



Joshua Becomes Leader of Israel

Joshua 1:1-11

Fifth and sixth graders are concerned by things that affect their immediate lives and situations. Those things are increasingly large in scale. Because of this, they can understand what it's like to be given a task that's too large for them, and they're beginning to grasp what it's like to feel overwhelmed. They need the security and safety that comes from having God with them at all times. Use this lesson to help kids know that God is with them all the time and that's the single most important thing they can rely on.



► Bible Point


God is with us.

Key Verse

"Have I not commanded you? 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 1:9).

Weaving Faith Into Life

Kids will consider the impact it has on their lives that God is always with them.

LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
1 Getting Started	Road Trip! <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Plan a trip using a map without names.	paper, pens, tape Teacher Pack: "Where Do You Want to Go?" map	
2 Bible Exploration	Not Your Average Puppet <i>(about 20 min.)</i> Learn about Joshua's big job promotion and what it looks like to have God with them.	Bibles, Bible Buzz, pens, yarn, scissors	Tear out the Lesson 10 pages from each Bible Buzz student book. Cut several 5- to 6-inch lengths of yarn per child.

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



LESSON	WHAT KIDS DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
3 Weaving Faith Into Life	Stories of Courage <i>(about 10 min.)</i> Hear real stories of kids getting their courage from God.		
	Never Alone <i>(about 15 min.)</i> Learn the Key Verse, and recognize what it can mean to have God with them.	Bible Buzz, CD player, 1 copy per preteen of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson) Teacher Pack: CD	
4 Lasting Impressions	Daily Challenges <i>(about 5 min.)</i> Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.	Bible Buzz	
	Weaving Faith at Home <i>(about 2 min.)</i> Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Joshua Becomes Leader of Israel

Joshua 1:1-11

BIBLE BACKGROUND
FOR LEADERS

God With You

As we begin this passage, Moses had died and Joshua had taken over the leadership of the Israelites, as had been arranged in advance (Deuteronomy 31:1-8). Joshua 1:5 tells us that God was going to be with Joshua in the same way he had been with Moses.

God at Work Through You

The question may arise: Why was it okay for the Israelites to kill other people and take away their land? This is a complicated question. However, one point seems apparent: God was using Israel to judge the immoral people who lived in the land at the time. Just as Israel was later defeated and their land taken away because of sin, so God was using Israel as an instrument of punishment, taking away the land of the Canaanites because of their sin.

God's Plan for You

In this passage God gave Joshua a command of encouragement ("Be strong and courageous"), a condition for success ("obey all the law my servant Moses gave you"), and a promise of his presence ("the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go"). God had a plan for Israel, and Joshua was the instrument through which he was going to accomplish that plan.

God Goes Before You

What more could Joshua ask for? All he had to do was follow what God laid out for him, and God would be there to assure his success. However unsure or discouraged Joshua might have been at the death of Moses, this visit from God rejuvenated him. The first thing recorded after God's message to him is

Joshua's ordering the leaders to get the people ready to cross the Jordan. The Israelites were ready to move into the Promised Land, and God was going to give them the land.

The Jesus Connection

Our plans and God's plans don't always match. We want to be happy now; God wants to give us greater joy as we surrender our lives to his service. When we commit our lives to Christ, he uses us to accomplish his mission. God promises the same thing to us that he promised to Joshua: He'll be with us all the time. On the lines below, write a prayer about one area of your life in which you need to know God is with you.





Road Trip! Supplies

paper
pens
tape

Teacher Pack

“Where Do You Want to
Go?” map

1 GETTING STARTED

Road Trip!

What You’ll Do ■■■■■■

Welcome kids warmly as they arrive, and ask them how their week went.

Set out the “Where Do You Want to Go?” map. After kids have arrived, have them gather near the map.

Say: **Welcome to the Plan It Cheap Travel Agency. You’re now travel agents, and you are going to plan a road trip for us. Since we’re a cheap agency, we’ll have to plan our road trip using this map that doesn’t have any names printed on it. And I’m afraid you won’t get any outside help.**

Have kids get into groups of up to four. Give groups paper and pens.

Say: **We’ll be leaving from here and need to end up in** [choose a destination on the map that is far from your location]. **It is up to you to decide what tourist stops we will see along the way, so plan out what you want to see along the route and how you will get there.**

Give groups five to eight minutes to complete their travel plans.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What was it like doing this activity?**
- **How was using a map without names frustrating?**
- **What could I have given you to make your planning simpler?**
- **What kinds of things do you plan for?**
- **What would change about making your plans if you knew God was with you as you made those plans?**

Say: **It was difficult for you to make plans for our trip without a more specific map. Many times we can’t accomplish our plans on our own, so we need help. Today we are going to learn about a time God made big plans for Joshua and how God helped him accomplish those plans. We’ll explore how ► GOD IS WITH US no matter where we go.**





2 BIBLE
EXPLORATION

Not Your Average Puppet

What You'll Do

Distribute this week's Bible Buzz pages, pens, and pieces of yarn. Have kids form pairs, and make sure each pair has a Bible. Say: **In your pairs, choose one person to be a Puppet, and the other person will be a Puppeteer. Take a couple of minutes to tie some pieces of yarn to the hands and fingers of the Puppet.** Allow time.

When kids have attached yarn to their partners, have them find the "Not Your Average Puppet" section on their Bible Buzz pages. Say: **Puppeteers, hold the pieces of yarn and try to gently guide your partner's hands to trace the words "God Is With Me" on the "Not Your Average Puppet" section. Puppets, behave as a regular puppet and let your hands be limp.** Allow a few minutes for kids to try to get their partners to trace the phrase.

Say: **Perhaps this didn't go too well. Let's find out what might be the same or different about when ► GOD IS WITH US and helps us do things. Let's read about what God promised to Joshua.**

In their pairs, have kids read Joshua 1:1-6 together. Say: **What could you change about this activity to show what God promised to do for Joshua? Decide a way you think you could get the other person to trace "God Is With Me" on the page.** Encourage partners to talk together and decide what they might be able to do that would be more like what God did with Joshua. If they need suggestions, consider ideas such as having the leading partner place a finger on the page where he or she wants the partner to trace or tell the partner each step of how to make the letters.

Have kids switch partners. In each pair, one child will be "Joshua" and the other will be "God." Encourage kids to look at the Bible passage to find ways God promised to be with Joshua. When kids are ready to show a different example of how God led Joshua and how he leads them, have pairs take turns demonstrating for the group. Then have kids read Joshua 1:7-11 together.

Say: **God asked Joshua to do something really big. It was exciting but also probably really shocking. Joshua could've been afraid, but he listened to God. God said he'd be with Joshua, and that was all he needed to know.**

Have kids take a few minutes alone to write a personal memo to God in the "Please Be With Me" section on their Bible Buzz pages. Encourage kids to write about the promises they saw in the Bible passage that they want to see God apply to their lives as well. Allow a few minutes.



Not Your Average Puppet Supplies

.....
Bibles
Bible Buzz
pens
yarn
scissors

Not Your Average Puppet Easy Prep

.....
Tear out the Lesson 10
pages from each Bible
Buzz student book.

Cut several 5- to 6-inch
lengths of yarn per
child.





Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- In what ways is it easy or difficult to believe that God is with you in the same way that he was with Joshua and other people in the Bible?
- What makes it easy or difficult to remember God is with you all the time?
- What's the most encouraging thing about knowing God's with you all the time?

Say: **God had big plans for Joshua. He made Joshua the leader of Israel, which was not a small task. Joshua took on the task with courage, though, because God promised to be with him and help him. We can do whatever God asks us to do, too, because ► GOD IS WITH US.**

3 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Stories of Courage

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **There have been many young people who have relied on the fact that God was with them to give them courage. We get to carry forward that legacy and trust God to be with us all the time. That fact can change our lives if we let it.**

Have kids get into groups of three. Say: **Tell about a time you faced a difficult situation. When you're done, your group members will tell you ways it seems like God was with you through that situation.** Allow a few minutes.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- In what ways did it encourage you to hear someone else's story and see how God was with that person?
- What changes about your perspective when you focus on the fact that God is with you?
- In what ways can you help yourself maintain focus on the fact that God is with you?

Say: **► GOD IS WITH US just as he was with Joshua. Our stories can encourage us to trust God. When we turn to God before we worry about new situations or challenges, just as Joshua did, we can bypass all that stress and worry. Knowing God is with us doesn't stop the hard times from coming, but it does make us able to face those times.**






Never Alone

What You'll Do

Have kids stand up and read from their Bible Buzz pages the Key Verse, Joshua 1:9, together: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." Encourage kids to read the Key Verse aloud again, this time adding their own motions to help them remember the meaning of the verse.

Distribute copies of the lyrics, and have kids sing along as you play "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) (track 14 on the CD).

 **Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Do not be terrified;
Do not be discouraged,
For the Lord your God will be with you
Wherever you go.
Wherever you go.
(Repeat twice.)**

**Wherever you go.
Wherever you go.
Wherever you go.**

"Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) by Jay Stocker. © 2006, 2008 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.

Have kids find the "God Is With Me" section on their Bible Buzz pages and follow the directions there to reflect on God's presence in their lives. Some kids will get further through the directions than others, and that's okay. This isn't a competition, and each person will have a unique experience. Allow four minutes. Then ask kids to sit together.

Talk With Kids

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **When are you really glad to have God with you? Explain.**
- **Why does it make a difference if you acknowledge that God is with you?**
- **In what ways can you openly invite God to be with you in all aspects of your life?**

Say: **God is with us all the time, but he can lead us more easily when we pay attention to his presence in our lives. We can trust God just as Joshua did, and we'll see the difference it makes to follow God rather than ourselves. We can be thankful that ► GOD IS WITH US.**



Never Alone Supplies

-
- Bible Buzz
 - CD player
 - 1 copy per preteen of the lyrics page (at the end of this lesson)
 - Teacher Pack**
 - CD: "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) (track 14)





Daily Challenges Supplies

Bible Buzz

4 LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Let's think this week about how we can remember that ► GOD IS WITH US.**

Have kids find this week's Daily Challenges on their Bible Buzz pages and choose one to do this week. They can choose one or more of these three options:

- **When you do something that's difficult, ask God to be with you. Let your focus be on making God famous rather than making yourself look good.**
- **Talk to God all throughout the day, not just at specially planned prayer times. Treat God like a friend who's always with you.**
- **Sing "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) as a worship song to God, asking him to continue to use you to accomplish his plans.**

Make sure you choose a Daily Challenge as well, and tell the kids what you chose. Kids will be more inclined to follow through on their commitments when they see you doing the same.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead kids in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's a practical way you're going to do your Daily Challenge? Include a time, place, and other ideas.**

Say: **Joshua was faced with a task he had no hope of doing on his own, so he trusted God to be with him. Let's remember that ► GOD IS WITH US by following through with our Daily Challenges this week.**

Weaving Faith at Home

Encourage kids to talk with their parents about the Daily Challenges they chose and what they learned about God being with us. Kids can also do the activities in the "HomeConnect" section of their Bible Buzz pages with their families.

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families! Available at group.com/digital.

Have kids form groups of three and pray together, but have them sit in a square with one side open to leave a space for God. Encourage them to each take time to pray, whether silently or aloud, and then have them allow time for God to talk to them as the fourth member of their prayer circle.





Lyrics ■■■■

Wherever You Go (Joshua 1:9)

Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Do not be terrified;
Do not be discouraged,
For the Lord your God will be with you
Wherever you go.
Wherever you go.
(Repeat twice.)

Wherever you go.
Wherever you go.
Wherever you go.

“Wherever You Go” (Joshua 1:9) by Jay Stocker. © 2006, 2008 Group Publishing, Inc. All rights reserved.



 **OK**
TO COPY



