

# SHARE THE BIBLE LESSON

## WEEK 4

### God calls Joshua to be His servant

Joshua 1:1-9



## DAY 1

God called Joshua to be His servant • Joshua 1:1-2

### READ

Joshua 1:1-2

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Joshua 1:1-2

Sometimes we think only about human leaders and forget that God is our true leader. Israel lost Moses, the man who had led them for so long. But God took care of Israel by picking a new leader. This choice shows us, first, that no one can just decide to be a leader of God's people (Jer 23:21). God decides. Second, God leads His people by choosing leaders who have already proven to be faithful servants (1 Tim 3:2-7). Joshua had been Moses' assistant for nearly 40 years, and he had led Israel's army to numerous victories (Exod 17:8-16). He had been one of only two faithful spies (Num 14:26). So Joshua had proven himself faithful in smaller roles before God called him to lead the whole nation (Matt 25:23). Third, God leads His people by empowering the leaders of His people. Moses had changed Joshua's name from Hoshea, which means "salvation," to Joshua, which means "God is salvation," as a reminder of who is really in charge (Num 13:16). Since God is the true leader, He raises up faithful men to lead His people.

### ASK

- Who died just before Israel entered the promised land?  
*Moses.*
- Who decided that Joshua would be the next leader?  
*God did.*
- What kind of person does God choose to lead His people?  
*He chooses faithful servants who depend on God.*
- What does the name Joshua mean?  
*Joshua means "The LORD is salvation."*
- What was Joshua's mission?  
*To lead Israel across the Jordan and into the promised land.*

### DISCUSS

- What are some ways you can be a faithful servant now, so that you are ready to be used by God in bigger ways later?
- Read 1 Peter 5:1-4. How should leaders of God's people think of themselves?

## DAY 2

God confirmed His promises to Joshua • Joshua 1:3–5

### READ

Joshua 1:3–5

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Joshua 1:3–5

Many times God calls us to do things that seem too difficult for us. Joshua, for example, wondered how he was to lead over 2 million stubborn people across a flooded river into enemy territory! You may not face that kind of difficulty, but God's answer is the same: trust and obey. God encouraged Joshua to trust His promise (Josh 1:3) and trust that God would give the victory (1:5). It did not depend on Joshua's small strength. But that did not mean Joshua could just do nothing. If you believe what God says, you will also do what He says. To have the victory God promised, Joshua had to act in faith and lead Israel into all the land (1:2–3). Joshua did just that, and at the end of his life he could look back and see that God had kept His promise (21:45). The good news is that if you are a believer, God is with you as He was with Joshua (1:5; Gal 2:20; 1 Cor 15:10). He will enable you to do all He calls you to do. You must simply trust and obey.

### ASK

1. How did God encourage Joshua in his difficult task?  
*God reminded Joshua of His promises, His power, and His presence. God Himself would win the victory.*
2. What did Israel need to do in order to enjoy God's promise about the land?  
*Israel needed to enter the land by faith—wherever they entered, God would give victory.*
3. What was special about the way God promised to be with Joshua?  
*God promised to be with Joshua just like He had been with Moses.*

### DISCUSS

1. What are some difficult things you know you are supposed to do? What are some things you are afraid of?
2. Read Matthew 28:20 and Hebrews 13:5–6. Is Jesus with you? Do you have anything to fear?

## DAY 3

God commanded Joshua to be strong • Joshua 1:6–9

### READ

Joshua 1:6–9

### EXPLAIN

#### The truth of Joshua 1:6–9

We are often afraid and feel like giving up, so God tells us over and over, “Be strong and courageous” (Josh 1:6, 7, 9; Matt 14:27). But where can you find strength and courage? You can find strength and courage, first, in God's word (Josh 1:7b–8). Joshua was to obey God's law carefully, without turning to the right or to the left (1:7; Deut 28:14). If he would do this, he would

have success. But to obey the law so carefully, Joshua needed to meditate on the law day and night (Josh 1:8). It was to be so much a part of him that it was constantly coming out of his mouth. Second, you can find strength and courage from God's presence. God told Joshua not to fear because He would be with him wherever he went (1:9). In the end, God's own presence would give Joshua success. These promises are for you too, if you believe. As you keep God's word (Jas 1:25) and depend upon God's presence (Rom 8:9), God will give you success. So be strong and courageous as you do what God calls you to do

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**ASK** 

1. What was Joshua supposed to meditate on and obey?  
*Joshua was supposed to meditate on and obey God's word.*
2. What would happen if Joshua obeyed God's law?  
*Joshua would have success.*
3. Who would give Joshua success?  
*God. God's presence protects, blesses, and gives success in doing His will.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Have you failed recently to do something God's word tells you to do? Was this because you lost sight of God's word? Did you stop depending on God's presence?
2. Read Psalm 119 until you can list 10 blessings that come from God's word.

**DAY 4***The blessed man delights in the law of the LORD • Psalm 1:1–3***READ** 

Psalm 1

**EXPLAIN** **The truth of Psalm 1:1–3**

Joshua found strength, courage, and success by knowing and doing God's word. Psalm 1 describes how you also can enjoy all of God's blessings and experience deep joy in your relationship with God. So how do you get this blessing? First, by avoiding the wrong input: do not walk, stand, or sit with sinners (Ps 1:1). Don't even start down this road, because it goes from bad to worse. Walking turns into sitting. Listening to ungodly counsel—counsel that seems neutral but leaves God out—turns into openly scoffing at God. Second, you must then embrace the right input: delight in God's word (1:2). Love God's word above all earthly pleasures. Meditate on it at all hours of the day. Let your mind and mouth overflow with God's true words. Then, like a tree that always has water even when there is no rain, you will flourish even when life is hard. You will produce lasting spiritual fruit both in good times and in bad. As you treasure God's word above all, you will have success in all that God calls you to do.

**ASK** 

1. What does the blessed man not do?  
*He stays away from ungodly input into his life.*
2. How do sinners go from bad to worse?  
*Passing through (walking) turns to staying (sitting). Leaving God out of your thoughts leads to openly mocking God.*
3. What does the blessed man do?  
*He delights in God's word and meditates on God's word.*
4. Why does the blessed man have success in everything he does?  
*Because he treasures God's word above all.*

**DISCUSS** 

1. Do you delight in God's word? Compare the amount of time you spend reading, studying, and thinking about God's word with other activities in your life.
2. Can you think of a time when you remembered God's word and it gave you success?

# DAY 5

Jesus is always with those who belong to him • Matthew 28:20

## READ

Matthew 28:16–20

## EXPLAIN

### The truth of Matthew 28:20

When Joshua was afraid, God filled him with courage by promising to be with Him. Jesus did the same thing for the disciples when He was about to ascend into heaven. Without Jesus physically with them, what strength would the disciples have to take His message to the world? So Jesus focused their attention on Himself. He said, “I Myself” am with you (Matt 28:20). This promise is for you too, if you believe and proclaim Jesus. Jesus is Immanuel, “God with us” (1:23), and He stays with us until “the end of the age,” when He will return to judge the world and set up His earthly kingdom (cf. 13:37–50). The God who was with Joshua and the Israelites as they took possession of the Promised Land is the same God who is with you. But His presence is for a specific purpose. He is present with you not to get you what you want, but to give you success in making disciples by spreading the good news of Christ throughout the world. That is good news: by His presence, you can succeed in your highest calling.

## ASK

1. What job did Jesus give to the disciples and to all believers?  
*He commands us to make disciples by teaching about Jesus all over the world.*
2. This is a hard job. What strength do we have to do it?  
*He said that He Himself is with us.*
3. How long do Christians enjoy the presence of Jesus?  
*Forever.*
4. How powerful is Jesus’ presence?  
*All-powerful. He has all authority in heaven and on earth (28:18).*

## DISCUSS

1. Are you afraid of telling others about Jesus? What can you remember to overcome your fear?
2. Have you recently tried to obey God but failed? Were you relying on your own strength instead of trusting in the power of Jesus’ presence?

## NEXT WEEK

### God approves Rahab’s faith

Joshua 2:1–24

