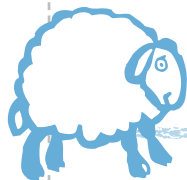




Lesson Three

Joshua Is Strong and Courageous



Nourishing Your Heart

Scripture

Joshua 1:1–9; 10:1–28

Bible Truth

Joshua was strong and courageous because he trusted in the faithfulness of God.

Lesson Aim

To identify ways to be strong and courageous workers for God.

To see how the calling of Joshua and the battle of Gibeon reveal God's character and purpose, we must place these events in the context of God's dealings with his people.

When God entered into a covenant with Abraham, he promised to give the land of Canaan to Abraham and his descendants. But this promise was not fulfilled during Abraham's lifetime. In fact, his descendants left the land and became slaves in Egypt.

Years later, God chose Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to the Promised Land. Because of the faithlessness of the people, God did not allow them to go in and possess it at that time, but after 40 years in the desert, God again brought them within sight of Canaan. God chose Joshua to lead his people into the land after Moses died.

It would be an act of faith for the Israelites to cross the Jordan, for they knew that in order to possess the land they must defeat their enemies. But Joshua's confidence in the sovereign grace and power of God gave him courage. Apart from God's leading and help, it would have been absolute foolishness to lead the motley band of Israelite nomads against fortified cities, allied kings, and trained soldiers. Apart from God's clear direction, it would have been absurd to use

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such battle tactics as marching around a city while blowing trumpets or commanding the sun and moon to stand still. Joshua's courage was based on his knowledge of the character of God, who showed his faithfulness to his people in calling Joshua to lead the Israelites forward.

The aim of this story is not merely to have our children see Joshua as a brilliant soldier, moral leader, and courageous hero. Pray that they will see God as the only source of courage in the battle against their enemy Satan. Pray also that they will come to know and obediently follow the God of covenant faithfulness, who sovereignly calls his people to himself and then gives them the strength and courage to serve him well.

Memory Verse

REVIEW:

MATTHEW 5:16

PHILIPPIANS 2:13