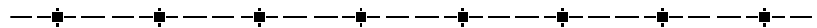


# Old Testament

Mission Arlington • Mission Metroplex Curriculum • 2008

# Families of the Old Testament



Created for use with young, unchurched learners  
Adaptable for all ages including adults

# Old Testament

## A Family Chooses God

Joshua

Joshua 24

## A Family Chooses God

Joshua 24:14-27

### Memory Verse:

Jesus answered, "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve.'" (Luke 4:8 NIV)

### Lesson Goals:

1. Learn that Joshua challenged Israel to serve God.
2. Learn that Joshua and his family chose to take a stand for God.
3. Recognize that Joshua was a spiritual family leader.
4. Understand that Joshua's faith influenced the nation of Israel.

Last week we learned about the faith of Rahab. Rahab hid three Israelite spies when they went to Jericho. She saved their lives. When the Israelites took over Jericho, the Israelites saved the lives of Rahab and her family..

### Read the Bible

**READ: Joshua 24:14-27 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

### Begin with Prayer

God had chosen Joshua to lead the people of Israel after the death of Moses. But Israel had not always been faithful to follow God. Joshua called the people of Israel together. He told them that they should serve God, respect God and be faithful only to God. Joshua told the people of Israel to throw away their false gods. (Joshua 24:14) God had told Israel not to worship idols. But the Israelites had not obeyed the commandments God gave Moses. (Exodus 20:1-17)

Joshua told the people of Israel that perhaps it would be too hard for them to serve God because it would mean they could only serve Him. He challenged them to choose at that moment whether to serve God or to serve their false gods. Then Joshua took a stand for God. He faced the Israelites and said, "But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15 NIV)

Joshua was not only the leader for Israel, but he was the leader in his family. It is important for spiritual leaders to be leaders in their families. (1 Timothy 3:1-4) He told the Israelites that his family would serve God. He told them that he would serve God. God wants us to be strong leaders who are willing to choose to serve Him.

When Joshua and his family took a stand, the people of Israel said they wanted to serve God, too. They told Joshua that they knew that God brought them out of Egypt. They remembered they had been slaves. They said they had seen God's mighty miracles with their own eyes. They confessed that God kept them safe as they traveled. They knew God had given them the land and made room for them to live in the land. So the Israelites said they, too would choose to serve God. (Joshua 24:16-18)

Joshua challenged Israel saying, "You aren't able to serve the Lord. He is a holy God. He is a jealous God." (Joshua 24:19) Joshua did not want Israel to make a promise to serve God and not take it seriously. He continued his warning by telling Israel that if they sinned against God there

### Moses —Bible Facts

1. Joshua chose to serve God.
2. Joshua's family chose to serve God.
3. Joshua told the Israelites to give up their false gods.
4. Joshua questioned the Israelites willingness to serve God.
5. Joshua had faith that impacted the nation.

would be consequences. Joshua warned that if they turned against God, He would punish them. Joshua told them that they would face trouble if they sinned against God. Joshua let them know that even though God had been good to Israel, sin against God would lead to trouble. (Joshua 24:19-20) Joshua wanted to stress the importance of serving God only. Moses had given God's commands to the people of Israel. God commanded them to worship Him alone. "It is written: 'Worship the Lord your God. He is the only one you should serve.'" (Luke 4:8 NIV)

The people of Israel told Joshua that they would serve the Lord. Joshua stressed, "You are witnesses against yourselves. You have said that you have chosen to serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:22) The Israelites again said that they would be witnesses to their choice to serve God alone. Joshua did not stop there. He told the Israelites that they must throw away their idols. Sadly, Israel, God's chosen people served other gods. Joshua let them know that this did not please God. Just as Joshua let Israel know that God was not pleased, Jesus came to let us know what does and does not please God.

Joshua wrote down the rules of God for the Israelites. He recorded everything they promised. He put a stone near a tree as a reminder of the choice they made. He told them that the stone would also give witness to the choice they made to serve God alone. (Joshua 24:23-27) Because Joshua and his family took a stand, their faith influenced the faith of the whole nation of Israel.

### Review questions

1. **What did Joshua do?** (Joshua chose to serve God.)
2. **What did Joshua's family do?** (Joshua's family chose to serve God.)
3. **What did Joshua tell the Israelites to do?** (Joshua told the Israelites to give up their false gods.)
4. **What did Joshua question?** (Joshua questioned the Israelites willingness to serve God.)
5. **How did Joshua's faith affect Israel?** (Joshua had faith that impacted the nation.)

### Do you know Jesus?

Joshua had strong faith. His faith helped all of Israel choose to serve God. Jesus chose to obey God. He came to die on the cross for our sins. Because Jesus chose to obey God, we can have God's forgiveness and eternal life. The Bible says that if we ask God to forgive us, He will. (1 John 1:9) When we confess that Jesus is Lord and believe in our heart that God raised Him from the dead, we can be saved. (Romans 10:9-10)

### Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to save us.
3. Ask God to help you take a stand.
4. Pray for friends and family members who need to choose to serve God.

### Application

Joshua was a spiritual family leader. Joshua and his family chose to take a stand for God. Joshua challenged Israel to serve God. God wants us to have faith like Joshua. Joshua had the kind of faith that was not a secret. Joshua's conviction was so strong that he challenged a whole nation to choose to serve God. Because he took a stand for God, Joshua's faith influenced the nation of Israel.

### Planning for the next week:

Deborah (A Woman Helps God's Children) — Judges 4-7

# Preschool Lesson

## Read the Bible

**READ: Joshua 2:14-27 (Hold your Bible open throughout the story.)**

After Moses died, Joshua became the leader for Israel. Joshua was not only the leader for Israel, but he was the leader in his family. It is important for spiritual leaders to be leaders in their families. (1 Timothy 3:1-4) He told the Israelites that his family would serve God. He told them that he would serve God.

Sometimes being obedient can be hard. Can you think of a time when it was hard for you to obey? Maybe when you were asked to share? Or wait for your turn?

God had told Israel not to worship idols. But the Israelites had not obeyed the commandments God gave Moses. (Exodus 20:1-17) It makes God sad when we do not obey. When God gives us a command, He wants us to obey Him.

Joshua told the people of Israel that perhaps it would be too hard for them to serve God because it would mean they could only serve Him. He told them to choose, right then, whether to serve God or to serve their false gods.

Then Joshua did a very courageous thing. He took a stand for God. He faced the Israelites and said, "But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15 NIV) Because Joshua did that, Israel also followed God.

God sent Jesus to help us know what God wants us to do and how God wants us to behave.

### Prayer Time

1. Take a moment to listen to God.
2. Thank God for sending Jesus to help us know what God wants.
3. Pray for friends and family members to choose to serve God.

**Did you know?** Preschoolers can be taught about obedience.

Consider this: Make posters with pictures that depict rules. Talk about how the rules help us.

Posters could include: hot stove, stop sign, jumping from bed, etc. Talk about consequences.

If you touch a hot stove, you get burned. If you don't stop at a stop sign, you could get hit. If you jump on a bed and fall, you could get hurt. Tell the children that rules help us. God wants us to obey Him because He wants what is best for us. Sing, "Obedience Is," or a song related to the story.

## Learning Activities

- **Memory verse activity** — Write the words of the memory verse on small stones. Have the children repeat the memory verse until they learn it.
- **Test your memory** — Make a list of all the things that the people of Israel said that God did for them, the things they had seen, etc. from Joshua 24. Have the children use the list to retell the story.
- **Taste activity** — Bring bottled water or water and cups. Add individual flavored packets of drink mix that colors the water. Talk about how choosing to serve God can change the lives of people around us.
- **Think about it** — Tell the children that Israel worshipped idols. Talk about things that we worship. Remind the children that God wants us to worship Him alone.

Tell the children that choosing to serve God may not be easy. Make hats or t-shirts that say, “I Choose to Serve God.” Ask the children what would happen if they wore those to the grocery store, school, etc. Talk about the influence they would have.

Bring instruments. Ask the children to play the instruments. Talk about how the sound carries to places outside your area. Tell the children that sound goes to places and we cannot stop it. Talk about how faith can influence others.

- **Touch activity** — Joshua used a stone as a reminder of their promise to serve God alone. Allow the children to place a large stone in an area of your room. Ask them to pray and ask God to help them to serve Him alone. Allow the children to decorate the stone with their thumbprint. Place their initial next to their thumbprint.
- **Run and play** — Tell the children that Israel had to get rid of their idols. Tell the children it is important to obey immediately. Create a list of things (sins) that the children need to stop doing or need to get rid of. Have them run races carrying pieces of paper that represent things they need to get rid of. Have them place the pieces of paper in a trash can.
- **Listen** — As they take time to listen to God, remind the children that the Israelites had to choose to serve God alone. Tell them God wants them to worship Him only, too.
- **Sing** — Sing “Obedience Is,” or a song related to the story.

## Memory Verse

Jesus  
answered,  
"It is written:  
"Worship the Lord  
your God. He is  
the only one you  
should serve."  
(Luke 4:8 NIV)

## Word Art

Trace the letters.

Joshua's

faith

influenced

a nation.

## Word Puzzle

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

ISRAEL

SERVE

RESPECT

FAITHFUL

COMMANDS

MOSES

HOLY

JEALOUS

WITNESS



# Word Puzzle

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

ISRAEL

SERVE

RESPECT

FAITHFUL

COMMANDS

MOSES

HOLY

JEALOUS

WITNESS

## Word Puzzle For Younger Children

L J A E I S R A E L I W

P D B Z T U R V E H S P

H O L Y B R L D N U W L

G S V N K N F G D B O H

T V K I C O M M A N D S

F O B K S E R V E W E S

J L W M O S E S Z O K F

R E S P E C T U N L Y I

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L J A E I S R A E L I W

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H O L Y B R L D N U W L

G S V N K N F G D B O H

T V K I C O M M A N D S

F O B K S E R V E W E S

J L W M O S E S Z O K F

R E S P E C T U N L Y I

ISRAEL

SERVE

RESPECT

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COMMANDS

MOSES

## Anagram

1. IMALFY–

2. EAERLD –

3. NNTAIO–

4. EERVS–

5. COEOSH–

6. IAFTFUHL–

7. EOALN–

8. HRSWIPO–

## Anagram

1. IMALFY– FAMILY
2. EAERLD – LEADER
3. NNTAIO– NATION
4. EERVS– SERVE
5. COEOSH– CHOOSE
6. IAFTFUHL– FAITHFUL
7. EOALN– ALONE
8. HRSWIPO– WORSHIP