

Joshua's Final Instructions and Warnings

Joshua 23-24



Old Testament 4
Part 2: Joshua Leads God's People

SUNDAY MORNING

Old Testament 4 [Class Attendance Sheet](#) provided in activity sheets (NOTE: The document is interactive, allowing the teacher to type in the Class, Teacher, and the children's names.)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Joshua 23-24; Luke 9:23; 14:25-27; Matthew 6:24

MEMORY WORK:

YOUNGER CHILDREN: "But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15b).

OLDER CHILDREN: "[C]hoose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

SONGS AND FINGERPLAYS (SEE END OF LESSON FOR WORDS):

A [song book](#) and [audio recordings](#) of many of the curriculum songs are available on the curriculum Web site.

- ["Joshua's Choice"](#)
- ["God's Little Children Love Living Right!"](#)
- ["Choose You This Day"](#)

LESSON VISUALS AND TEACHING AIDS (NOTE ANY DISCLAIMERS):

- See [AP's Pinterest page](#) for ideas on bulletin boards, visuals, crafts, etc. [DISCLAIMER: Pins may sometimes need to be adjusted to be Scriptural.]
- [God's People and Joshua Bible fact cards](#) (provided under "O.T. 4 Bible Facts" on curriculum Web site)
- "Summary of the Bible" from "[Kids Prep](#)" CD by Jeff Miller
- Joshua A Beka Flash-A-Card Series (DISCLAIMER: use the cards, *not the lesson book*)
- Pictures of the Bible, the cross, the Lord's Supper, and other things that remind us of God's many gifts to us
- Pictures of idols, video games, sports figures, and other things that distract us from God



PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God wants us to remember what He has done for us, and to choose every day to serve Him.

LESSON STARTS HERE

INTRODUCTION: (YOUNGER CHILDREN)

Joshua was a great leader of God’s people. When he became too old to lead the Israelites, it was time for someone else to take over. At the end of his life, he had many wise things to tell the children of Israel. Most of all, he wanted to remind the people how important it is to always obey God.

INTRODUCTION: (OLDER CHILDREN)

Joshua was a great leader of God’s people. When he became too old to lead the Israelites, it was time for someone else to take over. At the end of his life, he had many wise things to tell the children of Israel. In Joshua’s farewell speech, he reminded them how important it is to always obey God, no matter what. He also told them how they would be punished if they started living like the idol-worshipping people in Canaan.

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. When the Israelites settled in their areas of the Promised Land, Joshua also made his home in the land which he was given (near Shechem). Joshua had been a great soldier, but at the age of 110, he knew that his life would soon be over. He was worried that the Israelites would not follow God after his death. He called the leaders of the 12 tribes together [probably near Shiloh (Joshua 18:1)]. He reminded them of all the great ways God had helped them since they had left Egyptian slavery. “[F]or the Lord your God is He who has fought for you” (Joshua 23:3b).
2. Joshua reminded the people that Jehovah God had kept His promises to them for hundreds of years. God had told them that they had to put Him first in everything. The first two of the Ten Commandments said that God didn’t want them to worship anything or anyone but Him. The people of Canaan worshipped many idols. Their religion was very evil. Some of them even sacrificed babies to their false gods. The Israelites had gotten rid of many of the idol-worshipping people, but not all of them.
3. God knew—and Joshua knew—that there was a very real danger that the Israelites would relax, become friends with their enemies, and start to accept the evil things they did (read 1 Corinthians 15:33; Exodus 23:32-33). This is called “compromise.” If the Israelites compromised, they would be more and more comfortable with the idol-worshippers, become their friends, and even marry them. It wouldn’t take very long until they would start forgetting about God and worshipping idols themselves. They would soon lose their identity as God’s chosen people.
4. In chapter 24, Joshua gathered all the Israelites at Shechem. As Joshua talked to them, three different times all the people said to Joshua that they would follow God’s commandments (Joshua 24:18,21,24). Joshua said, “choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve; ... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” As a reminder to them of their promises to follow God, Joshua set up a stone under an oak tree near the Tabernacle. He wrote his words down so that the people could look at them later and remember what they had promised and remember what God expected of them.



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Why Humanity Should Serve God](#)” by Wayne Jackson on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to the accusation that God has an inflated ego by expecting everyone to worship Him.

5. Joshua, “the servant of the Lord” (Joshua 24:29), died and was buried in the hill country of Ephraim. Then Eleazar, the High Priest and son of Aaron, also died and was buried in the hill country of Ephraim.
6. Joshua had been such a strong leader that as long as he lived, the people followed the Lord. His influence was so strong that the other men who lived during his lifetime also helped the Israelites stay faithful to God. But after these leaders and Joshua died, the people broke their promise to be faithful to God. They did exactly what they promised Joshua they would not do: they adopted the ways of the idol-worshipping people of Canaan, married them, and eventually worshipped idols themselves.
7. There were many things and places in the Promised Land to remind the people to be faithful to God: the battlegrounds all over Canaan where Joshua had led them in battle, the large stone Joshua put under the oak tree, the twelve stones that were set up when the Israelites crossed the Jordan River, Joshua’s words which were written down, the grave of their ancestor Joseph, the Ark of the Covenant, and many other things. After carrying Joseph’s bones with them for 40 years through the wilderness, they finally buried Joseph in “the family plot” in Canaan. The grave was a great reminder of how one man lived in a difficult place, but still was faithful to God.
8. The people needed reminders, and so do we. Today, reminders for us to be faithful include the Bible, the cross of Jesus, the Lord’s Supper, the lives of different people in the Bible, etc. In everything we do, God wants us to **remember** what He has done for us and always be faithful (i.e., to choose to serve and obey Him).



RECOMMENDED READING FOR TEACHERS: See the article “[Hidden Hittites](#)” by Kyle Butt on the Apologetics Press Web site for a response to the claim that the Hittites (Joshua 24:11) never actually existed.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—BEFORE CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

- Click here for complete [Activity Book](#) and [Answer Key](#).

Ages 2-5:

- “[Joshua’s Final Instructions Coloring Sheet](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[House and Memory Verse Activity](#)” (provided in activity sheets): Have a page for each child with the outline of a house drawn on it, along with the memory verse. Let the children draw their family members in the house.

1st-2nd Graders:

- Tic-Tac-Toe, Hang Man, or other game to play on the board, reviewing facts from all the lessons in this series.
- “[Joshua’s Final Instructions Matching Activity](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Sword Drill: Write the following verses on small cards: Psalm 119:11; 2 Timothy 2:15;

Deuteronomy 6:4-5; 31:23; Joshua 1:9; Proverbs 22:1; 3:7; Joshua 24:15. Give each student a verse and give them two to five minutes to find the verses.

- “[Joshua’s Final Instructions Crossword Puzzle](#)” (provided in activity sheets)

3rd-4th Graders:

- Tic-Tac-Toe, Hang Man, or other game to play on the board, reviewing facts from all the lessons in this series
- “[Joshua’s Final Instructions Crossword Puzzle](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- “[Joshua’s Final Instructions Matching Activity](#)” (provided in activity sheets)
- Sword Drill: Write the following verses on small cards: Psalm 119:11; 2 Timothy 2:15; Deuteronomy 6:4-5; 31:23; Joshua 1:9; Proverbs 22:1; 3:7; Joshua 24:15. Give each student a verse and give them two to three minutes to find the verses. Discuss the verses as time permits.
- Have the children read Joshua chapters 23-24.

SONGS:

“JOSHUA’S CHOICE”

Author: Jewel Kendrick

(Words: See *Sing a Story: Volume I*, by Jewel Kendrick)

“GOD’S LITTLE CHILDREN LOVE LIVING RIGHT!” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Sarah Richey

(Tune: “Mammy’s Little Baby Loves Short’nin’ Bread”)

God’s little children love living, living,
God’s little children love living right!

(REPEAT)

Get out the Bible, turn to the place,
Gonna talk about Jesus and His saving grace!
He is our Savior; He saved our race!
Gonna spread Jesus all over this place!

(REPEAT FIRST STANZA)

“CHOOSE YOU THIS DAY” ([Click to Hear](#))

Author: Unknown*

(Tune: “Are You Sleeping”)

Choose you this day,
Choose you this day,

Whom to serve,
Whom to serve.

As for me and my house,
As for me and my house,

We’ll serve God.
We’ll serve God.

*Author Unknown: Please contact us through the feedback button for this lesson if you are aware of any copyright information for this song.

*** IF YOU HAVE SUGGESTIONS PERTAINING TO THIS LESSON, PLEASE CLICK THE “SUGGESTION” BUTTON BESIDE THE BUTTON FOR THIS LESSON ON THE CURRICULUM WEB SITE.



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PERSONAL APPLICATION:

God wants us to remember what He has done for us, and to choose every day to serve Him.

INTRODUCTION:

Review [O.T. 4 Bible Facts Flashcards](#) (provided under “O.T. 4 Bible Facts” on curriculum Web site)

POINTS TO EMPHASIZE:

1. Review Sunday’s lesson (see [O.T. 4 Review Questions](#) for example questions)
2. Spend time reviewing the books of the Bible and the memory verse for this lesson.

PRE-CLASS ACTIVITIES/LEARNING CENTERS (TO BE USED AS CHILDREN ARE ARRIVING—**BEFORE** CLASS, AND UP TO THE FIRST FIVE MINUTES OF CLASS; OR AS HOMEWORK):

See Sunday morning’s lesson.

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