

Bible Story 13: JOSHUA, THE NEW LEADER

SCRIPTURE: JOSHUA 1:1-2,5-9,16-17; 2:1-10,15,18-19,21,23-24; 3:1,14-17; 4:23-24; 6:1-5,12-17,20,22-23; 11:23; 24:1,15,24,29

MEMORY VERSE: JOSHUA 1:9B

BIBLE STORY:

After Moses died, Joshua became the new leader of the Israelite people. God told Joshua:

“...Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9b NIV).

Joshua followed and obeyed him.

God told Joshua that it was time to enter the Promised Land. So Joshua sent two spies into the first city, Jericho. The spies sneaked into the city and entered Rahab's home. As the soldiers were searching for the spies, she hid them on the roof under stalks of flax. Because Rahab had helped them, the spies told her to tie a red cord on her window that would be seen from far away, showing where her house was located. That way when the Israelites returned, all those in her house would be saved. Then the spies left and ran back to Joshua, saying,

“The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us”

(Joshua 2:24 NIV).

Joshua and all the people of Israel left their camp and went to the Jordan River. The religious leaders, called Levite priests, led the way, carrying the Ark of the Covenant. The Ten Commandments were inside the ark. Although the river's water was overflowing, when the Levite priests stepped in the water, God stopped the flow of the water. The priests stayed in the middle of the river until all the Israelites were safely on the other side. Afterwards the

water flowed normally. The people of God were finally able to enter into the Promised Land of Canaan, because of God's powerful presence.

Now the Israelites were near the city of Jericho. There was a large wall around Jericho, and the doors were closed. God explained to Joshua how to conquer this city. Everyone obeyed. For six days the following people marched around the wall of Jericho, one time each day: 1st the soldiers; 2nd seven priests blowing their trumpets; 3rd the ark; and 4th a group of guards. Except for the trumpets, everyone was quiet. But on the seventh day, they marched around the city seven times. On the seventh time, when the priests blew their trumpets, all the people shouted. The wall around Jericho fell down! The soldiers conquered the city! Rahab and her family were saved. Joshua and the Israelites gave thanks to God for His help.

When Joshua and the Israelites obeyed God, they conquered many cities and land. The Promised Land was divided into twelve tribes, with each tribe receiving a portion of land. God chose the Levite tribe to be the religious leaders, and they received special cities.

Before his death, Joshua said to the Israelite people:

“...Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15 NIV).

The Israelites served God as long as Joshua was alive. He lived to be 110 years old.

LIFE LESSONS:

1. God selected Joshua to be the new leader. God told Joshua to be strong and courageous, and obey his commandments. God promised to be with him wherever he went. Ask God to help you be strong, courageous and obedient to him. God will be with you wherever you go.
2. God guided and protected Joshua and the Israelites as they walked safely to the other side of the Red Sea and conquered the city of Jericho. Joshua trusted, obeyed and served God. Trust in God to guide and protect you.
3. Following God's instructions, Joshua went to conquer the city of Jericho. He was not alone; God was with him, giving him victory. There are times when following God that you will have to face some difficulties. Whenever this happens, remember that God is with you, strengthening, comforting and guiding you.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

1. Who was the new leader after Moses? What did God tell Joshua when he became the new leader? Did he follow God's leadership? How?
2. Who are some leaders in our church, our city, our country? Tell something about what they do. What happens when they leave their job? How are new leaders elected to take their places?
3. Should leaders follow God's leadership? Why?
4. Who did Joshua send to spy on the city of Jericho? Who helped hide the two spies? How? How did the spies help her out later?
5. What are some ways you can help the leaders in your church, community, work, school and nation?
6. How did the Israelite people cross the Jordan River safely?
7. What was around the city of Jericho? How was the city of Jericho conquered?
8. Afterwards, how was the Promised Land divided?
9. What are some difficult battles, difficulties, that you, your family, friends, community or nation face? Who can help you? How can you receive God's help?
10. Joshua said, "...Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve...But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord" (JOSHUA 24:15 NIV). Have you chosen to follow and serve God? Would you like to make that decision today? (If you do, pray and let God know of your decision.) What are some ways you can serve God?

ACTIVITIES FOR THIS BIBLE STORY:

Choose activities that may be used in your specific situation. Consider the age and maturity of each person, locality where the story will be told (customs and traditions), and available resources, time and space.

PRESENTATION:

- With the group, show and talk about different leaders, showing some pictures/articles. Talk about different leaders in your church. Explain that when one leader leaves his position, another person becomes the leader, continuing the work. Then say, "That is what happened after Moses died. Joshua became the new leader."
- Tell the Bible story.

where to go next at different locations. Clues to the first hidden place will be given to each person when arriving. At the end of the hunt, have a picnic.

GAME: "JOSHUA"

- Play the game "Simon says," but say "Joshua says." Choose a leader. All the group must do as the leader tells them, if Joshua says to do it. But if Joshua does not say it, then the group does not do it. Examples:
 ..."Joshua says to stand up." (Group stands up.)
 ..."Stand up!" (Group does not stand up.)

MISSION ACTIVITY:

- As a group, choose a project to do for your church, home or community. Choose a leader and designate responsibilities to different members of the group. Examples:
 ...Plant trees or flowers;
 ...Clean up around a church, neighborhood or park;
 ...Donate recreational equipment or furniture to a community center;
 ...Take "Goody-bags" (tooth paste, tooth brushes, combs, tissues, soap, fruit, etc.) to people in the hospital or retirement villages, needy families, etc.

ACTIVITY: "SPECIAL LEADERS"

- Make a list of leaders. The group leader will talk about these special leaders or ask different ones to choose one of the leaders and do a research about him. Later each one will share information about his leader to the group. Examples:
 ...Leaders in your country
 ...Leaders in your community, school, work place, etc.
 ...Leaders in your church

GAME: "SCAVENGER HUNT"

- Plan together an outing to a park, zoo, forest, beach, etc. Choose a leader to prepare a scavenger hunt. The leader will hide written clues of

THANK YOU NOTES:

- Write thank you notes to leaders acquainted with the group or leaders studied in the previous activity. Thank each one for his hard work and for helping you, the church, the community and/or country.

DAILY BIBLE READING - Joshua 1:1-2,5-9,16-17; 2:1-10,15,18-19,21,23-24; 3:1,14-17; 4:23-24; 6:1-5,12-17,20,22-23; 11:23; 24:1,15,24,29

1 ST	2 ND	3 RD	4 TH	5 TH	6 TH	7 TH
Joshua 1:1-2,5-9,16-17	Joshua 2:1-10	Joshua 2:15, 18-19,21,23-24	Joshua 3:1,14-17; 4:23-24	Joshua 6:1-5,12-14	Joshua 6:15-17, 10,22-23	Joshua 11:23; 24:1,15,24,29