

HEROES

OF THE

FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

11

JOSHUA SERVES THE LORD

HEROES OF THE FAITH CURRICULUM—2012

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Taking church to the people



JOSHUA SERVES THE LORD

Memory Verse:

Choose for yourselves right now whom you will serve. . . But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15 (NIV)

Lesson Goals:

#1 - Understand how ordinary Joshua was

#2 - Discover what faith led Joshua to do

#3 - Desire to let God do extraordinary things in the life of the ordinary student

Audience:

Young, un-churched learners

Adaptable for all ages, including adults (See **For more training** on Activities page)

Scripture to Study:

Genesis 12:6-9

Numbers 27:12-23

Joshua 1



JOSHUA SERVES THE LORD

Genesis 12:6-9, Numbers 27:12-23, Joshua 1

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

Our hero: Joshua

His Heroic Feat: Serves God

Serving God with your whole heart may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

Let's review our last couple of lessons so we'll understand what is happening in our lesson today. Do you remember our lesson about Moses? He was born to the people of Israel, but raised in the palace of Pharaoh, king of Egypt. God used him to free the people of Israel from slavery. God led the people to freedom through the Red Sea. God gave the people rules to live by, the Ten Commandments. Then, when the people arrived at the land God had promised them, they didn't trust God. They didn't believe that God could defeat the people of the land. God's punishment was that they would wander around for forty years in the desert and none of the unbelieving adults would be able to enter the Promised Land. Even in God's punishment, He provided everything they needed.

Once the forty years of punishment was over, God took Moses up to a mountain to see the Promised Land. He did this because He knew that Moses was about to die. Moses knew this, too, and asked God to give the people of Israel a leader. Moses cared for these people and didn't want them to "be like sheep that don't have a shepherd." (Numbers 27:17b NIV) God already had someone in mind.

God chose Joshua to be the new leader of the people of Israel. Joshua had been one of the twelve men who had gone in to explore the Promised Land. He and Caleb were the only two of twelve men who took God at His word and believed God would help them move into the Promised Land. Joshua had also been Moses' helper over the last forty years.

God said that Joshua had the ability to be a wise leader. (Numbers 27:18) God told Moses to put Joshua in charge while everyone was watching. "Give him some authority. Then the whole community of Israel will obey him." (Numbers 27:19b-20 NIV)

Moses obeyed God. He presented Joshua to all of the people of Israel. "Then Moses placed his hands on Joshua. And he put him in charge of the people. He did just as

the Lord had directed through Moses.” (Numbers 27:23 Nlrv)

Moses died. After that, God began to speak to Joshua. God’s first words to Joshua were a reminder of what Joshua already believed about God. He said, “My servant Moses is dead. Now then, I want you and all of these people to get ready to go across the Jordan River. I want all of you to go into the land I am about to give the people of Israel.” (Joshua 1:2 Nlrv) God told Joshua that all of the land was theirs, just as He had with Abraham. (Genesis 12:5-7) It was finally time! And Joshua would lead the people into the land he trusted God was giving them forty years before!

As God talked with Joshua, He told him over and over again, “Be strong and brave.” (Joshua 1:6, 7, 9) He could do this because God would be with Joshua as long as he lived. So, just as God gave the orders to Joshua, Joshua gave the orders to the people. Joshua even encouraged the people as God had encouraged him, “Just be strong and brave.”

And when, in the course of taking the land, the people began to turn away from God, Joshua stood firm in his belief in God. He told the people, “But suppose you don’t want to serve [God]. Then choose for yourselves right now whom you will serve. You can choose the gods your people served east of the Euphrates River. Or you can choose the gods the Amorites serve. After all, you are living in their land. But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.” (Joshua 24:15 Nlrv)

YOU CAN BE A HERO, TOO!

When you live a life of faith in Jesus Christ, you don’t have to leap tall buildings to be a hero. Joshua served the Lord. Have you chosen to serve the Lord. Will you accept Joshua’s charge to choose today the one you will serve? Will it be the Lord?

In our last lessons we have seen that God spoke through Moses and then Joshua, but when you choose to follow and serve the Lord, He begins to speak to you and guide you. He does this through His Holy Spirit. Do you remember that it is the power of the Holy Spirit that is the dynamite in our lives? Don’t you want to experience that in your life?

NEXT WEEK
Rahab Welcomes Spies

PRE-SCHOOL!

LESSON

Who can tell me what a hero is? A hero is someone who is courageous and brave and compassionate. There are heroes and heroines in the Bible. All of them are brave and courageous and more, but not in the way you would expect.

Our hero: Joshua

His Heroic Feat: Serves God

Serving God with your whole heart may not sound very heroic, but let's look at the facts and see what you think when you have heard the whole story!

When it was time for the people of Israel to go into the land God had promised, God took Moses up to a mountain to see the Promised Land. He did this because He knew that Moses was about to die. Moses knew this, too. He asked God to give the people of Israel a leader. God already had someone in mind.

God chose Joshua to be the new leader of the people of Israel. Joshua had been one of the twelve men who had gone in to explore the Promised Land. He and Caleb were the only two who believed God would help them move into the Promised Land. Joshua had also been Moses' helper over the last forty years.

God said that Joshua could be a wise leader. (Numbers 27:18) God told Moses to put Joshua in charge while everyone was watching. Moses obeyed God. He presented Joshua to all of the people of Israel.

Then, Moses died. After that, God began to speak to Joshua. God said, "My servant Moses is dead. Now then, I want you and all of these people to get ready to go across the Jordan River. I want all of you to go into the land I am about to give the people of Israel." (Joshua 1:2 NIV) God told Joshua that all of the land was theirs. It was finally time! And Joshua would lead the people into the land!

God told Joshua to "Be strong and brave." (Joshua 1:6, 7, 9) He could do this because God would be with Joshua as long as he lived.

The people were not always obedient to God, but Joshua was faithful. He told the people, "Choose for yourselves right now whom you will serve. . . But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15 NIV)

ACTIVITIES!

- Memory Verse Activity - Make banners. Banners were carried into battle before the army. Make your own banners for the battles you face each day. Include the memory verse. Encourage your students to be creative.
- Continue adding heroes' names and heroic feats to your "Heroes Banner."
- Sing "Step by Step" or other praise songs related to the lesson.
- Do the Math – 1) Read Genesis 46:8-27. How many people went into Egypt during the famine? The Answer: 70 2) What had God promised Abraham regarding his descendants? Read Genesis 15:1-6. 3) After 430 years of slavery, how many people came out of the land and made it forty years through the desert? Read Numbers 26:1-51. The Answer: 601, 730. Discuss how God keeps His promises.
- **For more training:** Have you ever wondered how to have success? God told Joshua exactly what to do to have success. Read the following verses and discuss them. (Joshua 1:7-8)
- **For more training:** Did you know that the people of Israel are still at odds with other people who live in the "Promised Land?" In fact, the people of Israel, the Jews, aren't even inhabiting all the land that God promised to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and again to Joshua. Do you think that a small piece of land is all there is to God's promise? NO! Read Hebrews 11:8-10, 12-16. What was the country they were really looking for? Heaven, our real home.

CHOOSE

for yourselves right now
whom you will serve. . .

But as for me
and my family,
we will serve the Lord.

Joshua 24:15

HEROES

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FAITH

Ordinary Men and Women . . .
Super Ordinary Power

HERO IN TRAINING

Joshua Serves the Lord

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Taking church to the people

HERO TRAINING!

Scripture: Numbers 27:12-23, Joshua 1

Memory verse:

Choose for yourselves right now whom you will serve. . . But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15 (NIV)

Our Hero: _____

What did our hero do that was so heroic? _____

What can you do to be a **Hero of the Faith**? _____



What power do Heroes of the Faith possess?

Do you have the power?

Read through the Scriptures above. Make note of how a new leader was chosen for the people of Israel. _____

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Answer the following questions from the lesson. Rearrange the circled letters to fill in the missing word from the memory verse.

	○		○		
--	---	--	---	--	--

The new leader of the people of Israel.

	○		○	○
--	---	--	---	---

God allowed him to see the Promised Land before he died.

○					
---	--	--	--	--	--

Another name for the Promised Land.

_____ for yourselves right now whom you will serve. . .

But as for me and my family,
we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15 (NIRV)

WORD

SEARCH!

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

- forty years
- Moses will die
- sees Canaan
- Moses prayed
- new leader
- Joshua chosen
- promised land
- will enter
- serve the Lord

HIDDEN MESSAGE!

Answer Page

Can you crack the code to find the Hidden Message?
Answer the following questions from the lesson. Rearrange the circled letters to fill in the missing word from the memory verse.

J	O	S	H	U	A
---	---	---	---	---	---

The new leader of the people of Israel.

M	O	S	E	S
---	---	---	---	---

God allowed him to see the Promised Land before he died.

C	A	N	A	A	N
---	---	---	---	---	---

Another name for the Promised Land.

Choose for yourselves right now whom you will serve. . .

But as for me and my family,
we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15 (NirV)

WORD

SEARCH!

Answer Page

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

- forty years
- Moses will die
- sees Canaan
- Moses prayed
- new leader
- Joshua chosen
- promised land
- will enter
- serve the Lord