

*Get Ready!***Joshua Becomes the Leader**

By: Betsy Moore

**Text**

Exodus 17:8-13; Joshua 1:1-11; Deuteronomy 31:1-8, 14, 23-24; 34:1-12

Key Quest Verse

“For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God’s.” 1 Corinthians 6: 20 NKJV

Bible Background

The Israelites had been held in Egypt for 400 years as slaves. Moses led them out of Egypt and to freedom and toward the land promised by God to them ... a land flowing with milk and honey. The Israelites traveled and almost entered the Promised Land but did not trust in God and were disobedient in conquering Canaan as He had commanded them to. God condemned Israel to wander in the desert for 40 years. No adult that had been disobedient to God in not conquering Canaan would enter the Promised Land. All those that left Egypt would be dead and only those children who had heard the stories would be allowed to follow Joshua and enter what God had promised Abraham and his people the Israelites. Moses was one hundred and twenty years old and climbed to the top of Mount Nebo. God pointed across to the Promised Land and Moses knew he would not lead the Israelites there. The leadership was turned over to Joshua in front of all the Israelite people ... Joshua's name originally was Hoshea (Numbers 13:16) but Moses changed it. We can compare Joshua to David: both went into the land of giants and trusted God that they would be protected, both were military leaders; Joshua taking possession of the land God promised his people and David re-conquering it. This great leader would accomplish what Moses did not. Joshua is one of the greatest military leaders of all times. He was Moses' assistant and then his successor. His basic training was living with Moses-experiencing first hand what it meant to lead God's people. He led the Israelites into the Promised Land.

*Get Ready!***Lesson Quest**

What I want my students to:

Know: God will help us do what He asks us to do.

Feel: Strong and courageous to follow God.

Do: Trust in God and follow Him.

**Leader's Devotion**

Moses was one of the greatest leaders that ever lived. Can you imagine how Joshua felt following in the shadow of the great leader Moses? Do you think he was insecure in his unknown future or do you feel he had great confidence and knew that he too would become a great leader? God promised to help Joshua and be with him. Do you sometimes feel insecure in what you are doing? Ask for God's strength and help to become a leader for Him. You may be the one person that will influence a child to accept Christ and become a Christian. Be strong in teaching God's word!

Get Set!



Option A

Materials: Sunshine for shadows

Take your students outside for a different type game of follow the leader.

Have children line up so they can all see their shadow as well as other students.

We're going to play follow the leader today but we are going to stand in the same spot.

_____ (Student) will begin by making fun shapes with their hands so watch their shadow and follow the leader. Good job _____. Now it's _____ turn to be the leader and we will follow their shadow movements. (Make sure each child gets a chance to be the leader and make fun shapes and gestures) Now it's time to go back to our classroom. Was it fun to watch each students shadow and try to follow it? Can you find your shadow now? Is it gone? Shadows are always with us but sometimes we just can't see them. God is always there even though we can't see Him. In our lesson today, we're going to learn about Joshua following in Moses' shadow and how God helped him become a great leader.

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Option B

Materials: Paper, target, and a prize



Give each child 3 pieces of paper to make paper airplanes and have them write their name on each. Place a target on the floor and let them try each plane to see whose plane lands closest to the target. The plane closest to the target wins a prize. **Was it hard to know which direction to throw your plane to make sure you hit the target? It was hard to predict which plane would go straight wasn't it. Is it hard to know if we are going in the right direction/ the way God wants us to go? Name one thing God wants you to do to follow Him in the right direction. In our story today, we are going to learn of a man who was guided by God and went the right direction and became one of the greatest leaders in the Bible.**

GO TO THE BIBLE STORY

Get Set!**Bible Story**

Materials: 12 purple balloons (for grapes) and a broomstick or dowel rod, string.

Advanced Preparation: Before class blow up all 12 balloons and tie string in various lengths on each, then tie the “grapes” to the broomstick to look like grapes. For extra effects, cut out large grape leaves and also tie them in. Hide grapes until you use them in the story. (Before you begin to tell the story ask each child to hold their hands toward God as you tell the story ... they will get the point real quick why Moses got tired in the battle against the Amalekites)

Moses led the Israelite slaves out of Egypt with Joshua who was his aide since youth (Num.11:28). All of a sudden the Amalekite people began to attack them. These were mean people that stole stuff to make money and killed people for fun. Do they sound like someone you'd want as a neighbor? Moses chose Joshua to go out and fight the Amalekites. Moses and Aaron went to the top of a hill to watch and as long as Moses held his hands up to God, the Israelites would win but as soon as his hands dropped, the Amalekites started winning. Moses got tired real quick, so he sat on a stone and 2 men held his hands up until sunset and the Israelites won. Joshua trusted God in this battle. We know that Moses was very close to Joshua because he was chosen to go up on the mountain with Moses to get the Ten Commandments.

The Israelites were so close to Canaan, the Promised Land God had for them. Moses decided it might be a good idea to check out the land and see what kind of farming ground was there to grow food and also look at the cities to see what it would take to go in and conquer them. Moses chose 12 men to go in as spies. Joshua was one of the men chosen to spy with 11 other men and they were to bring back some fruit and see what kind of people lived there. Joshua was kind of like David ...he went into this land of giants. Joshua and Caleb came back and said, “Don't be afraid, we can do it with God ...we can take them” but ten spies were afraid and didn't trust God. They reported that the cities were protected and very large and the giants in the land made them seem like grasshoppers. They brought back grapes that were so big they had to be carried on a pole with men on either end to hold them. Something like this ... (get grapes and have 2 students carry the broomstick with the grapes on it around the room and pretend they are very heavy.) What would you do if you saw giants and grapes this size? Would you want to move into that land if God told you too? God's people grumbled and said, “No, let's go back to Egypt.” God was unhappy and said anyone 20 years old or more that has grumbled against God would not enter the Promised Land. Only Joshua and Caleb would be allowed to enter, because they trusted God but it would take 40 years of wandering in the desert (one year for each day they explored the land (Num. 14:34).

Get Set!**Bible Story**

Moses had been a great leader but now he was 120 years old. I’m sure he dreamed a lot about entering the Promised Land. He was so near. God knew he wasn’t strong enough to lead Israel through the days of battle ahead. It was better that a younger man would take on the new job of becoming the new leader. Israel was ready to enter the Promised Land and it was time to cross the Jordan. Moses was there to encourage and strengthen Joshua and turn the leadership over to him. So Moses called the people together for the last time. Standing there before all of Israel, he spoke in a clear loud voice. He retold the story of God’s blessings through the 40 years since the great deliverance from Egypt. Moses started at the beginning and told the whole story, reminding them of the way God had sent them food and water and given them victory and given them the Ten Commandments, so that they would know the difference between good and bad. God told them how to build the tabernacle (tent church) and God expected them to be holy and trust in Him. Most of those who listened had never even seen Egypt. The children only knew what their parents had told them. Because God loved them so much there was nothing He wouldn’t do for them if they would trust and worship Him. Moses tried to tell them as much as he could and warn them of what would happen if they forgot God and turned away from Him. Then Moses called Joshua before him and “In the sight of Israel” he passed the leadership over to him. Bravely, he said, “Be strong and of good courage: for thou must go with this people unto the land which the Lord had sworn unto their fathers to give them ...”. Moses and Joshua then went together into the tabernacle “and the Lord appeared in the tabernacle in a pillar of a cloud.”

Now if you saw a huge cloud like that, would you know that God had something to do with it? The Israelite people knew that the choice of Joshua as their new leader was God’s choice too. So Moses died and God buried him. God told Joshua that it was time to become the great leader He had been training him to be. He was prepared to lead the people across the Jordan River. God said, “I will give you every place you set your foot ...” Joshua was one of the greatest leaders in the Bible and God was definitely with him as he led the Israelites.

Go!**Strength from God****EXPERIMENT**

Materials: Clothesline about 25 feet long and 2 broomsticks, 3 volunteers

Quest Connection

Joshua depended on God for strength. We can learn to get strength from God through prayer, reading the Bible, and by being around Christian friends. All we need to do is trust in God and He will help us do what seems impossible to us! I'm going to have 2 people hold these two broomsticks. I'm going to tie the clothesline at one end and wrap the rope around both sticks like a ladder. Let's see if _____ (volunteer #3) can pull the broomsticks together. I want you first two to hold on to the brooms as tight as you can and don't let them touch each other. Can the broomsticks be pulled together?

Procedure: Two volunteers should face each other holding a broom straight out from their body and leave about 2 foot between the brooms. Tie one end of the clothesline to the end of broomstick one, and loop it around the other broom. Loop the clothesline around each broom stick and then have a volunteer pull on the loose end while the other 2 try to hold the broomsticks apart. It doesn't matter how hard the two holds (or 4) the one pulling on the end of the rope will pull the broomsticks together. It will work like a pulley.

Close

What seems impossible to us is possible with God's help. Like Joshua, we need faith to grow strong to live the Christian life. God will help us when we ask for His strength and guidance!

Go!**Sandwich Cookies****FOOD**

Materials: Two sugar cookies for each child, icing, Popsicle sticks, and napkins

Quest Connection

We've made a good sandwich cookie and it is really stuck together with this icing. How can we compare the cookies being stuck together with God sticking with us no matter where we go?

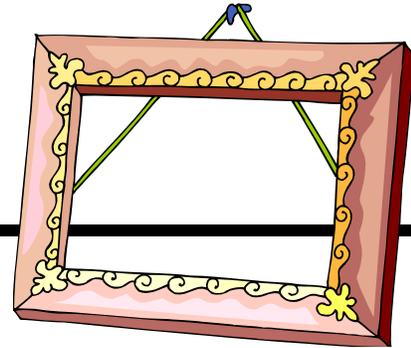
Procedure: Give each student a napkin and place two sugar cookies on the napkin. Scoop about 2 tablespoons of icing on the bottom side of one cookie. Let your students spread the icing with the Popsicle sticks and then place the lid on the cookie sandwich.

Close

Joshua followed God and obeyed Him and God stuck with him wherever he went. If we obey God and follow Him, He will strengthen us and be with us always!

Go!**Picture This****ART/CRAFT**

Materials: (2) 5 X 6 poster board with one cut out in center 3 X 4, washable markers, spray bottle, magnet strips, glue

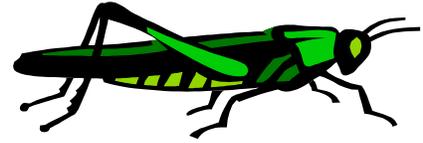
**Quest Connection**

Today we learned that the children of Israel learned a lot from their parents. They traveled for 40 years because they didn't trust in God. Isn't it interesting to see all the lines we drew that represent how their travel turn into something beautiful. As they learned to trust in God, things became beautiful for them and they were allowed to enter the Promised Land. I want you to put a picture of your family in this frame to remind you of the beautiful life you can have trusting in God.

Procedure: Cut out poster board for children. Explain to the kids that the children of Israel wandered around in the wilderness for 40 years. Give them each 1 marker and let them draw a windy trail on the frame with the center cut out. The children of Israel traveled together like one big family ... so go to your neighbors and draw a windy trail on their frame. Make sure each child has a chance to color each frame. Let students spritz the marker trails and watch the colors blend together. Glue the 2 frames together across the bottom and on both sides but leave the top opened to insert a picture. Glue a magnet strip on the back and encourage the kids to place their picture frame on the refrigerator.

Close

When you have a picture of your family in this frame it should remind you of the beautiful things God has promised for you in His Kingdom.

Go!**Giant Walk****GAME**

Material: Outside walking area

Quest Connection

Do you remember what the spies said they felt like in the land of the giants? Today on our giant walk what things are we finding? Do you think grasshoppers think we are giants? We know that if the spies trusted in God, He would have helped them. Would you have faith in God to fight giants? What are the giants in your life that you have to fight? (tattle tailing, being afraid)

Procedure: Take your children outside on an insect walk. Explain that you are giants, just like the spies saw and that you are trying to find insects like grasshoppers.

Close

We must learn to trust in God when we think things are impossible.

Go!**Fun Flying**

GAME

Materials: Copier paper and a room divider

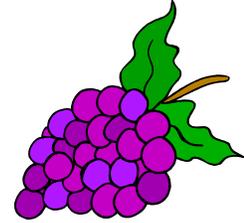
Quest Connection

God promised Joshua He would be with him. When he was up, God was there. When he was down, God was there. God is with those who trust and obey Him.

Procedure: Let the kids make lots and lots of paper airplanes. Then you need some way to clearly divide the room in half. (The taller the divider the better.) Chairs works, but even better is a rolling chalkboard. Put half the kids on each side of the divider. Put half the paper airplanes on each side of the divider. Explain that they can only throw ONE plane at a time and they must stop when you say, "stop". Say "Go". They throw the airplanes over the divider as fast as they can. Planes are flying in both directions. Let them go about 3 minutes. Give them a ten-second warning and then say "stop". Count the airplanes on each side of the divider. The team with the least number of planes wins. Repeat it a number of times, keeping track of the wins to get the champions.

Close

Was it hard to keep track of all the airplanes when they were flying both ways? Did you feel frustrated that you didn't know which way to turn? God is always with us and can keep us on the right track! We just need to look up to God and trust and follow Him.

Go!**Follow the Trail****TREASURE HUNT**

Materials: 5 or 6 clues hidden around the room, grapes

Quest Connection

God's chosen people the Israelites were supplied everything they needed once they trusted God and left Egypt. They went right up to the Promised Land and sent in spies only to find out that they were afraid and didn't trust God to lead them. We have clues around the room that will explain our prize, try to guess what it is when you read each clue.

Procedure: Hide the following clues around the room and let students find them. Let each one guess what the prize might be.

The giants liked to eat me.

I weighed a lot!

I come in two colors.

Two men had to carry me.

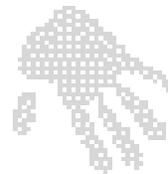
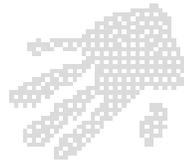
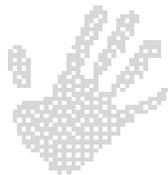
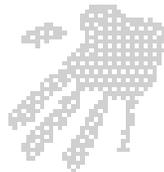
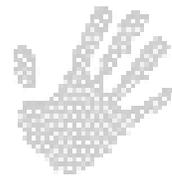
I can dry up and still taste good.

Close

The Israelites saw how wonderful the Promised Land was but they were afraid. They didn't trust God and they were punished and had to wander for 40 years. We need to put our trust in God like Joshua and Caleb did.

Helping Hands

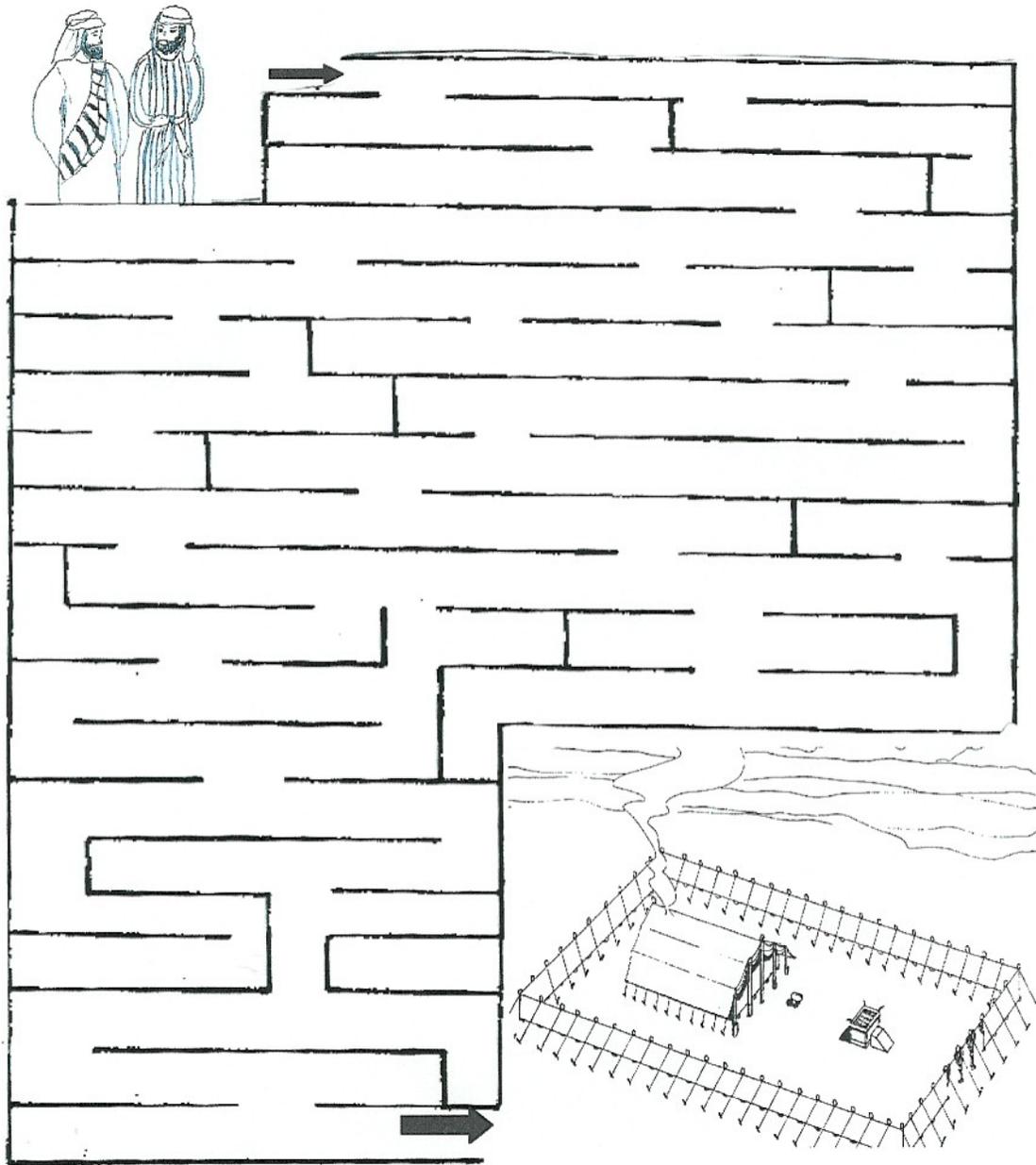
Joshua gave Moses a helping hand when he needed it!
Draw your hand and on each finger write God, Pray, Faith, Trust, & Obey.
This shows you trust in God and have Faith in him to Pray and Obey!



Name: _____ Date: _____

“Be strong and of good courage.” Joshua 1:9

Can you help Moses and Joshua find their way to the tabernacle?



“Be strong and of good courage.” Joshua 1:9

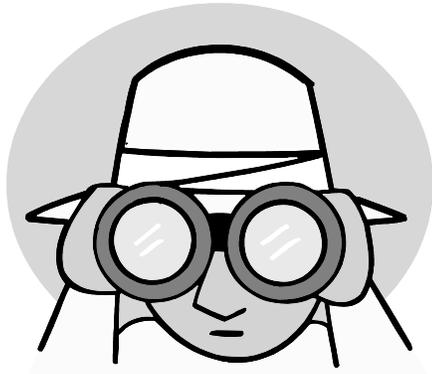
We have a BUNCH of Faith!

Scratch & Sniff

Make giant grapes using your fingerprints in grape cool-aid (mix 1 T grape Kool-Aid in 1 tablespoon water. Add curly twigs. Just as you touch this paper with your fingers to make a beautiful picture, God touched Joshua to make him a great leader. After it dries scratch.



“Be strong and of good courage.” Joshua 1:9



I Spy!

Joshua becomes the Leader.

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