

Into the Promised Land

***Eight Lessons from the
Life of Joshua***

**Oher Books in the
Sycamore Tree Children's Series**

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Into the Promised Land

Eight Lessons from the Life of Joshua

Part of the Sycamore Tree Children's Series



LYNNE MODRANSKI

INTO THE PROMISED LAND

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Table of Contents

Lesson One: God Told Joshua to be Strong and Courageous	9
Lesson Two: Rahab was Strong and Courageous	15
Lesson Three: A Strong and Courageous River Crossing	21
Lesson Four: It Took Strength and Courage to Conquer Jericho	29
Lesson Five: It Took Strength and Courage to Keep Going After Defeat	35
Lesson Six: Joshua Had to Be Strong and Courageous after He Forgot to Check with God	41
Lesson Seven: When You're Strong and Courageous God Does Amazing Things	47
Lesson Eight: Joshua Lived a Long Time Because He Was Strong and Courageous	53



Welcome to *Into the Promised Land*

When Moses died he had to appoint a successor, and God said that should be Joshua. I've always admired Joshua because he seemed to get it right more often than most. He had that mess up with Gibeon (we'll look at that in lesson six), but other than that, God's servant did pretty well.

I've often wondered if his success in life might not trace back to his days as Moses' assistant. Joshua used to stay at the tent of meeting. He never left. (Exodus 33:11) Did he go inside and talk to God while Moses was away? After all, anyone was allowed to go there to inquire of the Lord. Or did he just spend all that time standing outside the tent talking to God? Either way, Joshua had developed a spirit of leadership, and He followed God closely.

As adults, we can learn as much from the life of Joshua as the kids in our lives. During these eight lessons, we're going to focus on the fact that God will never leave us or forsake us. And that knowledge should help us be more like Joshua who remained strong and courageous despite the enemies he faced.

Each lesson has four parts: An introduction that will set up the Bible lesson, the Bible lesson, four activities, and a closing time. You may not have time for all the activities. Choose the ones that appeal to you the most. Be sure not to skip the closing activity. Hearing you pray out loud will make a great impression on these kids. Your prayer doesn't need to be perfect, just heartfelt. I encourage you to pray spontaneously; however, if you're not comfortable with that, I've included a sample you can use.

Thank you for helping children learn about God's word. This ministry may be one of the most important in the church. God bless you as you bless others!

Into the Promised Land

Lesson One: God Told Joshua to Be Strong and Courageous

OVERVIEW

After Moses died, Joshua became the leader, and God spoke to him directly. The Almighty gave Moses' former assistant his marching orders, but He repeated one phrase three times: Be strong and courageous. This will be the theme of the next eight lessons as well as the memory verse. It's important to remember that courage is not having no fear, it's moving forward in the face of fear. This world can be very scary. We want the children to understand that God will never leave us if we follow Him, and because He always goes with us, we can have courage to go into the unknown and face battles with strength.

THE LESSON

OPEN

Meet Joshua 3 Minutes

BIBLE LESSON

Joshua 1:1-9 5 Minutes

REINFORCING THE LESSON

MEMORY VERSE

Joshua 1:5-6 5 Minutes
Supplies: Coloring Sheet with words at the end of this lesson

ACTIVITY

Word Search Puzzle 10 Minutes
Supplies: Copies of the last page of this lesson

CRAFT

God Goes With Me Reminder Booklet 10 Minutes
Supplies: Construction Paper, Copy Paper, Crayons, Yarn, Hole Punch

GAME

Freeze Dance 5 Minutes
Supplies: The song "God of Angel Armies" on CD or Digital and something to play it.

CLOSE

Clean Up and Prayer 5 Minutes



Into the Promised Land

Lesson One: God Told Joshua to Be Strong and Courageous

OPEN

We're going to start by introducing Joshua. Most of the kids will know about Moses, so in our open today, we'll review Joshua's beginning with Israel's great leader.

SAY: Does anyone know who Moses was? (Allow for answers—kids might remember he was a baby in a basket and that he saw a burning bush. Or they might say he led them through the Red Sea or led Israel through the desert for forty years. Affirm every correct answer, then fill in anything they missed from the list.) Do you know who Moses' assistant was while he led the people through the desert? (Allow for answers—some may say Aaron, but remind them that Aaron was his brother and his spokesman and became the first priest.) Moses' assistant was Joshua. Have you heard of Joshua? (Allow for answers.) Today we're going to learn more about Moses' assistant.

BIBLE LESSON

Joshua 1:1-9

For Pre-K through First Grade: Read from a children's Bible

or use the story below with a Bible open so the children realize it's a real Bible story

For older grades, make sure everyone has the same version, then allow the students to read from the Bible.

You could let each child read one verse, but don't force anyone to read.

Then move to the questions at the end of the narrative below.

When Moses was 120-years-old, God took him to the top of a mountain, and he went to be with God forever. With Moses gone, the people of Israel needed a new leader. Some people might have thought Moses' sons would take over, but God had already chosen someone else. God spoke to Moses' assistant. Do you remember his name? *(Allow for answers)* Joshua. God spoke to Joshua.

God said, "Moses is gone, and it's time for you to lead all these people across the Jordan River to the land I promised to give them. I will give you every place you step your foot. I will be with you everywhere you go, just like I was with Moses. I will never leave you nor forsake you" Can you say that, 'I will never leave your nor forsake you.' *(Have children repeat)* Do you know what forsake you means? *(Allow for answers)* Forsake means to turn your back on something. God promised Joshua He would never leave him or turn his back on him.

Then God said, "Be strong and courageous. You will lead these people into the Promised Land." God repeated, "Be strong and courageous." Then He told Joshua, "Make sure you follow all the commands I gave to Moses because then you'll be successful in everything you do."

And before He finished talking to Joshua, God said one more thing. What do you think that was? *(Allow for answers)* One more time, God told Joshua, "Be strong and courageous." Can you say, 'Be strong and courageous'? *(Give kids time to repeat)* How many times did God tell that to Joshua? *(Allow for answers.)* Three times. God repeated that three times.

Even though God promised to go with him and give him all the land, God knew Joshua would face some difficult battles. He wanted Joshua to remember that God was always with him. God knew if Joshua believed that he could be strong and courageous.

If we remember that God is always with us, and we follow what God told us in the Bible, we can be strong and courageous too. *If you have younger children, move to the Activity Section*

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR OLDER KIDS (OR EVEN THE YOUNGER ONES):

1. What was Moses' assistant's name? *Joshua*
2. What did God tell Joshua He would do? *God made Joshua the leader of Israel. He told Joshua that He would give Joshua every place he put his feet. God said He would never leave or forsake Joshua.*
3. What did God ask Joshua to do? *God asked Joshua to follow His word and be strong and courageous.*
4. Would you be afraid if God put you in charge of a million people? How do you think Joshua felt? *No wrong answers.*
5. How many times did God tell Joshua to be strong and courageous? *Three times*
6. What does it mean to be courageous? *Some children might say to have no fear; however, courage doesn't mean no fear, it means going where God wants you to go even if you're afraid. People with courage help others when they are being bullied, even if its just calling the police or getting a teacher. The courageous always act even if they avoid getting hurt themselves.*

ACTIVITIES TO REINFORCE THE LESSON

MEMORY VERSE

God will never leave us nor forsake us.

Be strong and courageous

Joshua 1:5-6

This is the end of verse five and the beginning of verse six.

Both are very easy, and both are important.

Repeat with the children a few times

then, if time permits, allow children to color the sheet at the end of this lesson.

You can use the discussion questions as they color.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR THE MEMORY VERSE

1. What does it mean that God will never leave us or forsake us? *Forsake means to abandon or desert. God will never leave us alone. He'll never abandon us. We're never on our own.*
2. How do you feel knowing God promises to never leave you? Would that make you stronger and more courageous? *No wrong answers.*

CRAFT: God Will Be With Me Booklet

SUPPLIES: Construction Paper, Copy Paper, Crayons or Markers, Paper Punch, and Yarn

PREPARATION: Cut the construction paper in 4.5" x 6" rectangles (1 per student), Cut the Copy Paper in 4.25" x 2.75" rectangles (4-6 per student) Fold the construction paper in half. After they color the pictures, center the copy paper rectangles inside the folded construction paper, then punch two holes in the left hand side and tie together with yarn.

1. *Have students draw and color pictures of places they go, one on each piece of copy paper.*

2. *On the front side of the folded construction paper, write “God Goes With Me Wherever I Go, So I Can Be Strong and Courageous” (for younger children you might want to write this before class)*
3. *Put all the pieces together like a booklet, put two punch holes near the fold and tie together with yarn.*

TIE IT TOGETHER

SAY: You can use this booklet to remind you to be strong and courageous because, just like Joshua, God is always with you wherever you go. He wants to bless you just like He blessed Joshua.

PUZZLE: Word Search

Use the word search at the end for fun. As the children look for the words, ask what each one means from today’s lesson

GAME: God of Angel Armies Freeze Dance

SUPPLIES: CD or Digital copy of “Whom Shall I Fear (God of Angel Armies)” by Chris Tomlin and the means to play it

SAY: Today we’re going to have some fun dancing. Some people don’t like to dance because they worry they’ll look silly, they have to have courage to dance. Will you have courage to dance today? *(Allow for answers)* So, when the music starts, you start dancing. When the music stops, you freeze like a statue. **(OPTIONAL:** If you move, you’re out)

Let the children dance to the music. Every ten to twenty seconds, pause the song. You may choose to put children out when they move after the music stops or just let the children continue to dance for fun until the song is over.

TIE IT TOGETHER: Did you hear the words of the song? *(Allow for answers.)* It says that the God of Angel Armies is always by my side. What does that mean? *(Allow for answers.)* This song reminds us God will never leave us or forsake us so we can be strong and courageous.

CLOSING

Each week the children should clean up their mess before you pray and push in their chairs when their done.

SAY: So what did God tell Joshua that you think He wants us to remember? *(Allow for answers)* God wants us to be strong and courageous. We shouldn’t be afraid because God will never leave us. He will be with us and go everywhere we go when we remember to follow the instructions in the Bible.

Let’s pray (Pray with the children. You can pray spontaneously or use this prayer to pray with them.)

Dear God, Thank You for always going with us, for leading us, and promising to never leave us. Help us always follow everything in the Bible so we can live in Your blessings. Help us be strong and courageous. Bless our families and our church. In Jesus’ Name we pray, Amen.

**I WILL
NEVER LEAVE
YOU NOR
FORSAKE YOU
BE STRONG
AND
COURAGEOUS**

JOSHUA 1:5-6

Younger Children Word Search

R D X N J S E V A I
 Z E N K U T V X U J
 I E V A B R A I H S
 L U I E L O E N S S
 R N V J N N L F O U
 L B J M T G F N J O
 S U O E G A R U O C
 F O R S A K E O E S
 D E S I M O R P V T
 D O A F I E F P K E

Find these Words

Strong
 Courageous
 Never
 Leave
 Forsake
 Promised
 Land
 Joshua

Older Children Word Search

S R D B B Z A K H X F W G H Q
 J U Y N Z O E F M N J W O P Y
 K S O K A A Q N T W B A D W X
 B P V E V L O D J L S U V R P
 W D I E G N D D Q E R H P V Q
 H K N S B A S E E V H S T A I
 P U T O V G R G S O L O X R P
 Y K K M L J R U B I D J Q E T
 M O L O N O Y V O K M X B V A
 J X R R Z Q V V U C M O V E A
 O C B D H Z E E V D L W R N O
 X P B W P B I B M O S E S P H
 K R L E O E K A S R O F H C Z
 K Y S G N O R T S F E Q T C X
 S Z W Z R H D R B Q N R J S S

FIND THESE WORDS

Strong
 Courageous
 Never
 Obey
 Moses
 Love
 God
 Leave
 Forsake
 Promised Land
 Joshua