in order to get to Canaan.

Before this battle, God had dried up the Jordan River so that the Israelites could cross it. The wicked kings of Canaan heard about this, and "their heart melted; and

there was no spirit in them any longer because of the children of Israel" (Josh 5:1).

The Israelites were camped at Gilgal, which is across from the city of Jericho, but God was not ready for them to march against Jericho just yet. He wanted them to remember Him as their God and deliverer.

Joshua must have wondered how they would ever capture the city of Jericho. Really thick, stone walls protected Jericho. How would he ever get enough men inside to take it over? Nothing they had was powerful enough to ram in the walls or doors, nor were any of their other weapons strong enough to break through its walls. Joshua knew one thing was for sure, though—if God fought for them, no walls in the world were strong enough to stop them.

Joshua sent spies into Jericho to get information before they crossed the Jordan. When the king tried to capture the spies, a woman named Rahab hid them on her roof.

Before they lay down on the roof, Rahab came up and said, "I know that the LORD has given you the land, that the terror of you has fallen on us [...] for the LORD your God, He is God in heaven above and on the earth beneath" (Josh 2:9, 11). Not only had the people of Jericho heard what happened at the Jordan River, but they also knew how God had divided the Red Sea. And everyone was afraid.

The king had locked the gates to trap the spies inside Jericho, and Rahab offered to help them escape on one condition: when the city fell, she and her family would be saved and not harmed. The spies agreed to do this. Then, she let them down by a rope through the window. Since her house was on the outside of the wall, they could get away and run back to the camp at Gilgal. Before they left, however, they told Rahab to hang a scarlet cord from that same window so that the Israelites would not hurt them.

The spies had good news for Joshua. "Truly the LORD has delivered all the land into our hands, for indeed all the inhabitants of the country are fainthearted because of us" (Josh 2:24).

The king of Jericho shut up all the gates so that no one could go out or come in. Then, God told Joshua exactly how to capture Jericho, commanding, "You shall march around the city, [...] you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do for six days" (Josh 6:3). On the seventh day, they were to march around the same way seven times, but on the seventh time, everyone would shout and the walls would fall down.

They must follow this formation during the march: The

soldiers would come first, followed by seven priests blowing on trumpets made from rams' horns. Next would come the ark of the covenant, with the rest of the people last. And, except for the priests blowing their trumpets, nobody was to say a word.

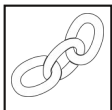
What do you think the people of Jericho thought?

The people of Jericho could look out from the wall and see this strange procession day after day, silent except for the sound trumpets. What was going to happen?

On the seventh day, they found out. The Israelites started about daylight that day, going around seven times instead of one time, as they had done before. On their seventh round, Joshua commanded them, "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city!"

Joshua 6:20-21 records, "When the people heard the sound of the trumpet, and the people shouted with a great shout, that the wall fell down flat. Then the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they took the city. And they utterly destroyed all that was in the city, both man and woman, young and old, ox and sheep and donkey, with the edge of the sword." But they saved Rahab and her family.

The Lord was with Joshua, and his fame spread through the land. Could this have been done without God? Could this have been done if Joshua hadn't believed that God would help them? Right, Joshua could not have brought down the walls of Jericho if he hadn't believed that God could help.



Linking to the Ten Basic Beliefs

2-5 Minutes

One True God

In today's story, we learned that if we rely on our almighty God and believe in His power, He will help us. God knocked down the walls of Jericho without so much as a touch from the Israelites. If we have any difficulties today, we can bring it up to God in our prayers.

Our God is true and living, and can hear our prayers. Those idols and other gods in which people believe in this world are just things created by human hands and thought up by humans. They cannot hear us or do anything for us. Only the one true God can be our guide in times of need.



Check for Understanding

5 Minutes

- 1. Name some qualities and characteristics of Joshua.** He: had God's Spirit, was courageous, trusted God, was faithful, had a heart to serve, and was obedient.
- 2. Who were the only two adults to both experience Egyptian slavery and enter the Promised Land?** Joshua and Caleb.
- 3. Who chose Joshua as the next leader of the Israelites?** God, not Moses or anyone else.
- 4. Joshua defeated thirty-one kings in all. What made this possible?** This was all possible because Joshua was faithful and fearless, and he relied on God.

HOMEWORK ANSWER KEY

1. "The Lord Saves"
2. leader
3. spies
4. Rahab
5. They had to blow trumpets and shout as loud as they could on the seventh time around the city.
6. Courageous, faithful, obedient, trusted in God



Life Application

10 Minutes

1. SERVANT, LEADER, SOLDIER, SPY

Objective: To understand what it means to be a Christian soldier.

Joshua was not only the leader of the Israelites, but he was also a faithful servant and a soldier. He was even a spy for Israel. Joshua courageously led the people of Israel out of the wilderness and into the Promised Land, and we can learn many lessons from his faithful and courageous example.

We are soldiers, too—Christian soldiers—and we fight different battles every day.

What is a Christian soldier?

Drawing from your own knowledge, picture a soldier in your mind right now. In this world, a soldier is sent to fight his country's enemies, both foreign and domestic, on many types of battlefields.

We, as Christian soldiers, must fight the temptations of the world and the flesh, and of course, Satan himself. These are the three main enemies that we are always fighting. And these enemies never die! You cannot kill them like you would enemies on a regular battlefield.

Because we belong to God, we are constantly in this fight, regardless of who we are.

(A) We must overcome our fleshly desires.

Whether we're baptized or not, Satan always wants us to go astray and be on his side. This is a daily struggle and a daily wrestle in prayer.

What our "flesh" wants are things that we want or enjoy. Examples include entertainment (TV shows, movies, music, video games, etc.), food, or money. For instance, when you're hungry, your stomach growls because your flesh (body) wants food. Some people become addicted to entertainment and watch TV all day long. Let's study a scenario that may be rather familiar to some of us here.

Emma has a lot of homework to do for every subject on this particular day. However, during school this morning, her friend lent her a DVD of their favorite TV show. Emma was very excited because her parents wouldn't let her buy this DVD. So, when Emma got home, she could not resist and started watching some episodes. The entire DVD was 3 hours long. She knew that she had a lot of homework to finish, so she decided to only watch half of it and then continue after she finished her homework. But the show was just too fun to watch, so she ended up watching the entire DVD. It was now getting late, and she realized that she might not have enough time to finish her homework, let alone her daily Bible reading and prayer.

1. **What was Emma's fleshly desire?** Entertainment—her favorite TV show
2. **What were the consequences when she gave in to the desire?** She didn't have enough time to finish her homework or do Bible reading and pray.

Let's read Galatians 5:24. What should Emma have done? She should not have given in to her temptation to watch the whole DVD. Yes, as Christians, we should crucify our flesh, together with its passions and desires.

3. **As a Christian soldier, how could Emma have fought this battle?** (She could have fled from temptation and given the DVD back to her friend when she found out that she had a lot of homework to finish. Also, instead of watching the DVD first, she could have begun with Bible reading and prayer when she returned home.

Let's read Romans 7:23 and Colossians 3:5. What was Paul's struggle? (He was torn between two laws inside of him.) How did Paul overcome this struggle? (By relying on God.) How did Paul encourage the believers at Colossae? (He told them to put to death the members of the body, which are various sins.)

(B) We must fight the world.

There are a lot of temptations in this world. Sometimes, we may not necessarily enjoy a certain activity, but we may be afraid that others will laugh at us or exclude us if we do not join them. Some of us may have secret desires to keep up with the world, or have a secret wish to do as others in the world do. Let's look at another scenario that may just speak to us about this area.

Brandon and his four friends want to start a big weekly online computer game tournament on Saturdays and Sundays for the next two months. At the end of the tournament, the top three teams will be awarded prizes. This sounds really fun to Brandon, and he really, really wants to join. However, this tournament takes place on Saturdays, and he'll be at church when they play in the morning. If he only plays on Sundays, then his team will be incomplete on Saturdays. They would have to find someone else to fill in for him, and he would disappoint his friends.

- 1. What should Brandon do? What should he say to his friends?** First of all, he should tell them the truth: He goes to church Saturdays, so he can't join them on Saturdays. However, he can try to ask that the tournament not be held on Saturdays. Still, he should be prepared to back out of the team if they don't change the days. If that happens, he can offer to find a replacement.
- 2. What would be the consequences if he joined them on Saturdays?** He would not be able to observe the Sabbath and would miss out on the blessings promised by God. He would also miss out on good spiritual food from the Bible lessons and sermons. He would not be able to spend time with brothers and sisters in spiritual fellowship. In the long run, his spirituality would certainly be affected. He would have let the world win him over.

Let's refer to a few verses that would help Brandon face this sticky situation:

James 4:4

"Do you not know that friendship with the world is enmity with God? Whoever therefore wants to be a friend of the world makes himself an enemy of God."

1 John 2:15

"Do not love the world or the things in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him."

1 John 5:4

"For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world—our faith."

(C) We must fight Satan.

Mankind's lifelong enemy is not dead. Ever since the fall of Adam and Eve, he has been going to and fro on earth, always holding on to one goal—to ruin our souls. Never tiring and never sleeping, he is always going about as a lion, seeking someone he may devour.

An invisible enemy, he is always near us, always on our path and looking at our weaknesses and telling us lies. He labors night and day to cast us down to hell. This mighty enemy must be fought daily if we wish to be saved.

Gerry tells his friend Ethan about church, faith, and Christians during lunch one day at school. Ethan responds, saying that observing the Sabbath and reading the Bible, praying, and receiving baptism are not important. He says that the most important thing to do is to live our lives as good people. As long as we don't do bad things, such as steal, murder, or cheat, we will be fine. Gerry thinks that this is a good point and that perhaps he doesn't need to observe the Sabbath anymore. Maybe it is enough just to be a good person.

- 1. What was Satan's trick in this scenario?** Satan uses people, places, and ideas to shake your faith in God. In this case, Satan planted a simple idea: as long as you are a good person, you do not have to follow God's commandments.

2. What are some things you could say to Ethan if you were his friend? God commanded us to observe the Sabbath and do according to His commands. We still need to read the Bible, pray, attend RE class, etc., so that we can understand God.

Let's read a few verses to remind us of the devil's ever-present threat.

Job 1:7

"And the LORD said to Satan, 'From where do you come?'

So Satan answered the LORD and said, 'From going to and fro on the earth, and from walking back and forth on it.'"

1 Peter 5:8

"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour."

Luke 22:31

"And the Lord said, 'Simon, Simon! Indeed, Satan has asked for you, that he may sift you as wheat.'"

As Christians, we must always be on alert. Let's read also Ephesians 6:11. "Put on the whole armor of God, that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil."

* * * * *

2. TRUST AND COURAGE

Objective: To understand what it means to trust in God and find courage in Him.

Have you ever been scared of a big test, a game/event, or a bully?

In a scary situation, you can remember the words of Joshua, "The LORD is with us. Do not fear them" (Num 14:9). We can always trust in God.

What does it mean to trust in God?

Trusting in God means that we remember that He is in control and knows everything. We don't need to be afraid because God is taking care of us.

It also means that we must place our confidence in God only. It's foolish to trust money or our own human abilities. We should trust in the source of all our abilities: God. Sometimes, some people may inspire us a lot, so we see them as full of wisdom. However, we must remember that human beings are only one of God's many creations, and they are not infallible.

So if you are afraid of anything or feel nervous, keep in mind that God is our ultimate strength.

When the children of Israel were in the wilderness, Moses sent one spy from each of the twelve tribes of Israel into Canaan.

- o Ten of the spies reported that it was impossible to enter the Promised Land because the people who lived there were huge and stronger than the people of Israel.
- o This report made the Israelites complain that they never should have left Egypt.
- o Joshua and Caleb, the last two spies, told the children of Israel not to complain or fear the strength of humans.
- o **Instead, they should trust in God, their ultimate strength.**

Unfortunately, the children of Israel didn't believe Joshua.

- o They had to spend forty years wandering in the wilderness, turning to God every day for their food and water, until they trusted in Him enough to enter the Promised Land. **The path would have been quicker if they had trusted in God right from the start!**

Let's look at a situation regarding trust in God.

Scenario 1: Travis and the Bully

As Travis packs up his backpack at the end of every school day, he always runs into Philip. Philip likes to pick on Travis by taking Travis' backpack and dumping out its contents, scattering Travis' belongings all over the floor. Philip is bigger and taller than Travis, so Travis is always afraid of him. Travis has asked a few of his friends about how to deal with Philip. One of them tells Travis to retaliate and do the same thing to Philip.

So one day, as Philip is packing up his backpack, Travis grabs it and attempts to dump everything out of it. However, Philip immediately turns around and pushes Travis really hard to the ground.

Since that doesn't work, Travis' other friend suggests that he should just tell a teacher or the principal about Philip. Travis talks to his teacher about it, but since the teacher has not seen Philip do anything to Travis before, she is only able to give Philip a warning. This angers Philip, so the next day, Philip takes Travis' lunch bag and hurls it into the mud.

At this point, nothing has worked and Travis is frustrated. Then, one day after RE class, Travis mentions his situation at school to his RE teacher. His teacher tells him that if he keeps trying to take revenge on Philip or harm him in the same way, it will only make things worse. His teacher suggests that he entrust this problem to God, and pray to Him and ask Him to help with this. Travis does as his teacher suggests and prays about it before he goes to sleep at night.

The following Monday, miraculously, Philip does not do anything to Travis. Travis sees him pass by, but he only gives Travis a mean look and that is it! This is much better than before.

1. **What should Travis have done from the very beginning?** He should have trusted in God to help him, instead of trying to solve the problem using his own way.
2. The path is a lot quicker when we trust in God right from the start!
3. Psalm 20:7 – “Some trust in chariots and some in horses; but we will remember the name of the LORD our God.”
4. Psalm 91:2 – “I will say of the LORD, ‘He is my refuge and my fortress; my God, in Him I will trust.’”

By the time the Israelites were ready to cross the Jordan River and enter the Promised Land, they trusted God with every step.

- o In fact, they walked right into the Jordan River, knowing that God would part the waters. And, sure enough, God did. Sometimes, we have to get our feet wet before the waters will part.
- o **To overcome any problem we encounter, we must courageously move forward with faith in God.**

What does it mean to move forward with faith in God?

This means that, no matter what, we believe and trust that God can and will help us when we leave all of our worries to Him only—not to anything or anyone else in the world.

What does it look like when we have faith in God?

When Travis turns to God first and asks Him for help, a very different scenario happens!

Scenario 2: Travis and the Big Test

The end of the school year is near, and Travis and all the students in his grade must take a very important placement test that lasts three days.

All of Travis' teachers have been preparing them for this test. They've been giving them some extra homework to help review what they've learned and spending time in class to sharpen their skills. Travis' parents have also been taking him to a tutoring class especially designed for taking this important test.

As the first day of testing draws closer, Travis starts getting very nervous and even a little scared about this. He doesn't want to do badly or disappoint both his teachers and his parents. He has done his part by working hard, but he also remembers the bully incident where he prayed to God and relied on Him to help.

So, every night before the test, he prays to God to give him the courage to take on this test and also to help him do well and not be too nervous.

Because he relied on God and trusted Him, Travis ends up doing very well at the end of the test. His parents and teachers are very proud of his results.

1. What helped Travis get through the test? He prayed to God and trusted in Him.

2. Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.

3. Psalm 56:3-4

Whenever I am afraid,
I will trust in You.
In God (I will praise His word),
In God I have put my trust;
I will not fear.
What can flesh do to me?

In any difficult circumstance, we might ask ourselves, what am I putting first in my life: God's strength or human strength? Am I facing this challenge by beginning with a prayer? As with Joshua, we can let our lives declare, "The LORD is with us. Do not fear them" (Num 14:9).



Activity

"The Lord Is My Shield" Coat of Arms

10-15 Minutes

Objective: To have students design a "Coat of Arms" that reflects God's protection and guidance.

Materials

- Coat of Arms template
- Grey construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers, colored pencils

Preparation

Before class, design a coat of arms to show the students as an example. Be sure to include elements that relate to God and to you. Then, make a few copies of the template and cut them out. Students will be tracing these onto construction paper.

Instructions

1. Show students your Coat of Arms. Have them try to guess what is important to you by looking at the symbols on the shield. Then, when they're done guessing, you can explain any symbols that they may have left out or interpreted incorrectly.
2. Have your students trace the coat of arms onto the construction paper.
3. Encourage them to illustrate how God helps us through our fears, and gives us strength and courage, just like He did with Joshua. In addition, have them draw pictures that represent their unique personalities.
4. If class time permits, ask some volunteers to come up to the front to share their coat of arms with the rest of the class.

Just as God had been a shield to protect the Israelites, it is important to know that Christ is our shield today as well.

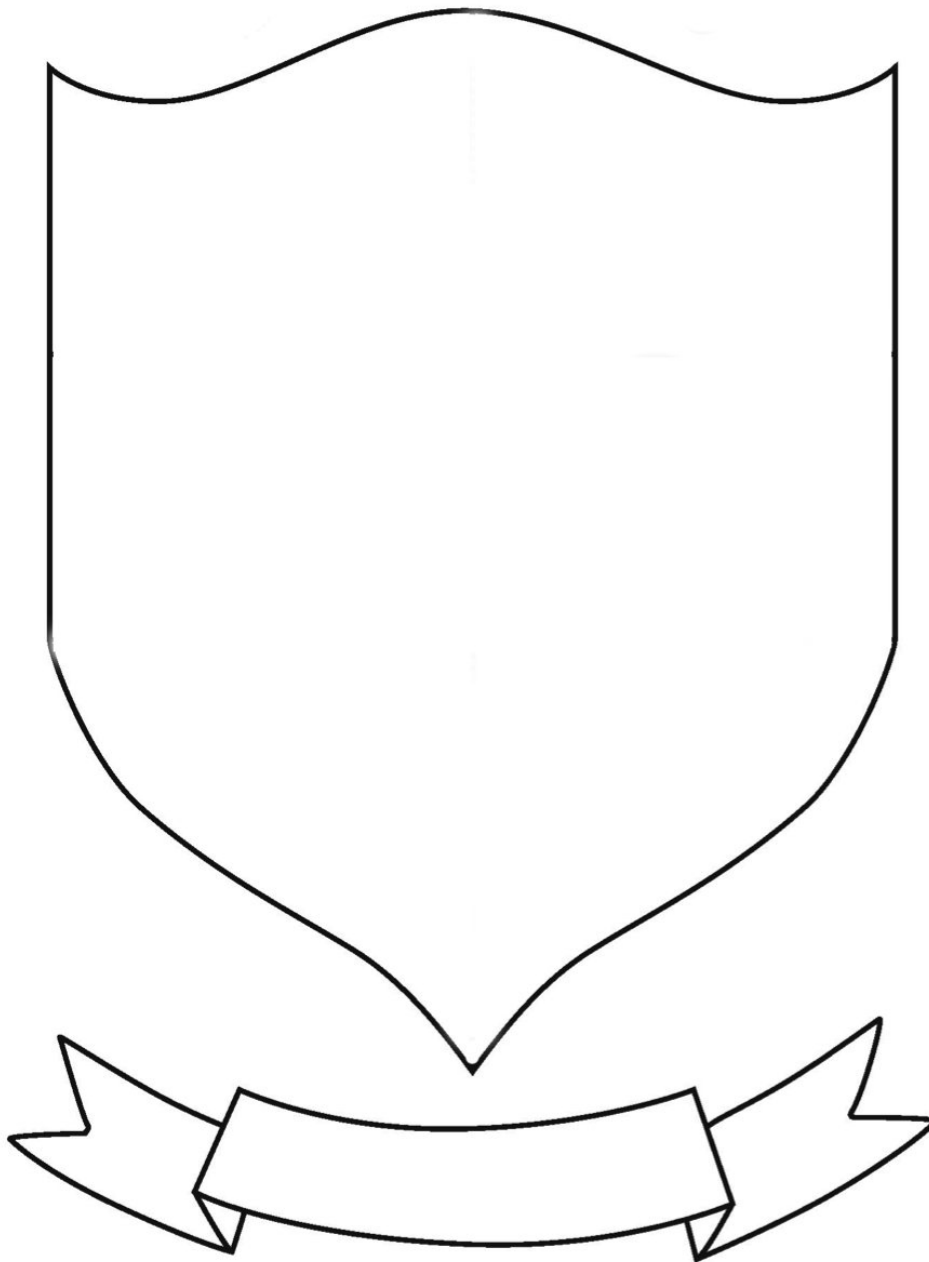
In the Middle Ages, way back in the 12th century, soldiers could not tell each other apart because they wore so much armor! As a result, they started painting their own shields with things that were important to them. For this reason, each shield bore a different coat of arms, or design.

If honesty was important, they decorated their shield blue. If peace was important, they used white. Animals also symbolized character traits. A lion represented courage, a bee represented diligence, and an eagle represented leadership. Other symbols, such as crosses, fire, hearts, stars, and suns were also used on the coats of arms.

We learned today that God is on our side during any battle, just as He was during Joshua's time. When we trust in Him and believe in Him, He will help us. If you think about it, shields are only needed for battle, wars, and defending against enemies. God never said that things in our lives would be easy. But He did say that He would never leave us alone, that He would fight for us, and that He would protect us as a shield so that we are helped.

Today each of you is going to design your own coat of arms on a shield. This shield will remind you that you do not have to be afraid. You could write a verse from today on your shield. Storing God's word in our hearts will help us when we need it most. You could draw a cross, a heart full of trust, or God's hand helping you stand.

But I also want your shields to tell something about you! What is important to you? Family? Friendships? Ballet? Football? Reading? Playing an instrument? Church? Draw symbols on your coat of arms that show who you are.



GOD'S FAITHFUL SERVANT, JOSHUA

Who was Joshua?

- Joshua means “_____”.
- Joshua was one of the _____ sent by Moses to spy the land of Canaan, and only he and Caleb gave encouraging reports.
- Joshua became the _____ of the Israelites after Moses died.
- He dared to believe in _____ when others predicted failure.
- He was a brilliant military leader who remained _____.
- He always marched forth with _____ and courage, and determined to conquer the land God had promised the Israelites.
- Joshua and Caleb were the only two adults to both experience Egyptian slavery and enter the Promised Land. All the others died in the _____ during the 40 years of wandering.
- He was _____ to ask for God’s direction in the challenges he faced.
- He was a true _____ leader and a great example for us to learn from.

Joshua, the Next Leader of Israel

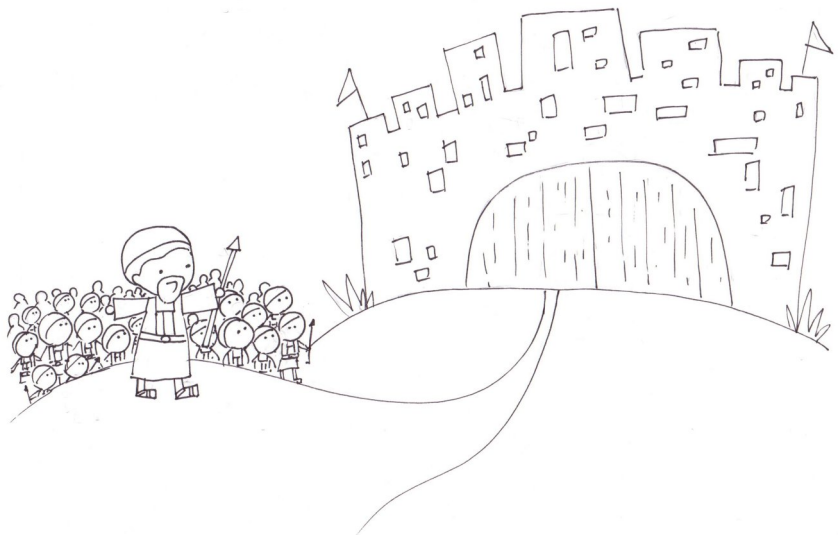
“And if it seems evil to you to _____ the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will _____.”

The Battle of Jericho

Joshua sent _____ into Jericho to get information before they crossed the Jordan.

The king had locked the gates to trap the spies inside Jericho, and _____ offered to help them escape on one condition: when the city fell, she and her family would be saved and not harmed.

God told Joshua exactly how to capture Jericho, commanding, “You shall march around the city, [...] you shall go all around the city once. This you shall do for six days.” On the seventh day they were to march around the same way seven times, but on the seventh time, everyone would _____ and the walls would fall down.

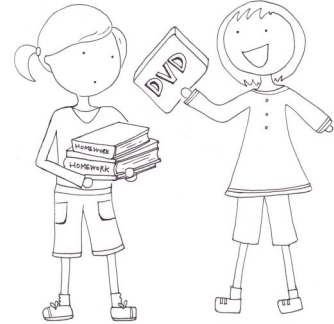


SERVANT, LEADER, SOLDIER, SPY

What is a Christian soldier?

(A) We must overcome our fleshly desires.

Emma has a lot of homework to do for every subject on this particular day. However, during school this morning, her friend lent her a DVD of their favorite TV show. Emma was very excited because her parents wouldn't let her buy this DVD. So, when Emma got home, she could not resist and started watching some episodes. The entire DVD was 3 hours long. She knew that she had a lot of homework to finish, so she decided to only watch half of it and then continue after she finished her homework. But the show was just too fun to watch, so she ended up watching the entire DVD. It was now getting late, and she realized that she might not have enough time to finish her homework, let alone her daily Bible reading and prayer.



1. What was Emma's fleshly desire?
2. What were the consequences when she gave in to the desire?

Let's read Galatians 5:24. What should Emma have done?

3. As a Christian soldier, how could Emma have fought this battle?

(B) We must fight the world.

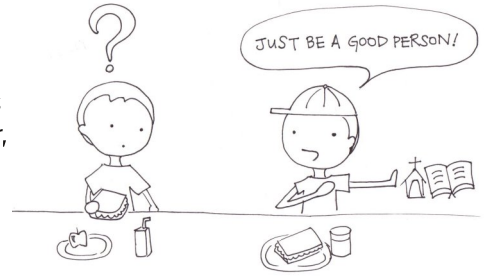
Brandon and his four friends want to start a big weekly online computer game tournament on Saturdays and Sundays for the next two months. At the end of the tournament, the top three teams will be awarded prizes. This sounds really fun to Brandon, and he really, really wants to join. However, this tournament takes place on Saturdays, and he'll be at church when they play in the morning. If he only plays on Sundays, then his team will be incomplete on Saturdays. They would have to find someone else to fill in for him, and he would disappoint his friends.



1. What should Brandon do? What should he say to his friends?
2. What would be the consequences if he joined them on Saturdays?

(C) We must fight Satan.

Gerry tells his friend Ethan about church, faith, and Christians during lunch one day at school. Ethan responds, saying that observing the Sabbath and reading the Bible, praying, and receiving baptism are not important. He says that the most important thing to do is to live our lives as good people. As long as we don't do bad things, such as steal, murder, or cheat, we will be fine. Gerry thinks that this is a good point and that perhaps he doesn't need to observe the Sabbath anymore. Maybe it is enough just to be a good person.



1. What was Satan's trick in this scenario?

2. What are some things you could say to Ethan if you were his friend?



“Put on the whole armor of God,
that you may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil.”

TRUST AND COURAGE

What does it mean to trust in God?

If you are afraid of anything or feel nervous, keep in mind that God is our *ultimate* strength.

Scenario 1: Travis and the Bully

As Travis packs up his backpack at the end of every school day, he always runs into Philip. Philip likes to pick on Travis by taking Travis' backpack and dumping out its contents, scattering Travis' belongings all over the floor. Philip is bigger and taller than Travis, so Travis is always afraid of him. Travis has asked a few of his friends about how to deal with Philip. One of them tells Travis to retaliate and do the same thing to Philip.

So one day, as Philip is packing up his backpack, Travis grabs it and attempts to dump everything out of it. However, Philip immediately turns around and pushes Travis really hard to the ground.

Since that doesn't work, Travis' other friend suggests that he should just tell a teacher or the principal about Philip. Travis talks to his teacher about it, but since the teacher has not seen Philip do anything to Travis before, she is only able to give Philip a warning. This angers Philip, so the next day, Philip takes Travis' lunch bag and hurls it into the mud.



At this point, nothing has worked and Travis is frustrated. Then, one day after RE class, Travis mentions his situation at school to his RE teacher. His teacher tells him that if he keeps trying to take revenge on Philip or harm him in the same way, it will only make things worse. His teacher suggests that he entrust this problem to God, and pray to Him and ask Him to help with this. Travis does as his teacher suggests and prays about it before he goes to sleep at night.

The following Monday, miraculously, Philip does not do anything to Travis. Travis sees him pass by, but he only gives Travis a mean look and that is it! This is much better than before.

Complete the following questions.

1. What should Travis have done from the very beginning?

2. The path is a lot _____ when we _____ in God right from the start!

3. Psalm 20:7

“Some trust in chariots and some in horses; but we will remember the name of _____.”

4. Psalm 91:2

“I will say of the LORD, ‘He is my refuge and my _____; my God, in Him I will trust.’”

**To overcome any problem we encounter, we must
courageously move forward with faith in God.**

What does it look like when we have faith in God?

When Travis turns to God first and asks Him for help, a very different scenario happens!

Scenario 2: Travis and the Big Test

The end of the school year is near, and Travis and all the students in his grade must take a very important placement test that lasts three days.



All of Travis' teachers have been preparing them for this test. They've been giving them some extra homework to help review what they've learned and spending time in class to sharpen their skills. Travis' parents have also been taking him to a tutoring class especially designed for taking this important test.

As the first day of testing draws closer, Travis starts getting very nervous and even a little scared about this. He doesn't want to do badly or disappoint both his teachers and his parents. He has done his part by working hard, but he also remembers the bully incident where he prayed to God and relied on Him to help.

So, every night before the test, he prays to God to give him the courage to take on this test and also to help him do well and not be too nervous.

Because he relied on God and trusted Him, Travis ends up doing very well at the end of the test. His parents and teachers are very proud of his results.

Complete the following questions.

1. What helped Travis get through the test?

2. Proverbs 3:5-6

_____ in the LORD with all your heart,
And lean not on your own understanding;
In all your ways acknowledge Him,
And He shall direct your paths.

3. Psalm 56:3-4

Whenever I am _____,
I will trust in You.
In God (I will praise His word),
In God I have put my trust;
I will not fear.
What can flesh do to me?

***"The LORD is with us.
Do not fear them."***

(Num 14:9)

E2 Year 2 Book 3 Lesson 1—God's Faithful Servant, Joshua

Homework Assignment

Name: _____ Parent signature: _____ Date: _____

Weekly Bible Reading: _____

Bible Reading: Check each box when you complete that day's reading.

Prayer: Check each box after you pray to God that day.

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

What I Learned from the Bible This Week

1. _____

2. _____

Memory Verse

Please write down this week's memory verse. **(Joshua 1:9)**

Fill In the Blank

1. The name Joshua means " _____."
2. Joshua became the _____ of the Israelites after Moses died.
3. Joshua sent _____ into Jericho to get information before they crossed the Jordan.
4. A woman named _____ was not harmed when the city of Jericho was taken by the Israelites.

Short Answer

5. What did the Israelites have to do on the last day of circling the city of Jericho?

6. List at least three qualities/characteristics of Joshua.