



Introduction

About ABC

Mission

Answers Bible Curriculum was developed to present the gospel, beginning in Genesis, to all generations; to train believers to know, obey, and defend God’s Word; and to encourage believers to become conformed to the image of Christ.

Overview

The 2009 book *Already Gone* by Ken Ham and Britt Beemer (and the scientific study on which the book is based) reveals the reasons why young people are leaving the church. In much of the teaching today in our churches, the Bible is disconnected from the real world, and the authority of Scripture is undermined and replaced with secular reasoning using man’s ideas.

The church has failed to teach the Bible as relevant fact. We have, intentionally or unintentionally, taught the Scriptures as nothing but “stories” that relate to spiritual matters but have avoided engaging the challenging questions from the secular world that bombard churched children and adults the other 166 hours of their week. As a result, children are beginning to doubt the Bible—and the gospel message that it presents—as early as elementary school. Many studies confirm that more than 60% of young people leave the church after they graduate from high school.

Answers Bible Curriculum was designed and written to provide answers to the questions and issues that confront youth (and adults) in school, in the media, from friends, at work, etc. It is our hope and prayer that God will be pleased to use this curriculum to instill a lifelong trust in the Bible and in the God who authored it.

Guiding Principles

Certain principles guided our writers, editors, and reviewers as we developed Answers Bible Curriculum. These principles are reflected in the teaching, activities, and illustrations presented throughout the curriculum.

We can trust all of God's Word beginning in Genesis.

- God's Word is true; God does not lie.
- The historical record of the Bible is confirmed often by historical, archaeological, and scientific support.

God's attributes are displayed throughout the Bible.

- God's sovereignty is demonstrated in history as he fulfills his purposes through people and events.
- God's attributes (including his holiness, justice, love, and mercy) are demonstrated through his dealings with people.

The Bible presents true history.

- The Bible presents real history, showing the unfolding plan of God to redeem a people for himself.
- The historical accounts of the Bible intersect with secular history.

We must carefully and accurately interpret the Bible.

- The proper use of hermeneutics helps us understand the Bible accurately.
- Understanding the Bible requires time and effort.

God's plan of redemption is woven throughout Scripture.

- God's plan of redemption is presented throughout the Bible, beginning in Genesis.
- Many accounts in the Old Testament connect to the New Testament and point to Jesus and the gospel message.

We must be ready to give a defense for what we believe.

- Students and adults must be equipped with answers to questions skeptics ask.
- We can use science, history, archaeology, etc. to confirm the accuracy of the biblical record.

We are to live in light of what the Bible teaches.

- God's Word is applicable today.
- We can learn from scriptural examples of obedience (and disobedience) to God's Word.
- Believers are called to walk in obedience to God's Word.

Bible Version

Answers Bible Curriculum uses the English Standard Version (ESV) of the Bible.

Scope & Sequence

Answers Bible Curriculum is a 200-lesson curriculum that covers the entire Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, in chronological fashion. The first 120 lessons survey the Old Testament, and the final 80 lessons survey the New Testament. Where appropriate, lessons include apologetics material confirming the accuracy of the biblical record, as well as historical background and life application.

Summary

- 200-lesson, four-year curriculum (50 lessons per year); but take as long as you need to get through it
- Available in six age levels: Pre-K-1, Grades 2-3, Grades 4-5, Middle School, High School, Adult
- Chronological Bible teaching for all levels
- Synchronized lessons—all ages study the same Scriptures each week
- Based on the ESV

How to Use ABC

Teacher Kit Components

Answers Bible Curriculum includes all the necessary elements for you to teach your students with excellence while engaging them in the learning process. The Teacher Kit for each unit of lessons includes the following items:

Teacher Guide—Ten lessons with lesson overview, background material, preparation instructions, scripted lesson, activity instructions, etc. The tenth lesson of each unit is a review lesson.

Each lesson contains two lesson scripts—one for older students (5–7 year olds) and one for preschoolers (3–4 year olds). Choose the one that best fits your class.

Student Take Home Sheets—Sample set of nine full-color, two-page take home sheets with an activity, memory verse practice, review section, and a link to download the Justin & Jessie coloring sheet.

Lesson Flip Chart—A 20 x 15 full-color, wire-bound chart to complement the Teacher Guide. It is designed to use during the Lesson Time. It contains the K–1st script for each lesson in the unit, an illustration summarizing the main points of each lesson, a prayer page, memory verse page, and a song page with lyrics of each song in the unit.

Justin & Jessie Stories—A set of nine 11 x 17 two-sided posters with a short story on one side and a full-color picture on the other. The adventures of Justin and Jessie show how the truths learned in the lesson can apply to real life.

Classroom Posters—These large classroom posters enhance the lessons and provide visual reminders of important truths. The posters for this unit include:

- The Books of the Bible
- Game Board
- Exodus to Malachi Timeline

Optional Resources

You may purchase these additional resources from AnswersBookstore.com or by calling 800-778-3390.

Books of the Bible Flashcards—Sixty-seven 5 x 7 flashcards. Each card has a colorful illustration on the front, and the back features key facts about each book’s author, date of writing, key people, main message, and what each book reveals about God and his character.

Books of the Bible Trading Cards—The same as the flashcards, measuring 2.75 x 4.

Books of the Bible Coloring Book—Students will have fun coloring these scenes based on the accounts of Scripture. All 66 books of the Old and New Testaments are represented.

Teacher Digital Resources

When you purchased Answers Bible Curriculum, you received access to a digital library that contains items such as coloring sheets, game and activity instructions, lesson illustrations, video clips, review questions, etc. Be sure to leave enough time to look at the Lesson Preparation section of the lesson so that any needed items can be printed or gathered prior to class.

- Access your resources at MyAnswers.com/abc-resources using the **Resources Code** inside the back cover of this Teacher Guide.
- You may also purchase these resources on a USB flash drive from AnswersBookstore.com or by calling 800-778-3390.

Original Songs

We have created original memory verse songs and songs relating to the lessons.

- Access the music at MyAnswers.com/abc-resources using the **Songs Code** inside the back cover of this Teacher Guide.
- CDs of the songs are available for purchase at AnswersBookstore.com to give to students and families.

Teacher Lesson

Our vision for the preschool class is that the time they spend in church should be time you, as the teacher, are intentionally pointing them to the truths of God, Jesus Christ, and the Bible. They can be taught the truth, and they can enjoy learning about God!

We have designed these lessons so that they are easy to teach and provide everything needed to successfully guide your students. Here is a breakdown of what is included in each lesson and how to get the most out of it as you prepare and teach.

Lesson Overview

Lesson Focus—Each lesson has a short statement summarizing the content of the lesson for that week.

Key Passages—These are the Bible passages that will be studied in the lesson. Your teaching will be more rewarding if you familiarize yourself with the key passages before class.

Memory Verse—Students will work on memorizing one passage per unit. Our hope is that this will enable the students to really learn these Scriptures and to know them well enough that they will be able to recite them from memory not only at the end of the unit but at the end of the year!

Lesson Preparation

At the beginning of each lesson there are two sections that will help you prepare.

Lesson Preparation Chart—This chart shows you everything you will need for each week's lesson. Be sure to consult this chart several days before class so you can gather any supplies and print materials from the Teacher Digital Resources.

All the activity suggestions may be used for Pre-K or K–1st grade. However, those marked with an * are specifically recommended for Pre-K students.

Optional Supplements—Each lesson includes optional hands-on activities. Be sure to plan ahead and gather any necessary items for

the activities you choose, then incorporate them into the lesson wherever you think they fit best. Some lessons also have video clips, which should be previewed and shown when appropriate during class.

All pages that are instructions for the teacher will have the word “Teacher” in the footer, while student pages will have the word “Student.” This should make it easy for an assistant to know which pages need multiple copies for students.

Prepare to Share

We have provided background information to help you understand the biblical and historical context of the passage being studied. Where appropriate, we have also included apologetics information that will confirm the truth of the Scriptures.

Lesson Elements

The lessons are broken down into several elements to make it easier for you to teach and to allow for flexibility. We realize that some teachers have the luxury of a full hour for Sunday school, while others may have only 20 minutes of teaching time. We have planned our lessons to take about 30–40 minutes total. Of course, this will vary greatly depending on your individual style, class size, student maturity level, etc.

If you finish the lesson before your time is up we recommend you play another game, review the previous memory verses, use the Flip Chart to review, or sing additional songs.

Come On In

The Come On In activity is something for the students to do while they are arriving. The intent is to promote order as soon as the students enter the room by providing specific assignments.

Our vision is that the teacher would be at the door greeting the students and their parents while classroom assistants engage the students in the activity and meaningful conversation centered on what was taught last week, what will be taught this week, or just personal greetings. Interaction with the students is key during this time.

There are several options for the Come On In activity.

Come On In Game—There are a number of games you can choose from for the students to play. These games use the Books of the Bible Flashcards printed from the Teacher Digital Resources or available in color as an additional purchase.

Activity Sheet—Each lesson includes an activity sheet from the previous lesson that you can print out for the students to complete as you review with them.

Music/Play—Set out play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc. for students to play with while they listen to music from the lessons.

Lesson Time

This is the main teaching part of the lesson. The lesson script is written in a Say-Ask format and appears both in the Teacher Guide and on the Flip Chart (K-1st version).

Lesson Time should follow the simple outline as presented in the Teacher Guide. Each lesson includes the sections below.

Prayer—This time is designed to present students with simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray. We suggest bringing in a special stuffed animal—a prayer bear—or other object to pass around the circle. Students will get to pray when it's their turn to hold the prayer bear.

There is a Prayer Page in the Flip Chart that reviews four specific types of prayers from the ACTS prayer acronym—Adoration, Confession, Thanksgiving, and Supplication.

Bible Truths—Each lesson includes four simple questions about God and the Bible. This will set up a routine for your students, and the repetition of questions will solidify the truths in their minds.

Bible Treasure Hunt—This simple activity, intended to be repeated weekly, is designed to generate excitement and enthusiasm as you open God's Word for the lesson. Before class, you will hide your Bible somewhere in the room then use different methods from week

to week to keep the students excited about hunting for the greatest treasure—the Bible.

Lesson Script—There are two scripts in the main part of each lesson, one for Pre-K students (3-4 year olds) and one for K-1st students (5-7 year olds). Choose the lesson script that is best suited to the children in your class.

It is vitally important that your students review the things they have been taught, so the script begins with a review of previous lessons. The Lesson Flip Chart illustrations are the best way to review the important points you covered. You may also want to show teaching aids from the previous week or activity sheets the students may have worked on.

As you teach, we highly recommend you open your Bible and read the Scripture verses from your Bible. Make much of the fact that this is God's Word and they are learning it just like the rest of the family in church. We have presented very simple questions for you to ask from the text. If they listen, your students will be able to answer the questions.

Lesson Review Game

Review the lesson with your students by playing a fun game. These can be found in the Teacher Digital Resources or in the Appendix at the back of this Teacher Guide.

Story Time

During this application time, you will read a short story about two children named Justin and Jessie and have a brief discussion to help the students apply the lesson to their own lives. The story text can be found on the back of the Justin and Jessie Posters in your Teacher Kit or printed from the Teacher Digital Resources.

Memory Verse Game

Choose a Memory Verse Game from the Teacher Digital Resources or in the Appendix at the back of this Teacher Guide.

In addition to the game, use the Memory Verse page at the back of the Flip Chart to help the students practice reciting the verse each week. The verse has been presented with some of

the words illustrated so that pre-readers can associate the pictures with the words and quickly memorize them. Be sure to explain the verse to your students then say each word and point at each picture several times. Allow students to look at this page during the game.

Song Time

These songs will get the students up and moving while reinforcing biblical truths. Feel free to make up hand motions or add clapping or instruments to any of the songs. Song lyrics are on the Song Sheet at the end of each lesson in this Teacher Guide. The lyrics for all the songs in the unit are also found on the Song Time Lyrics Page in the Flip Chart.

- Access the music at MyAnswers.com/abc-resources using the **Songs Code** inside the back cover of this Teacher Guide.

- Extra songs to the tunes of popular nursery rhymes are found in the Additional Songs List.

Group Prayer

We encourage you to pray with your students before they are dismissed. If time allows, you may want to take prayer requests from your students.

Student Take Home Sheets

Nine lessons in each unit (Pre-K–Grade 5) include a full-color, two-page Student Take Home Sheet. The Student Take Home Sheets are designed to encourage review of the lesson and family discussion. A sample set comes in the Teacher Kit. Additional sheets are available for purchase from AnswersBookstore.com.

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Leading a Child to Christ

Many of the lessons present an ideal opportunity to share the life-changing gospel of Jesus Christ with your students. Every teacher should be ready to clearly present the gospel and counsel those wanting to learn more. Children are usually soft-hearted toward things of the Lord, and some will be interested in becoming followers of Christ. Be ready, because eternal matters matter most!

Before

Pray. Salvation is God's work, not ours. We cannot bring about salvation for anyone. We need to ask God to prepare the children and open their hearts to him.

Prepare. Learn more about presenting the gospel and counseling a child about salvation.

During

The gospel is clearly presented in many of the lessons. You may give a group invitation or choose to share with a child one-on-one or with a small group of children. When you explain the gospel, please keep the following in mind:

- Becoming a child of God involves repenting of one's sin and having faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ. Repentance involves understanding what sin is (disobeying God's commands) and desiring to turn from that sin.
- Use your Bible to explain the plan of salvation. Children need to see and hear God's Word, so have your Bible open and marked ahead of time with the appropriate Scriptures.
Avoid abstract phrases like "asking Jesus into your heart." Instead, use terminology like "becoming a child of God." Most children still think in concrete terms and need examples that are easy to understand.
- If a child indicates an interest to know more after hearing the gospel, determine if the child has an understanding of his sin. This is very important. A child who cannot verbalize sin, who does not seem to be repentant

toward God because he is a sinner, or who does not realize that he must turn away from his sin cannot fully understand his need for a Savior. Ask questions about sin that require more than "yes" or "no" answers:

- Do you know what sin is? Can you explain it to me?
- Can you think of some sins you have done?
- Are you sorry for your sins? Who are you sorry to?
- Why are you sorry for your sins?
- What do you think you should do about these sins in your life?
- If you are not satisfied that God has revealed to this child that his sin is an offense against our holy God, we recommend that you present a booklet we have developed for children that explains the gospel further. It is called *How Can I Become a Child of God?* and can be ordered from AnswersBibleCurriculum.com.
- If the child does seem to be sincerely sorry for his sins, you can proceed with more questions like the following:
 - Why did Jesus come to earth? Why did Jesus need to die? Why did Jesus rise again?
 - Why do you want Jesus to be your Savior?
 - Why should God let you into his family? (Make sure the child understands that salvation is not based on what he does but is a gracious gift of God through faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus.)
- When a child seems to have a basic understanding of salvation (belief in Jesus' death and resurrection, admission of and repentance from sin, and a desire to follow the Lord), encourage him to talk to his parents (if they are followers of Christ) about what it means to become a child of God. Encourage a child who comes from a non-Christian home to verbalize his understanding to the Lord through prayer. There is no specific prayer that should be prayed. En-

courage him to ask the Lord to forgive him and help him know he is a child of God.

- Let him see in your words and your face that you are excited that he wants to become a child of God! Read Luke 15:10 to him.
- Some children may not be ready to make a decision for Christ but may want to learn more, to be assured of salvation, or to confess sin. Read Romans 10:9–10 and John 10:28–29 with children who are seeking assurance of their salvation. Encourage them to ask the Lord to help them know they are his children. Read 1 John 1:9 with children who want to confess sin and encourage them to ask the Lord to help them know they are forgiven when they repent.

After

- Review what it means to be a child of God.
 - How long does God keep his children? (Hebrews 13:5b, John 10:28–29)
 - Can anything separate God from his children? (Romans 8:38–39)

- What happens when God's children sin? (1 John 1:9)
- What do children of God believe? (Romans 10:9)
- Explain that Jesus loves his children and wants to spend time with them. Discuss practical ways to grow as a child of God. Provide him with the booklet *Growing Up in God's Family* (available at AnswersBookstore.com), and share the following:
 - Read your Bible, and obey what you read. (Make sure he has a Bible at home, and if not, provide one. Write his name, the date, and the occasion on the presentation page.)
 - Pray every day. Prayer is talking to God.
 - Go to a church that believes and teaches the Bible as the Word of God.
 - Tell others about Jesus. Tell your friends, family, and neighbors how they can become children of God.
- Stay in touch with the child through postcards, visits, or phone calls.

Unit 7 Syllabus

Lesson 61	Moses Sends the Spies	Exodus 23:20; Numbers 13:23, 13:28, 14:10
Lesson 62	God Judges Rebellion	Numbers 16:11, 20:10–11
Lesson 63	God Prepares the Way	Deuteronomy 3:1–3; Numbers 22:28
Lesson 64	Rahab Helps the Spies	Joshua 1:5–6, 1:9, 2:11
Lesson 65	Israel Crosses the Jordan	Joshua 3:17, 4:20–22
Lesson 66	Israel Conquers Jericho	Joshua 6:3–5, 6:16, 6:20, 6:25
Lesson 67	God Gives the Victory	Joshua 7:4, 7:11, 10:11
Lesson 68	Israel Receives a Land	Joshua 11:4, 11:6, 14:11–12
Lesson 69	Israel Turns to Idols	Judges 2:14–16, 3:7–9
Lesson 70	Unit Review	



Moses Sends the Spies

Moses sent 12 men to spy out the promised land.

Lesson Focus

Moses sent 12 spies to explore the promised land. Ten of them were afraid of the giants and the fortified cities and told the people they could not take the land. Their fear spread throughout the camp, causing the Israelites to sin by not trusting God. Two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, trusted that God would give them victory.

Key Passages

Exodus 23:20; Numbers 13:23, 13:28, 14:10

Memory Verse

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Lesson Preparation

Come On In

Choose one of the following activities and print/gather necessary items.

Come On In Game:

- Bible Book Match
- Flashcard Take Away
- I Have You Have
- Popcorn*

Magnifiers Craft*

Review Activity Sheet*

Turn on some lesson/memory verse songs for students to listen to while they play with play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc.*

Lesson Time

You will need the following items:

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Clue Pictures printed and taped up around the room (except #1)
- Optional: magnifying glass to show
- Optional: grapes, figs, pomegranates to show/taste

Lesson Review Game

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Basket Toss*
- Bible Baseball*
- Board Game
- Bowling*
- Goofy Golf
- Racetrack*
- Toss for It*

Story Time

Read the Justin and Jessie story on the back of the poster provided in the Teacher Kit or print a copy.

Memory Verse Game

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Balloon Bop and Pop
- Echo Echo*
- Egg Hunt
- Follow the Leader*
- Freeze*
- Funny Voices*
- Popcorn*

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.

Song Time

Practice the following songs using the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page. Remember to use the downloaded music to learn the songs.

- "Joshua 1:9"

Find extra songs to the tunes of favorite nursery rhymes in the Additional Songs list.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under **Lesson 61**. Game instructions are also included in the **Appendix** in the back of this Teacher Guide.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3–4 years old) and Kindergarten–1st Grade (5–7 years old) classes. Suggestions with an **asterisk (*)** are specifically recommended for Pre-K.

Prepare to Share

Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

“To your offspring I will give this land” (Genesis 12:7). God had promised an inheritance to Abraham, and as the years went by it was passed to Isaac (Genesis 26:3), Jacob (Genesis 35:11–12), and Moses (Exodus 3:7–10). The Lord had promised to send an angel before Moses and the Israelites to guard and lead them. God would drive out the inhabitants of the Promised Land and bless the Israelites as they walked in obedience to his commands (Exodus 23:20–23).

The Israelites had witnessed the protection and omnipotence of God as he wiped out an entire army (Exodus 14:28) and as he provided water from a rock (Exodus 17:6), bread from heaven (Exodus 16:14–15), and meat from the wind (Numbers 11:31). They had seen his presence in the pillar of cloud by day and the pillar of fire by night (Exodus 13:21). Yet they continued to doubt God, disobey him, and complain of their hardships.

At the border of the land of Canaan, the Israelites revealed their complete lack of trust in God. In the second year after the Israelites left Egypt, Moses sent 12 spies into Canaan, including Joshua and Caleb. Each spy was a representative of the tribe of his fathers (Numbers 13:1–20). The land was indeed abundant just as God had promised

(Numbers 13:27). Yet most of the spies, upon seeing the strong people, the fortified cities, and the giant descendants of Anak, were overcome by fear (Numbers 13:28–33). Only Joshua and Caleb spoke favorably of the land, pleading with the Israelites to have courage and faith in God’s promises and to trust that the Lord was with them—there was nothing to fear (Numbers 14:6–9).

Their cries to the people went unheeded; the Israelites refused to enter the Promised Land (Numbers 14:2–4) and threatened to kill Caleb and Joshua (Numbers 14:10). God’s judgment was both merciful and righteous as he pardoned their rebellion (Numbers 14:20) yet decreed that they would not enter into Canaan to see the land sworn to their fathers—none who had rejected God would ever see it (Numbers 14:23). All but Caleb, Joshua, and those under 20 years old would die in the wilderness and never see the fulfillment of the promise (Numbers 14:29–31). God also punished the 10 spies who spread the bad report by killing them with a plague (Numbers 14:36–37).

God is the same God today as he was then. He is immutable—he does not change. He will punish sin, but he rewards those who trust in him. We can stand on the promises as revealed in his Word just as surely as Caleb and Joshua believed him in the wilderness. He will not let us down; he will never leave us or forsake us (Deuteronomy 31:6).

Historical/Apologetics Background

We are told that when the Israelites left Egypt there were “about six hundred thousand men on foot, besides women and children. A mixed multitude also went up with them, and very much livestock, both flocks and herds” (Exodus 12:37–38). In the second year after the Exodus, a census revealed that there were 603,550 men age 20 and above (Numbers 1:46). About 38 years after the first census, just before Israel was to finally enter the Promised Land, the total number of men age 20 and older came to 601,730 (Numbers 26:51). Many have estimated that when women and children are added, the total number of Israelites would have been between 2 and 3 million. That is quite a throng of people to oversee, feed, care for, and move around the desert for 40 years.

Because of this seemingly impossible task, some have inferred that the number of Israelites was likely tens of thousands rather than millions. It is true that from a purely natural perspective it doesn’t seem possible that several million people could survive in the desert all those years. Critics have mentioned the amount of food needed, the waste that would be produced, the logistics of moving such a large group of people, and the space required for camping.

What many people fail to understand is that the Lord supernaturally cared for his people for 40 years:

He . . . fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. Your clothing did

not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years (Deuteronomy 8:3–4).

God provided quail and manna for them to eat (Exodus 16:13–15), water when they thirsted (Exodus 17:1–7), and even clothing that did not wear out. This sojourn in the wilderness was far from a natural phenomenon: beginning with God appearing in the burning bush, the display of his omnipotence during the plagues that seized Egypt, the crossing of the Red Sea, and the destruction of the Egyptian army. God himself had brought his people out of Egypt, and he had decreed that they would wander for 40 years. God is the Creator and Sustainer of the entire universe, so caring for them was a simple task because nothing is impossible with him (Luke 1:37).

Despite the miracles God performed on their behalf, the Israelites refused to trust and obey God at the border of the Promised Land. They feared the strong cities and giants, the descendants of Anak (Numbers 13:33). The fear of facing these giants in battle kept them from moving forward, trusting God for protection, and finally seeing the land of Canaan.

Although the people were convinced not to attempt to fight the giants this time and ran in fear,

Joshua, in God's strength, later led a force against the Anakim (Joshua 11:21). But some giants remained in Gaza, Ashdod, and Gath (Joshua 11:22). It was from Gath that the Philistine warrior Goliath would later threaten the Israelites under King Saul (1 Samuel 17:4–11). This one man terrorized the entire Israelite army to the point that they doubted God's ability to fight for them (1 Samuel 17:24).

There will always be the courageous few whose trust in God will bear witness to his faithfulness. In the account of the 12 spies, God's strength accompanied Joshua and Caleb. In the account of Goliath, God's strength was revealed through David as he took down the giant that an entire army cowered from.

Throughout the history of mankind, circumstances have threatened to sway our trust in the faithfulness of God. In spite of the abundant promises he makes to us in his Word, we are often tempted to believe the world and deny our Creator. But we can learn from God's words to Joshua: "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).



Come On In

As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today, including the Magnifiers Craft that the students can use during the lesson.

- ▶ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



Lesson Time

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you brought or prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today let's say prayers of adoration and tell God we love and praise him.

I'll start. Dear God, I praise you because . . . *(insert personal prayer here)*.

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

- ? What word means God will always keep his promises? *Faithful.*
- ? What special laws did God give to Moses and the Israelites? *The Ten Commandments.*
- ? What people (or nation) did God promise to give the land of Canaan to? *The Israelites.*
- ? Who were the Israelites? *The descendants of Israel (Jacob).*

Bible Treasure Hunt

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. Use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible. God's Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It's like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We're going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I've hidden the Bible. When I say "Go," you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!

- Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

K-1st Lesson continues next. Go to page 20 for the Pre-K Lesson.



K-1st Lesson

Review

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. We've been learning about the Israelites. God rescued them from Egypt and chose Moses to lead them through the wilderness on their way to the promised land. God gave the Israelites special laws they needed to follow to treat God and each other right.

- ? What were those laws called? There were 10 of them. *The Ten Commandments.*

Then God gave them instructions to build a tabernacle where they could worship God. Everything in the tabernacle could be packed up and carried to a new camp as they traveled on their way to the promised land of Canaan.

- If you made the Magnifiers Craft, have students use them during the lesson time.

The Promised Land

- ? Show Clue Picture #1. Why was Canaan called the promised land? I'll give you a hint: who received a promise from God when he was told to move to Canaan a long time ago? *Abraham.*

Canaan is the land God promised to give Abraham and his descendants. Abraham had a son named Isaac, who had a son named Jacob. Remember how God changed Jacob's name to Israel? His descendants were called the Israelites. Now, many years later, they were ready to move into the

- Before class, tape the Clue Pictures around the room (on walls or chairs, etc.) where they can be easily seen by the students during the lesson. (Keep #1, Abraham, to show.)

land God promised. It was a very good land. God said it was “flowing with milk and honey!”

- ? What do you think that means? *Allow discussion.*

It means that the land had lots of trees, grass, and water, so it was good for keeping animals, for growing food like fruits and vegetables, and for building cities. God was giving the Israelites a beautiful place to live.

But wait a minute! There were already people living in this land. And they wouldn't want to give it up without a fight. So, God gave the Israelites another promise.

Exodus 23:20

Let's read about that in Exodus 23:20. *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verse.*

- ? Who did God promise to send to guard and guide the people? *An angel.*

God said his angel would lead them into the land and keep them safe. And if the Israelites obeyed God and did all that he said, God would help them fight their enemies and take the land as their own.

The Spies' Report

- ? Before the Israelites entered Canaan, God told Moses to send spies into the land. What does a spy do? *Allow discussion.*

A spy is someone who secretly finds out things about the enemy. *If you brought a magnifying glass or made the Magnifiers Craft, explain that spies we think of today might use magnifiers to help them find clues.*

Moses chose 12 spies. Their mission was to find out about the land—was it good or bad? Find out about the people—were they weak or strong? And find out about the cities—were they small or were they big with walls around them? The 12 spies accepted their mission and explored for 40 days, spying out the land. When they came back, they told the people what they learned.

Now it's time for you to be spies. There are pictures all around the room with clues on them about the land of Canaan. Whenever I read about something the spies found, look for the clue and when you find it, raise your magnifier (or hand). *As you continue the lesson, allow students to look for the clues from where they're sitting and raise magnifiers when they've found each clue.*

Numbers 13:23

First, let's see what the spies found out about the land in Numbers 13:23. *Read the verse.*

- ? *Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart.* What did the spies find and bring back? *Fruit. Grapes, pomegranates, and figs.*

- ? **Good things grew there in the land. Can you find those clues?** *Have students look for the clues and raise their magnifiers. Grapes, figs, and pomegranates. Clue Pictures #2, 3, 4.*
- ? **The spies also said the land “flowed with milk and honey” just like God told them. Can you find those clues?** *Find clues and raise magnifiers. Milk. Honey. Clue Pictures #5, 6.*
- ? **Does that mean there was sticky honey oozing all over and milk flowing in the rivers instead of water? What did we say about that earlier?** *The land was good for keeping animals, building cities, and growing food like fruits and vegetables.*

► Show the fruit if you brought some. Let students taste it!

Numbers 13:28

So we’ve found out that the land and its fruit were very good. But there were a lot of people living there already. What did the spies find out about them? Listen to this verse so you can find the clues. *Read the first sentence in Numbers 13:28.*

- ? **What did the spies say about the people living in the land?** *Find clue and raise magnifiers. They are strong. Clue Picture #7.*
- ? **And what about the cities? Were they small or large?** *Very large.*
- ? **Refer to the Flip Chart. The cities were very large and what was all around them?** *Find clue and raise magnifiers. Walls. Clue Picture #8.*
- ? **Do you think it would be easy or hard for the Israelites to attack these cities?** *Hard!*
- ? **Not only that but some of the people were so tall—they were giants! The spies said, “We felt like grasshoppers next to them!” Are there any clues about that?** *Find clues and raise magnifiers. Giants. Grasshoppers. Clue Pictures #9, 10.*

The Israelites’ Response

Refer to the Flip Chart. It wasn’t long before an argument broke out. Ten of the spies said the people were too scary and there was no way the Israelites could go in and take the land. But the other two spies, Joshua and Caleb, trusted God and argued that the Israelites could take the land with God on their side. They knew this was a very good land that God had promised to them. The people just needed to trust God to help them fight the enemies—and the land would be theirs! But the Israelites did not listen to Joshua and Caleb. They listened to the 10 spies who did not trust God and became very afraid.

Numbers 14:10

Uh oh! Now what will happen? Let’s find out in Numbers 14:10. *Read the verse.*

- ? What happened first? The people said to do what to Joshua and Caleb?
Stone them with stones.

The Israelites let their fear turn into anger, and they were picking up stones to throw at Joshua and Caleb to kill them! They were ready to turn around and go back to Egypt! These people were not trusting God.

- ? What happened next? What appeared? *The glory of the Lord.*

Suddenly the Lord appeared and spoke to Moses. God had led the people such a long way, and they finally made it to the promised land. He even promised to send an angel to protect them. But they would not listen. God was very angry with the Israelites and was ready to destroy them because of their sin.

Moses begged God to have mercy on them. God listened to Moses and didn't destroy them all, but they would be punished. Instead of going into the promised land, all the Israelites would wander in the wilderness for 40 years until all the adults over 20 years old died. Only the young people and Joshua and Caleb, the spies who trusted God, would enter the promised land.

Isn't that sad? All those people who had seen God rescue them from Egypt and Pharaoh's army never got to see the promised land "flowing with milk and honey"—all because they let their fear take over and did not trust God.

God promised this land to the Israelites, but they didn't trust him. They didn't believe God was faithful. But he is. God always keeps his promises.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game on page 23.



Pre-K Lesson

Review

- If you made the Magnifiers Craft, have students use them during the lesson time.

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. We've been learning about the Israelites. God rescued them from Egypt and chose Moses to lead them through the wilderness on their way to the promised land. God gave the Israelites special laws they needed to follow to treat God and each other right.

- ? What were those laws called? There were 10 of them. The Ten Commandments.

Then God gave them instructions to build a tabernacle where they could worship God. Everything in the tabernacle could be packed up and carried to a new camp as they traveled on their way to the promised land of Canaan.

The Promised Land

- ? Show Clue Picture #1. Why was Canaan called the promised land? I'll give you a hint, who did God make a promise to when he obeyed God and moved to Canaan a long time ago? *Abraham.*

Canaan is the land God promised to give Abraham and his descendants. Abraham had a son named Isaac, who had a son named Jacob. Remember how God changed Jacob's name to Israel? His descendants were called the Israelites. Now, many years later, they were ready to move into the land God promised. It was a very good land.

But wait a minute! There were already people living in this land. And they wouldn't want to give it up without a fight. So, God gave the Israelites another promise.

Exodus 23:20

Let's read about that in Exodus 23:20. *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verse.*

- ? Who did God promise to send to guard and guide the people? *An angel.*

God said his angel would lead the Israelites into the promised land and keep them safe. And if they obeyed God, he would help them fight their enemies and take the land as their own to live in.

The Spies' Report

- ? Before the Israelites went into Canaan, God told Moses to send spies into the land. What does a spy do? *Allow discussion.*

A spy is someone who secretly finds out things about the enemy. *If you brought a magnifying glass or made the Magnifiers Craft, explain that spies we think of today might use magnifiers to help them find clues.*

Moses chose 12 spies. Their mission was to find out about the land—was it good or bad? Find out about the people—were they weak or strong? And find out about the cities—were they small or were they big with walls around them? The 12 spies went on their mission and explored for 40 days, spying out the land. When they came back, they told the people what they learned.

Now it's time for you to be spies. There are pictures all around the room with clues on them about the land of Canaan. Whenever I read about something the spies found, look for the clue and when you find it, raise your magnifier (or hand). *As you continue the lesson, allow students to look for the clues from where they're sitting and raise magnifiers when they've found each clue.*

- Before class, tape the Clue Pictures around the room (on walls or chairs, etc.) where they can be easily seen by the students during the lesson. (Keep #1, Abraham, to show.)

Numbers 13:23

First, let's see what the spies found out about the land in Numbers 13:23.
Read the verse.

- Show the fruit if you brought some. Let students taste it!

- ? *Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. What did the spies find and bring back? Fruit. Grapes, pomegranates, and figs.*
- ? **Good things grew there in the land. Can you find those clues?** *Have students look for the clues and raise their magnifiers. Clue Pictures #2, 3, 4.*
- ? **The spies also said the land “flowed with milk and honey.” Can you find those clues?** *Find clues and raise magnifiers. Clue Pictures #5, 6.*
- ? **Does that mean there was sticky honey oozing all over and milk flowing in the rivers instead of water?** *No!*

“Flowing with milk and honey” means the land was beautiful. It had many trees and lots of grass and water, so it was good for keeping animals, building cities, and growing food like fruits and vegetables.

Refer to the Flip Chart. So, the land and its fruit were very good. But there were a lot of people living there already. What about them?

- ? **The spies said, “The people are strong.” Do you see a clue for that?** *Find clue and raise magnifiers. Clue Picture #7.*

And what about the cities? Were they small or large?

- ? **The spies said, “Their cities are very large, with walls all around them!” How many of you can find that clue?** *Find clue and raise magnifiers. Clue Picture #8.*

Then the spies told the worst part, “We even saw giants! We felt like grasshoppers next to them!” Oh no! When these spies saw how tall and strong some of the people were, it made them feel like little grasshoppers.

- ? **Do you see any clues about that?** *Find clues and raise magnifiers. Clue Pictures #9, 10.*

The Israelites' Response

*Refer to the Flip Chart. It wasn't long before an argument broke out. Ten of the spies said the people were too scary and there was no way the Israelites could go in and take the land. But the other two spies, Joshua and Caleb, trusted God and argued that the Israelites could take the land with God on their side. They knew this was a very good land that God had *promised* to them. The people just needed to trust God to help them fight the enemies—and the land would be theirs!*

But the Israelites did not listen to Joshua and Caleb. They listened to the 10 spies who did not trust God and became so afraid that they wanted to go all the way back to Egypt instead of going into the promised land!

Numbers 14:10

Uh oh! Now what will happen? Let's find out in Numbers 14:10. *Read the first half of the verse.*

- ? What were the people going to do to Joshua and Caleb? *Stone them with stones.*

The Israelites were so afraid that they became angry and picked up rocks to throw at Joshua and Caleb to kill them!

- ? Then what happened? What appeared? *Read the second half of the verse. The glory of the Lord.*

Suddenly the Lord appeared and spoke to Moses. He knew what was going on. The people were too afraid to go into the land. They would not listen or trust God.

God was very angry with the Israelites; they would be punished because of their sin. Instead of going into the promised land, all the Israelites would wander in the wilderness for 40 years until all the adults over 20 years old died. Only the young people and Joshua and Caleb, the spies who trusted God, would be allowed to go into the promised land.

Isn't that sad? All those people let their fear take over and did not trust God. He had promised this land to the Israelites, but they would not obey him. They didn't believe God was faithful. But he is. God always keeps his promises.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.



Lesson Review Game

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.



Story Time

- ? Do you remember what happened in our last story? *Allow discussion.*

- ? Jessie and Emily found out that instructions are pretty important. What did they try to do even when they couldn't read the instructions? *Bake cookies.*

They couldn't read the recipe for the cookies, could they? And that led to some messy problems.

Let's find out what our story is about today! *Read the story as you show the picture.*

- ? How many of you have been to see a dentist? *Show of hands.*

Justin had never been to a dentist before, and he let his fear take over. He had a hard time trusting that everything would be okay like his mom said.

? And was everything okay? Did Dr. Grady help Justin? *Yes!*

In our lesson, we saw how God promised the Israelites that he would help them fight for the promised land. But after the spies came back and said there were giants in the land and cities with walls, the people became afraid. They let their fear take over and did not trust God. But God is faithful to keep his promises. We can always trust him and his Word and ask him to help us not to be afraid.

Memory Verse Game

Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page as you play a memory verse game. Explain the verse to your students as you review it together.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Song Time

Use the downloaded music to practice the songs. Find the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

You may want to add stomping, clapping, and musical instruments, or make up hand motions to any of the songs!

Joshua 1:9

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. **Let's learn the new memory verse song.** Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

Sing other class favorites or songs from the Additional Songs list as time allows.

Group Prayer

Be sure to pray with your students before you dismiss them.

- **Thank God that we can trust all his promises.**
- **Ask God to help us trust him even when we're afraid.**

- Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

Song Sheet

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

The LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9



God Judges Rebellion

God punished the people for rebelling and complaining.

Lesson Focus

Three men rebelled against Moses and Aaron's God-given leadership. God judged them by supernaturally opening the earth and swallowing them up, along with their tents and families. The people continued to complain about food and water, and Moses and Aaron disobeyed God, too.

Key Passages

Numbers 16:11, 20:10-11

Memory Verse

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Lesson Preparation

Come On In

Choose one of the following activities and print/gather necessary items.

Come On In Game:

- Bible Book Match
- Flashcard Take Away
- I Have You Have
- Popcorn*

Review Activity Sheet*

Turn on some lesson/memory verse songs for students to listen to while they play with play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc.*

Lesson Time

You will need the following items:

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Print and cut out one set of Opposites Pictures for your use.

Lesson Review Game

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Basket Toss*
- Bible Baseball*
- Board Game
- Bowling*
- Goofy Golf
- Racetrack*
- Toss for It*

Story Time

Read the Justin and Jessie story on the back of the poster provided in the Teacher Kit or print a copy.

Memory Verse Game

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Balloon Bop and Pop
- Echo Echo*
- Egg Hunt
- Follow the Leader*
- Freeze*
- Funny Voices*
- Popcorn*

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.

Song Time

Practice the following songs using the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page. Remember to use the downloaded music to learn the songs.

- "Joshua 1:9"

Find extra songs to the tunes of favorite nursery rhymes in the Additional Songs list.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 62*. Game instructions are also included in the *Appendix* in the back of this Teacher Guide.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3–4 years old) and Kindergarten–1st Grade (5–7 years old) classes. Suggestions with an **asterisk (*)** are specifically recommended for Pre-K.

Prepare to Share

Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

After hearing the report of the 10 spies about giants in the land, the Israelites refused to enter the Promised Land. For their rebellion, God decreed that all the people would wander in the wilderness for 40 years until the adults perished. Only Joshua and Caleb, the spies who gave a positive report and urged the people to trust God for victory, would get to take possession of the Promised Land along with the Israelites under age 20 (Numbers 14:28–32).

During the wilderness wanderings, several men instigated a rebellion against the leadership of Moses, Aaron, and ultimately, God. Korah was from the tribe of Levi and a cousin of Moses and Aaron. He desired leadership and authority. Korah gathered 250 Israelite leaders, including Dathan and Abiram who were leaders from the tribe of Reuben. They assembled against Moses and Aaron, claiming that all the Israelites were holy because God dwelt among them. Then they accused Moses and Aaron of exalting themselves to positions of authority (Numbers 16:1–3). Moses proposed a test where God would show whom he wanted to be priests. Moses recognized that pride and jealousy were behind the men's actions. They were not only challenging his and Aaron's authority but also God's since he appointed them (Numbers 16:11). Dathan and Abiram refused to even answer Moses' summons to talk. They falsely accused him of making himself a prince, trying to kill them in the wilderness, and not leading them into the Promised Land. These lies made Moses angry, and he asked the Lord to justify him (Numbers 16:12–15).

The next day, the rebels and the leaders assembled at the entrance of the tent of meeting. This rebellious gathering incurred the wrath of the Lord, who was ready to destroy the whole congregation

Historical/Apologetics Background

People may wonder why God instructed Moses to make the bronze serpent for the people to look to for healing. But there are several lessons God wanted to teach his people. First, God was teaching them about faith. There was nothing supernatural in the

of Israel if Moses and Aaron had not interceded for them. Instead, God in his mercy told Moses to warn the Israelites to move away from Korah, Dathan, and Abiram and their dwellings (Numbers 16:23–26). Moses said that if God miraculously opened the earth and swallowed up the rebels, then the people would know that these men “despised the LORD” (Numbers 16:30). When he finished speaking, God did exactly that—an earthquake split the ground open, and those men, their families, and their belongings fell into the chasm—and the earth closed over them. The Israelites panicked and fled. Then fire from the Lord consumed the 250 leaders who were vying for the priesthood (Numbers 16:31–35).

In spite of these judgments, the Israelites continued to complain. The next day, they accused Moses of killing the rebels and leaders. God responded by sending a plague that was only halted by Aaron making atonement for them (Numbers 16:47–50). Later in their travels, the people became desperate and grumbled for water. Moses and Aaron did not follow God's instructions for providing water from a rock, and for their disobedience, God said they would not enter the Promised Land either (Numbers 20:8–12). The complaining continued when the people griped about food and water, even saying they hated the manna God provided (Numbers 21:5). This time, God judged them with fiery serpents that bit the people, causing many to die. The people recognized their sin and came to Moses and asked him to pray on their behalf. God answered with an amazing picture of the coming Savior. He had Moses make a bronze serpent and set it on a pole in the camp. Anyone who was bitten by the snakes could look to the serpent and be healed (Numbers 21:6–9). Just as the bronze serpent saved the people from physical death, Christ was raised on a cross so that all who look to him for salvation may be saved from eternal death (John 3:14–15).

bronze serpent that could heal them; only God could do that. But he wanted the people to have faith in his Word that they would be healed if they looked to it. Second, the serpent on the pole was also a reminder of their sin, which brought the judgment of the

poisonous snakes. Finally, God was giving a picture of the coming Savior. Just as the serpent was raised up on a pole, so Jesus was raised up on the cross to suffer. The people had to believe God would save them when they looked to the serpent, and we must believe in Christ's sacrificial death and subsequent resurrection to be saved from eternal death (John 3:14–15). Unfortunately, even this great picture of salvation was twisted for pagan worship. Years later in the Promised Land, the Israelites worshipped the bronze serpent until King Hezekiah destroyed it (2 Kings 18:4). How easy it was for them to slip into pagan practices instead of worshipping God alone.

One question that arises from Korah's rebellion and God's judgment is why the families of the rebels were destroyed along with the men. Numbers 16:27 records that Dathan and Abiram came out of their tents and stood with their wives, sons, and little ones. When the earth opened up, Korah and these men, along with their households and possessions, fell alive into the pit, and the earth closed over them (Numbers 16:32–33). This may seem like a harsh punishment for the families of those men, but there are several things to keep in mind. First, all people, no matter their age, are sinners by nature deserving of God's wrath. It is only by his great mercy that we are not all consumed (Lamentations 3:22–23 KJV). Second, God emphasized the seriousness of rebellion by including the families in the punishment. Rebellion spreads and affects others. Korah, Dathan, and Abiram involved the 250 leaders from other tribes. The Bible even lists rebellion with the sin of witchcraft (1 Samuel 15:23). God knew that the Israelites would not survive as a fledgling nation if they rebelled against his authority and his appointed leaders. They had to be unified in their obedience to God and his laws. This lesson had to be memorable

for the people, and it was. Over 1,000 years later, Jude warns against false teachers who reject God's authority and follow in the footsteps of Korah's rebellion (Jude 1:8, 1:11). Finally, God still demonstrated mercy in this account. Moses told the men to return the next day, which gave them time to repent, but they didn't. He also showed mercy to the people by warning them to remove themselves from the rebellious men. Korah's sons heeded this warning and were spared (Numbers 26:11), and their descendants would include the prophet Samuel, musicians in the service of King David (1 Chronicles 6:31–38), and warriors in David's army (1 Chronicles 12:6). God would have been just to punish all the people for assembling against him, but they were spared. Although the people didn't heed the warning—even in the miracle of an earthquake—and spoke against Moses the following day, God mercifully allowed Aaron to stand in the gap for them to stop the ensuing plague (Numbers 16:41–48).

These accounts of rebellion and judgment should be warnings to us. In fact, the Apostle Paul said that they were written down for our instruction (1 Corinthians 10:1–13). The apostle warns us not to desire evil, not to indulge in sexual immorality, and not to put Christ to the test or grumble as some of them did. Like they were, we too are weak and prone to sin. But thankfully, God gives us this promise: "No temptation has overtaken you that is not common to man. God is faithful, and he will not let you be tempted beyond your ability, but with the temptation he will also provide the way of escape, that you may be able to endure it" (1 Corinthians 10:13). May we take the way of escape that God provides. And when we don't, may we have soft hearts to recognize our sin and confess it quickly, looking to Jesus for forgiveness and cleansing!



Come On In

As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.

- ▶ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



Lesson Time

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you brought or prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today let's say prayers of confession and tell God we're sorry.

I'll start. Dear God, I'm sorry for . . . *(insert personal prayer here)*.

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

- ? What word means God will always keep his promises? *Faithful.*
- ? What special laws did God give to Moses and the Israelites? *The Ten Commandments.*
- ? What people (or nation) did God promise to give the land of Canaan to? *The Israelites.*
- ? Who were the Israelites? *The descendants of Israel (Jacob).*

Bible Treasure Hunt

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. You can use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell

- ▶ Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God’s Word, the Bible. God’s Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It’s like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We’re going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I’ve hidden the Bible. When I say “Go,” you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we’ll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! *Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!*

K-1st Lesson continues next. Go to page 36 for the Pre-K Lesson.



K-1st Lesson

Refer to Lesson 61 Flip Chart. God told Moses to send 12 spies into the land of Canaan. These men spied for 40 days. They brought back fruit and told the Israelites that the land was very good!

- ?** But there were some problems that scared 10 of the spies. What were the problems? *There were strong, tall people in the land (giants). The cities had walls around them.*
- ?** Which two spies trusted God to help them win the land? *Joshua and Caleb.*

Yes. They reminded the people to trust God and not to be afraid. But the people didn’t listen to Joshua and Caleb. They would not go into the good land God promised to give them.

The Israelites disobeyed the Lord, so he punished them by making them wander in the wilderness for 40 years until all the older people who didn’t believe and obey him died. Only Joshua, Caleb, and the young people under age 20 would enter the land later.

- ?** We might think the Israelites were so bad all the time. But wait. How many of you have ever disobeyed? *Show of hands.*

When we decide that we don’t want to obey and choose instead to disobey because we want to do things our own way, we are doing something called “rebellious.” It’s kind of like we’re doing the opposite of what we’re told to do. I have some pictures to show you. See if you can tell me what the opposites are. *Show Opposites Pictures saying, “If I told you to (picture text) and you did the opposite, what would you do?”*

- Have Opposites Pictures printed, cut out, and ready to show.

Sometimes we feel like we want to do the opposite of what we’re told, but that would be rebellious. God doesn’t want us to disobey and rebel. You see, God has given us people to watch over us and lead us. They are our authorities, like parents or teachers or even babysitters. So we need

to obey and respect them. When we don't, we're actually disobeying God and rebelling against him, too.

The Israelites acted the same way when they chose not to go into the land God had given to them. But this wasn't the first time they rebelled against God, and it wouldn't be the last time either. In our lesson today, we'll see how they rebelled against Moses, Aaron, and God again.

Korah Rebels

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. After God said the older people could not go into the promised land, this made some of them very upset. It wasn't long before three men, who didn't like the way God was doing things, decided to stir up trouble. Their names were Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.

They gathered 250 men together and went to see Moses and Aaron. They said mean things about Moses and Aaron that were not true. These men were jealous. They wanted to be leaders like Moses and priests like Aaron.

Numbers 16:11

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's read what Moses said to them in the book of Numbers. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the first sentence of Numbers 16:11.

- Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

- ? Who were these men really coming against? *The Lord.*
- ? Is it a good thing to come against the Lord? *No!*

Since God chose Moses to lead the people and Aaron to be the high priest, these men were really rebelling against God when they came against the leaders God chose. It was like they were saying, "God, we don't like the men you've put in charge over us!"

- ? Is that a good thing to say to God? *No!*

These people were jealous, too. They didn't want to do the jobs God had already given them to do. They wanted the special jobs God had given to Moses and Aaron.

So Moses told them to come back the next day and offer sweet-smelling spices to God the way Aaron and the priests did. Then God would show them all who he wanted to be his priests and leaders.

God Punishes Sin

The next day, a big crowd gathered; they wanted to see what would happen to Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. The 250 men who wanted to be priests also came to burn sweet spices to God. But God knew what was going on, and he was not pleased. He knew these people were rebelling.

God spoke to Moses saying, “Move away from the people so I may destroy them!”

But Moses prayed, “O God, please don’t punish all the people for the sin of these few men!”

So God said, “Tell the people to get away from Korah, Dathan, and Abiram.”

Moses went to the people and warned them, “Hurry! Move away from the tents of these wicked men so that you won’t be punished along with them!” The Israelites moved back from the three men.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Suddenly, the ground under the three men began to tremble and split apart! The earth opened up and swallowed Korah, Dathan, and Abiram! All three men, their tents, and their families fell into a huge crack in the earth, and the ground closed back up over them.

The other Israelites were terrified and ran away. They didn’t want the earth to swallow them up, too! But that’s not all. God also sent fire from heaven and burned up the 250 men who were offering the sweet spices! They were punished because they were trying to be priests, but God had given that job only to Aaron and his sons.

- ? Wow! God didn’t like it when these men rebelled against him, did he? *No!*

Moses Disobeys

As the Israelites continued to wander around in the wilderness, they reached a place where there was no water.

- ? Now who do you think could help them with this problem? *God.*
- ? Yes, God provided water for them before, didn’t he? We talked about one time when God made water come out of a rock. Do you remember what God told Moses to do? *Strike the rock with his staff.*

So the people knew God could give them water. But instead of asking God for help, once again, they complained and grumbled to Moses about being thirsty. Moses knew he needed God’s help and prayed about the problem. God said he would provide water again. Only this time, he told Moses and Aaron to gather the people around a rock and *speak* to it. Moses wasn’t supposed to hit it with his staff like before.

Numbers 20:10–11

Let’s read what happened in Numbers chapter 20. *Read verses 10–11.*

- ? Who did Moses say would bring water out of the rock? *We. Moses and Aaron.*
- ? Is that true? Would Moses and Aaron bring the water? Or God? *God would.*
- ? Then what did Moses do to the rock? *Struck it twice.*

Oh no! This time, Moses and Aaron did NOT obey God's instructions. Moses *struck* the rock with his staff twice instead of speaking to it like God said to do. Moses disobeyed God. And he and Aaron even said *they* would give water instead of God.

? Do you think God was pleased with Moses and Aaron? *No!*

God was angry with Moses and Aaron for rebelling and doing it their way instead of following his directions. Remember how we've learned that God is holy and hates sin? God must punish sin. So God punished Moses and Aaron and said they would never get to go into the promised land. This was terrible news! They had been faithful and tried to please God, but their disobedience had to be punished just like the disobedience of the Israelites whenever they rebelled.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. We might think God sounds really mean when we read about these things in the Bible. But God isn't mean; he's holy and takes sin seriously. He must punish sin because of who he is. But God is also full of mercy and love. He showed how much he loves us when he sent his only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us so we could be forgiven of our sins. God loves us, but he also wants us to trust him and obey him and not rebel by doing things our own way.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game on page 39.



Pre-K Lesson

Refer to Lesson 61 Flip Chart. God told Moses to send 12 spies into the land of Canaan. These men spied for 40 days. They brought back fruit and told the Israelites that the land was very good!

? But there were some problems that scared 10 of the spies. What were the problems? *There were strong, tall people in the land (giants). The cities had walls around them.*

? Which two spies trusted God to help them win the land? *Joshua and Caleb.*

Yes. They reminded the people to trust God and not to be afraid. But the people didn't listen to Joshua and Caleb. They would not go into the good land God promised to give them.

The Israelites disobeyed the Lord, so he punished them by making them wander in the wilderness for 40 years until all the older people who didn't believe and obey him died. Only Joshua, Caleb, and the young people under age 20 would enter the land later.

? We might think the Israelites were so bad all the time. But wait. How many of you have ever disobeyed? *Show of hands.*

When we decide to disobey and try to do things our own way, we are doing something called "rebellious." It's kind of like we're doing the opposite of what we're told to do. I have some pictures to show you.

See if you can tell me what the opposites are. *Show Opposites Pictures saying, "If I told you to (picture text) and you did the opposite, what would you do?"*

► Have Opposites Pictures printed, cut out, and ready to show.

Sometimes we feel like we want to do the opposite of what we're told to do. But God doesn't want us to rebel. You see, God has given us people to watch over us and lead us. They are our authorities, like parents or teachers or even babysitters. So, when we don't obey or respect them, we're actually disobeying God and rebelling against him, too.

The Israelites acted the same way when they chose not to go into the land God had given to them. In our lesson today, we'll see how they disobeyed and rebelled again.

Korah Rebels

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Soon after God said the older people could not go into the promised land, three men named Korah, Dathan, and Abiram decided they didn't like the way God was doing things, so they began to cause trouble.

First, they gathered 250 men together, and went to see Moses and Aaron. They said mean things about them that were not true because they were jealous and wanted to be leaders and priests like Moses and Aaron.

Numbers 16:11

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's read what Moses said to them in the book of Numbers. *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the first sentence of Numbers 16:11.*

- ? Who were these men really coming against? *The Lord.*
- ? Is it a good thing to come against the Lord? *No!*

Since God chose Moses to lead the people and Aaron to be the high priest, these men were really rebelling against God when they came against the leaders God chose. It was like they were saying, "God, we don't like the men you've put in charge over us!" They didn't want to do their own jobs; they wanted the special jobs God had given to Moses and Aaron.

So Moses told them to come back the next day and offer sweet-smelling spices to God the way Aaron and the priests did. Then God would show them all if he wanted them to be his priests and leaders or not.

► Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

God Punishes Sin

The next day, a big crowd gathered; they wanted to see what would happen to Korah, Dathan, and Abiram. The 250 men who wanted to be priests also came to burn sweet spices to God. But God knew what was

going on and spoke to Moses saying, “Tell the people to move away from these men so I may destroy them!”

Moses warned the people, “Hurry! Get away from the tents of Korah, Dathan, and Abiram so that you won’t be punished along with them!” The Israelites moved back from the three men.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Suddenly, the ground began to shake and split apart! The earth opened up and swallowed Korah, Dathan, and Abiram! All three men, their tents, and their families fell into the huge crack in the earth, and the ground closed back up over them.

The other Israelites were terrified and ran away. They didn’t want the earth to swallow them up, too! But that’s not all. God also sent fire and burned up the 250 men who were offering the sweet spices! They were punished because they were trying to be priests, but God had given that job only to Aaron and his sons.

- ? Wow! God didn’t like it when these men rebelled against him, did he? *No!*
-

Moses Disobeys

As the Israelites wandered around in the wilderness, they reached a place where there was no water.

- ? Now who do you think could help them with this problem? *God.*

Yes, God provided water for them before, didn’t he? We talked about one time when God made water come out of a rock when Moses hit the rock with his staff.

So the people knew God could give them water. But instead of asking God for help, they complained and grumbled to Moses about being thirsty. Moses prayed about the problem, and God said he would provide water again. Only this time, he told Moses and Aaron to *speak* to a rock. Moses wasn’t supposed to hit it with his staff like before.

Numbers 20:11

Let’s read what happened in Numbers 20:11. *Read the verse.*

- ? What did Moses do to the rock? *Struck it twice with his staff.*

Oh no! This time, Moses and Aaron did NOT obey God’s instructions. Moses *struck* the rock with his staff instead of speaking to it like God said to do. Moses disobeyed God—he did it his own way. And he and Aaron even said *they* would bring water from the rock instead of God.

Remember how we’ve learned that God is holy and hates sin? God must punish sin. So God punished Moses and Aaron and said they would never get to go into the promised land.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. We might think God sounds really mean when we read about these things in the Bible. But God isn't mean; he's holy and takes sin seriously. God is also full of mercy and love. He showed how much he loves us when he sent his only Son, Jesus, to die on the cross for us so we could be forgiven of our sins. God loves us, but he also wants us to trust him and obey him.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.



Lesson Review Game

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.



Story Time

? Do you remember what happened in our last story? *Allow discussion.*

Justin thought he broke his tooth! When his mom said he needed to see the dentist, Justin almost let his fear keep him from trusting his mom.

Let's find out what our story is about today! *Read the story as you show the picture.*

Uh oh! Justin and Jessie really bungled it, didn't they? Traci was the authority in charge of the kids. But Justin and Jessie thought of her as just a friend from church that they could play jokes on. They didn't think about how they should have respected her because she was put in charge. When they hid outdoors, even though they knew their parents wouldn't like that, they were doing things their own way, weren't they? That's rebellion—doing things our own way instead of obeying those in authority over us.

? Can you think of people who are in authority over you? *Allow answers. Parents, teachers, principals, coaches, pastors, babysitters, police officers, government, etc.*

God gives each of us authorities who teach us, care for us, and lead us, and we should respect and obey them because that pleases God.



Memory Verse Game

Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page as you play a memory verse game. Explain the verse to your students as you review it together.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Song Time

Use the downloaded music to practice the songs. Find the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

You may want to add stomping, clapping, and musical instruments, or make up hand motions to any of the songs!

Joshua 1:9

*Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. **Let's practice the memory verse song.** Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.*

Sing other class favorites or songs from the Additional Songs list as time allows.

Group Prayer

- ▶ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

Be sure to pray with your students before you dismiss them.

- **Thank God for authorities over us who help take care of us and lead us.**
- **Ask God to help us obey him and respect authorities.**

Song Sheet

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

The LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9



God Prepares the Way

*God helped the Israelites defeat Amorite kings
and receive blessings from Balaam.*

Lesson Focus

To prepare the way into Canaan, God gave Moses and the Israelites great victories including the defeat of the giant King Og. The Israelites were encouraged and grew in their trust in God. Because King Balak was afraid of the Israelites, he hired the false prophet Balaam to curse them, but God caused him to bless the Israelites instead.

Key Passages

Deuteronomy 3:1–3; Numbers 22:28

Memory Verse

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Lesson Preparation

Come On In

Choose one of the following activities and print/gather necessary items.

Come On In Game:

- Bible Book Match
- Flashcard Take Away
- I Have You Have
- Popcorn*

Review Activity Sheet*

Turn on some lesson/memory verse songs for students to listen to while they play with play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc.*

Lesson Time

You will need the following items:

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time

Bring the following for the Donkey Game:

- Print the Donkey Poster and one tail for each student
- Blindfold
- Tape or poster putty
- Optional: treat or prize for the winner

Lesson Review Game

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Basket Toss*
- Bible Baseball*
- Board Game
- Bowling*
- Goofy Golf
- Racetrack*
- Toss for It*

Story Time

Read the Justin and Jessie story on the back of the poster provided in the Teacher Kit or print a copy.

Memory Verse Game

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Balloon Bop and Pop
- Echo Echo*
- Egg Hunt
- Follow the Leader*
- Freeze*
- Funny Voices*
- Popcorn*

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.

Song Time

Practice the following songs using the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page. Remember to use the downloaded music to learn the songs.

- “Joshua 1:9”
- “God Is Faithful”

Find extra songs to the tunes of favorite nursery rhymes in the Additional Songs list.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under **Lesson 63**. Game instructions are also included in the **Appendix** in the back of this Teacher Guide.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3–4 years old) and Kindergarten–1st Grade (5–7 years old) classes. Suggestions with an **asterisk (*)** are specifically recommended for Pre-K.

Prepare to Share

Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

The 40 years of wandering ended, and the Israelites left the wilderness for Mount Seir, the land God gave to Esau and his descendants. The Israelites were forbidden peaceful passage through Edom, so they traveled around it to avoid conflict as God directed (Deuteronomy 2:5). The rebellious men of war age 20 and older had died, and God told Moses to head north toward Moab but not to engage Moab or Ammon in battle because their land was given to Lot (Deuteronomy 2:19). After skirting these lands, the Israelites requested permission to pass peacefully through the territory of the Amorite king Sihon. He refused and gathered his people to fight against them. God gave the Israelites victory over Sihon, and they captured his lands and settled in his cities, including his capital, Heshbon (Numbers 21:21–26). Moses then turned north to the land of Bashan, which was ruled by a giant king named Og. Og is described as the last of a race of giants called the Rephaim, and the dimensions of his bed indicate he was 9–12 feet tall (Deuteronomy 3:11)! Og and his people fought against the Israelites and were defeated. The Israelites wiped out Og, his sons, and all his people and possessed his land (Numbers 21:33–35). These victories gave the Israelites confidence in God's power to drive out their enemies as he promised. They did not need to fear giants or fortified cities. The land of the Amorite kings conquered by Moses and the Israelites became the inheritance of the Reubenites, Gadites, and half-tribe of Manasseh (Deuteronomy 3:12–17).

Balak, the king of Moab, heard about the victories of Israel against the Amorites and was overcome

Historical/Apologetics Background

Several people groups are mentioned in the account of the Israelites' travel from the wilderness to the land of Canaan. Because few artifacts survived from these peoples who lived 2,000 to 3,000 years ago, many archaeologists were skeptical about their existence. However, evidence from modern-day Jordan reveals that these people did live at the eastern border of what would become Israel's land. The Edomites were the descendants of Esau, Jacob's twin

with fear. He gathered the leaders of Midian and devised a plan to hire Balaam to curse the Israelites. Balaam practiced divination and was known for effective curses. Balaam refused to come at first, but then he agreed to accompany the princes of Moab to King Balak (Numbers 22:1–21). But God knew Balaam's motives were not good, so he sent an angel to stand in his path. Three times the angel of the Lord appeared, and Balaam's donkey saw him and saved Balaam's life by refusing to go forward. Angry at his seemingly disobedient donkey, Balaam struck her each time she saved his life. Then the Lord miraculously enabled the donkey to speak, and the conversation between Balaam and his donkey revealed the dullness of Balaam to recognize his error. When God opened his eyes to see the angel, Balaam admitted his sin and said he would return home. But God told him to continue to Balak but to speak only the word God told him (Numbers 22:22–35). Balak took Balaam to three locations overlooking the Israelites, and each time Balaam pronounced a blessing on them (Numbers 23–24). Balak was angry with Balaam and refused to honor him (Numbers 24:10–11).

Although Balaam was used to bless the Israelites, he also caused great punishment to fall on them. It was Balaam who recommended that the Moabites and Midianites entice Israel to sin by worshipping pagan gods and intermarrying with their neighbors (Revelation 2:14). This led to God's punishment of a plague that destroyed 24,000 Israelites (Numbers 25:9). God later commanded Moses to retaliate against Midian (Numbers 25:16–18), and Balaam was killed along with five Midianite kings (Numbers 31:7–8).

brother (Genesis 36). The mountain region of Seir was given by God to Esau, which is why he forbade the Israelites from engaging the Edomites in battle. The origin of *Edom*, meaning "red" in Hebrew, was associated with Esau (Genesis 25:30) and may also be connected to the red sandstone of the region. Evidence of the by-product of smelting ore has been found in the region, indicating the presence of extensive copper mining in Edom.

The Moabites and Ammonites were both descended from Abraham's nephew, Lot, by his own daughters (Genesis 19:37–38). An Ammonite palace with defensive walls was found at archaeological sites at the Citadel in Amman, Jordan. The Moabite Stone, discovered in 1868, confirmed the names of many Old Testament places as well as Chemosh, the Moabite god.

The miracle of Balaam's donkey speaking to him on the road is another area skeptics like to mock. However, in the case of Balaam's donkey and the serpent in the Garden of Eden, the animals were a vessel enabled by another being to speak. Satan spoke through the serpent to Eve, enticing her to doubt God's Word and disobey his command. But it was the Lord who opened the mouth of Balaam's donkey (Numbers 22:28) to rebuke the false prophet and stop his mad course for material gain (2 Peter 2:15–16; cf. Jude 11). The dialogue between a "stubborn" donkey and her angry master also serves to accentuate the stubbornness of Balaam to pursue his own course. It was not until God opened his eyes to the angel of the Lord blocking his path with a drawn

sword that Balaam admitted his sin and offered to return home (Numbers 22:31–35).

Although Balaam prophesied the words God gave him and blessed the Israelites, he is remembered as the one who caused the Israelites to stumble and receive God's punishment. Balaam gave Balak the idea to intermarry his people with the Israelites and invite them to their pagan feasts. In so doing, the Israelites were led astray to idolatry and immorality (Numbers 25:1–8; Revelation 2:14). This compromising practice of Balaam is dangerous for any time and culture. The Israelites let their pagan neighbors influence them rather than standing firm on the Word of God and his laws. During the early days of the church, Jesus rebuked the church at Pergamos for the same sin—allowing people to compromise the Word of God with pagan ideas. Today, Satan uses the same tactic in churches as he tricks many Christians and their leaders into compromising with the world rather than standing firm on the authority of Scripture. May we not trust in the fallible assumptions of man, but rather trust in the Word of the omniscient God.



Come On In

As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.

- ▶ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



Lesson Time

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you brought or prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today let's say prayers of thanksgiving and thank God for something he's done.

I'll start. Dear God, thank you for . . . *(insert personal prayer here).*

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

- ? What word means God will always keep his promises? *Faithful.*
- ? What special laws did God give to Moses and the Israelites? *The Ten Commandments.*
- ? What people (or nation) did God promise to give the land of Canaan to? *The Israelites.*
- ? Who were the Israelites? *The descendants of Israel (Jacob).*

Bible Treasure Hunt

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. You can use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible.

- ▶ Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God’s Word, the Bible. God’s Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It’s like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We’re going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I’ve hidden the Bible. When I say “Go,” you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we’ll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! *Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!*

K–1st Lesson continues next. Go to page 52 for the Pre-K Lesson.



K–1st Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 61 Flip Chart. The Israelites were afraid and rebelled against God’s command to enter the promised land. Because of this, only Joshua, Caleb, and the young people under age 20 would get to enter the land.

Refer to Lesson 62 Flip Chart. While the Israelites lived in the wilderness for 40 years, three men rebelled and led a group of men against Moses and Aaron because they were jealous and unhappy.

- ?** Who remembers the names of the three men who rebelled? *Korah, Dathan, Abiram.*
- ?** How did God punish Korah, Dathan, and Abiram? What happened to them? *An earthquake split the ground, and they and their families and belongings fell into the earth.*

Today, we’ll jump 40 years later to the end of the Israelites’ wandering in the wilderness. The younger people had grown up, and it was finally time for them to enter the promised land of Canaan. There were many dangers they would have to face, but God promised to intervene. That means he would come between the Israelites and their enemies and clear the way for them to take the land as their own. God was with them and promised to bless them in this new land.

God Gives the Victory over King Og

As the Israelites traveled to the place where they would go into the promised land, they wanted to cross through the beautiful land of

Bashan. This area had many cities with tall walls. And the king was a giant man named Og!

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. The Bible says Og slept in a big bed that was about 13 1/2 feet long—that’s a long bed. This king was probably 9–12 feet tall! That’s at least 2 feet taller than the tallest basketball players in the NBA. Most ceilings in our homes are only 8 feet high, so Og would have to duck down to walk around in your house so his head wouldn’t crash through the ceiling!

Uh oh! Would the Israelites trust in God and go to battle against the giant King Og? Or would they be too afraid?

Deuteronomy 3:1–3

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let’s find out from the book of Deuteronomy. Listen to what Moses wrote. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read the verses.

- ?** Og and all his people came out to fight. What did the Lord say to Moses?
Do not fear, for I have given him, his people, and his land into your hand.

God promised that the Israelites would win the fight with this giant king! And they did! God helped the Israelites defeat King Og and all his soldiers. They even took over all the walled cities! The land of Bashan was now theirs.

The Israelites grew in faith and courage. They didn’t need to fear the enemy with God on their side.

God Gives Blessings through Balaam

Nearby, in the land of Moab, a king named Balak heard about the Israelites—and he was scared! He thought if they attacked him he would lose for sure. So, he came up with a plan to stop them. He knew of a false prophet named Balaam and decided, “I’ll send princes to Balaam to ask him to come and curse the Israelites. For it is said that whenever Balaam speaks a curse against someone, that bad thing will surely happen!”

When the princes came to Balaam and asked if he would come and curse the Israelites, Balaam asked God if he should go. But God told him not to, and Balaam obeyed—this time.

But King Balak didn’t give up. He sent more princes to Balaam. They said, “You will be honored and get silver and gold if you come curse the Israelites.” This time God said Balaam could go, but he must only say what God told him to say.

Balaam saddled his donkey and started off to meet King Balak. But God knew Balaam’s heart was not right. So God intervened. He didn’t want his people to be cursed, and he planned to do something surprising to make Balaam stop and think about his sin.

Balaam rode on his donkey as she trotted along when suddenly, the angel of the Lord stood right in front of them with his sword. But Balaam couldn't see the angel, only his donkey could. She was afraid of this angel holding a sharp sword, so she turned off the road and went into a field.

"What are you doing!?" Balaam cried angrily as he struck the donkey with his stick to get her back on the road.

They traveled on until they came to a narrow path with walls on each side. Suddenly, the angel of the Lord appeared again! There was no way around the angel, so the donkey pushed against the wall, squishing Balaam's foot. "Ouch! What is wrong with you?" he shouted and struck his poor donkey again! Balaam didn't know why his donkey was acting this way.

Refer to the Flip Chart. On they traveled until the angel of the Lord appeared a third time. Balaam still didn't see the angel! This time, the donkey had nowhere to turn, so she lay down right in the middle of the road! Balaam was so angry, he struck the donkey again. That's when God worked his miracle!

Numbers 22:28

Listen to what happened from the book of Numbers. *Read the verse.*

- ? What miracle did the Lord do through the donkey? *He opened the mouth of the donkey so she spoke to Balaam.* ➤ Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.
- ? Can you imagine having a donkey speak to you? What did she ask Balaam? *What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?*

Refer to the Flip Chart. Balaam was so angry, he told his donkey that he wished he had a sword to kill her!

- ? Then God finally opened Balaam's eyes, and guess what he saw? *Allow guesses.*

Balaam saw the angel of the Lord standing there with his sword. Balaam bowed down. The angel told Balaam that he would have killed him if his donkey had not turned away like she did. The donkey saved Balaam's life!

God was showing Balaam that he was against him because he knew Balaam's heart was not right with God. Balaam confessed his sin and the angel told him to go see King Balak, but he was to speak only the blessings God told him to speak. Isn't it interesting how God used a talking donkey to remind Balaam to be obedient?

King Balak wanted Balaam to curse the Israelites because he knew he couldn't win if he had to fight them. But when it was time for Balaam to curse them, God gave Balaam the words to say, and he blessed the Israelites, saying good things instead.

God promised to intervene and help the Israelites as they entered the promised land. He was faithful to help them win battles and to bless them—even when others, like King Balak, wanted to curse them.

- Have the Donkey Poster and other materials ready for the donkey game.

To remind us of how God used a talking donkey to stop Balaam, let's play a donkey game! Attach the Donkey Poster to the wall. Choose volunteers or let all students have a turn. Blindfold them, spin them around, and then have them pin a tail on the poster using tape or poster putty. Award a prize to the student whose tail is the closest to the right spot.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game on page 54.



Pre-K Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 61 Flip Chart. The Israelites were afraid and rebelled against God's command to enter the promised land. Because of this, only Joshua, Caleb, and the young people under age 20 would get to enter the land.

Refer to Lesson 62 Flip Chart. While the Israelites lived in the wilderness for 40 years, three men named Korah, Dathan, and Abiram led some people to rebel against Moses and Aaron because they were jealous and unhappy.

- ? How did God punish Korah, Dathan, and Abiram? What happened to them? *An earthquake split the ground, and they and their families and belongings fell into the earth.*

Today, we'll jump ahead 40 years to the end of the Israelites' wandering in the wilderness. The younger people had grown up, and it was finally time for them to enter the promised land of Canaan. There were many dangers they would have to face. But God promised to intervene. That means he would come between the Israelites and their enemies and clear the way for them to take the land for their own. God was with them and promised to bless them in this new land.

God Gives the Victory over King Og

On their way to the place where they would go into the promised land, the Israelites came to the beautiful land of Bashan. The land had lots of cities with tall walls. And the king was a giant man named Og!

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. The Bible says Og slept in a big bed that was about 13^{1/2} feet long—that's a long bed! King Og was probably 9–12 feet tall! That's taller than the tallest basketball players. Og would have to duck down to walk around in your house so his head wouldn't crash through the ceiling!

- ? Uh oh! Do you think the Israelites would trust in God and go to battle against the giant King Og? Or would they be too afraid? *Allow guesses.*

God promised the Israelites would win the fight with this giant king! And they did win! They defeated King Og and all his soldiers. The land was now theirs!

The Israelites grew in faith and courage. They could trust God to help them take the promised land. They didn't need to fear the enemy with God on their side.

God Gives Blessings through Balaam

Nearby, in the land of Moab, a king named Balak heard about the Israelites—and he was scared! He thought if they attacked him, he would lose for sure. So, he came up with a plan to stop them. King Balak knew of a false prophet named Balaam. He decided, “I'll send princes to Balaam to ask him to come and curse the Israelites. For it is said that whenever Balaam speaks a curse against someone, that bad thing will surely happen!”

The princes came to Balaam and said, “You will be honored and get silver and gold if you come curse the Israelites.” Balaam went with them, but God told him he must only say what God wanted him to say.

Balaam saddled his donkey and started off to meet King Balak. But God knew Balaam's heart was not right. So God intervened. He didn't want his people to be cursed, and he planned to do something surprising to make Balaam stop and think about his sin.

Balaam rode on his donkey as she trotted along when suddenly, the angel of the Lord stood right in front of them with his sword! But Balaam couldn't see the angel, only his donkey could. She was afraid of this angel with a sharp sword, so she turned off the road and went into a field.

“What are you doing!?” Balaam cried angrily. Then he struck the donkey with his stick to get her back on the road.

They traveled on until they came to a narrow path with walls on each side. The angel of the Lord appeared again! There was no way around the angel, so the donkey pushed against the wall, squishing Balaam's foot. “Ouch!” he shouted and struck his poor donkey again! Balaam didn't know why his donkey was acting this way.

Refer to the Flip Chart. On they went until the angel of the Lord appeared a third time. Balaam didn't see the angel, but his donkey did! This time she had nowhere to turn. So, she lay down right in the middle of the road! Balaam was so angry, he hit the poor donkey with his stick again. That's when God worked his miracle!

Numbers 22:28

Listen to what happened from the book of Numbers. *Read the verse.*

► Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

? **What miracle did the Lord do through the donkey?** *He opened the mouth of the donkey so she spoke to Balaam.*

? **Can you imagine having a donkey speak to you? What did she ask Balaam?** *What have I done to you, that you have struck me these three times?*

Refer to the Flip Chart. Balaam spoke to his donkey and said she was making a fool of him. He was very angry with her and wanted to kill her.

? **God finally opened Balaam's eyes, and guess what he saw?** *Allow guesses.*

Balaam saw the angel of the Lord standing there with his sword. Balaam bowed down. The angel told Balaam that he would have killed him if his donkey had not turned away like she did. The donkey saved Balaam's life!

God was showing Balaam that he was against him because he knew what was in Balaam's heart. God used a talking donkey to remind Balaam to be obedient. Balaam confessed his sin and went to see King Balak. But when it was time for Balaam to curse the Israelites, God gave Balaam good words to say, and he blessed them instead.

God promised to intervene and help the Israelites as they entered the promised land. He was faithful to help them win battles and to bless them—even when others, like King Balak, wanted to curse them.

To remind us of how God used a talking donkey to stop Balaam, let's **play a donkey game!** *Attach the Donkey Poster to the wall. Choose volunteers or let all students have a turn. Blindfold them, spin them around, and then have them pin a tail on the poster using tape or poster putty. Award a prize to the student whose tail is the closest to the right spot.*

► Have the Donkey Poster and other materials ready for the donkey game.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.



Lesson Review Game

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.



Story Time

? **Do you remember what happened in our last story?** *Allow discussion.*

Justin and Jessie bungled their evening with a babysitter, didn't they? Traci was put in charge of the kids. But Justin and Jessie thought of her just as a friend that they could play tricks on. They didn't respect Traci as their authority the way they should have.

What will happen in today's story? Let's find out! *Show the picture on the poster as you read the story.*

God used a talking donkey to get Matt's attention, didn't he? That's why Matt wanted to go to church, so he could hear about the donkey. But his

mom didn't want him to go to church. When Justin and Jessie prayed that God would intervene, he worked it out so Matt HAD to go to church with them.

Just like in our story, God will often intervene to work things out for good for those who love him. We saw how he intervened for the Israelites when they put their trust in him. God helped them win battles against their enemies. And he even used a donkey to make sure the Israelites would be blessed by Balaam and not cursed.

Memory Verse Game

Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page as you play a memory verse game. Explain the verse to your students as you review it together.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Song Time

Use the downloaded music to practice the songs. Find the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

You may want to add stomping, clapping, and musical instruments, or make up hand motions to any of the songs!

Joshua 1:9

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Let's sing the memory verse song now. Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

God Is Faithful

It's time to learn a new song. We've learned how God is faithful to do what he's promised. Let's sing about that. Teach the words then sing the song together once or twice.

Sing other class favorites or songs from the Additional Songs list as time allows.

Group Prayer

Be sure to pray with your students before you dismiss them.

- Thank God that we can pray, and that he does intervene.
- Ask God to help us be obedient.

➤ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

Song Sheet

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

The LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

God Is Faithful

God is faithful always and forever.

Every single promise he will keep.

When I seek to do what he's commanded,

God is always ready to help me.

God is faithful always and forever.

Every single promise he will keep.

When I seek to do what he's commanded,

God is always ready to help me.

He is faithful, always faithful—

Even when we're not.

I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.

God is faithful always and forever.

Every single promise he will keep.

When I seek to do what he's commanded,

God is always ready to help me.

He is faithful, always faithful—

Even when we're not.

I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.

He is faithful, always faithful—

Even when we're not.

I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.

God is faithful always and forever.



Rahab Helps the Spies

Rahab believed in God and helped the Israelite spies in Jericho.

Lesson Focus

God chose Joshua to lead the Israelites after Moses' death. Joshua sent spies into Jericho, but they were discovered. A woman named Rahab hid the spies and helped them escape because she had faith in God. God rewarded her faith by sparing her and her family, and she was included in the genealogy of Jesus.

Key Passages

Joshua 1:5–6, 1:9, 2:11

Memory Verse

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Lesson Preparation

Come On In

Choose one of the following activities and print/gather necessary items.

Come On In Game:

- Bible Book Match
- Flashcard Take Away
- I Have You Have
- Popcorn*

Review Activity Sheet*

Turn on some lesson/memory verse songs for students to listen to while they play with play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc.*

Lesson Time

You will need the following items:

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time

Bring the following for the Rahab Skit:

- Print two copies of the Rahab Skit for you and an assistant
- Sheet or tablecloth
- Red party streamer or yarn
- Optional costumes or props (see skit for details)

Lesson Review Game

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Basket Toss*
- Bible Baseball*
- Board Game
- Bowling*
- Goofy Golf
- Racetrack*
- Toss for It*

Story Time

Read the Justin and Jessie story on the back of the poster provided in the Teacher Kit or print a copy.

Memory Verse Game

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Balloon Bop and Pop
- Echo Echo*
- Egg Hunt
- Follow the Leader*
- Freeze*
- Funny Voices*
- Popcorn*

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.

Song Time

Practice the following songs using the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page. Remember to use the downloaded music to learn the songs.

- “Joshua 1:9”
- “God Is Faithful”

Find extra songs to the tunes of favorite nursery rhymes in the Additional Songs list.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under **Lesson 64**. Game instructions are also included in the **Appendix** in the back of this Teacher Guide.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3–4 years old) and Kindergarten–1st Grade (5–7 years old) classes. Suggestions with an **asterisk (*)** are specifically recommended for Pre-K.

Prepare to Share

Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

The Amorites on the east side of the Jordan River were defeated, and the time came for Moses to die. God called him up to a mountain and let him see the Promised Land before he died at age 120 (Deuteronomy 34:1, 34:5–8). God chose Joshua to lead the people and promised to be with him just as he had been with Moses (Deuteronomy 34:9; Joshua 1:5). The Israelites under Joshua’s leadership were to begin the conquest of the Promised Land. The generation of Moses’ day had died for its lack of faith and obedience to God. The new generation of Israelites had many nations to conquer, yet God would provide the strength and courage needed for success as long as the Israelites remained obedient.

Joshua, as the new leader, sent two men on a spying mission to view the land, especially Jericho (Joshua 2:1). The two spies entered Jericho and found lodging with Rahab, the prostitute. Although this may seem odd at first, upon further consideration, Rahab’s home on the wall could offer a safe and inconspicuous haven for the men. However, in God’s divine providence, the men were found out. When Rahab realized who the spies were, she was introduced firsthand to the God of Israel whom she had heard of and feared. Rahab demonstrated her faith by declaring the Lord to be the true God and offering protection to the spies (Joshua 2:3–6, 2:8–12, 2:15–16).

The question we might ask is how could this woman, a prostitute, know about the God of Israel?

Historical/Apologetics Background

Many raise the question as to whether God blessed Rahab’s lie to the king’s men when they came for the Israelite spies. If so, is it okay to lie in some circumstances? The answer is no—it is never okay to lie. Lying is a sin against a holy, perfect God (Proverbs 12:22). However, God frequently uses the sinful acts of both the righteous and unrighteous to execute his purposes.

God wanted to show his amazing grace and sovereignty in this situation. Rahab had been a deliberate sinner, and likely an idolater, given that she had lived an immoral life in a pagan city. Her knowledge of the

She was well aware, as apparently all in Jericho were, that Israel was a nation whose God had delivered his people in a dramatic, miraculous fashion from Egypt. This God had also provided victory for his people over the most notorious kings on the other side of the Jordan, including King Og of Bashan (Deuteronomy 3:4; Joshua 2:10).

Rahab was willing to stake her life and her family members’ lives on the ability of God to defeat her own people and yet deliver her! She misled the pursuers who were sent by the king of Jericho to capture the spies, and she concealed the spies until she helped them escape back to Joshua (Joshua 2:2–6, 2:15–16). Rahab acted on her belief that the God of Israel would carry out his promises to give the land to his people, and by doing so, she showed an utter dependence upon him. This faith was remarkable enough to be held up to all future believers as an example of faith (Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25).

The fact that God would bring to saving faith and use a Gentile woman to fulfill his purpose foreshadowed his intention to break down the “dividing wall of hostility” (Ephesians 2:14) between Jews and Gentiles in Christ and to make Gentiles “fellow heirs, members of the same body” with Jews in Christ (Ephesians 3:6). This grand scheme of Christ’s salvation of sinners from every nation was in the background when God used Rahab to help deliver Israel’s spies in return for protection for her and her family during Jericho’s destruction (Joshua 6:25). Rahab and her family lived with the Israelites, and Rahab married a man from the tribe of Judah.

true God was no doubt incomplete, being based on what was discussed among her people and not on a principled or careful instruction from Scripture. Her people had not been given the Ten Commandments or the other laws that God gave his people. Thus, it was from this incomplete knowledge of God that she chose to lie on behalf of the spies. And in God’s mercy, he covered the sin, acknowledged her faith, and redeemed the situation.

To focus on the lie instead of the reward that our holy, sovereign, merciful God granted her does not give God the glory due his name. One lesson to be

learned from Rahab is not about Rahab at all, but about God—how he did not judge her or reward her according to her sin but saved her by grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8). God does the same for all those who repent and believe in Jesus.

Rahab's imperfect actions of faith and courage resulted not only in her salvation from destruction

but also in a place in history as an ancestor of Jesus (Matthew 1:5). If we wonder why God would use a woman like Rahab to fulfill his purposes, perhaps we have not fully faced the effect our own sin has against a holy God. Only then can we recognize the greatness of God's mercy in offering forgiveness to us through Jesus' death and resurrection.



Come On In

As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.

- Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



Lesson Time

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you brought or prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today let's say prayers of supplication and ask God for help.

I'll start. Dear God, thank you for answering our prayers. Would you please . . . *(insert personal prayer here)*.

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

- ? What word means God will always keep his promises? *Faithful.*
- ? What special laws did God give to Moses and the Israelites? *The Ten Commandments.*
- ? What people (or nation) did God promise to give the land of Canaan to? *The Israelites.*
- ? Who were the Israelites? *The descendants of Israel (Jacob).*

Bible Treasure Hunt

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. You can use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God’s Word, the Bible. God’s Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It’s like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We’re going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I’ve hidden the Bible. When I say “Go,” you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we’ll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! *Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!*

- Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

K–1st Lesson continues next. Go to page 66 for the Pre-K Lesson.



K–1st Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 63 Flip Chart. God led Moses and the Israelites to the place where they were just outside the promised land. On the way there, a king named Og attacked the Israelites.

- ? **What was different about King Og?** *He was a giant. Og slept in a huge bed. He was probably 9–12 feet tall, taller than any basketball player!*

King Og was a giant man. And there were tall walls around his cities, too. But God helped the Israelites win against Og.

Then there was King Balak. He was afraid that the Israelites would attack him next. So he hired Balaam, a false prophet, to curse the Israelites.

- ? **What kind of animal did Balaam ride on his way to see King Balak?** *A donkey.*
- ? **As Balaam rode his donkey, who blocked the way and scared the donkey?** *The angel of the Lord.*
- ? **What did God cause the donkey to do?** *Talk to Balaam.*

God made the donkey speak to Balaam! Then God opened Balaam’s eyes to see the angel and reminded him to obey and only say words of blessing for the Israelites and not to curse them.

The Israelites were God’s chosen people. He promised to bless them as they came into the promised land. Today, we’re going to see how God used a lady named Rahab to help the Israelites get ready to go into the land.

Joshua Becomes the Leader

The time had come for Joshua to lead all the people! Moses had died when he was 120 years old. Now it was Joshua's job to lead the people of Israel into the promised land. This was a scary task! They would have to fight many battles against the enemies who lived there. Let's find out what God had to say to Joshua.

Joshua 1:5–6

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We're going to read from the first chapter of the book of Joshua. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Listen to what God told Joshua. Read Joshua 1:5–6.

? Would God leave Joshua? *No.*

God promised to be with Joshua just like he had been with Moses. He reminded Joshua to make sure he obeyed God and his laws and said that Joshua would bring the Israelites into the land so they could have it for their own.

Joshua 1:9

Now let's read what else God told Joshua from our memory verse. *Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page and recite the verse together.*

Joshua would need God's strength and courage to lead the people in the fight against their enemies.

? Do you think this would be a scary thing to do? *Allow answers.*

? God reminded Joshua that he didn't need to be frightened. But what does it mean to be dismayed? Do you know? *Allow discussion.*

Being dismayed is when you're so scared that you lose your courage and feel like you can't do the job. Joshua and the Israelites had a huge job ahead of them. They would have to fight for their land against giant men, strong armies, and walled cities.

? But who would give Joshua strength and courage to lead the people? *God.*

Rahab Helps the Spies

The first city they would come to in the land was a huge, walled city called Jericho. Joshua wanted to know more about this place, so he sent two spies to sneak into Jericho and look around. Let's act out what happened to them. Watch and listen carefully so you can answer some questions.

Rahab Skit

Choose 6 students for the parts. Set out props and help actors put on any costumes you brought. As you read the Narrator's part, tell the students what to say and have an assistant direct them as they act out the skit.

- Have two copies of the Rahab Skit (for you and an assistant), props, and costumes ready.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Rahab's house was a good place for the spies to hide. They could find out a lot about the city there—and it was built right into one of the city walls! It would be a safe place with an easy escape out the window.

- ? It didn't take long before the king found out there were spies in his city. What did he do? *He sent men to Rahab's house to look for the spies.*
- ? How did Rahab hide the spies? In our skit we pretended the blanket was something else. What was it supposed to be? *Flax*

Refer to the Flip Chart. Flax is a plant with long stalks that was used to make material for clothes. Rahab took the spies to the roof of her house where she had laid the flax out to dry. This was a flat rooftop where she could go to sit or work on projects. She told the spies to lie down, and then she piled the flax on top of them so they couldn't be seen.

When the king's men knocked on her door, Rahab lied to them and said the spies had already left the city.

- ? Was it okay for Rahab to lie? *Allow discussion.*

God hates all sin, and lying is a sin. God commanded his people not to lie. It was the ninth commandment. At this time, God had just given these commandments to the Israelites, so Rahab didn't know them yet.

- ? The Israelites were planning to attack and take over her city, so Rahab asked the spies to do something for her. What did she ask? *Save her and her family.*

The spies said she must keep their secret and not tell about their plans. They told her to make sure her family was with her when the battle began.

- ? She was also told to hang something from her window. What was that? *A scarlet (red) cord.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. Scarlet is a bright red color that the Israelites would be able to see easily so they would know which house she was in during the battle.

- ? How did Rahab help the spies get away from the city and back to Joshua without being caught? *She let them climb down the wall with a rope from her window.*

Remember that Rahab's house was built into the wall. When she let the men climb out her window, they were outside the city walls and didn't have to go through the gate, which was closed at night.

Rahab Shows Faith

Rahab would have been in big trouble if the king's men had found the spies on her roof or found out that she helped them escape! But Rahab

had faith in God, so she chose to help the spies because she knew that God was with them.

The people in Jericho were wicked and worshipped false gods. But Rahab believed in the God of the Israelites. She told the spies that all the people in Jericho were afraid when they heard about how God parted the Red Sea and helped the Israelites win the battle against King Og.

Joshua 2:11

Let's see what she said about God. Listen to Joshua 2:11. *Read the second part of the verse.*

- ? What did Rahab say? He is the God in what? *God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.*

Yes! Rahab believed that the God of the Israelites was the one true God—the only one who had control over all the heavens and the earth. She put her faith in God, and he showed her mercy and kept her and her family safe during the battle of Jericho.

After the battle, Rahab and her family went to live with the Israelites! She married a man named Salmon and later became the great-great-grandmother of King David! And many years after that, Jesus was born into King David's family line! That means that Rahab was part of Jesus' family line! What an honor God gave her! Like all of us, Rahab was a sinner, but she was saved by faith and used by God to help the Israelite spies.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game on page 69.



Pre-K Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 63 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, a powerful king named Og attacked the Israelites.

- ? What was different about King Og? *He was a giant. Og slept in a huge bed. He was probably 9–12 feet tall, taller than any basketball player!*

King Og was a giant man. And there were tall walls around his cities, too. But God helped the Israelites win the battle against Og.

Then there was King Balak. He was afraid that the Israelites would attack him next. So he hired Balaam, a false prophet, to curse the Israelites.

- ? What kind of animal did Balaam ride on his way to see King Balak?
A donkey.

- ? As Balaam rode his donkey, who blocked the way and scared the donkey? *The angel of the Lord.*

- ? What did God cause the donkey to do? *Talk to Balaam.*

- Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

God made the donkey speak to Balaam. Then God let Balaam see the angel and reminded him to obey and only say words of blessing for the Israelites and not to curse them.

The Israelites were God's chosen people. He promised to bless them as they came into the promised land. Today, we're going to see how God used a lady named Rahab to help the Israelites get ready to go into the land.

Joshua Becomes the Leader

The time had come for Joshua to lead all the people! Moses had died when he was 120 years old. Now Joshua had to lead the people of Israel into the promised land. This was a scary job! They would have to fight many battles against the enemies who lived there.

But God spoke to Joshua and promised to be with him just like he had been with Moses. God reminded Joshua to obey him and told Joshua he would bring the Israelites into the land so they could have it for their own.

Joshua 1:9

Now let's read what else God told Joshua. We're going to read from the book of Joshua. *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. This verse is also our memory verse. Read the verse.*

Joshua would need God's strength and courage to lead the people in the fight against their enemies.

- ? Do you think this would be a scary thing to do? *Allow answers.*
- ? God told Joshua not to be frightened or dismayed. What does it mean to be dismayed? Do you know? *Allow discussion.*

Being dismayed is when you're so scared that you lose your courage and feel like you can't do the job. Joshua and the Israelites had a huge job ahead of them. They would have to fight for their land against giant men, strong armies, and walled cities.

- ? But who would be with Joshua and give him strength and courage to lead the people? *God.*

Rahab Helps the Spies

The first city in the land was the city of Jericho. It was a huge city with walls around it. Joshua wanted to know more about this place, so he sent two spies to sneak into Jericho and look around. Let's act out what happened to them. Watch and listen carefully so you can answer some questions.

- Have two copies of the Rahab Skit (for you and an assistant), props, and costumes ready.

Rahab Skit

Choose 6 students for the parts. Set out props and help actors put on any costumes you brought. As you read the Narrator's part, tell the students what to say and have an assistant direct them as they act out the skit.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Rahab's house was a good place for the spies to hide. They could find out a lot about the city there—and it was built right into one of the city walls! It would be a safe place with an easy escape out the window.

- ? It didn't take long before the king found out there were spies in his city. What did he do? *He sent men to Rahab's house to look for the spies.*
- ? How did Rahab hide the spies? In our skit we pretended the blanket was something else. What was it supposed to be? *Flax*

Refer to the Flip Chart. Flax is a plant with long stalks that was used to make material for clothes. Rahab took the spies to the roof of her house where she had laid the flax out to dry. This was a flat rooftop where she could go to sit or work. Rahab told the spies to lie down, and she piled the flax on top of them to hide them.

- ? Since she helped the spies, Rahab asked them to do something for her. What did she ask them to do? *Save her and her family when they took over the city.*

The spies said she would be safe if she kept their secret and didn't tell anyone about their plans. They also told her to make sure her family was with her in her house when the battle began.

- ? The spies told Rahab to hang something from her window. Do you remember what that was? *A scarlet (red) cord.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. Scarlet is a bright red color that the Israelites would be able to see easily so they would know which house Rahab was in and keep her safe during the battle.

- ? How did Rahab help the spies get away from the city and back to Joshua without being caught? *She let them climb down the wall with a rope from her window.*

Rahab Shows Faith

Rahab would have been in big trouble if the king's men had found the spies on her roof or found out that she helped them escape! But Rahab had faith in God, so she chose to help the spies because she knew that God was with them.

The people in Jericho were wicked and worshipped false gods. But Rahab believed in the God of the Israelites. She told the spies that all the people

in Jericho were afraid when they heard about how God parted the Red Sea and helped the Israelites win the battle against King Og.

Joshua 2:11

Then she told them what she believed about God. Listen to Joshua 2:11.
Read the second part of the verse.

- ? He is the God in what? *God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.*

Yes! Rahab believed in the one true God—the only one who has control over all the heavens and the earth. Rahab put her faith in God, and he showed her mercy and kept her and her family safe during the battle of Jericho. Even though Rahab was a sinner—like all of us—she was saved by faith and used by God to help the Israelite spies.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.



Lesson Review Game

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.



Story Time

- ? Do you remember what happened in our last story? *Allow discussion.*

Matt wanted to go to church so he could hear about the talking donkey, but his mom didn't want him to go. Then when Justin and Jessie prayed that God would intervene, he worked it out so Matt could go to church with them.

- ? What happened so Matt had to go to church with Justin? *Matt's mom was called in to work Sunday morning and asked Justin's mom to take care of him for the day.*

What will happen in today's story? Let's find out! Show the picture on the poster as you read the story.

- ? Wow! That sounds like a fun water fight. How many of you have ever been in a water fight with squirt guns or water balloons? *Show of hands. Allow discussion.*

- ? The kids were pretending to be spies on a mission. What were they after? What did Emily have to get? *The treasure box.*

We saw in our lesson how two spies had to go into the city of Jericho. Their mission was to find out all about the city so they could tell Joshua, their leader. They found out that the people were scared of the Israelites and their God. So Joshua knew it would be time for the battle very soon. This would be the first battle in the promised land. He had faith that

God would help him lead the Israelites as they fought their enemies to take the land.

When Rahab hid the spies, she had faith that gave her the courage to help them even though she knew she could have gotten into big trouble. God can make our faith grow as we learn to obey him. We may feel afraid sometimes, but if God gives us something to do, he will also give us the courage and help we need to get the job done.

Memory Verse Game

Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page as you play a memory verse game. Explain the verse to your students as you review it together.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Song Time

Use the downloaded music to practice the songs. Find the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

You may want to add stomping, clapping, and musical instruments, or make up hand motions to any of the songs!

Joshua 1:9

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. **Let's sing the memory verse song now.** Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

God Is Faithful

Let's sing about our faithful God. Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

Sing other class favorites or songs from the Additional Songs list as time allows.

Group Prayer

Be sure to pray with your students before you dismiss them.

- Praise God for his power and mercy.
- Ask God to help our faith grow as we learn to obey him.

- Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

Song Sheet

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

The LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

God Is Faithful

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he's commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he's commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we're not.
I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he's commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we're not.
I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.

He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we're not.
I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.
God is faithful always and forever.



Israel Crosses the Jordan

God provided safe passage across the Jordan River for Joshua and the Israelites.

Lesson Focus

God blocked the Jordan River so the Israelites could cross into the promised land. The priests, carrying the ark of the covenant, showed faith by leading the people and stepping into the flooded river before it dried up. Joshua set up 12 memorial stones to remind future generations of this miracle.

Key Passages

Joshua 3:17, 4:20–22

Memory Verse

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Lesson Preparation

Come On In

Choose one of the following activities and print/gather necessary items.

Come On In Game:

- Bible Book Match
- I Have You Have
- Flashcard Take Away
- Popcorn*

Review Activity Sheet*

Turn on some lesson/memory verse songs for students to listen to while they play with play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc.*

Lesson Time

You will need the following items:

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Bible

Bring the following for river demonstration:

- Blue play dough
- Small plastic people or other objects

Bring the following for Memorials Today section:

- Print and cut out the Lesson Illustrations. would recognize to add to the Lesson Illustrations.
- Optional: pictures of national or local memorials the students

Lesson Review Game

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Basket Toss*
- Goofy Golf
- Bible Baseball*
- Racetrack*
- Board Game
- Toss for It*
- Bowling*

Story Time

Read the Justin and Jessie story on the back of the poster provided in the Teacher Kit or print a copy.

Memory Verse Game

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Balloon Bop and Pop
- Freeze*
- Echo Echo*
- Funny Voices*
- Egg Hunt
- Popcorn*
- Follow the Leader*

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 65*. Game instructions are also included in the *Appendix* in the back of this Teacher Guide.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3–4 years old) and Kindergarten–1st Grade (5–7 years old) classes. Suggestions with an **asterisk (*)** are specifically recommended for Pre-K.

Prepare to Share

Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

Unlike the previous spy mission that Moses sent into the Promised Land, Joshua's spies came back from Jericho with the encouraging news that all the people in the land were afraid of them (Joshua 2:24). Joshua was ready to enter the land and begin the conquest. There was only one problem—the Jordan River lay between Israel's camp and the Promised Land! To make matters worse, the river was at flood stage, overflowing its banks (Joshua 3:15). God commanded Joshua to have the priests carry the ark of the covenant and lead the way to the river. The people were commanded to consecrate themselves as they would before a festival or worship. Consecration usually involved physical cleansing (bathing and washing clothes) and abstaining from unclean or common things or activities. Consecration prepared them for an encounter with God. The people were also to remain a respectful distance behind the priests carrying the ark (Joshua 3:2–6).

Next came a true test of faith. The priests were commanded to step into the waters of the Jordan River. They obeyed and witnessed an amazing display of God's power. When their feet entered the water, the Lord stopped the waters of the river north of their location, at a city named Adam about 15 miles away. The water heaped up, and the ground

dried up. The priests carried the ark into the middle of the riverbed and stood there while the people hurried to cross over (Joshua 3:15–17).

Joshua collected 12 stones and piled them where the priests stood as a marker of God's power and presence. As commanded by God and Joshua, a leader from each tribe of Israel also collected a stone from the riverbed, but they brought their stones to the other side (Joshua 4:8–9). After everyone was safely across, Joshua told the priests to follow. This time, when their feet reached the opposite bank, the waters of the Jordan were unblocked and returned to their normal flooded area (Joshua 4:18).

The Israelites set up their first camp in the Promised Land and called it Gilgal. Here, Joshua took the 12 stones from each tribe and set them up as a memorial of God's miracle at the Jordan. He commanded the people to teach their children the meaning of the stones. They were a reminder of God's faithfulness and power so they would fear the Lord always (Joshua 4:19–24).

The miracles of God parting the Red Sea for Moses and stopping the Jordan River for Joshua marked the beginning and ending of Israel's journey through the wilderness. The miracles also exalted the leadership of Moses and Joshua so the people would respect and obey them (Joshua 3:7). News of these miracles spread throughout the land of Canaan, causing the people to fear the Lord and recognize his power.

Historical/Apologetics Background

There are natural theories that have been used to explain God's miracle of stopping the Jordan River. In 1927, an earthquake and landslide occurred in a similar location to the ancient city of Adam on the Jordan River, blocking its flow. While this may be the method God chose, several details indicate divine intervention. For example, the timing of the miracle to have the waters stop when the priests stepped into the river required God's intervention. The timing of the stoppage could have been hours to an entire day, but the waters returned to flood stage the moment the priests crossed to the opposite bank. We don't always need to search for natural explanations to God's miracles; we can trust his Word is true.

However God chose to accomplish this miracle, he marked its importance in the history of Israel by having Joshua erect the 12 memorial stones. Knowing how quickly the next generation could forget and turn away from him, God commanded Joshua to tell parents to teach their children what the stones meant. Future generations needed to hear how God worked on behalf of his people.

In addition to its significance as a miraculous event in Israel's history, the Jordan River remains an important geographical landmark with applications for the spiritual life. The winding 223 miles of the river actually cover a distance of only 124 miles from its source at Mount Hermon through the Sea

of Galilee to where it empties into the Dead Sea. It has the lowest elevation of any other river on earth. Today, it forms the border between Israel and the country of Jordan. In Joshua's day, it was the final obstacle before he and the Israelites could enter the land of Canaan and take possession of the land God promised them. In contrast, the Red Sea marked the first obstacle in Israel's journey from bondage to freedom. The Red Sea crossing has been compared to the rescue of the sinner from bondage to sin through Jesus. And the Jordan River has been said to signify the transition to new life through victorious Christian living. During the wilderness wanderings, the Israelites were free from Egypt, yet they often longed to return. Egypt was still in their hearts just as sin remains in our flesh. It was with the new generation raised in the wilderness that God chose to give the Promised Land. They crossed with eagerness and faith into a new land.

The Jordan River also signified transitions for individual people. It showed a transition of leadership from Moses to Joshua and from Elijah to Elisha. The same miracle of the Jordan parting occurred for both Elijah and Elisha as the mantle of God's Spirit passed from teacher to student (2 Kings 2:6-14). The correlation of transition and the Jordan River continued in the New Testament. The Jordan River was where John the Baptist baptized people coming to repentance (Matthew 3:1-6). It was also where John baptized Jesus, signifying the beginning of his earthly ministry.

Just as God dried up the Red Sea to deliver his people from bondage in Egypt and dried up the Jordan River to lead his people to victory in the Promised Land, he has delivered us from the penalty of sin through faith in Christ and is delivering us from the power of sin by the sanctifying work of his Holy Spirit. And one day he will deliver us from the very presence of sin. Blessed be his holy name!



Come On In

As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.

- ▶ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



Lesson Time

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you brought or prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today let's say prayers of adoration and praise our great God.

I'll start. Dear God, you are so . . . *(insert personal prayer here)*.

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

- ? What word means God will always keep his promises? *Faithful.*
- ? What special laws did God give to Moses and the Israelites? *The Ten Commandments.*
- ? What people (or nation) did God promise to give the land of Canaan to? *The Israelites.*
- ? Who were the Israelites? *The descendants of Israel (Jacob).*

Bible Treasure Hunt

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. You can use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell

- ▶ Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God’s Word, the Bible. God’s Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It’s like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We’re going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I’ve hidden the Bible. When I say “Go,” you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we’ll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! *Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!*

K–1st Lesson continues next. Go to page 82 for the Pre-K Lesson.



K–1st Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 64 Flip Chart. Last time, we saw how God chose Joshua to lead the Israelites after Moses died. Now Joshua was getting ready to lead the people into the promised land of Canaan. He sent two spies into Jericho, and they stayed at a woman’s house.

- ? What was the name of the woman? Do you remember? *Rahab.*

Rahab heard about the miracles God had done for the Israelites. She believed that their God was the one true God and that he would help the Israelites take the land as their own.

- ? How did Rahab help the spies? *She hid the spies on her roof under the flax and then helped them escape out her window.*

Rahab asked the spies to keep her and her family safe during the battle. They said they would if she kept their secret.

- ? What did they tell her to hang from her window so they would know where she was? *A scarlet (red) cord.*

The spies told Joshua that all the people of the land were frightened of them. Joshua was ready to move forward into the promised land and attack the city of Jericho. There was only one problem—the Jordan River was between the Israelites’ camp and the city. They would have to cross the river somehow even though it was very deep and flowing very fast.

God Stops the Jordan River

- ? Who do you think would help Joshua with this big problem? *God.*

Right! God was about to do a great miracle. He told the people that when they crossed the river, the priests were supposed to go first, carrying the ark of the covenant.

- ? Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. **Who remembers what the ark of the covenant looked like?** *Wooden box covered with gold, a mercy seat on the top with two angels.*

The ark of the covenant reminded the people that God was with them. By having the priests go first with the ark, God was showing the people they should follow him and trust him.

So the Israelites set out following the priests. But when they came to the river, it was so full it overflowed. The deep water rushed past the people as they stood looking at it. Oh no! How would they ever get across the river? This was the flood season when the waters of the river were high and strong. It would be very hard to cross safely on their own. But God told Joshua that the priests should step into the river, and then God would do something wonderful.

- Have the blue play dough and plastic people or objects ready to show.

*Lay out the blue play dough in one long, flat strip to represent the river. Position the plastic people or objects at the 3/4 point from one end. **When the priests got to the edge of the water, they had to show great faith in God by stepping into the rushing river.***

- ? **Can you guess what happened when the priests' feet touched the water?** *Allow guesses.*

God made the river stop flowing!

*Split the play dough where the objects are and bunch up the longer part on the far end. **Up the river, about 15 miles away, God blocked the water so it just piled up and stayed in one spot. Now there was no more water flowing down to where the Israelites wanted to cross. Slide the leftover smaller part of the play dough away to show how it flowed down the river with no other water to replace it, leaving a dry area near the plastic people.***

So what happened next? Let's find out.

Joshua 3:17

*Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. **We'll read from the third chapter of the book of Joshua.** Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Joshua 3:17.*

- ? **The priests walked out and stood in the middle of the riverbed. What was the ground like? Was it squishy and muddy? Did they slip and slide around?** *No. They stood firmly on dry ground in the middle of the river.*

*Refer to the Flip Chart. **The priests stood with the ark of the covenant in the middle of the dry riverbed while all the people walked over on nice, dry ground.***

- ? **Who made the water stop and dried up the ground so they could cross the river?** *God.*

- Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

Right. The ark of the covenant reminded the Israelites that it was God who was holding the waters back for them. Isn't that amazing?!

Joshua Sets Up the Stones

God wanted the people to remember who did this miracle for them. So he told Joshua to stack 12 stones in the riverbed where the priests were standing to mark the place where they held the ark of the covenant.

God also commanded Joshua to tell the men to collect something from the riverbed.

? *Refer to the Flip Chart. What did the men collect? Stones, rocks.*

One leader from each of the 12 tribes of Israel took a large stone from the middle of the river and carried it to the other side. After everyone had crossed, God gave the command for the priests to leave their place in the middle.

? *What do you think happened when the priests came out of the riverbed? Allow guesses.*

When the priests stepped up out of the riverbed on the other side, the waters of the Jordan River were unblocked, and it filled back up to overflowing like it had been before God's miracle happened. Everyone safely crossed to the other side of the river into the promised land. Hooray!

? *But what about the 12 stones they carried across? Do you have any ideas about what they did with them? Allow discussion.*

Joshua 4:20–22

Let's read what Joshua did with those stones in Joshua 4:20–22. *Read the verses.*

? *Refer to the Flip Chart. What did Joshua do with the stones? He set them up at Gilgal. Stacked them.*

Gilgal was where the Israelites made their first camp in the promised land!

? *When their children asked what the stones meant, what could their fathers tell them? How God dried up the Jordan River so they could pass over.*

The stones would remind the people of what God did to bring the Israelites safely into the promised land. And there was another time God did something like this with water. Do you remember the Red Sea? Pharaoh and the Egyptian army had trapped the Israelites, and God parted the waters of the Red Sea so the Israelites could escape. God wanted his people to tell their children about both of these miracles so they would fear and honor the Lord and so other people would hear about the one true, omnipotent God.

- Have Lesson Illustrations and pictures of monuments you brought ready to show.

Memorials Today

Refer to the Flip Chart. We call these 12 stones the memorial stones because they were set up to help the Israelites remember something very special that happened.

- ? What other words does “memorial” sound like? *Memory, remember.*

We have all kinds of memorials to help us remember special people and things that have happened. They can be statues, special buildings, or even special holidays.

Show Lesson Illustrations #1–4 and pictures of monuments you brought. I want to show you some pictures. You can tell me what they remind you of.

Show Lesson Illustrations #5–8. Now I want you to look at these memorials that come from the Bible.

These are all important memorials. But the ones from the Bible like the cross, or the baby in a manger, are extra special because they remind us of wonderful and amazing things that God has done. When we learn and remember more about God, it helps us know and love him better. God wanted the Israelites to remember him and what he did for them, and he wants us to remember him, too.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game on page 85.



Pre-K Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 64 Flip Chart. Last time, we saw how God chose Joshua to lead the Israelites after Moses died. Now Joshua was getting ready to lead the people into the promised land of Canaan. He sent two spies into Jericho, and they stayed at a woman’s house.

- ? What was the name of the woman? *Rahab.*

Rahab heard about the miracles God had done for the Israelites. She believed that their God was the one true God.

- ? How did Rahab help the spies? *She hid the spies on her roof under the flax and then helped them escape out her window.*

Rahab asked the spies to keep her and her family safe during the battle. They said they would if she kept their secret.

- ? What did they tell her to hang from her window so they would know where she was? *A scarlet (red) cord.*

Joshua was ready to lead the Israelites into the promised land and attack the city of Jericho. There was only one problem—the Jordan River was

between the Israelites' camp and Jericho! They would have to cross the river somehow even though it was deep and flowing fast.

God Stops the Jordan River

- ? Who do you think would help Joshua with this big problem? *God.*

Right! God was about to do a great miracle. God commanded that when the people moved out to cross the river, the priests were supposed to go first and carry the ark of the covenant.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. The ark of the covenant reminded the people that God was with them.

So the Israelites followed the priests. But when they came to the river, it was so full, it overflowed. The deep water rushed past the people as they stood looking at it. Oh no! How would they ever get across the river? It would be very hard to cross this river safely on their own. But God told Joshua to have the priests step into the river, and then God would do something wonderful.

Lay out the blue play dough in one long strip to represent the river. Position the plastic people or objects at the 3/4 point from one end. When the priests got to the edge of the water, they had to show great faith in God by stepping into the rushing river.

- Have the blue play dough and plastic people or objects ready to show.

- ? Can you guess what happened when the priests' feet touched the water? *Allow guesses.*

God made the river stop flowing!

Split the play dough where the objects are and bunch up the longer part on the far end. God blocked the water so it just piled up and stayed in one spot. Then God dried up the ground where the Israelites would cross. Slide the leftover smaller part of the play dough away to show how it flowed down the river with no other water to replace it, leaving a dry area near the plastic people.

So what happened next? Let's find out.

Joshua 3:17

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We'll read from the book of Joshua in the Bible. *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note.*

- ? The priests walked to the middle of the riverbed and stood there. What was the ground like? Was it squishy and muddy? Did they slip and slide around? *No. They stood firmly on dry ground in the middle of the river.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. The priests stood with the ark of the covenant in the middle of the dry riverbed while all the people walked over on nice, dry ground. Isn't that amazing?!

- ? Who made the water stop and dried up the ground so they could cross the river? *God.*

- Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

Joshua Sets Up the Stones

God wanted the people to remember who did this miracle for them. So God told Joshua to stack 12 stones in the riverbed where the priests were standing to mark the place where they held the ark of the covenant.

God also commanded Joshua to tell the men to collect something from the riverbed.

- ? *Refer to the Flip Chart. What did the men collect? Stones, rocks.*

One leader from each of the 12 tribes of Israel took a large stone from the middle of the riverbed and carried it to the other side. Then God gave the command for the priests to leave their place in the middle.

- ? **What do you think happened when the priests came out of the riverbed?**
Allow guesses.

When the priests stepped up out of the riverbed on the other side, the waters of the Jordan River filled back up to overflowing like it had been before God's miracle happened. Everyone safely crossed to the other side of the river into the promised land. Hooray!

- ? **But what about the 12 stones they carried across? Do you have any ideas what they did with them?** *Allow discussion.*

Joshua 4:20–22

Let's read what Joshua did with those stones in Joshua 4:20–22. *Read the verses.*

- ? *Refer to the Flip Chart. What did Joshua do with the stones? He set them up at Gilgal. Stacked them.*

Gilgal was where the Israelites made their first camp in the promised land!

- ? **When their children asked what the stones meant, what could their fathers tell them?** *How God dried up the Jordan River so they could pass over.*

The stones would remind the people of what God did to bring the Israelites safely into the promised land. And there was another time God did something like this with water. Do you remember the Red Sea? Pharaoh and the Egyptian army had trapped the Israelites and God parted the water of the Red Sea so the Israelites could escape. God wanted his people to tell their children about both of these miracles so they would fear and honor the Lord and so other people would hear about him.

Memorials Today

Refer to the Flip Chart. We call these 12 stones the memorial stones because they were set up to help the Israelites remember something very special that happened.

- ? What other word does “memorial” sound like? *Memory, remember.*

We have all kinds of memorials to help us remember special people and things that have happened. They can be statues, special buildings, or even special holidays.

Show Lesson Illustrations #1–4 and pictures of monuments you brought. I want to show you some pictures, and you tell me what they remind you of.

Show Lesson Illustrations #5–8. Now I want you to look at these memorials that come from the Bible.

These are all important memorials. But the ones from the Bible like the cross, or the baby in a manger, are extra special because they remind us of wonderful and amazing things that God has done. When we learn and remember more about God, it helps us know and love him better. God wanted the Israelites to remember him and what he did for them, and he wants us to remember him, too.

- Have Lesson Illustrations and pictures of monuments you brought ready to show.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.



Lesson Review Game

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.



Story Time

- ? Do you remember what happened in our last story? *Allow discussion.*
- ? The kids were pretending to be secret spies trying to get a treasure box. Who was guarding the treasure? *Their dads.*

And they all had water guns, didn't they? It was quite a water battle—everyone got soaked.

- ? Did Emily get the treasure? *Yes.*

What will happen in today's story? Let's find out! *Show the picture on the poster as you read the story.*

- ? So Justin and Jessie's class went to see a memorial statue. Why did the town make a statue to remember Mr. Greenwood? What did he do? *Helped fight a fire in the town. Formed a fire department.*

The town wanted to remember what this man did and how God helped them during the fire, so they made a memorial of him holding a Bible that would last for many years.

In our lesson, God commanded Joshua to make a memorial, too. He set up stones in the river where the priests had stood with the ark of the covenant, and he had leaders from each of the 12 tribes of Israel collect

a stone and bring it to their camp on the other side. Then Joshua stacked up those stones as a memorial to remind everyone of God's miracle at the Jordan River.

Memory Verse Game

Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page as you play a memory verse game. Explain the verse to your students as you review it together.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Song Time

Use the downloaded music to practice the songs. Find the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

You may want to add stomping, clapping, and musical instruments, or make up hand motions to any of the songs!

Joshua 1:9

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. **Let's sing the memory verse song now.** Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

God Is Faithful

God showed the Israelites once again that he was faithful to guide them and help them along the way. **Let's sing about God's faithfulness.** Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

Sing other class favorites or songs from the Additional Songs list as time allows.

Group Prayer

- Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

Be sure to pray with your students before you dismiss them.

- Thank God that we have his Word to remind us of the great things he's done.
- Ask God to help us remember to be thankful for all he does for us.

Song Sheet

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

The LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

God Is Faithful

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he's commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he's commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we're not.
I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he's commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we're not.
I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.

He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we're not.
I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.
God is faithful always and forever.



Israel Conquers Jericho

*God collapsed the walls of Jericho so
Israel could conquer the city.*

Lesson Focus

God commanded Joshua to have the priests carry the ark of the covenant and blow trumpets while they and the fighting men of Israel marched around Jericho once every morning for six days. On the seventh day, they marched seven times around the city, gave a great shout, and watched the Lord collapse the walls. Israel destroyed the city but spared Rahab and her family as promised.

Key Passages

Joshua 6:3–5, 6:16, 6:20, 6:25

Memory Verse

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Lesson Preparation

Come On In

Choose one of the following activities and print/gather necessary items.

Come On In Game:

- Bible Book Match
- I Have You Have
- Flashcard Take Away
- Popcorn*

Review Activity Sheet*

Turn on some lesson/memory verse songs for students to listen to while they play with play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc.*

Lesson Time

You will need the following items:

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Small wrapped candies or other prizes for introduction game
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time

Lesson Review Game

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Basket Toss*
- Goofy Golf
- Bible Baseball*
- Racetrack*
- Board Game
- Toss for It*
- Bowling*

Story Time

Read the Justin and Jessie story on the back of the poster provided in the Teacher Kit or print a copy.

Memory Verse Game

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Balloon Bop and Pop
- Freeze*
- Echo Echo*
- Funny Voices*
- Egg Hunt
- Popcorn*
- Follow the Leader*

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.

Song Time

Practice the following songs using the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page. Remember to use the downloaded music to learn the songs.

- “Joshua 1:9”
- “God Is Faithful”
- “God Told Joshua”

Find extra songs to the tunes of favorite nursery rhymes in the Additional Songs list.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 66*. Game instructions are also included in the *Appendix* in the back of this Teacher Guide.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3–4 years old) and Kindergarten–1st Grade (5–7 years old) classes. Suggestions with an **asterisk (*)** are specifically recommended for Pre-K.

Prepare to Share

Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

After the episode of Rahab and the spies, God charged Joshua to lead the nation of Israel into the Promised Land. The Israelites were on the eastern banks of the Jordan River and had not yet crossed into the land that God had promised them. Joshua chapters 3–4 tell of the miraculous stopping of the Jordan River’s waters, allowing Israel to cross on dry land, and of the memorial stones that Israel placed on the other side to commemorate God’s faithfulness. The bearing of the ark of the covenant before the nation (Joshua 3:11) declared that God was fulfilling his purpose to establish a nation for his own glory.

The first obstacle before Israel was the city of Jericho. In Joshua 5:13–15, a man identified as the “commander of the army of the LORD” appeared to Joshua. This man represents a *Christophany*, a pre-incarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus. If that were not the case, the man would not have commanded Joshua to remove his sandals. This was the Son of God himself in human form, declaring that he would lead and fight for Israel. This would be no ordinary battle!

The battle plan from the Lord must have seemed very strange to Joshua. Jericho responded to Israel’s approach by securely shutting up the city (Joshua 6:1), an indication that they expected a siege. God’s instructions to Joshua were for the army of Israel to march around the city once each day for six days, with the priests carrying the ark of the covenant and blowing trumpets (Joshua 6). But the people were commanded to make no other noise. Then on the seventh day, the Israelites would circle the city seven times instead of once as they’d done the previous six days. Finally, the Israelites would shout, and God promised that he would miraculously destroy the walls, leaving a path for them to march directly in (Joshua 6:4–5).

Historical/Apologetics Background

For much of the twentieth century, archaeologists declared that the biblical account of Jericho could not have happened as the Bible said it did. More recent discoveries, however, have not only led to an archaeological revision of the date of Jericho’s destruction

No other battles had been fought by Israel in this manner, and no others would be. God had a particular purpose to mark this victory, the first in the Promised Land, with a miraculous triumph that would follow a week of ceremony. God desired to conquer Jericho in a way that could not be attributed to Israel’s military prowess. Israel would have had every reason, from a standpoint of military tactics and wisdom, to doubt whether God’s directions for the battle would be successful. On the other hand, the Israelites knew the faithfulness of God’s care for 40 years in the wilderness, had heard from the previous generation of their great deliverance from Egypt, and had experienced victories over the Amorite kings Sihon and Og (Deuteronomy 2:26–3:11). The Israelites were convinced that God’s promise was to be trusted, and they obeyed his seemingly strange commands for the battle of Jericho.

Israel’s faith at Jericho is mentioned in Hebrews 11 along with many others who demonstrated faith in God, such as Noah, Abraham, Moses, and Rahab. These saints of God had faith that led them to look beyond immediate circumstances and trust that God’s ways would lead to blessing beyond any earthly situation. In all of the examples, faith led to obedient action (Hebrews 11:7–31). Israel obeyed God’s instructions for the battle, trusting his goodness and faithfulness. After the seventh circle around the city on the seventh day, Israel shouted, and the walls of Jericho fell. The Israelites went straight into the city and destroyed their enemies (Joshua 6:20–21).

Just as the spies had promised, Rahab and her family were spared because she protected the spies before the battle. Joshua 6:25 records that Rahab lived in Israel “to this day,” showing that she became one of God’s people. It also shows that the book of Joshua wasn’t written very long after the events of the book occurred since Rahab was still living.

that accords with Joshua’s time in history, but have also shown that the ruins were destroyed in a way that is consistent with the Bible’s description of the event. What was once considered a “problem” of the Bible’s inconsistency with archaeological research

has turned out, upon further discovery and study, to be an example of archaeological evidence displaying the trustworthiness of the Bible. For example, archaeologists found evidence that the mudbrick city wall collapsed and was deposited at the base of the stone retaining wall at the time the city met its end. This shows how the Israelites were able to go “straight up” to capture the city after the walls fell (Joshua 6:20). A section of wall that remained intact could be where Rahab’s home was situated, showing God’s protection as he promised. In addition, ash and debris found at the site confirm that the Israelites burned the city (Joshua 6:24). Of course, God’s Word can be trusted completely, with or without such scientific “vindication.”

The Bible says that the Israelites marched around Jericho for seven days. But were these ordinary days or long periods of time? This question seems ridiculous, but it is the same question people ask regarding the length of days in the creation account of Genesis chapter 1. No Christian believes that the Israelites marched around Jericho for thousands of years. Why? Because Scripture is clear. Yet, why do some

Christians continue to question the clear meaning of Genesis 1? The answer is that they have been influenced by modern scientists who believe in millions and billions of years. Thus, they have allowed man’s ever-changing opinions to have authority over the unchanging Word of God. The word translated as “day” in Genesis 1 (and in the Jericho account) is the Hebrew word *yom*. In Genesis 1, *yom* is modified by a number and used in connection with the word “night” and the phrase “evening and morning.” Each time *yom* is used outside of Genesis 1 in just one of these ways, it means a normal-length day. There should be absolutely no question that “day” means a literal 24-hour day in Genesis 1 because that chapter uses *yom* with the combination of all three: a number, the word “night,” and the phrase “evening and morning.”

Isn’t it exciting that we can trust the history in God’s Word? Whether or not we have scientific “evidence” or archaeological “proof,” we know that the Bible is the inspired Word of our God and it is entirely trustworthy.



Come On In

As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.

- ▶ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



Lesson Time

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you brought or prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today let's say prayers of confession and ask God for forgiveness of our sins.

I'll start. Dear God, I'm sorry for . . . *(insert personal prayer here).*

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

- ? What word means God will always keep his promises? *Faithful.*
- ? What special laws did God give to Moses and the Israelites? *The Ten Commandments.*
- ? What people (or nation) did God promise to give the land of Canaan to? *The Israelites.*
- ? Who were the Israelites? *The descendants of Israel (Jacob).*

Bible Treasure Hunt

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. You can use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible.

- ▶ Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God’s Word, the Bible. God’s Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It’s like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We’re going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I’ve hidden the Bible. When I say “Go,” you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we’ll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! *Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!*

K–1st Lesson continues next. Go to page 98 for the Pre-K Lesson.



K–1st Lesson

Review

- ? Refer to Lesson 64 Flip Chart. Remember how Joshua sent two spies into Jericho? Who helped the spies hide from the king’s men? *Rahab.*

Refer to Lesson 65 Flip Chart. After that, the Israelites had to cross the Jordan River while it was flooded!

- ? What did God do so they could cross the river? *He stopped the water.*

As soon as the priests stepped into the water, it stopped flowing, and the ground dried up. All the people walked to the other side on dry ground.

- ? What did Joshua do to help the people remember this miracle? What memorial did he set up? *12 stones.*

Before we begin today’s lesson, we’re going to play an obedience game. I need a volunteer. Choose a volunteer to stand beside you. I’m going to give you some instructions. You have to decide if you are going to obey and do it or not. Give the volunteer a simple command that doesn’t make much sense, such as open and close the door three times, put a book on the floor and jump over it, draw a smiley face on the board then erase it, spin around three times, etc. If the volunteer obeys, give a candy or other prize. Repeat with other volunteers if there’s time.

► *Have candies or prizes ready.*

Some of the things I said to do were a little strange, weren’t they? You probably didn’t understand why I told you to do those things. But we were just playing a game to help us get ready for our lesson. Today, we’ll see how God gave the Israelites some strange instructions, too. Would they obey even if they didn’t understand? Let’s find out.

God's Strange Instructions

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. With the Jordan River behind them now, Joshua looked ahead to the city of Jericho with high walls all around. It would be hard for anyone to attack this city. So how would Joshua and his men ever capture Jericho? Hmm. This would take some real planning.

But God didn't leave it up to Joshua to come up with a plan on his own. God already knew what he would do. The commander of the Lord's army appeared to Joshua—it was Jesus holding a sword. Joshua fell down and worshipped him. Jesus told Joshua how he should attack Jericho. But these instructions were different; they weren't normal battle plans!

- ? What were some normal ways armies attacked a walled city back in Bible times? Does anyone have a guess? *Allow discussion.*

When an army attacked a city like Jericho, there were a few ways they usually did it. They could surround the city and keep the people trapped inside until they gave up, or the army could dig under part of the wall until it fell down—but that plan was very dangerous for the people who had to do the digging. Some armies would pile dirt next to the walls to make a ramp and try to go up and over, or they would use giant catapults to throw rocks at the walls and break them down. The problem with these ideas is that they all took a long time, and they didn't always work right. The army could still lose the battle even after all their hard work!

God didn't want the Israelites to depend on their own ideas and come up with their own plan. He wanted them to trust him and obey. Let's read what he told Joshua to do.

Joshua 6:3

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's look in Joshua, chapter 6. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Joshua 6:3.

- ? What did Jesus tell Joshua and the people to do for six days? *March around the city.*

Joshua and his army were told to march around the city while the priests carried something.

- ? Refer to the Flip Chart. What do you think they carried? *The ark of the covenant.*

The priests were commanded to carry the ark of the covenant to remind the people that God was with them. They also had to blow seven trumpets, or horns, as they and the army marched around the city once every day for six days.

Joshua 6:4–5

What were the instructions for the seventh day? Listen to this. Read Joshua 6:4–5.

- Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

- ? How many times were they supposed to march around the city on the seventh day? *Seven times.*
- ? Then the priests would blow their trumpets long and loud, and the army would shout. What would God do to the city walls so the army could run in and take the city? *God would make the walls fall flat.*
- ? That would be amazing to see! But were these instructions like the normal battle plans we talked about? *No.*

Joshua's Obedience

Refer to the Flip Chart. These plans probably seemed strange to Joshua and his army. But Joshua had faith in God, and he and the people obeyed. They rose early every morning and marched once around the city of Jericho while the priests carried the ark and blew the trumpets. Then they returned to their camp.

- ? How many days did they march once around the city? *Six.*

Everyone stand up and march right where you are. Let's count as we do the motion for each day. Raise your arm up and down like the sun rising and setting. *Cross arms in front of you with the right arm on top of the left arm. Point right index finger and raise the right lower arm at the elbow at a 90° angle then lower it to rest on top of the left arm. Count together "first day, second day, etc." while marching in place and making the hand motion for six "days" then sit back down.*



Joshua 6:16, 6:20

Now let's find out what happened on the seventh day. *Read Joshua 6:16 and 6:20.*

The people who lived in Jericho were probably nervous and wondered what those crazy Israelites were doing just walking around the city blowing noisy trumpets instead of trying to dig under the walls or climb over them like other armies would.

When the seventh day came, the Israelites marched around the city seven times just as they were told to do. Let's count together. *Point to the numbers on the Flip Chart as you count to seven together.*

The priests blew the trumpets long and loud and Joshua's army shouted.

- ? What did God do when the army shouted? *He made the walls fall down flat so the army could capture the city.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. The city was on a hill, so climbing the hill and going over the walls would be hard to do. But God flattened the walls and made them crumble into pieces so Israel's army could run straight up and into the city. Isn't that amazing? God's plan worked perfectly!

Rahab's Rescue

- ? What about Rahab? What do you think happened to her? Allow guesses.

Joshua 6:25

Let's find out what happened. *Read Joshua 6:25.*

Joshua remembered the promise the spies had given to Rahab to keep her and her family safe in the battle.

- ? What did Rahab hang from her window so the Israelites would know where she was? *A scarlet (red) cord.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. Yes, she tied a scarlet cord in the window of her house. This bright red cord would be easy to see. Joshua sent the two spies to get her and her family and bring them out to the Israelites' camp.

Wow! God's mighty power brought down the huge walls of Jericho. God's plan may have seemed like a strange way to attack a city, but God showed the Israelites that he was fighting for them. He helped them win in a way that only he could do. They just had to trust him and obey his instructions no matter how strange they seemed. And God was faithful to do what he promised—to help the Israelites win the battle and conquer the city of Jericho.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game on page 101.



Pre-K Lesson

Review

- ? *Refer to Lesson 64 Flip Chart.* Remember how Joshua sent two spies into Jericho? Who helped the spies hide from the king's men? *Rahab.*

Refer to Lesson 65 Flip Chart. After that, the Israelites were ready to enter the promised land. But they had to cross the Jordan River first, and it was flooded!

- ? What did God do so they could cross the river? *He stopped the water.*

When the priests stepped into the water, it stopped flowing, and all the people walked to the other side on dry ground.

- ? What did Joshua do to help the people remember this miracle? What memorial did he set up? *12 stones.*

Before we begin today's lesson, we're going to play an obedience game. I need a volunteer. *Choose a volunteer to stand beside you.* I'm going to give you some instructions. You have to decide if you are going to obey. *Give the volunteer a simple command that doesn't make much sense, such as open and close the door three times, put a book on the floor and jump over it, draw a smiley*

► *Have candies or prizes ready.*

face on the board then erase it, spin around three times, etc. If the volunteer obeys, give a candy or other prize. Repeat with other volunteers if there's time.

Some of the things I said to do were a little strange, weren't they? You probably didn't understand why I told you to do those things. But we were just playing a silly game to help us get ready for our lesson. Today, we'll see how God gave the Israelites some strange instructions, too. Would they obey even if they didn't understand? Let's find out.

God's Strange Instructions

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. After crossing the river, Joshua looked ahead to the city of Jericho with its high walls. It would be really hard for anyone to attack this city. So how would Joshua and his men do it? Hmm. This would take some planning.

But God didn't leave it up to Joshua to come up with a plan on his own. God already knew what he would do. One day, the commander of the Lord's army appeared to Joshua—it was Jesus holding a sword. Jesus told Joshua how he should attack Jericho. But he didn't give Joshua normal battle plans!

Usually when an army attacked a city like Jericho, they would surround the city until the people inside gave up, or they would dig under the wall until it fell down. Some armies would pile dirt next to the walls to make a ramp and try to go up and over. But these ideas all took a long time to do, and they didn't always work.

God didn't want the Israelites to try to win the battle by themselves. He wanted them to trust him and obey. Let's read what he told Joshua to do.

Joshua 6:3

? Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's look in Joshua, chapter 6. Who has the Bible? Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Joshua 6:3.

? What did Jesus tell Joshua and the army to do for six days? March around the city.

Joshua and all the fighting men were told to march around the city while the priests carried something.

? Refer to the Flip Chart. What do you think they carried? The ark of the covenant.

The priests were commanded to carry the ark of the covenant to remind the people that God was with them. They also had to blow seven trumpets, or horns, as they and the army marched around the city once every day for six days.

Joshua 6:4–5

What would they do on the seventh day? Let's find out. Read Joshua 6:4–5.

► Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

- ? How many times were they supposed to march around the city on the seventh day? *Seven times.*
- ? Then the priests would blow their trumpets long and loud, and the army would shout. And what would God do to the city walls? *Make the walls fall flat.*
- ? *That would be amazing to watch! But were these instructions like the normal battle plans we talked about for attacking a city? No.*

Joshua's Obedience

Refer to the Flip Chart. These plans probably seemed strange to Joshua and his army. But Joshua had faith in God, and he and the Israelites obeyed God's instructions. They got up early every morning and marched once around the city of Jericho while the priests carried the ark and blew the trumpets. Then they went back to their camp.



- ? How many days did they march around the city? *Six.*

Everyone stand up and march right where you are. Let's count as we do the motion for each day. Raise your arm up and down like the sun rising and setting. *Cross arms in front of you with the right arm on top of the left arm. Point right index finger and raise the right lower arm at the elbow at a 90° angle then lower it to rest on top of the left arm. Count together "first day, second day, etc." while marching in place and making the hand motion for six "days" then sit back down.*

Joshua 6:20

Now let's find out what happened on the seventh day. *Read Joshua 6:20.*

When the seventh day came, the Israelites marched around the city seven times just as they were told to do. Let's count together. *Point to the numbers on the Flip Chart as you count to seven together.*

Then the priests blew the trumpets and Joshua's army shouted.

- ? What did God do when the people shouted? *He made the walls fall down flat so the army could capture the city.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. God flattened all the walls! They crumbled into pieces so Israel's army could run straight up and into the city. Isn't that amazing? God's plan worked perfectly!

Rahab's Rescue

- ? What about Rahab? What do you think happened to her? Allow guesses.

Joshua 6:25

Let's find out. *Read Joshua 6:25.*

Joshua remembered the promise the spies had given to Rahab to keep her and her family safe in the battle.

- ? What did Rahab hang from her window so the Israelites would know where she was? *A scarlet (red) cord.*

Refer to the Flip Chart. Yes, she tied a scarlet cord in the window of her house. This bright red cord would be easy to see. Joshua sent the two spies to get her and her family and bring them out to the Israelites' camp.

Wow! God's mighty power brought down the huge walls of Jericho. God's plan may have seemed like a strange way to attack a city, but God showed the Israelites that he was fighting for them. He helped them win in a way that only he could do. They just had to trust him and obey his instructions no matter how strange they seemed. And God was faithful to do what he promised—to help the Israelites win the battle and conquer the city of Jericho.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.



Lesson Review Game

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.



Story Time

- ? Do you remember what happened in our last Justin and Jessie story? *Allow discussion.*

Justin and Jessie's class went to a park and saw a statue of a hero. The statue was a memorial to remind the people in town about a man named Mr. Greenwood.

- ? *What do you remember about Mr. Greenwood and what he did? Allow answers. He said God was the one who put the fire out by making it rain. He helped fight fires and started a fire department.*

What will happen in today's story? Let's find out! *Show the picture on the poster as you read the story.*

Justin was confused, wasn't he? His parents asked him to do some things that seemed strange to him. But if he hadn't obeyed, he might have ruined the surprise.

There will be many times in life when your parents or teachers or other authorities will tell you to do things, and you may not understand why. Usually it's for a reason they know of that you might not be able to understand yet.

Joshua might have been a little confused when God gave him the strange instructions to march around Jericho. They didn't have to dig under the walls or build catapults to shoot rocks or anything like that. But Joshua probably knew God had a better plan, and God wanted his people to trust him because he was on their side.

As you grow up, God may lead you to do things that you may not understand, either. But if you follow God and his Word, you'll learn to trust and obey just like Joshua did.

Memory Verse Game

Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page as you play a memory verse game. Explain the verse to your students as you review it together.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Song Time

Use the downloaded music to practice the songs. Find the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

You may want to add stomping, clapping, and musical instruments, or make up hand motions to any of the songs!

Joshua 1:9

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. **Let's sing the memory verse song now.** Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

God Told Joshua

It's time to learn a new song about Joshua and the battle of Jericho. Stand up and get ready, here we go. Teach the words then sing the song together once or twice.

God Is Faithful

God helped the Israelites win the battle of Jericho. Let's sing about his faithfulness. Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

Sing other class favorites or songs from the Additional Songs list as time allows.

Group Prayer

- Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

Be sure to pray with your students before you dismiss them.

- Thank God that we can trust him even when we don't understand.
- Ask God to help us grow in our faith and obedience.

Song Sheet

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

The LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

God Told Joshua

God told Joshua,
“March around the walls.”
“March around the walls.”
“March around the walls.”

Round and round,
And round and round and round—
And Joshua did what he was told.

God told Joshua,
“The priests should blow their horns.”
“The priests should blow their horns.”
“The priests should blow their horns.”

Too-ta-too,

Ta-too-to-too-ta-too—
And Joshua did what he was told.

God told Joshua,
“I will fight for you.”
“I will fight for you.”
“I will fight for you.”

Jericho’s walls came tumbling down.
A mighty God! Look what he can do!

Jericho’s walls came tumbling down,
Tumbling down, tu-tumbling down.
Jericho’s walls came tumbling down.
A mighty God! Look what he can do!

God Is Faithful

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he’s commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he’s commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we’re not.
I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he’s commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we’re not.
I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.

He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we’re not.
I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.
God is faithful always and forever.



God Gives the Victory

God gave the Israelites victories when they were obedient.

Lesson Focus

God let the Israelites lose the first battle at Ai to point out Achan's sin and show them that victory could come only through complete obedience. God gave the Israelites victory over Ai and then over five Amorite kings, making the sun stand still until they defeated their enemies.

Key Passages

Joshua 7:4, 7:11, 10:11

Memory Verse

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Lesson Preparation

Come On In

Choose one of the following activities and print/gather necessary items.

Come On In Game:

- Bible Book Match
- I Have You Have
- Flashcard Take Away
- Popcorn*

Review Activity Sheet*

Turn on some lesson/memory verse songs for students to listen to while they play with play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc.*

Lesson Time

You will need the following items:

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Print one set of Lesson Illustrations
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time

Lesson Review Game

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Basket Toss*
- Goofy Golf
- Bible Baseball*
- Racetrack*
- Board Game
- Toss for It*
- Bowling*

Story Time

Read the Justin and Jessie story on the back of the poster provided in the Teacher Kit or print a copy.

Memory Verse Game

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Balloon Bop and Pop
- Freeze*
- Echo Echo*
- Funny Voices*
- Egg Hunt
- Popcorn*
- Follow the Leader*

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.

Song Time

Practice the following songs using the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page. Remember to use the downloaded music to learn the songs.

- “God Told Joshua”
- “Joshua 1:9”
- “God Is Faithful”

Find extra songs to the tunes of favorite nursery rhymes in the Additional Songs list.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 67*. Game instructions are also included in the *Appendix* in the back of this Teacher Guide.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3–4 years old) and Kindergarten–1st Grade (5–7 years old) classes. Suggestions with an **asterisk (*)** are specifically recommended for Pre-K.

Prepare to Share

Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

God gave Joshua and the Israelites a great victory at the battle of Jericho. They saw God deliver the city into their hands by collapsing fortified walls. Joshua commanded the men entering the city to destroy everything except Rahab and her family and certain precious metals, which the men were to bring to the Lord's treasury (Joshua 6:17–19). The gold, silver, bronze, and iron objects were to be taken to the priests. One man, Achan of the tribe of Judah, disobeyed Joshua's command and took items from the spoil of Jericho, causing God's judgment to fall on all the people (Joshua 7:1). Joshua sent only 3,000 fighting men to the small city of Ai, but his men were defeated and 36 were killed (Joshua 7:4–5). The people were terrified, and Joshua and the Israelite elders mourned before the Lord. They knew that without the Lord on their side they would soon be destroyed.

God called Joshua to root out the sin in the camp, for that was why they had suffered a defeat. Using lots controlled by God, Joshua identified the guilty man among them as Achan. Achan confessed to taking a valuable cloak, 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold from Jericho (Joshua 7:16–21). Joshua sent men to find the items, which were buried in Achan's tent. With his sin exposed, Achan, his family, and all his possessions were taken to the Valley of Achor (trouble) and destroyed by the people.

God turned from his anger and commanded Joshua to attack Ai again, this time with the whole

fighting force and an ambush. God promised to deliver the city into Joshua's hands (Joshua 8:7). God gave the victory, and Joshua followed God's commands to destroy the city and its people. He burned the city and hanged the king of Ai.

News of Israel's victories reached the surrounding cities. Men in the city of Gibeon feared Israel and devised a way to trick them. They pretended to be from a distant land and came to the Israelites' camp at Gilgal. Joshua and the leaders failed to pray for guidance, and they were fooled by the Gibeonites' dry bread and worn clothing. They promised to let them live (Joshua 9:8–15). The Israelites were angry with their leaders when the deception was discovered, but Joshua refused to let them destroy the Gibeonites. Instead, he made them Israel's slaves (Joshua 9:23–27). But God used even this failure for his glory. Five Amorite kings surrounded Gibeon to attack them, forcing Israel to come to their aid. God again promised to deliver these enemies over to Joshua, and God threw them into a panic and then hurled hailstones down on them (Joshua 10:10–11). The Amorites fled. Not wanting any to escape when night fell, Joshua prayed and asked God to give him more daylight to pursue his enemies. God answered in a miraculous display of power over creation—the sun stood still and did not set for about another day (Joshua 10: 12–14). The coalition of kings was destroyed, and Israel took over their lands and cities in the southern area of Canaan. God fought for Israel and kept his promises of victory.

Historical/Apologetics Background

For many years, archaeologists excavated a site called et-Tell, which they believed was the Ai of Joshua. But evidence from this site did not line up well with details in Joshua 7–8, so they concluded the Bible was wrong. As is often the case, further investigation revealed that these scholars were in error. They were digging at the wrong site! A team of biblical archaeologists and researchers found an alternative site 9 miles north of Jerusalem called Khirbet el-Maqatir. The geography here fit the biblical account well, so they began excavations. Their

findings revealed many reasons to believe this location was the lost city of Ai:

- A hill lies north of Ai, which matches Joshua's force camping on the north side with a ravine between them and Ai (Joshua 8:11, 8:13).
- A fortress gate faces north, which matches Joshua's description as he "drew near before the city" from the north (Joshua 8:11).
- A spot for the ambush, which is a valley west of Maqatir that could easily hide Joshua's ambush troops (Joshua 8:9, 8:12).

- The pottery and walls match Joshua’s time period.
- There is evidence of fire in the form of ash layers, heated bedrock, and burned stones and pottery (Joshua 8:19–20).

These evidences and more confirm what we already know—that the Bible can be trusted in every detail. Man’s ideas change, but the Word of the living God stands firm.

Another miracle under attack and often misunderstood is Joshua’s long day, when God made the sun stand still during his battle against the Amorites (Joshua 10:12–14). One false story that has circulated for decades is that NASA computers have “found” Joshua’s missing day. The story began in the late 1960s and early 1970s, when the space program was in full swing. Supposedly, a computer at NASA calculated the positions of the earth, moon, and other solar system bodies far into the past and the future. A glitch was found in the fifteenth century BC, indicating that a day was missing from time. But this missing day could be explained by the biblical

account of Joshua. As exciting as this story may sound, it is just that—a story. The main problem is that a computer can’t find a glitch in the positions of solar system bodies because we must know exactly where things were at some time in the past prior to Joshua’s day so the calculated positions can be compared. Today, computers can be used to determine how much the earth’s rotation has slowed over time due to the tidal interaction between the earth and the moon. They can also calculate into the past when and where total solar eclipses should have occurred on the earth. But locations and rotation speed can’t be compared when we don’t know locations of solar bodies from before Joshua’s time.

Despite the fact that NASA computers have not proven the account of Joshua’s long day, that does not mean the miracle didn’t occur. We have the inspired Word of God, which tells us this day happened: “There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD heeded the voice of a man, for the LORD fought for Israel” (Joshua 10:14). We serve a mighty God!



Come On In

As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.

- ▶ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



Lesson Time

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you brought or prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today let's say prayers of thanksgiving and say thank you to God.

I'll start. Dear God, thank you so much for . . . *(insert personal prayer here)*.

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

- ? What word means God will always keep his promises? *Faithful.*
- ? What special laws did God give to Moses and the Israelites? *The Ten Commandments.*
- ? What people (or nation) did God promise to give the land of Canaan to? *The Israelites.*
- ? Who were the Israelites? *The descendants of Israel (Jacob).*

Bible Treasure Hunt

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. You can use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell

- ▶ Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God’s Word, the Bible. God’s Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It’s like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We’re going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I’ve hidden the Bible. When I say “Go,” you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we’ll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! *Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!*

K–1st Lesson continues next. Go to page 114 for the Pre-K Lesson.



K–1st Lesson

Review

Refer to the Lesson 66 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, Joshua and his army attacked the city of Jericho.

- ?** Who remembers what the Israelites had to do for six days? *March around the city of Jericho.*
- ?** On the seventh day, the people gave a shout, and the priests blew their trumpets. Then what happened to the walls around Jericho? *They fell down.*

That’s right! God’s plan was different than the normal ways to attack a city. God helped the Israelites win the battle at Jericho, but they had to obey even if they didn’t understand.

After God made the walls fall down at Jericho, the Israelites were probably very excited to see that God would help them. But in their next battle, they learned a hard lesson about being completely obedient.

Achan’s Sin Affects Israel

You see, there was a problem. The trouble began back in Jericho. Before the army ran up into the city, Joshua commanded the men to destroy everything except for things like gold and silver. These were supposed to be given to the priests as an offering to God.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. There was one man who tried to be sneaky. This man’s name was Achan. He disobeyed God’s command and took a beautiful cloak, like a robe a king would wear, and some silver and gold from the city of Jericho.

- ? Look at the Flip Chart. What did Achan do with the things he took?
Hid them.

Right! Achan went to his tent and dug a hole in the ground. He hid the cloak and the silver and gold under his tent. He thought no one knew about his sin and didn't think it would hurt anyone. But we'll find out today that God always knows when we sin and that our sin can affect others, too.

What does it mean that our sin can affect others? Let's play a game to help us understand this.

Have students stand in a circle with you and hold hands. Explain that you will squeeze the hand of the student on your right or left. When that student feels the squeeze, he must immediately squeeze the next student's hand and so on all the way around the circle. Play one or two rounds then have students sit back down.

When I squeezed your hand, it affected you. You felt it and then squeezed the next person's hand. It went all the way around the circle, didn't it? I only squeezed one person's hand, but you were all affected by it. So, how did Achan's sneaky sin affect the other Israelites? Let's find out.

God is omniscient; he knows everything. And God saw what Achan did, and he was very angry with all the Israelites because of Achan's sin. But Joshua didn't know about it.

The next battle was at a city named Ai. Joshua sent just 3,000 fighting men, not the whole army, to take this city.

Joshua 7:4

- ? Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. We're going to read from Joshua chapter 7. Who has the Bible? Will you bring it up, please? *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Joshua 7:4.*
- ? What does it mean that the Israelites fled? *They ran away.*
- ? Did they win or lose the battle? *They lost.*

That's right. The Israelites lost the battle at Ai. And 36 of their men were killed! What happened? Why didn't God help them win this time? Joshua didn't know, so he prayed and asked God why.

- ? What do you suppose God said to Joshua? Any guesses? *Allow guesses.*

Joshua 7:11

Listen to what God told Joshua in verse 11. *Read the verse.*

- ? What was the problem in the camp? What did Israel do? *Israel sinned.*

God said that Israel had sinned. Someone had taken things from Jericho that were supposed to be offered to God. That was why they lost the battle at Ai and 36 men were killed in the battle. God told Joshua that if they wanted his help in their battles, they had to find the one who took those things and punish him.

- ? *Refer to the Flip Chart. Who was that? Who stole things from Jericho and hid them in a hole under his tent? Achan.*

The next morning, Joshua gathered all the tribes of Israel together. God showed Joshua that Achan was the guilty man. Joshua asked Achan what he had done, and Achan confessed that he had stolen silver and gold and a beautiful cloak—like a robe a king would wear. Achan should have destroyed the robe and given the silver and gold to the priests. But he wanted these items so badly for himself that he took them.

- ? *Show Lesson Illustration #1. Achan disobeyed the tenth commandment. Does anyone remember what the tenth commandment is? Be content (happy) with what you have. Do not covet.*

When we are no longer happy with what we have and want what belongs to someone else, it's called coveting. Achan wanted that beautiful robe and the money he found in Jericho for himself.

- ? *Show Lesson Illustration #2. Achan also broke the eighth commandment. Do you remember what that one says? Respect other people's things. Do not steal.*

Achan stole from God. He kept the gold and silver for himself when he should have given them to the priests as an offering to God.

This was terrible! Achan's sin affected all the Israelites. Because of Achan's sin, God did not help the Israelites, and they lost the battle at Ai. Thirty-six of their men died. Now Joshua and the people had to punish Achan and his family for his disobedience.

After Achan was punished, God turned from his anger and said he would bless and protect the Israelites again. God told Joshua to take all the fighting men back to Ai. So they went back and tricked the king of Ai—and this time they won!

The Victory during the Long Day

The news about the Israelites spread through the land of Canaan. Five kings marched together against a city called Gibeon. God told Joshua not to be afraid of them and their enormous armies. So Joshua and his men left camp and marched all night and surprised the kings.

Joshua 10:11

Then God did some amazing things to help in the battle. Listen to what he did this time. *Read the verse.*

- ? *First, God made the enemy get really scared. Then what did God throw down from heaven at the enemy? He threw large hailstones.*

Yes! God sent big hailstones down from the sky. The kings and their armies were terrified and began to run away from the battle. Joshua knew that when nighttime came the enemy could escape and hide.

- ? So Joshua prayed for God to work another miracle for them. Can you guess what God did? I'll give you a hint: it has to do with the sun. *Allow guesses.*

Joshua asked God to make the sun stand still. And that's exactly what happened. The sun stayed in the same place for about a day!

Refer to the Flip Chart. Instead of setting at its usual time in the evening, the sun stayed high in the sky for a day longer until Joshua and his men chased down the enemy. Isn't that amazing? God kept the sun up so Joshua could win the battle. God is the omnipotent Creator. He controls everything in the universe, including the sun.

After they won this fight against the five kings, Joshua and the Israelites took over a big part of the promised land. They went from city to city taking the land and obeying what God commanded. They had learned the lesson from Achan's disobedience at Jericho. They knew that as long as they obeyed completely, God would fight for them, and they didn't have to be afraid!

Continue with the Lesson Review Game on page 117.



Pre-K Lesson

Review

Refer to the Lesson 66 Flip Chart. In our last lesson, Joshua and his army attacked the city of Jericho.

- ? Who remembers what the Israelites had to do for six days? *March around the city of Jericho.*
- ? On the seventh day, the people gave a shout, and the priests blew their trumpets. Then what happened to the walls around Jericho? *They fell down.*

That's right! God helped the Israelites win the battle at Jericho, but they had to obey even if they didn't understand.

The Israelites were probably very excited to see that God would help them. But in their next battle, they learned a hard lesson about being completely obedient.

Achan's Sin Affects Israel

You see, there was a problem. The trouble began back in Jericho. Before the army ran up into the city, Joshua commanded the men to destroy everything in the city except for things like gold and silver. These were supposed to be given to the priests as an offering to God.

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beautiful cloak, like a robe a king would wear, and some silver and gold from the city of Jericho.

- ? Look at the Flip Chart. What did Achan do with the things he took?

Hid them.

Right! Achan went to his tent and dug a hole in the ground. He hid the cloak and the silver and gold under his tent. He thought no one knew about his sin and didn't think it would hurt anyone. But we'll find out today that God always knows when we sin and that our sin can affect others, too.

What does that mean that our sin can affect others? Let's play a game to help us understand this.

Have students stand in a circle with you and hold hands. Explain that you will squeeze the hand of the student on your right or left. When that student feels the squeeze, he must immediately squeeze the next student's hand and so on all the way around the circle. Play one or two rounds then have students sit back down.

When I squeezed your hand, it affected you. You felt it and then squeezed the next person's hand. It went all the way around the circle, didn't it? I only squeezed one person's hand, but you were all affected. So, how did Achan's sneaky sin affect the other Israelites? Let's find out.

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The next battle was at a city named Ai. Joshua sent just 3,000 fighting men, not the whole army, to take this city.

Joshua 7:4

- ? Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's find out what happened. We're going to read from Joshua chapter 7. Who has the Bible? Will you bring it up, please? *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Joshua 7:4.*

- ? What does it mean that the Israelites fled? *They ran away.*

- ? Did they win or lose the battle? *They lost.*

That's right. The Israelites lost the battle. And 36 of their men were killed! What happened? Why didn't God help them win this time? Joshua didn't know, so he prayed and asked God why.

- ? What do you suppose God said to Joshua? Any guesses? *Allow guesses.*

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- ? Refer to the Flip Chart. Who was that? Who stole things from Jericho and hid them in a hole under his tent? *Achan.*

The next morning, God showed Joshua that Achan was the guilty man. Joshua asked Achan what he had done, and Achan confessed and told Joshua about his sin. Achan should have destroyed the cloak and given the silver and gold to the priests.

- ? *Show Lesson Illustration #1. Achan disobeyed the tenth commandment. Does anyone remember what the tenth commandment is? Be content (happy) with what you have. Do not covet.*

When we are no longer happy with what we have and want what belongs to someone else, it's called coveting. Achan wanted that beautiful robe and the money he found in Jericho for himself.

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Then God did some amazing things to help in the battle. First, God made the enemy get really scared. Then God threw down hailstones from the sky at the enemy!

The kings and their armies were terrified and began to run away from the battle. Joshua knew that when nighttime came the enemy could escape and hide. So Joshua prayed and asked God to make the sun stand still. And that's exactly what happened. The sun stayed in the same place for about a day!

Refer to the Flip Chart. Instead of going down and setting at night, the sun stayed high in the sky for a day longer until Joshua and his men chased down all the enemy. Isn't that amazing? God kept the sun up so

Joshua could win the battle. God is the omnipotent Creator. He controls everything in the universe, including the sun.

After they won this fight against the five kings, Joshua and the Israelites took over a big part of the promised land. They went from city to city taking the land and obeying what God commanded. They had learned the lesson from Achan's sin at Jericho. They knew that as long as they obeyed completely, God would fight for them, and they didn't have to be afraid!

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.



Lesson Review Game

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.



Story Time

- ? Do you remember what happened in our last Justin and Jessie story?
Allow discussion.

Justin's parents kept asking him to do things that he thought were kind of strange, until he was surprised by a big birthday party in the backyard. It was a good thing he obeyed even when he didn't understand.

What will happen in today's story? Let's find out! *Show the picture on the poster as you read the story.*

Oh no! The beautiful vase got broken, and Ellie's finger got poked with a piece of it. Breaking the vase was an accident, but when the kids decided not to tell what they had done, it became a lie. Their sin affected both of their families, didn't it? Justin's mom was sad about the vase, Ellie hurt her finger, and none of them could go to the fair like they had planned.

In our lesson, we saw how Achan's sin affected all the Israelites. He tried to hide it, too, but God knew all about it. God is omniscient—he knows all things, even what we do in secret. We should never try to hide our sin. We should say we're sorry right away, and God will forgive us.



Memory Verse Game

Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page as you play a memory verse game. Explain the verse to your students as you review it together.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Song Time

Use the downloaded music to practice the songs. Find the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

You may want to add stomping, clapping, and musical instruments, or make up hand motions to any of the songs!

Joshua 1:9

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. **Let's sing the memory verse song now.** Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

God Told Joshua

Let's sing about the battle of Jericho. Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

God Is Faithful

God is always faithful, but he wants us to be faithful to obey him, too. **Let's sing about God's faithfulness.** Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

Sing other class favorites or songs from the Additional Songs list as time allows.

Group Prayer

- Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

Be sure to pray with your students before you dismiss them.

- **Thank God that we can pray to him, the Creator who even controls the sun.**
- **Ask God to help us be obedient and quick to confess our sins.**

Song Sheet

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

The LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

God Told Joshua

God told Joshua,
“March around the walls.”
“March around the walls.”
“March around the walls.”

Round and round,
And round and round and round—
And Joshua did what he was told.

God told Joshua,
“The priests should blow their horns.”
“The priests should blow their horns.”
“The priests should blow their horns.”

Too-ta-too,
Ta-too-to-too-ta-too—
And Joshua did what he was told.

God told Joshua,
“I will fight for you.”
“I will fight for you.”
“I will fight for you.”

Jericho’s walls came tumbling down.
A mighty God! Look what he can do!

Jericho’s walls came tumbling down,
Tumbling down, tu-tumbling down.
Jericho’s walls came tumbling down.
A mighty God! Look what he can do!

God Is Faithful

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he’s commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he’s commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we’re not.
I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he’s commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we’re not.
I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.

He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we’re not.
I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.
God is faithful always and forever.



Israel Receives a Land

*God was faithful to his promise to give
Abraham's descendants a land.*

Lesson Focus

God fulfilled his promises to Abraham to make his descendants into a great nation and to give them the land of Canaan. Joshua led the Israelites in key victories to conquer the land and gave each tribe its inheritance to possess. Caleb and Joshua remained faithful to God, and God rewarded their trust in him by giving them a special inheritance.

Key Passages

Joshua 11:4, 11:6, 14:11–12

Memory Verse

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Lesson Preparation

Come On In

Choose one of the following activities and print/gather necessary items.

Come On In Game:

- Bible Book Match
- Flashcard Take Away
- I Have You Have
- Popcorn*

Review Activity Sheet*

God Is Faithful Signs*

Turn on some lesson/memory verse songs for students to listen to while they play with play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc.*

Lesson Time

You will need the following items:

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Small bag of sand to show (K-1st)
- Print the Lesson Illustrations

Lesson Review Game

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Basket Toss*
- Bible Baseball*
- Board Game
- Bowling*
- Goofy Golf
- Racetrack*
- Toss for It*

Story Time

Read the Justin and Jessie story on the back of the poster provided in the Teacher Kit or print a copy.

Memory Verse Game

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Balloon Bop and Pop
- Echo Echo*
- Egg Hunt
- Follow the Leader*
- Freeze*
- Funny Voices*
- Popcorn*

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.

Song Time

Practice the following songs using the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page. Remember to use the downloaded music to learn the songs.

- "Joshua 1:9"
- "God Is Faithful"
- "God Told Joshua"

Find extra songs to the tunes of favorite nursery rhymes in the Additional Songs list.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 68*. Game instructions are also included in the *Appendix* in the back of this Teacher Guide.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3–4 years old) and Kindergarten–1st Grade (5–7 years old) classes. Suggestions with an **asterisk (*)** are specifically recommended for Pre-K.

Prepare to Share

Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

After the amazing victories God gave Joshua at Jericho and at Gibeon, another group of kings, this time from the north, came together against Israel. The army they gathered was a huge horde with horses and chariots (Joshua 11:1-5). But God assured Joshua of the victory (Joshua 11:6), and Joshua attacked. The defeat of this army opened the door for the conquest of the north, but it took about seven years for Israel to capture the major cities (Joshua 11:18-19). Although pockets of Canaanites remained in the land, the major battles were won, and the kings were defeated. Joshua divided up the land by lot to the tribes of Israel (Joshua 11:23). Nine and a half tribes received land west of the Jordan River, while the tribes of Reuben and Gad and half the tribe of Manasseh had received land from Moses east of the Jordan (Joshua 13:7-8). The only tribe that did not receive an inheritance of land was the Levites. But they received cities and pastureland throughout the country (Joshua 21:1-3). They also received the Lord's offerings from the people as their inheritance (Joshua 13:14).

Joshua released the fighting men of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh. They had fought faithfully beside the other tribes and were given permission to return home (Joshua 22:1-6). A brief misunderstanding regarding an altar they built led to the other tribes marching against them and accusing them of rebellion against the Lord (Joshua 22:10-20). But when the eastern tribes explained the purpose of their altar to be a reminder that they, too, followed the Lord, the conflict was resolved and everyone returned to their homes (Joshua 22:21-34). This incident shows that the Israelites took the command of God seriously to destroy any brother or tribe who rebelled or turned to idolatry.

Historical/Apologetics Background

A key verse in the book of Joshua is Joshua 11:23: "So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had spoken to Moses. And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. And the land had rest from war."

Joshua and Caleb were the oldest surviving Israelite men because God rewarded their faithfulness to him when they spied out the land 45 years previously. And the years did not diminish their heart for the Lord. At age 85, Caleb came to Joshua and asked to take on the hill country belonging to the giant descendants of Anak (Joshua 14:10-12). This land had fortified cities that the other Israelites feared—but not Caleb! Just as he had said 45 years earlier, Caleb believed God would give the victory. Caleb and his relatives fought the giants, and God granted them victory. The land of Hebron belonged to Caleb as his inheritance and as a testament of his faith (Joshua 14:13-15). The Israelites gave the city of Timnath-serah to Joshua within the land of his tribe, Ephraim. God saw that his faithful servants received a special inheritance for their service.

Before his death, Joshua called the Israelites to him and charged them to remain faithful (Joshua 23:1-13). He wanted them to remember all the great miracles God had done for them. He knew the punishment that would occur if they turned from God and disobeyed his commands. Joshua challenged Israel to put away false gods and choose to follow the Lord. He confirmed that he and his house would serve the Lord (Joshua 24:14-15). The Israelites promised to serve the Lord as well (Joshua 24:21), and they did during the days of the generation that saw God's miracles (Joshua 24:31).

The book of Joshua gives the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham to make him a nation of people and to give them all the land of Canaan (Genesis 17:3-8). One remaining promise would be fulfilled about 1,500 years later when Jesus would come to earth. Jesus was the fulfillment of the promised Savior who would bless all families of the earth (Genesis 12:3).

This verse summarizes the main conquest of the southern and northern kings and their cities, but it may, at first glance, seem to contradict God's words in Joshua 13:1 where he tells Joshua there is still land to possess. The major battles appear to be completed

in the seven years of fighting described in chapter 11 (see Joshua 11:18); however, there remained land that wasn't yet occupied by the Israelites. In these areas untouched by the general occupation, the Israelites held the responsibility to drive out the inhabitants. God promised to drive out these people if the Israelites were obedient to him (Deuteronomy 11:22–23). God commanded that the Israelites completely destroy the Canaanites and Amorites. God's people were his instrument of judgment on the wicked people living in the land of Canaan. The people in Canaan had rejected the Lord and were worshipping false gods and even sacrificing their children to idols.

God told Abraham that his descendants would return to the land of Canaan when the sin of the Amorites (another term for Canaanites) was

complete (Genesis 15:16). The Amorites had years to repent and turn to God, but they did not. God's punishment was just. However, as the book of Judges records, the Israelites were not obedient to drive out all the Canaanites (Judges 1:27–36). These people became a snare to them, leading them into idolatry many times. God told the Israelites he would no longer give them victory over the remaining people in the land. They would test the Israelites' devotion to the Lord (Judges 2:2–3). God's promise to give victory was removed due to their disobedience and delay to act on his promise. May we avoid this trap of inaction and complacency and instead obey the Lord immediately. The consequences of disobedience lead to a cycle of sin, repentance, and the need for God's deliverance—a cycle we see repeated in the book of Judges.



Come On In

As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today, including the *God Is Faithful Signs* that the students can use during the lesson.



Lesson Time

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you brought or prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today let's say prayers of supplication and ask God for help with something.

I'll start. Dear God, thank you for hearing my prayer. Would you please . . . (insert personal prayer here).

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

- ? What word means God will always keep his promises? *Faithful.*
- ? What special laws did God give to Moses and the Israelites? *The Ten Commandments.*
- ? What people (or nation) did God promise to give the land of Canaan to? *The Israelites.*
- ? Who were the Israelites? *The descendants of Israel (Jacob).*

► Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.

Bible Treasure Hunt

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. You can use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God’s Word, the Bible. God’s Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It’s like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We’re going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I’ve hidden the Bible. When I say “Go,” you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we’ll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!

- Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

K–1st Lesson continues next. Go to page 130 for the Pre-K Lesson.



K–1st Lesson

Review

Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. God was **faithful** to the Israelites. He rescued them from slavery in Egypt, gave them food and water in the wilderness, and brought them to the land he promised long ago to their great-grandfather Abraham.

God promised to be with Joshua as he led the Israelites into the promised land of Canaan.

- ? Refer to Lesson 66 Flip Chart. What was the first city they had to fight? Jericho.

Joshua obeyed God’s instructions even though they seemed strange. And God brought down the walls so Israel could take the city.

- ? Refer to Lesson 67 Flip Chart. But then the Israelites lost their next battle against Ai. Why did they lose? Achan sinned by taking items from Jericho that he shouldn’t have.

Achan thought he could hide his sin, but God knew all about it. God was teaching the Israelites to obey him completely.

Then in the battle against five kings and their armies, God threw hailstones from the sky and made the sun stand still to help Joshua chase down the enemy.

Wow! We’ve seen that God is **faithful**. If you made the God Is Faithful Signs, have students hold them up whenever they hear the word “faithful” during the

- Have students hold up their God Is Faithful Signs during the lesson.

lesson. In today's lesson, we'll see how God kept his promise to give the land to the Israelites. And we'll hear how a man named Caleb put his faith in God to do a big, scary job.

The Last Battles and the Land

Other kings in the land heard about how Israel was winning all these battles and taking the land. So they gathered their armies together and went out to fight against Israel. Let's read about these kings and their armies.

Joshua 11:4

- ? Who has the Bible? Will you bring it up, please? *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Joshua 11:4.*
- ? How big was this army? There were so many soldiers it was like the what? *Like the sand on the seashore.*
- ? How many of you have ever been to the seashore or on a sandy beach somewhere? *Show of hands.*

Bring out the bag of sand. One thing about sand is that in just a handful there are so many little grains you can't count them. There must be thousands or millions in this little bag. So to say that this army was like the sand on the seashore, that means there must have been A LOT of soldiers. You could say there were "gazillions" of them!

- ? And what did the army have "very many" of? *Horses and chariots.*
This was a huge, powerful army—many kings with their armies all coming together to fight the Israelites.
- ? Who thinks Joshua was worried? Raise your hand. *Show of hands.*
- ? Who thinks God would be **faithful** to help Joshua? *Raise signs (or hands).*

Joshua 11:6

Well, listen to what God said. *Read the first sentence of Joshua 11:6.*

- ? What did God tell Joshua? *Do not be afraid.*

Right! God promised to be with Joshua and to help him win over all these kings and their great army. So, Joshua and his men attacked—and destroyed them all! Now they just had to take over the cities and the land so they could live there. And that took another seven years of fighting!

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Finally, most of the big battles were over. Joshua divided up the land so every tribe of Israel could have a place of their own to live. They could finally live in houses and cities that were there—they didn't even have to build them! And they could eat fruit and vegetables from the trees and plants that were already there—they didn't

► Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

have to plant them and wait for them to grow! This was a good land God had given them.

Joshua commanded the people to go take the land they were given as their own. That meant they would have to drive out any enemies who were still trying to live in their land. So there were some more battles to be fought! But God was **faithful** to help them if they would trust him.

The Faith of Caleb

Show Lesson Illustration #1. One man who truly believed God would help him was Caleb! He and Joshua had been chosen to be part of the 12 spies who spied out the land many years before. Now Caleb was 85 years old. But he didn't want to rest and let the younger men fight the last battles. He was ready for more!

Joshua 14:11–12

Listen to what he told Joshua. *Read Joshua 14:11–12.*

- ? What did Caleb say about himself? Did he think he could still fight? *He was as strong as he was when Moses sent him as a spy into Canaan. He was ready for war.*

Caleb said he felt as strong as he did when he went into the land as a spy. God kept him strong, and he was ready for battle!

- ? What did Caleb ask Joshua to give him? Which country? *The hill country.*

This hill country was a place most people were afraid of—giants lived there! These tall, strong people lived in walled cities.

- ? But what did Caleb say? Who would be with him and help him? Listen again. *Reread the last sentence of verse 12. The Lord would be with him.*

Caleb had faith that he could take on the scariest people in the land. With God on his side, he knew he could win—even against giants!

Refer to the Flip Chart. Joshua blessed Caleb and said he could have the hill country to live in. But first, Caleb would have to take the land from the giants.

- ? Do you think Caleb could do it? Or would he end up running away in fear? *Allow discussion.*

- ? Who thinks God would be **faithful** to help Caleb? *Raise signs (or hands).*

Caleb and his men showed great faith in God. They went up to the hill country and attacked the walled cities where these giant people lived and drove them out! God rewarded Caleb's faith by helping him win the battle! Now Caleb and his family could settle in that good land.

The Faithfulness of God

We've been talking a lot about the Israelites, haven't we? That's because they are a very important part of history. And we can see how God was **faithful** to keep his promises to them. All these things we've been talking about are part of how God kept important promises that he made to Abraham all the way back in Genesis.

Show Lesson Illustration #2. God promised to make Abraham into a great nation. And he did; Abraham's descendants grew and grew and became the people of Israel.

God also said he would give them the promised land of Canaan. We just learned how he did that. God helped the Israelites win the battles so the land became theirs. Now they were a nation with a land of their own called Israel.

Show Lesson Illustration #3. God gave Abraham another promise of a special descendant who would bless all families of the earth.

? Who was this promise talking about? *Jesus.*

Yes! That special descendant would be Jesus. He would bless all people by dying to save us from the punishment of sin. He is our Savior! The New Testament tells how God sent Jesus, how he was born, how he lived, died, and rose again.

Do you see how God is **faithful** to do all he says he will do? God kept his promises to the Israelites. But would the Israelites always keep their promises to God? We'll find out in our next lesson.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game on page 133.



Pre-K Lesson

Review

*Refer to the Exodus to Malachi Timeline. God was **faithful** to the Israelites. He rescued them from slavery in Egypt, gave them food and water in the wilderness, and brought them to the land he promised long ago to their great-grandfather Abraham.*

? After Moses died, who became the new leader of the Israelites? *Joshua.*

God promised to be with Joshua as he led the Israelites into the promised land of Canaan.

? *Refer to Lesson 66 Flip Chart. What instructions did God give them to fight Jericho? March around the walls, shout, blow trumpets.*

? What happened when they obeyed? *God brought down the walls.*

- ? Refer to Lesson 67 Flip Chart. Then the Israelites lost their next battle against Ai. Why did they lose? Achan sinned by taking items from Jericho that he shouldn't have.

Achan thought he could hide his sin, but God knew all about it. God wanted the Israelites to obey him completely.

Then in the battle against five kings and their armies, God threw hailstones from the sky!

- ? When the enemy started to run away, what did Joshua ask God to do to the sun? Make it stand still. Stay up in the sky.

Yes! God made the sun stand still to help Joshua chase down the enemy.

Wow! We've seen that God is **faithful**. If you made the God Is Faithful Signs, have students hold them up whenever they hear the word "faithful" during the lesson. He told Joshua he would help them win the battles.

► Have students hold up their God Is Faithful Signs during the lesson.

- ? Who thinks God was **faithful** to help Joshua and the Israelites? Raise signs (or hands).

God did help them win. Joshua had great faith in God. But there was another man named Caleb who also put his faith in God to do a big, scary job. Let's find out what happened.

The Faith of Caleb

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. Joshua divided up the land so every tribe of Israel could have a place of their own to live. Now they could live in houses and cities that were already there—they didn't even have to build them! And they could eat fruit and vegetables from the trees and gardens that were there, too.

This was a good land, and God was **faithful** to give it to them like he promised. But there were still some enemies living in the land. That meant the Israelite families would have to fight to get them out! But God promised to help if they would trust him.

Show Lesson Illustration #1. One man who truly believed God would help him was Caleb! He and Joshua had been chosen to be part of the 12 spies Moses sent to spy out the land many years before. Now Caleb was 85 years old. But he didn't want to rest and let the younger men fight. He was ready for more!

Joshua 14:11–12

- ? Listen to what he told his friend Joshua. Who has the Bible? Will you bring it up, please? Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note. Read Joshua 14:11–12.
- ? What did Caleb say about himself? Did he think he could still fight? He was as strong as he was when Moses sent him as a spy into Canaan. He was ready for war.

- Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God’s Word.

Caleb felt as strong as he did when he first went into the land as a spy many years ago. God kept him strong, and he was ready for battle!

- ? Which country did Caleb ask Joshua to give him? *The hill country.*

Most people were afraid of the hill country. This land had giants living in it! These tall, strong people lived in walled cities.

Refer to Lesson Illustration #1. Remember, when the spies saw them years ago? Ten of the spies were afraid and said they felt like grasshoppers next to the giants.

- ? But what did Caleb say? Who would be with him and help him? Listen again. *Reread the last sentence of verse 12. The Lord would be with him.*

Caleb had faith that he could take on the scariest people in the land. He knew that with God on his side, he could win—even against giants!

Refer to the Flip Chart. Joshua blessed Caleb and gave him the hill country to live in. But first, Caleb would have to take the land from the giants.

- ? Do you think Caleb could do it? Or would he run away in fear?

Allow discussion.

- ? Who thinks God would be faithful to help Caleb? *Raise signs (or hands).*

Caleb and his men showed great faith in God. They went up to the hill country and attacked the walled cities where these giant people lived and drove them out. God rewarded Caleb for his faith by helping him win the battle! Now Caleb and his family could settle in that good land.

Faithfulness of God

We’ve been talking a lot about the Israelites, haven’t we? That’s because they are a very important part of history. And we can see how God was always **faithful** to keep his promises to them.

- ? Does God ever break a promise? *No!*

God cannot lie. He is **faithful** to do everything he says he will do. All these things we’ve been talking about have shown us how God kept important promises that he made to Abraham all the way back in Genesis.

Show Lesson Illustration #2. God promised to make Abraham into a nation of many people. And he did. Remember, Abraham’s descendants were his son, Isaac, and his son, Jacob, and his 12 sons, and all their children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and on and on. The family grew and grew and became the Israelites.

God also said he would give Abraham’s descendants the promised land of Canaan. We just learned how he did that by helping the Israelites fight and win so the land became theirs. Now they had a land of their own called Israel.

Show Lesson Illustration #3. God gave Abraham another promise of a special descendant who would bless all families of the earth. He was born many years later and was laid in a manger.

? Who was this promise talking about? *Jesus.*

Yes! That special descendant would be Jesus. He would bless all people by dying to save us from the punishment of sin. He is our Savior! The New Testament tells how God sent Jesus, how he was born, how he lived, died, and rose again.

Do you see how God is **faithful** to do all he says he will do? God always keeps his promises. He kept his promises to the Israelites. But would the Israelites always keep their promises to God? We'll find out in our next lesson.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.



Lesson Review Game

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.



Story Time

? Do you remember what happened in our last Justin and Jessie story?

Allow discussion.

? Justin and Jessie had a pillow fight and broke something. What did they break? *A vase.*

But instead of telling Justin's mom about it, they tried to hide it. But Justin's mom found out when Ellie cut herself on a piece of the vase that was under the couch.

Hiding what they did was like lying about it. Justin and Jessie learned it's better to confess mistakes and sins so the problem can be solved before someone gets hurt.

What will happen in today's story? Let's find out! *Show the picture on the poster as you read the story.*

? What was Justin afraid of? *The dark.*

Justin's mom reminded him that just because it's dark doesn't mean God isn't there. Justin learned that God would be with him and help him—even when things seem scary.

? Have any of you ever been scared? *Allow discussion.*

? Who can we pray to when we're scared? *God.*

That's right. God helped both Justin and Jeremy not to be afraid of the dark anymore.

Think about Joshua and Caleb. Joshua trusted God as he led the Israelites into many battles, and God helped them win. Then Caleb faced giants with courage because he trusted God to help him. God wants us to trust him and obey him, and he will be faithful to help us anytime—even when we're afraid.

Memory Verse Game

Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page as you play a memory verse game. Explain the verse to your students as you review it together.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Song Time

Use the downloaded music to practice the songs. Find the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

You may want to add stomping, clapping, and musical instruments, or make up hand motions to any of the songs!

Joshua 1:9

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. **Let's sing the memory verse song now.** Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

God Told Joshua

When Joshua faced the city of Jericho with its huge walls, God helped him fight and win. **Let's sing about the battle of Jericho.** Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

God Is Faithful

God was faithful to keep the promises he gave to Abraham many years ago. **Let's sing about God's faithfulness.** Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

Sing other class favorites or songs from the Additional Songs list as time allows.

Group Prayer

Be sure to pray with your students before you dismiss them.

- Thank God that we can trust him because he's faithful.
- Ask God to help us put our faith in him.

- ▶ Have students wave their God Is Faithful Signs during this song!

- ▶ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.

Song Sheet

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

The LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

God Told Joshua

God told Joshua,
“March around the walls.”
“March around the walls.”
“March around the walls.”

Round and round,
And round and round and round—
And Joshua did what he was told.

God told Joshua,
“The priests should blow their horns.”
“The priests should blow their horns.”
“The priests should blow their horns.”

Too-ta-too,

Ta-too-to-too-ta-too—

And Joshua did what he was told.

God told Joshua,
“I will fight for you.”
“I will fight for you.”
“I will fight for you.”

Jericho’s walls came tumbling down.
A mighty God! Look what he can do!

Jericho’s walls came tumbling down,
Tumbling down, tu-tumbling down.
Jericho’s walls came tumbling down.
A mighty God! Look what he can do!

God Is Faithful

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he’s commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he’s commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we’re not.
I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he’s commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we’re not.
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He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we’re not.
I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.
God is faithful always and forever.



Israel Turns to Idols

*Israel began a cycle of disobedience,
punishment, and repentance.*

Lesson Focus

During the 300-year period of judges, Israel repeated a cycle of idolatry and disobedience to God. God punished Israel, and they cried out to him. Each time they repented, God delivered them with judges, proving his faithfulness.

Key Passages

Judges 2:14–16, 3:7–9

Memory Verse

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

Lesson Preparation

Come On In

Choose one of the following activities and print/gather necessary items.

Come On In Game:

- Bible Book Match
- Flashcard Take Away
- I Have You Have
- Popcorn*

Review Activity Sheet*

Turn on some lesson/memory verse songs for students to listen to while they play with play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc.*

Lesson Time

You will need the following items:

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Print the Lesson Illustration and the Cycle Pictures
- Tape or poster putty

Bring the following items in a box to use during the Idolatry Today section:

- Baseball or soccer ball
- Dressy shirt
- Fancy shoes
- Hairbrush/makeup
- Video game device
- Money/wallet/purse
- Cell phone
- Any other objects important to kids (e.g., action figures, toys, candy, etc.)

Lesson Review Game

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Choose a Lesson Review Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Basket Toss*
- Bible Baseball*
- Board Game
- Bowling*
- Goofy Golf
- Racetrack*
- Toss for It*

Story Time

Read the Justin and Jessie story on the back of the poster provided in the Teacher Kit or print a copy.

Memory Verse Game

Choose a Memory Verse Game and print/gather necessary items:

- Balloon Bop and Pop
- Echo Echo*
- Egg Hunt
- Follow the Leader*
- Freeze*
- Funny Voices*
- Popcorn*

Find extra verses to practice in the Additional Memory Verses list.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 69*. Game instructions are also included in the *Appendix* in the back of this Teacher Guide.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3–4 years old) and Kindergarten–1st Grade (5–7 years old) classes. Suggestions with an **asterisk (*)** are specifically recommended for Pre-K.



Song Time

Practice the following songs using the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page. Remember to use the downloaded music to learn the songs.

“Joshua 1:9”

“God Is Faithful”

Find extra songs to the tunes of favorite nursery rhymes in the Additional Songs list.



Go to Prayer

Dear God, thank you for your mercy and faithfulness to the Israelites and to us today. Please help me as I teach the cycle presented in Judges. May my students understand that idolatry is still a danger today if we make anything in this world more important than you. Protect them from the things in this life that can distract them from serving and obeying you fully. Continue to open their eyes as we study your Word.

Optional Supplements

Hands-On Activities

Do these activities when you think best—before, during, or after the lesson.

- Saying Sorry*
Students will look at pictures and discuss situations where an apology is needed.
- Israel's Sinful Cycle*
Students will assemble a simple craft showing the cycle of Israel's sin during the time of the judges.

Notes

Prepare to Share

Scriptural Background

Prepare to teach by preparing your heart. Read the key passages for this lesson along with this background.

Joshua's conquest of the land of Canaan was complete, although pockets of Canaanite people remained within certain areas of the land. God had fulfilled all his promises to give Israel victory and their inheritance of land. The people enjoyed peace and rest (Joshua 21:43–44). But the people still had a responsibility to God, who had rescued them from Egypt and given them the land of Canaan. They were commanded to love and obey God and serve him only.

Judges chapter 1 gives a summary of the last part of the land's conquest and the failure of Israel to completely cast out the idolatrous inhabitants. Judges 2:1–3 records the angel of the Lord warning Israel that this failure would have bitter consequences. He would no longer drive out the people of the land, and their gods would become a snare to the Israelites. Joshua's generation seemed to take the warning to heart. Judges 2:7 says that the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua and the elders of that generation who outlived him. However, after that generation's death, the people became idolatrous and did not know the Lord or the miracles he had done for Israel (Judges 2:10). Their idolatry took the form of worshipping the gods of the Canaanites, the conquered people that were not completely destroyed by the previous generation. These gods were the Baals, gods associated with fertility and prosperity (Judges 2:11).

The rest of Judges 2 describes the anger of the Lord against Israel's idolatry and disobedience as

Historical/Apologetics Background

Dr. Martyn Lloyd-Jones defined an idol this way: “An idol is anything in my life that occupies a place that should be occupied by God alone. Anything that holds my life and my devotion, anything that is central in my life, anything that seems to be vital, anything that is essential to me; an idol is anything by which I live and on which I depend. Anything that moves and rouses and attracts and stimulates me is an idol. An idol is anything that I worship, anything to which I give much of my time and attention, my energy and my money; anything that holds a

he delivered them into the hands of the surrounding nations (Judges 2:14). But we also see the undeserved compassion that God exercised again and again (Judges 2:16). Judges 2:11–23 gives a general description of the cycle of Israel during the era of the judges. The recurring pattern included the Israelites turning to idolatry, angering the true God; God bringing punishment in the form of oppression by idolatrous nations; the Israelites crying out to God for deliverance; God showing mercy on them and providing a deliverer by raising up a judge; and after deliverance, the Israelites turning again to idolatry and beginning the cycle again. Clearly, this period was not a highlight of Israel's history.

Israel's quick fall into idolatry may seem far removed from us. In our culture, there is little temptation to actually worship a Baal or to make an idol and bow down to it. The root of the Israelites' idolatry, however, was that instead of trusting and serving the true God, they chose to worship gods whose claim to deity lay in their willingness to serve the desires of the people. In this, we are much like the Israelites, and we are warned by Paul in the book of Colossians to “put to death” selfish and impure desires, including “covetousness, which is idolatry” (Colossians 3:5). In this exhortation, we see the common ground of our own sin with the idolatry of Israel—covetousness: a selfish, sinful desire for what God has not given. The Apostle Paul warns that no person who is immoral, impure, or covetous (an idolater) will inherit the kingdom of God (Ephesians 5:5). If we aren't fighting this sin of covetousness, it is evidence that we may not be a true believer.

controlling position in my life is an idol.”¹ Anything can become an idol—money, sex, power, control, comfort, pleasure, entertainment, and the list goes on and on. And it's not just “bad” things that can turn into idols, but “good” things like family and ministry and work can become so central to our lives that they take the place of God.

The root of the Israelites' disobedience was always their failure to trust that the true God was caring for

¹ Martyn Lloyd-Jones, *Life in Christ: Studies in 1 John* (Wheaton: Crossway, 2002), 196.

their best interests. Idolatry is never a matter of obedience alone; it reveals a heart that does not have faith and trust in God and all his purposes. Idolatry puts our selfish desires above the one true God. As we read Israel's history and see blessings for obedience and consequences for disobedience, the root issue is always faith. Would Israel trust that God is faithful to his promises and that his promises are the true prosperity of his people? Will we trust that God is faithful to his promises and that his promises are the true prosperity of his people? Whenever disobedience occurs, the answer to this question is no, whether we are talking of Israel or ourselves.

Luke 18:18–24, the account of the rich young ruler and Jesus, gives a New Testament illustration of the struggle we often encounter between loyalty toward God and love for the world. Like the rich young ruler,

we want eternal life and all the blessings that God provides through Christ's sacrifice, and yet we often have conflicting desires to hold onto the immediate blessings we can obtain in this life. God does not demand of his followers that they avoid all worldly blessings, but he clearly commands us to value Christ to the extent that worldly blessings have no hold on our hearts. Our failure to let go of worldly desires may keep us from him (Mark 8:34–38; Luke 16:13). What our hearts trust and value will ultimately lead us to obey or disobey the Lord.

The Apostle John closes his first letter with a warning against idolatry: "Little children, keep yourselves from idols." It was a temptation then, and it is still a temptation today. May we not be like the rich young ruler and walk away from Jesus because we refuse to let go and follow him wholeheartedly.



Come On In

As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.

- ▶ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



Lesson Time

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you brought or prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today let's say prayers of adoration and praise our great God.

I'll start. Dear God, you are so . . . *(insert personal prayer here)*.

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

- ? What word means God will always keep his promises? *Faithful.*
- ? What special laws did God give to Moses and the Israelites? *The Ten Commandments.*
- ? What people (or nation) did God promise to give the land of Canaan to? *The Israelites.*
- ? Who were the Israelites? *The descendants of Israel (Jacob).*

Bible Treasure Hunt

Each week before class, hide your Bible somewhere in the room. You can use different methods each week to keep the students excited about finding the Bible. For example, you might set a timer, play music while the students search, tell

- ▶ Before Bible Treasure Hunt, place a sticky note in your Bible to mark the first passage to be read.

students when they are getting warmer and colder, or choose a student to hide the Bible and let you or classmates find it.

We are going to start out today by looking into God’s Word, the Bible. God’s Word is true, and we can always trust what it says. It’s like a great treasure that tells us about who God is and what he has done for us. But where is this treasure? You will have to help me with that. We’re going to go on a Bible Treasure Hunt. Somewhere in this room, I’ve hidden the Bible. When I say “Go,” you will need to look for it. Whoever finds the Bible must bring it back to their seat and hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me, and we’ll open it to see what we are going to talk about today! *Explain the method you chose for today. Ready? Set! Go!*

K–1st Lesson continues next. Go to page 146 for the Pre-K Lesson.



K–1st Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 68 Flip Chart. In the last lesson, we saw how God was faithful to keep his promise to give the Israelites the land of Canaan. Joshua divided the land for each of the families, or tribes, of Israel. God let them move in and enjoy living in the cities that they didn’t have to build and eating fruit from trees they didn’t have to plant—they were already there!

Some of their enemies were still living in the land, so there were still some battles that had to be won. God even helped Caleb fight the giants for his land in the hill country.

After the Israelites lived in the land of Canaan for a while, something happened—and it kept happening over and over, for many years. It was a cycle.

? What does that mean—a cycle? *Allow discussion.*

I’m going to pass out some pictures to some of you to help us understand what we mean by the word cycle.

Pass out the Cycle Pictures to several students. Use the Cycle Pictures and instructions to discuss the idea of a cycle (repeating the same actions over and over). Then continue with the lesson.

► Have Cycle Pictures, tape or poster putty, and instructions ready.

Israel’s Cycle in Judges

Joshua stayed faithful to God for his whole life, and then he died at the age of 110. The Israelites followed the Lord, too, as long as Joshua and the other leaders were alive. But as the younger people grew up, they

were not taught about all the miracles God had done. Sadly, they did not know or trust the Lord.

God still loved them and wanted them to obey his commandments. He had chosen the Israelites as his people and wanted them to worship him, love him, and serve him faithfully.

Some of the people from Canaan were still living in the land. They worshipped idols and false gods, and they invited the Israelites to worship their idols, too. Then it happened—the Israelites began worshipping these idols, and soon they turned away from the one true God who had helped them so much.

Judges 2:14–15

Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster. Let's read from the book of Judges. I'm going to read from chapter 2. Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note.

- ?** How did God feel when Israel worshipped these false gods? *He was angry.*

God was angry because of Israel's sin. Because he is holy and just, God had to punish them. God did not help Israel fight their enemies anymore. Instead, God brought enemies against Israel to attack them and come in and steal their food and all their things. It was awful! They were in terrible trouble!

Judges 2:16

But listen to this. Tell me what God did when the Israelites turned back to him and cried out for help. *Read Judges 2:16.*

- ?** Who would God raise up to save the people? *Judges.*

These judges weren't like a judge in a courtroom. They were leaders God chose to rescue the Israelites by fighting against their enemies. God was merciful, so he helped the judge save the people when they turned back to God.

Refer to the Flip Chart. This was a cycle that happened over and over:

1) The Israelites sinned by worshipping false gods; 2) God became angry and sent enemies to punish them; 3) The Israelites cried out to God to forgive them; 4) God chose a judge to rescue them from their enemies; 5) The Israelites thanked God for saving them and giving them peace.

But, guess what! It didn't end there. Whenever God gave the Israelites peace and safety, they would forget what God had done for them and turn back to worshipping idols. This started the whole cycle again—round and round, over and over!

- ?** How many years do you think this went on? Any guesses? *Write guesses on the board.*

The Israelites kept doing these same things again and again, for about 300 years! *Write 300 on the board.*

Judges 3:7

I'm going to read about the very first judge God chose to lead the people. Listen for the parts of the cycle on the Flip Chart. *Read Judges 3:7.*

- ? Refer to picture #1 on the Flip Chart. The people of Israel did what in the sight of the Lord? *Evil.*
- ? Who did they forget? *The Lord their God.*

➤ Refer to the picture in the cycle on the Flip Chart as you discuss each verse.

Judges 3:8

Then what happened? Listen to the next verse. *Read verse 8.*

- ? How did God feel about this? *He was angry.*
Yes. God loved Israel and wanted them to obey him. So when they disobeyed, he punished them—not to be mean but to help them learn that they should not sin so they would turn back to him.
- ? Refer to picture #2 on the Flip Chart. This time, God punished Israel by sending the king of Mesopotamia to come and take over. How long did this king rule over Israel and make them serve him? *Eight years.*

Judges 3:9

Now let's hear about the next part of the cycle. Listen to this verse. *Read verse 9.*

- ? What did the people finally do? Who did they cry out to? *The Lord.*
Refer to picture #3 on the Flip Chart. Israel cried out to the Lord. That means they prayed and asked God for forgiveness and help. That was what God was waiting for.
- ? Refer to picture #4 on the Flip Chart. God raised up a judge, or deliverer. What was his name? *Othniel.*

➤ Reread the verses as necessary so the students can hear the answers straight from God's Word.

This first judge God raised up was Othniel. God chose Othniel to go to war against the king of Mesopotamia. Othniel led the Israelites in battle, and God helped them win again!

Refer to picture #5 on the Flip Chart. After that, Othniel led Israel for 40 years of peace and rest.

But was that the end of it? No. This went on for 300 years, over and over again.

Idolatry Today

Show the Lesson Illustration. Do you remember the Ten Commandments? The Israelites kept going back to their idols and forgetting about God. They were breaking the first two commandments. Let's read those together. Read the text under the first two and repeat them together.

The Israelites were not putting God first; they turned away from him. And they were not worshipping the one true God like they should. They were bowing down to idols and worshipping false gods.

This was a terrible thing they did, wasn't it? But did you know that we can do the same thing? We have the same sin problem. We may not worship or bow down to statues like the Israelites did, but we can have idols if we're not careful. Whenever we make anything more important than God, it can become an idol, and we can end up breaking God's commandments, too.

- ▶ Have items in a box ready to show.

- ? **Let's think about some idols we might have today. Who would like to help me?** *Choose volunteers to take the items out of the box one at a time. Discuss how each item could become an idol.*

These things are not bad—God often blesses us with many of them. But we must be careful not to let them turn into something we care about more than we care about God.

This is a good lesson we can learn from the Israelites. In the time of the judges, they let other things become more important than God. We don't want that to happen to us. So, let's ask God to help us be very careful to make sure God comes first in our lives every day.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game on page 148.



Pre-K Lesson

Review

Refer to Lesson 68 Flip Chart. In this lesson, we saw how God was faithful to keep his promise to give the Israelites the land of Canaan. Joshua divided the land for each of the families, or tribes, of Israel. God let them move in and enjoy living in the cities that they didn't have to build and eating fruit from trees they didn't have to plant—they were already there!

Some of their enemies were still living in the land, so there were still some battles that had to be won. God helped Caleb fight the giants for his land in the hill country.

After the Israelites lived in the land of Canaan for a while, something happened, and it kept happening over and over, for many years—it was a cycle.

- ? **What does that mean, a cycle?** *Allow guesses.*

I'm going to pass out some pictures to some of you to help us understand what "cycle" means.

Pass out the Cycle Pictures to several students. Use the Cycle Pictures and instructions to discuss the idea of a cycle (repeating the same actions over and over). Then continue with the lesson.

- ▶ Have Cycle Pictures, tape or poster putty, and instructions ready.

Israel's Cycle in Judges

Joshua stayed faithful to God for his whole life, and then he died at the age of 110. That's old! The Israelites followed the Lord, too, as long as Joshua and the other leaders were alive. But as the younger people grew up, they were not taught about God and all the miracles he had done. Sadly, they did not know or trust the Lord.

God still wanted them to obey his commandments. He had chosen the Israelites as his people and wanted them to worship him alone, to love him, and to serve him faithfully.

Other people who were living near the Israelites worshipped idols and false gods, and they invited the Israelites to worship their idols, too. And they did! Oh no! They turned away from the one true God who had helped them so much.

Judges 2:14–15

- ? *Refer to the Books of the Bible Poster.* Let's read about it in the book of Judges. I'm going to read from chapter 2. Who has the Bible? *Have the student bring up the Bible and open it to the sticky note.*
- ? How did God feel when the Israelites worshipped these false gods?
He was angry.

God was angry because of their sin. Because he is holy and just, God had to punish them. God brought enemies against Israel to attack them and come in and steal their food and all their things. It was awful! They were in terrible trouble!

Judges 2:16

But listen to this. Tell me what God did when the Israelites turned back to him and cried out for help. *Read Judges 2:16.*

- ? Who would God raise up to save the people? *Judges.*

These judges weren't like a judge in a courtroom. They were leaders God chose to rescue the Israelites by fighting against their enemies. God was merciful, so he helped the judge save the people when they turned back to God.

Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart. This happened over and over: 1) The Israelites sinned by worshipping false gods; 2) God became angry and sent enemies to punish them; 3) The Israelites cried out to God to forgive them; 4) God chose a judge to rescue them from their enemies; 5) The Israelites thanked God for saving them and giving them peace.

But, guess what! It didn't end there. Whenever God gave the Israelites peace and safety, they would forget what God had done for them and turn back to worshipping idols. This started the whole cycle again—round and round, over and over!

- ? How many years do you think this went on? Any guesses? *Write guesses on the board.*

The Israelites kept doing these same things again and again, for about 300 years! *Write 300 on the board.*

Idolatry Today

Show the Lesson Illustration. Do you remember the Ten Commandments? The Israelites kept going back to their idols and forgetting about God. They were breaking the first two commandments. Let's read those. Read the text under the first two and repeat them together.

The Israelites were not putting God first; they turned away from him. And they were not worshipping the one true God like they should. They were bowing down to idols and worshipping false gods.

It was a terrible thing they did, wasn't it? But did you know that we can do the same thing? We have the same sin problem. We may not worship or bow down to statues like the Israelites did, but we can have idols if we're not careful. Whenever we make anything more important than God, it can become an idol, and we can end up breaking God's commandments, too.

- Have items in a box ready to show.

- ? Let's think about some idols we might have today. Who would like to help me? *Choose volunteers to take the items out of the box one at a time. Discuss how each item could become an idol.*

These things are not bad—God often blesses us with many of them. But we must be careful not to let them turn into something we care about more than we care about God.

This is a good lesson we can learn from the Israelites. In the time of the Judges, they let other things become more important than God. We don't want that to happen to us. So, let's ask God to help us be very careful to make sure God comes first in our lives every day.

Continue with the Lesson Review Game below.



Lesson Review Game

We all learn best with review and repetition! We encourage you to play a lesson review game.



Story Time

- ? Do you remember what happened in our last Justin and Jessie story? *Allow discussion.*

Justin was afraid of the dark, but he learned that God is there and will help him, especially when he's afraid.

What will happen in today's story? Let's find out! *Show the picture on the poster as you read the story.*

- ? What kind of cycle did Ellie keep doing? *She did something she wasn't supposed to do, said she was sorry, and then did something else that was wrong.*

Ellie was in a cycle of misbehaving and thinking that saying sorry would make it all better.

We saw something like this happening with the Israelites. They would worship false gods and then call out to God for forgiveness when he punished them. He would send a judge to help them, and they would live in peace for a while—until they did the same things over again.

- ? Do you think that's the way God wants us to live our lives? Does he want us to sin, say we're sorry, and then sin some more? *Allow discussion.*

It's true, all people are sinners, and we do sin many times. But remember, when you've done something wrong, you should say sorry from your heart. It's like promising you will never do it again. It can be hard to keep your promise, but God is able to help you if you ask him to.

Memory Verse Game

Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page as you play a memory verse game. Explain the verse to your students as you review it together.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.

Song Time

Use the downloaded music to practice the songs. Find the lyrics on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

You may want to add stomping, clapping, and musical instruments, or make up hand motions to any of the songs!

Joshua 1:9

Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. **Let's sing the memory verse song now.** Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

God Is Faithful

The Israelites kept turning from God, but God was faithful to help them when they called out to him. **Let's sing about God's faithfulness.** Review the words then sing the song together once or twice.

Sing other class favorites or songs from the Additional Songs list as time allows.

- ▶ Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind students to practice the memory verse this week.



Group Prayer

Be sure to pray with your students before you dismiss them.

- Thank God that he listens and forgives when we pray and tell him we're sorry.
- Ask God to help us put him first and not keep sinning over and over.

Song Sheet

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

The LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

God Is Faithful

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he's commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he's commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we're not.
I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he's commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we're not.
I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.

He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we're not.
I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.
God is faithful always and forever.



Unit Review

A review of Lessons 61–69.

Come On In

Choose a Come On In activity.

Lesson Time

You will use the Flip Chart to quickly review each lesson and sing the songs together.

Review Game

Board Game: Students will answer questions and make their way around the game board.

Puppet Review

Students will watch the special class puppets as they review some of the important points of the past lessons.

Memory Verse

Students will review the memory verse by singing the memory verse song and taking turns reciting the verse. You may want to offer special prizes or treats.

Lesson Preparation

Come On In

Choose one of the following activities and print/gather necessary items.

Come On In Game:

- Bible Book Match*
- I Have You Have
- Flashcard Take Away
- Popcorn*

Review Activity Sheet*

Turn on some lesson/memory verse songs for students to listen to while they play with play dough, puzzles, blocks, etc.*

Lesson Time

You will need the following items:

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Bible

Song Time.

Songs are interspersed throughout the review lesson. Remember to use the downloaded music to review the songs. Lyrics can be found on the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson or on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page.

- “Joshua 1:9”
- “God Told Joshua”
- “God Is Faithful”

Find extra songs to the tunes of favorite nursery rhymes in the Additional Songs list.

Review Game—Board Game

Instructions for the game are in the Review Game section later in the lesson.

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use.

Gather the following items:

- Game Board (provided in the Teacher Kit)
- Buttons, beads, or other small objects for game markers
- Spinner or dice

Puppet Review

Print the Puppet Review Script for your use.

Make or purchase two puppets. Simple finger puppets work great, too!

Optional: recruit helpers for the puppets and print extra scripts as necessary.

Go to Prayer

Dear Lord, thank you for your Word. Thank you for men of faith like Moses, Joshua, and Caleb. Help my students learn the importance of obedience and the consequences of disobedience. May they continue to grow in faith and obedience to you and your Word.



The required lesson and supplementary materials can be accessed from the **Teacher Digital Resources** under *Lesson 70*. Game instructions are also included in the *Appendix* in the back of this Teacher Guide.

All Lesson Preparation suggestions may be used for Pre-K (3–4 years old) and Kindergarten–1st Grade (5–7 years old) classes. Suggestions with an **asterisk (*)** are specifically recommended for Pre-K.



Come On In

As students arrive, direct them to the activity you chose for today.

- ▶ Don't forget! Review the Optional Supplements and determine where you can use them.



Lesson Time

Have the students assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs.

Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, and any items you brought or prepared for this lesson.

Prayer

This prayer time is designed to help the students begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to encourage them to pray.

We start our Bible lesson with prayer. Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- I'm thankful prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

Today let's say prayers of confession and tell God we're sorry for our sins.

I'll start. Dear God, I'm sorry for . . . *(insert personal prayer here)*.

Pass a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—around the circle, giving all the students an opportunity to pray or choose a volunteer to stand beside you and pray.

Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll answer our Bible Truth questions.

Bible Truths

These four questions will be repeated each week to help the students learn foundational truths.

- ? What word means God will always keep his promises? *Faithful.*
- ? What special laws did God give to Moses and the Israelites? *The Ten Commandments.*
- ? What people (or nation) did God promise to give the land of Canaan to? *The Israelites.*
- ? Who were the Israelites? *The descendants of Israel (Jacob).*

K-1st Lesson continues next. Go to page 161 for the Pre-K Lesson.



K-1st Review

Lesson 61

Refer to Lesson 61 Flip Chart. God told Moses to send 12 spies into the land of Canaan. These men spied for 40 days. They brought back fruit and told the Israelites that the land was very good!

? But there were some problems that scared 10 of the spies. What were the problems? *There were strong, tall people in the land—giants! The cities had walls around them.*

? Which spies trusted God to help them win the land? *Joshua and Caleb.*

Yes. They reminded the people to trust God and not to be afraid.

? Did the people listen to Joshua and Caleb? *No.*

No. The people didn't listen to Joshua and Caleb. They would not go into the good land God promised them. The Israelites disobeyed the Lord, so he punished them by making them wander in the wilderness for 40 years until all those people who didn't believe and obey him died. Only Joshua, Caleb, and the young people under age 20 would enter the land many years later.

Lesson 62

Refer to Lesson 62 Flip Chart. While the Israelites lived in the wilderness for 40 years, three men led some people to rebel against Moses and Aaron because they were jealous and unhappy.

? Who remembers the names of the three men who rebelled? *Korah, Dathan, Abiram.*

? How did God punish Korah, Dathan, and Abiram? What happened to them? *An earthquake split the ground, and they and their families and belongings fell into the earth.*

We also learned that Moses and Aaron sinned, too. The people were thirsty again. God said he would provide water, only this time, he told Moses and Aaron to *speak* to a rock. He wasn't supposed to hit it with his staff like before. But they did NOT obey God's instructions. God was angry with Moses and Aaron for rebelling and doing it their way, so God punished them and said they would never get to go into the promised land.

? Is God mean? Does he just like to punish people? *No.*

No. God isn't mean; he's holy and takes sin seriously. He must punish sin because of who he is. But God showed his mercy and love when he sent his Son, Jesus, to die for sinners.

Lesson 63

Refer to Lesson 63 Flip Chart. God led Moses and the Israelites to a place just outside the promised land. A powerful king named Og attacked the Israelites.

► As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged.

? What was different about King Og? *He was a giant.*

King Og was a giant man. The Bible says Og slept in a huge bed. He was probably taller than any basketball player! And there were tall walls around his cities, too. But God helped the Israelites win against Og.

Then there was King Balak. He was afraid that the Israelites would attack him next. So he hired Balaam, a false prophet, to curse the Israelites.

? What kind of animal did Balaam ride on his way to see King Balak?
A donkey.

? As Balaam rode his donkey, who blocked the way and scared the donkey? *The angel of the Lord.*

? What did God cause the donkey to do? *Speak! Talk to Balaam.*

God made the donkey speak to Balaam. Then God opened Balaam's eyes to see the angel and reminded him to obey and only say words of blessing for the Israelites and not to curse them.

The Israelites were God's chosen people. God promised to bless them as they came into the promised land and would not allow Balaam to curse his people.

Lesson 64

? Refer to Lesson 64 Flip Chart. Moses died when he was 120 years, and God chose a new leader for the Israelites. Who was that new leader? *Joshua.*

Now Joshua was getting ready to lead the people into the promised land of Canaan. He sent two spies into Jericho, and they stayed at a woman's house.

? What was the name of the woman? *Rahab.*

Rahab believed the one true God and that he would help the Israelites take the land as their own.

? Where did Rahab hide the spies? *On her roof under the flax.*

? How did Rahab help the spies escape and get out of the city? *She helped them climb out her window.*

Rahab asked the spies to keep her and her family safe during the battle. The spies said they would if she kept their secret and didn't tell anyone about them.

? What did they tell her to hang from her window so they would know where she was during the battle? *A scarlet (red) cord.*

Rahab put her faith in God, and he would show her mercy and keep her and her family safe during the battle of Jericho.

Lesson 65

Refer to Lesson 65 Flip Chart. Before the Israelites could fight for Jericho, they had to enter the promised land by crossing the Jordan River.

? What did God do so they could cross the river? *He stopped the water.*

As soon as the priests carrying the ark of the covenant stepped into the water, it stopped flowing and the ground dried up. All the people walked to the other side on dry ground.

? What did Joshua stack up to help the people remember this miracle?
12 stones.

? Right. He set up a memorial. What is a memorial? *Something that helps us remember special people and things that have happened.*

God wanted these memorial stones to remind the Israelites of his miracle at the Jordan River so they could teach their children about God and what he had done for them.

Lesson 66

Refer to Lesson 66 Flip Chart. In this lesson, Joshua and his army attacked the city of Jericho.

? Who remembers what the Israelites had to do for six days? *March around the city of Jericho once each day. The priests carried the ark of the covenant and blew trumpets (horns).*

? On the seventh day, how many times did they march around the walls?
Seven times.

? The people gave a shout and the priests blew their trumpets long and loud. Then what happened to the walls around Jericho? *They fell down.*

? That's right! Was this the normal way to attack a city? *No!*

God's plan was different than the normal way. This plan probably seemed strange to Joshua and his army. But Joshua had faith in God. God helped the Israelites win the battle at Jericho, but they had to obey even when they didn't understand.

? After God made the walls fall down at Jericho, who did the Israelites rescue from the city? What woman helped the spies and hung a red cord from her window? *Rahab.*

God Told Joshua

Let's sing the song we learned about Joshua and the battle at Jericho. Everyone stand up now. *Sing the song together.*

Lesson 67

Refer to Lesson 67 Flip Chart. The Israelites won their first battle easily when they obeyed God's instructions, and he brought the walls down around Jericho.

? But then the Israelites lost their next battle against Ai. Why did they lose?
Achan sinned by taking items from Jericho that he shouldn't have and hid them.

► Use the downloaded music to sing the songs. Lyrics can be found on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page and the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson.

Achan took some gold, silver, and a beautiful cloak from Jericho. He thought he could hide his sin, but God knew all about it. God wanted the Israelites to obey him completely.

? Was Achan obeying? *No.*

Achan's sin affected all the other Israelites. Because of his sin, the battle at Ai was lost and some of the Israelite soldiers were killed. After Achan was punished, God helped the Israelites again.

Later, in the battle against five kings and their armies, God threw hailstones from the sky at the enemy and made them run away.

? Joshua didn't want any of them to escape and hide during the night, so he asked God to do something. What was it? *To make the sun stand still.*

Yes! Instead of setting at its usual time in the evening, the sun stayed high in the sky for a day longer so Joshua and his men could chase down the enemy.

Lesson 68

Refer to Lesson 68 Flip Chart. In this lesson, we saw how God was faithful to keep his promise to give the Israelites the land of Canaan.

? When most of the big battles were over, what did Joshua do with the land? *Joshua divided the land for each of the families, or tribes, of Israel.*

Right. Joshua told each family which part of the promised land would be theirs to live in and take care of. They got to live in houses and cities that were already there! And they could eat fruit and vegetables from the trees and plants that were there, too!

Some of the enemies were still living in the land, though, so there were still some battles that had to be won. There was a man named Caleb who wanted the hill country for his family.

? What was scary about that land? Who was living there? *Giants.*

? But who did Caleb have faith in to help him fight these giants? *God.*

That's right. And God rewarded Caleb's faith by helping him win the battle and giving him the land.

God Is Faithful

God sure was faithful to help the Israelites. And remember, the God back then is the same God we worship today. And he is still faithful to keep his promises. Let's sing about that. *Sing the song together.*

Lesson 69

Refer to Lesson 69 Flip Chart. After Joshua died, the younger Israelites grew up without knowing or trusting God. Some of the other people who were still living in the land worshipped idols and false gods. And soon the Israelites began worshipping these idols, too.

This started a cycle that kept happening over and over for 300 years: 1) The Israelites sinned by worshipping false gods; 2) God became angry and sent enemies to punish them; 3) The Israelites cried out to God to forgive them; 4) God chose a judge to rescue them from their enemies; 5) The Israelites thanked God for saving them and giving them peace.

But when they had peace, they would forget about God and start worshipping idols again—and the whole cycle would start over.

We also learned that even though we may not worship statues of false gods like the Israelites did, we can have idols if we're not careful.

- ? Whenever we make something more important than God, what does it become? *An idol.*
- ? What are some things that can become idols for us? *Allow discussion.*

Remember, these things are not usually bad. But we must be careful not to let them turn into something we care about more than we care about God.

Great job remembering our lessons. Let's play a game now!

Continue with the Review Game on page 165.



Pre-K Review

Lesson 61

Refer to Lesson 61 Flip Chart. God told Moses to send 12 spies into the land of Canaan. These men spied for 40 days. They brought back fruit and told the Israelites that the land was very good!

- ? But there were some problems that scared 10 of the spies. What were the problems? *There were strong, tall people in the land—giants! The cities had walls around them.*
- ? Which spies trusted in God to help them win the land? *Joshua and Caleb.*
Yes. They reminded the people to trust God and not to be afraid.
- ? Did the people listen to Joshua and Caleb? *No.*

The people didn't listen. They said they would not go into the land God promised them. The Israelites were disobeying the Lord, so he punished them by making them wander in the wilderness for 40 years until all those who didn't believe and obey him died. Only Joshua, Caleb, and the young people under age 20 would enter the land many years later.

Lesson 62

Refer to Lesson 62 Flip Chart. While the Israelites lived in the wilderness for 40 years, three men named Korah, Dathan, and Abiram led some people to rebel against Moses and Aaron because they were jealous and unhappy.

- As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page to keep the children engaged.

- ? How did God punish Korah, Dathan, and Abiram? What happened to them? *An earthquake split the ground, and they and their families and belongings fell into the earth.*

We also learned that Moses and Aaron sinned, too. The people were thirsty. God said he would provide water. Only this time, he told Moses and Aaron to *speak* to a rock, and water would come out of it. But they did NOT obey God's instructions. God was angry with Moses and Aaron for rebelling and doing it their way, so he punished them and said they would never get to go into the promised land.

- ? Is God mean? Does he just like to punish people? *No.*

No. God isn't mean, but he takes sin seriously. He is holy and must punish sin. But God showed his mercy and love when he sent his Son, Jesus, to die for sinners.

Lesson 63

Refer to Lesson 63 Flip Chart. God led the Israelites to a place just outside the promised land. A powerful king named Og attacked the Israelites.

- ? What was different about King Og? *He was a giant.*

King Og was a giant man. The Bible says Og slept in a huge bed. He was probably taller than any basketball player! And there were tall walls around his cities, too. But God helped the Israelites win against Og.

Then there was King Balak who was afraid the Israelites would attack him next. So he hired Balaam, a false prophet, to curse the Israelites.

- ? What kind of animal did Balaam ride on his way to see King Balak? *A donkey.*

- ? As Balaam rode his donkey, who blocked the way and scared the donkey? *The angel of the Lord.*

- ? What did God cause the donkey to do? *Speak! Talk to Balaam.*

God made the donkey speak to Balaam. Then God opened his eyes to see the angel and reminded Balaam to obey and only say words of blessing for the Israelites and not to curse them.

Lesson 64

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Now Joshua was getting ready to lead the people into the promised land of Canaan. He sent two spies into Jericho, and they stayed at a woman's house.

- ? What was the name of that woman? *Rahab.*

Rahab believed in the one true God and that he would help the Israelites take the land as their own.

- ? Where did Rahab hide the spies? *On her roof under the flax.*

- ? How did Rahab help the spies escape and get out of the city? *She helped them climb out her window.*

Rahab asked the spies to keep her and her family safe during the battle. They said they would if she didn't tell anyone about their plan to attack the city.

- ? What did they tell her to hang from her window so they would know where she was during the battle? A red cord.

Rahab put her faith in God, and he would show her mercy and keep her and her family safe during the battle of Jericho.

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As soon as the priests stepped into the water, it stopped flowing and the ground dried up. All the people walked to the other side on dry ground.

- ? What did Joshua stack up to help the people remember this miracle? *12 stones.*

Right. He set up a memorial. Remember, a memorial is something that helps us remember special people and things that have happened.

God wanted these memorial stones to remind the Israelites of his miracle at the Jordan River so they could teach their children about God and the great things he has done.

Lesson 66

Refer to Lesson 66 Flip Chart. In this lesson, Joshua and his army attacked the city of Jericho.

- ? Who remembers what the Israelites had to do for six days? *March around the city of Jericho once each day.*

- ? On the seventh day, how many times did they march around the walls? *Seven times.*

- ? The people gave a shout and the priests blew their horns long and loud. Then what happened to the walls around Jericho? *They fell down.*

- ? That's right! Was this the normal way to attack a city? *No!*

God's plan was different than the normal way. It probably seemed strange to Joshua and his army. But Joshua had faith in God. And God helped the Israelites win the battle at Jericho, but they had to obey even when they didn't understand.

- ? After the walls fell down, who did the Israelites rescue from the city? What woman helped the spies and hung a red cord from her window? *Rahab.*

God Told Joshua

- Use the downloaded music to sing the songs. Lyrics can be found on the Flip Chart Song Time Lyrics Page and the Song Sheet at the end of this lesson.

Let's sing the song we learned about Joshua and the battle at Jericho. Everyone stand up now. *Sing the song together.*

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Achan took some gold, silver, and a beautiful cloak from Jericho. He thought he could hide his sin, but God knew all about it. God wanted the Israelites to obey him completely.

Later, in the battle against five kings and their armies, God helped the Israelites again by throwing hailstones from the sky at the enemy, making them run away.

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Lesson 68

Refer to Lesson 68 Flip Chart. In this lesson, we saw how God was faithful to keep his promise to give the Israelites the land of Canaan. Joshua told each family which part of the promised land would be theirs to live in and take care of. God let them live in houses and cities that were already there—they didn't even have to build them! And they could eat fruit and vegetables from the trees and plants that were already growing!

Some of the enemies were still living in the land, though, so there were still some battles that had to be won. There was a man named Caleb who wanted the hill country for his family.

- ? What was scary about this land? Who lived there? *Giants.*
- ? But who did Caleb have faith in to help him fight these giants? *God.*

That's right. Caleb had faith in God, and God rewarded him by helping him win the battle and giving him the land.

God Is Faithful

God sure was faithful to help the Israelites. And remember, the God back then is the same God we worship today. He is still faithful to keep his promises. Let's sing about that. *Sing the song together.*

Lesson 69

Refer to Lesson 69 Flip Chart. After Joshua died, the younger Israelites grew up without knowing or trusting God. Some of the other people were still

living in the land. They invited the Israelites to worship their false gods and idols. And the Israelites did!

This started a cycle that kept happening over and over for 300 years: 1) The Israelites sinned by worshipping false gods; 2) God became angry and sent enemies to punish them; 3) The Israelites cried out to God to forgive them; 4) God chose a judge to rescue them from their enemies; 5) The Israelites thanked God for saving them and giving them peace.

When they had peace, they would forget about God and start worshipping idols again, and the whole cycle would start over.

We also learned that even though we may not worship statues of false gods like the Israelites did, we can still have idols if we're not careful.

- ? Whenever we make anything more important than God, what can it become? *An idol.*
- ? What are some things that can be idols for us? *Allow discussion.*

Remember, these things are not usually bad. But we must be careful not to let them turn into something we care about more than we care about God.

Great job remembering our lessons. Let's play a game now!

Continue with the Review Game below.



Review Game—Board Game

We encourage you to play the following review game.

Materials

Review Questions

Game Board (provided in the Teacher Kit)

Dice or game spinner

Buttons or other small objects for each team to use as markers

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions.

Divide your class into teams. Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice or spin and move that number of spaces on the Game Board, following the directions on the board. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help.

Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the end wins.



Puppet Review

Use the puppets to act out the Puppet Review Script. The script is written for two puppets and the teacher. You may want to recruit another person to help you with the puppets.

Boys and girls, I'd like to introduce some friends of mine. They heard that we've been learning all kinds of wonderful things from the Bible. So they asked me if they could come and talk with us and see if we can answer some of their questions.

Here they are, (Puppet One and Puppet Two). Introduce their names and have them greet the children. Then continue with the Puppet Review Script.



Memory Verse

Use the downloaded music to sing the memory verse song together then give students an opportunity to recite or sing the verse without help.

You may want to offer special prizes or treats to those who do well or at least give it a good try.

Joshua 1:9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.



Group Prayer

Be sure to pray with your students before you dismiss them.

- Praise God for his faithfulness to the Israelites and to us.
- Thank God for his Word that teaches us about him.

Song Sheet

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.
Have I not commanded you?
Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened,
and do not be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

The LORD your God is with you
wherever you go.

Joshua 1:9

Joshua 1:9

God Told Joshua

God told Joshua,
“March around the walls.”
“March around the walls.”
“March around the walls.”

Round and round,
And round and round and round—
And Joshua did what he was told.

God told Joshua,
“The priests should blow their horns.”
“The priests should blow their horns.”
“The priests should blow their horns.”

Too-ta-too,
Ta-too-to-too-ta-too—
And Joshua did what he was told.

God told Joshua,
“I will fight for you.”
“I will fight for you.”
“I will fight for you.”

Jericho’s walls came tumbling down.
A mighty God! Look what he can do!

Jericho’s walls came tumbling down,
Tumbling down, tu-tumbling down.
Jericho’s walls came tumbling down.
A mighty God! Look what he can do!

God Is Faithful

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he’s commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he’s commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we’re not.
I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.

God is faithful always and forever.
Every single promise he will keep.
When I seek to do what he’s commanded,
God is always ready to help me.

He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we’re not.
I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.

He is faithful, always faithful—
Even when we’re not.
I can trust, you can trust, we can all trust God.
God is faithful always and forever.



Appendix

Come On In Games

Choose one of these games to review the books of the Bible with your class. Use the Books of the Bible Flashcards (additional purchase), or print flashcards from the Teacher Digital Resources.

Memory Verse Games

Choose one of these games to practice the memory verse with your class.

Lesson Review Games

Choose one of these games to review with your class at the end of each lesson.

All game instructions and materials can also be accessed from the Teacher Digital Resources within each Lesson: *Come On In*, *Memory Verse*, and *Lesson Review*.

Come On In Games

We recommend that you work with sets of 10 cards at a time then add on the next 10 until the order of all the cards has been memorized.

We have provided a pronunciation guide for the books of the Old Testament. This document can be found in the Teacher Digital Resources.

Allow students to refer to the Books of the Bible Poster during the games.

Bible Book Match

Teams flip over flashcards to make matches.

Materials

- Books of the Bible Flashcards
- Tape or poster putty

Instructions

Print two sets of flashcards. Lay the flashcards out on the floor facedown or attach them to the wall. Divide the

class into two teams. Teams will take turns choosing two flashcards, turning them over to see if they match. If they do not match, flip the flashcards back over. Teammates can help each other decide which flashcards to choose. You may want to have the whole class play this game together.

As students find matches, discuss each Bible book (give a few details from the back of the color flashcards if you have those).

Flashcard Take Away

Start with all of the flashcards—but wait! What happens when flashcards are taken away? Can students still say them in order?

Materials

- Books of the Bible Flashcards
- Tape or poster putty

Instructions

Print one set of flashcards. Put them in order on the wall or board as you recite them together. Choose a student to remove one card. Recite the books again. Continue to choose students to remove flashcards one at a time, reciting the whole list of books between each one. When all of the flashcards are gone, see if they can say the whole set together!

I Have You Have

Students will respond to each other with the name of the book on their flashcard in the correct order. See if they can get through the whole set without starting over!

Materials

- Books of the Bible Flashcards

Instructions

Print one set of flashcards. Have students sit around a table or in a circle. Pass the flashcards out to the students. The person with the first book will say the name of the book on his card and the next person in order will respond, for

example, “I have Genesis, who has Exodus?” The person with the next card in order will respond with, “I have Exodus, who has Leviticus?” You could play a variation of this by having the whole class ask the question. For example, the student says, “I have Genesis.” Then the whole class can ask, “Who has Exodus?” Continue through the set.

Each student will respond and repeat until everyone has repeated their card. Allow students to help each other and to use the poster. Play with any set of 10 flashcards for an easy amount to remember. But if you have a larger class, add enough flashcards so every student has one or divide into groups.

Popcorn

Students “pop” up as they say the name of the book on their flashcard. Start out slowly and see how fast you can go!

Materials

- Books of the Bible Flashcards

Instructions

Print one set of flashcards. Have students sit around a table or squat down in a circle. Pass the flashcards out to the

students in order. Have the person with the first book on his card begin by popping up and saying the name of the book. As you go around the circle, have each student take turns “popping” up as they say the next book.

Once you get to the end of the set of flashcards you are working on, start over until everyone is standing up. Then go around again and have the students sit back down when they say their book.

Memory Verse Games

Balloon Bop and Pop

Each balloon has a word from the memory verse on it, but what happens when you pop one? You have to say the verse without that word!

Materials

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- One piece of yarn or rope for each balloon
- Bop and Pop Cards
- Clothespins or other clips to attach the balloons
- One balloon for every word in the memory verse
- One large safety pin
- Container

Instructions

Inflate the balloons. Write one or more words from the memory verse on each balloon. Attach the balloons to the

yarn or rope with the clothespins in the proper order. Hang the balloon rope low enough for students to reach the balloons. Print and cut out one set of Bop and Pop Cards. Put the cards into the container. Have a safety pin available during the game.

Practice the verse with the students by gently “bopping” (or tapping) each balloon as you recite the verse. Refer to the words on the balloons. Choose a student to draw a Bop and Pop Card from the container.

If the card says “Bop!” the student will recite the verse while gently bopping each balloon. If the card says “Pop!” the student will choose a balloon to pop with the pin. After popping a balloon, have the students recite the memory verse including the missing word. Continue play until all students have had a turn or until all balloons are popped.

Echo Echo

Do what I do—say what I say! Groups will echo each other as they recite the memory verse together.

Materials

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page

Instructions

Divide the class into two groups. You will say a word or phrase of the memory verse while doing some sort of action—sit down, stand up, spin in a circle, touch your toes, etc. The groups will take turns “echoing” what you say and do as you recite the verse. Repeat several times. You can whisper, shout, squeak, etc. Switch around and let older students take turns leading.

Egg Hunt

Hunt for all the parts of the memory verse hidden in the eggs! This game can be played all year round. The plastic eggs just happen to be great little containers that can be hidden easily.

Materials

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Strips of paper
- Plastic Easter eggs

Instructions

Write the memory verse on strips of paper with one or two words on each strip. Put one strip inside of each plastic Easter egg. Hide all the eggs around the room.

Have the students search for the eggs and bring them back to the table. They will open the eggs and work together to put the verse in the proper order.

For a larger class, prepare more than one set of eggs (sorted by colors for different teams). Students can work in teams to collect and construct the verse.

Follow the Leader

Follow the leader around the room. Say the verse and do the motion before moving on.

Materials

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Follow the Leader Cards
- Tape

Instructions

Print and cut out the Follow the Leader Cards. Tape each one to walls or furniture randomly around the room. You will lead the students around the room and stop at each card. Read the card and lead the children to do what the card says while reciting the memory verse. Then move to the next one. You may want to repeat this activity or have students take turns leading.

Freeze

Stomp like a dinosaur or spin in circles, but when it's time to freeze, get ready to say the memory verse.

Materials

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page

Instructions

Students will move around the room in a specified action you give, such as crawling, skipping, turning in circles, galloping, walking in giant steps, etc. Then when you say, "Freeze!" the students will stop and freeze in position.

Recite the memory verse, then begin again with a different action. You may need to show them how to freeze and hold a position.

Funny Voices

Recite the memory verse together using different voices. Be squeaky like a mouse or whisper as quietly as you can. How many can you do?

Materials

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page
- Funny Voice Strips
- Container

Instructions

Print and cut out one set of the Funny Voice Strips and put them into a container. Choose a student to draw out a strip and lead the whole class in reciting the memory verse using that kind of voice. Have fun with it and repeat several times choosing a new voice each time!

Popcorn

Students "pop" up as they say their part of the memory verse. Start out slowly and see how fast you can go!

Materials

- Flip Chart Memory Verse Page

Instructions

Have students squat down in a circle. Begin by saying the first word in the memory verse. As you go around the circle,

have each student take turns "popping" up to say the next word then squatting back down. Repeat.

You may want to divide the class into two groups. Have the first group pop up together and say the first word then squat back down. Then the second group pops up together saying the next word and squats back down and so on until the verse is completed. Repeat—going faster and faster!

Lesson Review Games

These games are written for team play, however, they can easily be adapted for smaller classes.

Allow students to refer to the Flip Chart during the games.

Basket Toss

Students give the correct answer and toss the beanbags to see how many points they can collect for their team. Each basket has greater points.

Materials

- Review Questions
- Two beanbags
- Three laundry baskets or boxes
- Masking tape

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use masking tape to make a tossing line. Bring in three laundry baskets or boxes. Set the baskets in a line, making each one

a little farther away from the tossing line. Label the baskets with 5, 10, and 25 points so the farther away it is the higher the score.

Divide the class into two or more teams depending on size. Have the teams line up at the tossing line. Take turns asking the first students in line from each team a review question. When a student answers correctly, he will have a chance to toss a beanbag into a basket then go to the end of the line. If the beanbag misses, there are no points scored. If someone does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Keep track of the scores for each team on the board. Continue until all the questions have been answered. Repeat questions if necessary.

Bible Baseball

Students will answer questions and run the bases!

Materials

- Review Questions
- Three chairs set out for bases
- Optional: gift wrap tube and a large balloon

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Set out chairs as bases. Have the students line up by the home base area facing you (at the pitcher's mound). Each student

up to "bat" will have a chance to answer a review question. If he can answer it correctly, let him run the bases. If he can't answer correctly, give the answer and ask him to go to the end of the line and try again.

You may want the students to sit on the chair at each base while they wait to run to the next base or have them run all the way around and return to the line. Repeat the questions until all the students have run around the bases.

For some added fun, you can use a gift wrap tube as a bat and toss a large balloon for students to hit after they answer each question.

Board Game

Teams will answer questions and make their way to the finish on the Game Board.

Materials

- Review Questions
- Game Board (provided in the Teacher Kit)
- Dice, numbered cards, or spinner
- Buttons or other small items as game pieces for each team

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Divide the class into teams.

Team members will take turns answering the review questions. If they answer correctly, they will roll the dice, spin, or draw a numbered card and move that number of spaces on the Game Board. Follow the directions on the spaces to move ahead, fall back, or switch places with another team. If someone does not know or does not answer correctly, he may ask his teammates for help. Alternate between teams as long as time permits, repeating questions if necessary. The first team to make it all the way to the finish wins.

Bowling

What do you do with extra water bottles and softballs? Go bowling, of course. Students will answer questions then bowl for points.

Materials

- Review Questions
- Six to ten empty water bottles
- Softball or other small playground ball
- Masking tape
- Optional: dried corn or beans

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. If available, pour a small amount of dried corn or beans

into the bottom of each water bottle (to add weight) and tighten the lid. Set out the bottles on one end of the room. Use masking tape to form a “lane” from the bottles to where the students will line up across the room.

Divide students into teams. Have students line up. Ask the first student a review question. If he answers correctly, let him roll the ball down the lane toward the bottles. Each bottle that is knocked down is worth 1 point. A strike (knocking down all the bottles) is worth 20 points. Take turns asking questions of each team. If a student gives an incorrect answer or does not know the answer, he can ask his teammates for help. Keep track of scores.

Goofy Golf

Hit the sock with the noodle? Teams must work together to answer the questions and putt to get a hole-in-one in this crazy golf game!

Materials

- Review Questions
- Swimming noodles or rolled up newspapers
- Rolled up socks
- Masking tape
- Ten sheets of paper
- Markers

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Use the markers to number sheets of paper 1–10 (more or less

depending on class size and time). Tape down the sheets of paper around the room in a random pattern to form a golf course. You may want to add chairs as obstacles in the path.

Divide the class into teams. Give each team a rolled up sock and a swimming noodle. Ask the first person a review question. If he answers correctly, allow him to use the noodle to drive the rolled up sock toward the sheet of paper labeled #1, the first hole. Continue with the next team. Take turns allowing teams to answer questions and putt the socks along the course to each hole, continuing from where the last teammate left off. The sock must touch or roll over the sheet of paper to consider it in the hole. The first team to reach the last hole wins.

Racetrack

Who will reach the checkered flag first? Teams will race to the finish by answering review questions.

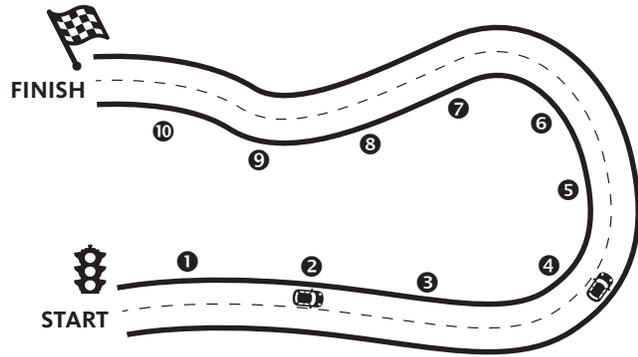
Materials

- Review Questions
- White board or chalkboard
- Markers/chalk
- Optional: paper cutouts for each team (cars, animals, circles, etc.), tape/poster putty

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Draw a racetrack on the board. It may be as simple as a straight horizontal path or a curvy circle. Label “Start” and “Finish” (with a checkered flag) at either end of the track. Add numbers along the track (e.g., 1–10) at equal intervals between Start and Finish. The numbers will be used as placement points for the racers as they progress along the track (see example).

Divide the class into teams. You may draw a different symbol (e.g., stick figure, circle, X or O) to represent each



team at the Start, or use paper cutouts as team markers and stick them to the board with tape/poster putty.

Ask the first team a review question. If they answer correctly, move their marker or redraw their symbol along the track at #1. If they answer incorrectly, give the next team a chance to answer and move to the first number. If they do not know, give the answer and ask that question again later. Continue to alternate asking review questions and moving teams' markers along the racetrack according to the numbers along the track. The first team to reach the Finish wins!

Toss for It

How many points? Toss for it! Students answer questions and toss the beanbag to earn points for their team.

Materials

- Review Questions
- A deck of numbered cards, or numbers and “wild” written on index cards
- One beanbag
- Masking tape
- Two baskets or containers for cards

Instructions

Print one copy of the Review Questions for your use. Place several rows of numbered cards facedown with a few inches between them to form a grid pattern (make sure to put several wild cards or jokers down, too). Use the

masking tape to make a tossing line several feet from the cards.

Divide students into teams and have them line up behind the tossing line. Ask the first student a review question. If he gives the correct answer, have him toss the beanbag onto a card. Turn the card over to reveal the points he receives for his team. Face cards or word cards are 10 points each. Wild or jokers are also 10—plus another turn. All other cards are face value.

Have the student pick up his card and put it in the team's basket to be counted at the end of the game. Next team's turn. If a student gives an incorrect answer, he should go to the end of the line. Give the answer and repeat that question later. Continue until all students have had a turn tossing the beanbag. Repeat questions and add more cards to the grid as necessary.