

1

Joshua Becomes the New Leader of Israel

Deut. 34- Joshua 1: 1-9

Also reference Ex. 3: 20, 28: 58, 34: 27; Num. 13-14:39

Memory verse: “Be careful to obey all the law...do not turn from it to the right or to the left...” Joshua 1: 7

Overview: Do you remember that God had picked Moses to lead the Israelites out of Egypt to Canaan? God had sent ten plagues on Egypt to trouble Egypt until the Pharaoh would let the Israelites leave.

Moses led the people into the wilderness to Mount Sinai where God gave Moses the law for the Israelites. If the Israelites obeyed God, He would take care of them. But, the Israelites did not always obey God. They complained about not having enough food; they did not have enough faith in God to go into the land of Canaan and take it to live in. They were afraid of the people who lived there.

God made the Israelites wander in the wilderness for forty years until all the people who had disobeyed Him were dead. Joshua and Caleb, the two spies who had believed that God would help the Israelites take the land of Canaan, were still alive. After Moses died, God picked Joshua to lead the Israelites across the Jordan River and into Canaan.

God told Joshua that He would be with Joshua just as He had been with Moses. “I will never leave you or forsake you.”

God told Joshua to “Be strong and courageous” because he was leading the people into Canaan. “Be careful to obey all the law...do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth;...be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful...for the Lord you God will be with you wherever you go.”

God still wants His people to obey Him as He told Joshua to do. Today we have the Bible and a new law to follow. But we must follow **all** God’s law and not turn to the right or the left. When we obey God, He will never leave us. He will care for us, and we will be successful.

Lessons to learn: Joshua believed that God would be with the Israelites, so he was able to go into Canaan.

God chose Joshua to lead the people because Joshua obeyed God.

We must obey **all** God’s law.

God takes care of those who obey Him.

True or False:

- _____ 1. The Israelites always obeyed God.
- _____ 2. God promised to be with Joshua only if Joshua obeyed God in everything he did.
- _____ 3. God made the Israelites wander in the wilderness for eighty years.
- _____ 4. Of all the Israelites who left Egypt, only Joshua and Caleb were still alive.
- _____ 5. We have to follow all God's law today, too.

Short Answer:

6. Name the two spies who believed in God and said that He would help the Israelites take over the land of Canaan.

7. Why had the Israelites had to wander in the wilderness for forty years?

8. What did God mean when He told Joshua to obey the Law "and do not turn from it to the right or to the left"?

9. What does it mean to be courageous? Look up the word or ask a parent if you don't know.

10. Why do God's people need to be courageous? (brave)

11. What river would the Israelites have to cross to go into Canaan?

Remember this:

12. Write down ways you can be courageous (brave) when certain things happen.

a. Your friends want to act mean to a new person at school. _____

b. You accidentally broke your mom's favorite dish. Mom sees the broken dish and asks who did it.

c. Someone says the world just happened and things evolved millions of years ago.

d. Your friends want you to come play this evening, but there is church service or Bible study this evening.

2

Rahab and the Spies

Joshua 2, Matt. 10: 42; Heb. 11:31; James 2:25

Memory verse: She ...said to the men, "I know the Lord has given you the land." Joshua 2: 9

Overview: God told Joshua to lead the Israelites across the Jordan River and into the land of Canaan. God had promised that He would give Canaan to them to live in.

Joshua sent two spies into Canaan to look over the land, especially the city of Jericho which was right across the Jordan River. The spies went into Jericho and stayed in the house of a woman named Rahab.

Someone told the king of Jericho that Israelite spies had come to spy out the land. The king sent a message to Rahab to bring out the spies. But Rahab had hidden the men up on her roof under stalks of flax. Rahab told the king that two men had come to her, but she had not known where they were from. She lied and said that the men had left before the gate of the city was closed that night. She told the king's men to go quickly and maybe they would catch the spies.

After the king's men left, Rahab went up on the roof and told the spies that she knew that God had given them the land. The people of Canaan had heard of the Israelites and how they had crossed the Red Sea. They knew how God had helped them fight against other nations, and they were afraid of the Israelites.

Rahab asked the spies to promise her that they would show her kindness because she had been kind to them. She asked for the spies to save her and all her family from death when the Israelites came to capture the city of Jericho. The spies promised to save Rahab and her family.

Rahab let the men down from the window of her house by a rope. She told them to go to the hills and hide there three days until the men of Jericho returned from hunting for them.

The spies promised Rahab that if she tied a red cord in the window and had all her family in her house when they came back, they would save them. Rahab agreed to this plan and tied the red cord in the window.

The spies stayed in the hills for three days and then returned to Joshua. They told him, "The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands; all the people are melting in fear because of us."

Lessons to learn: Rahab was kind to the spies so they promised to save her. The spies believed that God would help them take the land of Canaan. We should believe in God and be willing to help others, especially God's people.

True or False:

- _____ 1. Joshua sent 12 spies into the land to check out the city of Jericho.
- _____ 2. Rahab hid the spies on the roof under stalks of flax.
- _____ 3. It was OK for Rahab to lie and say she didn't know where the spies were because she was saving the spies.
- _____ 4. The people of Canaan had heard of the Israelites and how God had done miracles for them.
- _____ 5. Rahab had to do something in order for the Israelites to save her when they came to Jericho.
- _____ 6. This time, the spies said they were afraid of the people of Canaan.

Short answer:

7. Where did Rahab say the spies had gone when the king sent to ask her about them?

8. When the spies left Jericho, where did they go? How long did they hide there?

9. What did Rahab have to do to be saved when Israel came back to Jericho?

10. Which river did the spies have to cross to enter Jericho?

Remember this:

11. Rahab was probably afraid when the King's men came to her house and asked about the spies. She lied to the men. Is it ever O.K. to lie?

12. What could Rahab have done rather than lie to the men?

13. Read Joshua 2: 11 The miracles which God had done for the Israelites had shown that

“the Lord your _____, He is God in the

_____ above and on the _____
beneath.”

14. Christians are supposed to help people who need help, especially other Christians. Read Galatians 6: 10 and fill in the blanks.

“...let us do _____ to _____,

and especially to those who are of the household

of _____”

15. Be ready to discuss what you can do to help other people.

3

Crossing the Jordan River

Joshua 3

Memory verse: “Hear the words of the Lord your God.” Joshua 3: 9

Overview: The Bible tells us that when God gave Moses the Ten Commandments written on two tables of stone, He told Moses to make an ark in which to keep the tables of stone. This ark is like a large box or chest (trunk). It was made of wood with gold covering the wood. On top (the mercy seat) were two cherubim or winged creatures facing each other. Rings were at each corner of the ark so that a stick covered in gold could be put through the rings. The priests carried the ark by picking up the sticks and putting them on their shoulders. When the Israelites were camping in one place the ark stayed in the tabernacle, which was God’s house at that time.

Now that it was time to cross the Jordan River, officers went through the camp telling the people what to do to get ready. When they saw the Priests (Levites) carrying the Ark of the Covenant, the people were to get up and follow them. They were to keep a distance between them and the ark, though, and not touch the ark.

Joshua told the people to make themselves consecrated to God, for tomorrow they would see amazing things. God told Joshua that He would show the Israelites that He was with Joshua just as He had been with Moses.

The Jordan River was flooding at this time. That means that there was more water there than usual, and it spread out wider across the land near the river. But Joshua told the people that when the priests carrying the ark put their feet into the water, the Lord would cut off the water flowing downstream and it would stand up in a heap.

God did just that. The water stopped in a heap and all the Israelites crossed over the river on dry ground. The priests stood in the middle of the river until all the people had crossed over to the other side. They crossed over by Jericho. The Israelites were finally in the land that God had promised to them.

Lessons to learn: God was still taking care of His people.
God did a miracle by stopping the Jordan River from flowing.
God’s miracle showed the people that God was with Joshua, their leader.

God gave the Israelites rules about what they had to do to cross the Jordan River.

True or False:

- _____ 1. The Ark of the covenant was just a wooden box to carry things in.
- _____ 2. Cherubim are winged creatures which sat on top of the Ark.
- _____ 3. There were sticks to carry the Ark of the Covenant because no one was to touch the Ark.
- _____ 4. When the people stepped into the river, the ground was muddy.
- _____ 5. This crossing was just like when the Israelites crossed the Red Sea.

Short Answer:

6. Who was supposed to lead the way across the Jordan River?

7. God said that he would exalt Joshua on this day so that Israel would know _____

8. When did the water upstream in the Jordan River stand still and rise up in a heap? _____

9. What important city was across the Jordan River from the Israelites?

10. Describe how the priests carried the Ark of the Covenant.

11. Where did the Ark of the Covenant stay when the Israelites were not moving from place to place? _____

Remember this:

12. The Israelites had to prepare themselves for God. Do we have to prepare ourselves before coming to church services? _____

13. What do you have to do to prepare to come to church services and worship God in the right way? _____

14. Circle the things that tell how we worship God.

Study the Bible **Play games** **Sing hymns**

Memorize Bible Verses **Whisper with friends**

Read a story book when the preacher is preaching

Sleep during the services **Pray**

Listen carefully to the preaching of God's word

Do homework during services **Play with babies**

Take notes about the lesson **Give to God**

Think about God and Jesus during the Lord's Supper

4

Remembering the Crossing of the Jordan River

Joshua 3-4

Memory verse: “These stones shall be for a memorial to the sons of Israel forever.” Joshua 4: 7

Overview: After forty years of wandering in the wilderness, the Israelites were about to enter Canaan, the land which God had promised to them.

In our last lesson we learned that the Jordan River was flooding at this time. But Joshua told the people that when the priests carrying the ark put their feet into the water, the Lord would cut off the water flowing downstream and it would stand up in a heap.

God did stop the water and the priests stood in the middle of the river until all the people had crossed over to the other side. The Israelites were finally in the land that God had promised to them.

God told Joshua to choose one man from each of the twelve tribes to pick up a large stone from the middle of the river. Each of the twelve men picked a stone, put it on his shoulder, and carried it out of the riverbed. They set the stones down at the place they were going to camp for the night.

Joshua stacked up twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan River where the priests stood with the Ark of the Covenant. Then after all the people had crossed over the Jordan River, the priests carried the Ark of the Covenant to the other side. As soon as their feet were on the land of Canaan, the waters of the Jordan River returned to their place and flooded just like they had before.

The Israelites camped at Gilgal, and Joshua set up the twelve stones from the Jordan River in that place. He told the Israelites that later when their children asked, “What do these stones mean?” the people were to tell them how God dried up the Jordan River so they could walk across on dry land. “He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God.”

The stones were a memorial or something to make them remember what God had done for them. It showed God’s power. “On that day the Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel, and they stood in awe of him just as they had stood in awe of Moses, all the days of his life.”

Lessons to learn: God is powerful enough to stop the river for His people. God kept His promise to bring the Israelites into Canaan. Parents should tell their children about God and the mighty things He has done. Your parents should read the Bible to you.

True or false:

- _____ 1. A memorial is something that helps people remember something important.
- _____ 2. There were two piles of stones set up as memorials for the Israelites.
- _____ 3. The Israelites didn't think as highly of Joshua as they had thought of Moses before.
- _____ 4. Joshua set up a memorial at Jericho where the Israelites camped.
- _____ 5. Israel crossing the Jordan was important to the people then, but it is not important for us to know.

Short answer:

6. How many men picked up stones for the memorial on the land? Why were there that number of men? _____

7. Where did the men get the stones for the memorial?

8. Where did Joshua set up the second memorial of stones?

9.. When did the water of the Jordan River go back to the way it had been before the crossing?

10. When the Israelites' children asked, "What do these stones mean?" what were the Israelites supposed to tell them?

11. God dried up the waters of the Jordan River for the Israelites to pass over just like he dried up the _____

Remember this:

12. Why is it important for us to know this story?

13. Joshua 4: 24 says that the Israelites were to tell what God did so that all "the _____ of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is _____, that you may fear the Lord your _____."

14. The Bible is written so we can learn and believe. Are we supposed to tell other people about the things God has done?

15. Miracles of god show us His power. Read John 20: 30 -31 and fill in the blanks that tell why the Bible tells us about some of the miracles of Jesus.

"...these are written so that you may _____ that Jesus is the _____, the Son of _____, and that by believing you may have _____ in His name."

5

After Crossing the Jordan River

Joshua 5

Memory verse: “What message does my Lord have for his servant?”
Joshua 5: 14

Overview: Several important things happened after the Israelites crossed over the Jordan River. You remember that the Israelites set up a memorial of twelve stones so that when their children would ask about the stones, the parents would tell them about how God helped them cross the Jordan River on dry land.

As soon as all the kings of the Amorites to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the Lord had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they had crossed over, their hearts melted and they didn't have any courage (bravery) left.

The Israelites had moved about in the wilderness forty years until all the men who were of military age when they left Egypt had died, since they had not obeyed the Lord. For the Lord had sworn to them that they would not see the land he had promised to give them, a land flowing with milk and honey. Now the men did what they were supposed to do to be in a covenant (agreement) with God as His people.

While they were camped at Gilgal, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. The day after the Passover, they ate some of the food of the land, unleavened bread and roasted grain. The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the food of Canaan.

Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?”

“Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come.”

Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground to in reverence because the man was really God's angel, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for His servant?”

The commander of the Lord's army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

Lessons to learn:

The people needed to make themselves right with God.

They also kept the Passover feast, which reminded them of what God had done for them in Egypt.

True or False:

- _____ 1. Only the Israelites knew how God had helped them cross the Jordan River.
- _____ 2. All the men who were old enough to be soldiers - except for Joshua and Caleb- died while the Israelites were wandering in the wilderness.
- _____ 3. The Passover feast was a memorial of the last plague that God sent on the Egyptians and how He saved the Israelites from death.
- _____ 4. There was no reason for the Israelites to need manna anymore.
- _____ 5. Canaan was like the wilderness. There wasn't much food there.
- _____ 6. God called the land of Canaan a land of fruit and honey.

Short answer:

7. Who heard about how God dried up the Jordan River for the Israelites and were scared?

8. What did the Passover remind the Israelites about? Who passed over them?

9. What did the Israelites have to do so their houses would be passed over?

10. Who did the "man" that Joshua saw say that he was?

11. Why did the angel tell Joshua to take off his sandals?

Remember this:

12. Who else was told to take his sandals off, just like Joshua was told to do?

13. God had kept His promise to bring His people to the Promised Land. What was the name of that land?

14. When the angel of the Lord spoke to Joshua, Joshua said,

“What message does my _____ have for his
_____?”

15. How does God speak to us today? _____

16. When we read the Bible, should we have the same attitude that Joshua had, that we want to know what is God’s message for us?

The Passover is like the Lord’s Supper in several ways. Each is a memorial feast with a sacrifice that included blood to save people.

Match:

- | | |
|---|---|
| _____ 17. The Passover | a. Jesus Christ |
| _____ 18. Saved from death of firstborn. | b. Christ’s blood |
| _____ 19. The sacrificed lamb without spot | c. The Lord’s Supper |
| _____ 20. The lamb’s blood on the doorposts | d. Saved from spiritual death because of our sins |

6

The Fall of Jericho

Joshua 6

Memory verse: “Joshua said to the people, ‘Shout! For the Lord has given you the city.’” Joshua 6: 16

Overview: When the Israelites entered the land of Canaan, the people of the city of Jericho were afraid. They had heard of how God took care of the Israelites in the wilderness. They shut their city up tight, and no one went out or came in.

God told Joshua that He had delivered Jericho into the Israelites’ hands. He told Joshua that the people would have to march around the city one time each day for six days. The armed men would go first. Seven priests would blow trumpets of ram’s horns, and the Ark of the Covenant would follow them. Then the people would follow without saying a word. On the seventh day, the people would march around the city seven times.

So, the people marched around the city one time for six days just as God had told them to do. Then they went back to their camp.

On the seventh day, the Israelites got up at daybreak to march around the city of Jericho seven times. The first six times, the people marched silently just as they had done for the first six days. The seventh time they marched around Jericho, the priests blew their trumpets; and Joshua commanded the people, “Shout! For the Lord has given you the city!” When they shouted, the walls of the city fell down. The men destroyed every living thing in the city except for Rahab and her family.

The two spies whom Rahab had helped went into the city and brought out Rahab and her family as they had promised her that they would do. They took Rahab and her family outside their camp.

Then the Israelites took all the silver, gold, bronze and iron things to give to God’s treasury. God warned them not to take anything for themselves. It was all to be dedicated to God.

“So the Lord was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land.”

Lessons to learn: When the Israelites obeyed God, He helped them take the city of Jericho. They had to do exactly what God told them to do.

Rahab was saved because of her faith in God.

God was with Joshua as He had promised him.

True or False:

- _____ 1. The people of Jericho knew that God was with the Israelites.
- _____ 2. The people of Jericho were afraid of the Israelites.
- _____ 3. The Israelites had to march around the city of Jericho for just six days.
- _____ 4. God made the walls fall down. The Israelites didn't have to do anything for this miracle to happen.
- _____ 5. Rahab and her family were the only people from Jericho who were saved.
- _____ 6. The Israelites destroyed everything in the city of Jericho.

Short Answer:

7. What did the people of Jericho do that shows how scared they were of the Israelites?

8. How many times a day did the Israelites march around Jericho on each of the first six days? What did they do as they marched?

9. How many times did the Israelites march around Jericho on the seventh day? What did the people do on the last time?

10. Do you remember what Rahab did to show where she and her family were and to be saved?

11. Number the groups of people in the right order for marching. Who came first, second, third, and fourth?

_____ Seven priests would blow trumpets of ram's horns,

_____ The armed men would go first.

_____ The people

_____ The Ark of the Covenant

12. All the silver, gold, bronze and iron things were

to God. This means that they were given to use for God.

Remember this:

13. Joshua said, "...the Lord has given you the city!" Did the Israelites have to do anything to capture Jericho?

What would have happened if they didn't obey God's orders?

14. Did Rahab have to do something to be saved or would the Israelites have saved her anyway?

15. People have always had to obey God's laws. Can you list the steps to salvation for us today in the right order? (Be baptized, hear, confess, believe, repent)

7

Achan's Sin

Joshua 6: 18-19: Joshua 7

Memory verse: Achan answered Joshua, "I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel." Joshua 7:20

Overview: You will remember that when Israel captured Jericho, God told them to keep the gold, silver, bronze, and iron to be dedicated to God. Everything else was to be burned, and God warned the Israelites not to take anything for themselves or they would be cursed.

But one man, named Achan, took some silver, gold, and a nice piece of clothing. He saw it when he went into Jericho, and he coveted it or wanted it so much that he took it and hid it. God was angry because of this.

Later, Joshua sent some men to fight against a small city called Ai. Even though there were few people in Ai, Israel had to run away from them; and thirty-six Israelites were killed.

Joshua was very upset by this and asked God why He had delivered them to their enemies. God told Joshua that Israel had sinned by taking something from Jericho. This was why Israel ran away from their enemies and could not fight.

In the morning, Joshua had the tribes of Israel come before him, and God told him which tribe to look in. Then God told which family, which house, and which man to take. Achan was taken, and Joshua asked Achan to tell him what he had done.

Achan said, "I have sinned against the Lord God of Israel." Then Achan told how he had taken 200 shekels of silver, a gold wedge weighing 50 shekels, and a piece of clothing and had dug a hole in the middle of his tent and hid them.

Achan, his family, all his things, and the things he had stolen were stoned and burned. This got rid of the cursed things from among the Israelites, so that God could be with them again.

God knew that Achan had done something wrong (sinned). Achan could not hide from God. We can't hide from God either. He knows everything we do, so we need to be sure we do good things all the time.

Lessons to learn: No one can hide from God.
Stealing things is wrong.
God will not be with people who are sinning.

Israel had to get rid of the bad in order for God to be with them again.

True or False:

- _____ 1. “To covet” means “ to want something that is not allowed.”
- _____ 2. Normally, the Israelites should have been able to capture the city of Ai because it was very small.
- _____ 3. Achan hid his sin from everyone.
- _____ 4. Achan didn’t know he was doing anything wrong when he stole the items from Jericho.
- _____ 5. God cannot be connected to sinners.

Short Answer:

6. List the things that Achan took from Jericho.

7. Who did Achan hurt when he sinned?

8. Achan disobeyed several of the Ten Commandments when he took things from Jericho. Can you list the commandments he disobeyed?

9. Who can make the choice to obey or disobey God?

10. What happened to Achan, his family, and all his things?

Remember this:

11. What might happen if a sinner is allowed to stay with God's people?

12. Even if we think that no one knows the wrong we have done, who knows about it? Can you think of any other Bible Story that shows He always knows what we are doing?

13. We have things today that are dedicated to God or for His use. Can you name some?

14. If things are dedicated to God, can we use them for other purposes?

15. Be ready to discuss what choices you can make to obey God even if someone or everyone else around you is sinning.

8

Ai is Captured

Joshua 8

Memory verse: And the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not fear or be dismayed.”
Joshua 8:1

Overview: Now that Achan had been punished, God was with Israel again. He told Joshua, “Do not fear or be dismayed.” He had given Ai to Israel, and He told Joshua exactly how to fight against the city.

During the night Joshua sent many men to hide behind the city so no one knew they were there. The next day Joshua and more men went toward the city of Ai. He sent men to hide on two sides of the city.

Then Joshua and the rest of the men went to Ai. When the king and the men of Ai saw them, they came out to fight. Joshua and his men ran away as if they were afraid. All the men of Ai followed them away from the city and into the wilderness.

Then God told Joshua to stretch out his spear toward Ai. When Joshua stretched out his spear, the Israelites who were hiding went into the city of Ai and burned it.

The men of Ai looked behind them and saw the smoke. Then Joshua and his men turned back on them and killed them. The Israelites who had burned Ai came out and fought from the other side, so the men of Ai could not escape.

Joshua kept his spear stretched out until all the people were destroyed.

This time God let the Israelites take the things from the city and the livestock for themselves. Then Joshua built an altar to worship God, and he read the Law of Moses to the people with the blessings and the cursings. God had promised to be with the Israelites and bless them as long as they obeyed Him. But, if they did not obey, God would curse them or bring trouble upon them.

Lessons to learn: Now that the Israelites were obeying God, He was with them.

Joshua did just what God told Him to do to capture Ai.

Israel was only able to fight with Ai when God was with them.

Joshua reminded Israel about the blessings if they obeyed God and the curses if they did not obey Him.

True or False:

- _____ 1. Joshua came up with a plan to capture the city of Ai since God was now with the Israelites again.
- _____ 2. The army of men was divided into groups so that they could surround the city.
- _____ 3. The group of Israelites with Joshua entered the city of Ai and captured it.
- _____ 4. God gave different rules about how to capture Ai than the rules He gave for capturing Jericho.
- _____ 5. God gave different rules about what the Israelites could do with things of Ai than the rules He gave for Jericho.
- _____ 6. There are always blessings for following God’s law and curses (trouble) for not following God’s law.

Short Answer:

7. Would Israel have been able to capture Ai if they only did part of what God said?

8. What did Joshua hold stretched out in his hand, and how long did he hold it out?

9. Joshua sent out 30,000 men at night. Where did they go?

10. Why did the men of Ai follow Joshua and his men away from the city?

11. What happened to the city of Ai after the Israelites captured it?

12. What did the Israelites do with the good things they took from Ai?

13. Joshua and Israel worshipped God and read the law. What book do we read today that tells us what God wants us to do?

14. What did Joshua do to worship God that we do not do today?

15. Why did Joshua read the law to the Israelites and the people who lived with them since Moses had told them all those things before?

Remember this:

16. There were a lot of things for the Israelites to obey. God told them how to capture Jericho and Ai. God gave them many laws to follow. Were the Israelites supposed to follow all of them?

17. If you have heard a Bible story before or read the Bible before, is that enough, or should you study and read it again? Why?

18. Even though you are a child, does God expect you to pay attention the best that you can when a preacher is preaching God's word? Why?

19. Sometimes people don't always keep their promises or their word about things. Who always keeps His promises, for good or for bad?

20. What do you have to fear if God is with you?

9

The Gibeonites Deceive (Trick) The Israelites

Joshua 9

Memory verse: “The Lord our God had commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land.” Joshua 9: 24

Overview: As soon as all the kings who were beyond the Jordan heard about what Israel had done, they gathered together to fight against Israel. But, the people of Gibeon, decided to track the Israelites, and they made worn out sacks for their donkeys, worn out sandals for their feet, worn out clothes, and took dry, crumbly food with them. They came to Joshua and said that they had come from a far country and wanted to make a covenant or agreement with Joshua. They said that they had come from far away because they had heard about the things God had done in Egypt and in the wilderness. They showed their old crumbly bread and said that it had been warm when they set out on their journey. They showed their old sacks, sandals, and clothes, so the Israelites and Joshua made peace with the Gibeonites. But they did not ask God for advice.

After three days, the Israelites found out that the Gibeonites actually were their neighbors, but they did not attack the Gibeonites because they had promised to be peaceful to them. Joshua asked why the Gibeonites had deceived the Israelites. He told them that now they would be cursed and be servants, cutters of wood, and drawers of water. (They would get water and carry it for the Israelites.)

The Gibeonites said that they had deceived the Israelites because they had heard that God had promised to give all the land to the Israelites and to destroy all the people who lived there before. They told Joshua that they would do whatever he thought they should do. So Joshua made them cutters of wood, and drawers of water for the Israelites and for the altar of the Lord.

Lessons to learn: Sometimes people will try to trick or deceive us into doing things which God would not want.

We should check God’s word before we do things.

God wanted all the bad people gone out of Canaan so they didn’t tempt the Israelites to do bad things.

Making peace with the Gibeonites messed up God’s commandment.

True or False:

- _____ 1. Many kings of the land of Canaan decided to gather together to fight with the Israelites.
- _____ 2. The Gibeonites decided to deceive the Israelites because they were afraid of being killed.
- _____ 3. The Gibeonites weren't able to trick or deceive the Israelites.
- _____ 4. The Gibeonites were really neighbors of the Israelites.
- _____ 5. Joshua asked God first, and then made peace with the Gibeonites.
- _____ 6. The Gibeonites always would be servants, cutting wood and getting water for the Israelites.

Short Answer:

7. Did the Gibeonites go to a lot of work to deceive the Israelites? Tell what they did.

8. Why didn't the Israelites kill the Gibeonites when they discovered that the Gibeonites had deceived them?

9. What one thing would have kept the Israelites from being deceived?

10. Even the Gibeonites knew that God had said that He would

give the Israelites all the _____ and _____
all the inhabitants of the land.

Remember this:

11. Since God doesn't talk to us directly today, what should we do to know God's will about something?

_____ and _____
12. God didn't want the evil nations to live around the Israelites and tempt them to do evil, too. Can you think of a time someone wanted you to do something wrong. What was it, and what did you do?

13. Is there ever a time that it is O.K. to lie?

14. Some people say it is O.K. to lie in certain cases. Think about these and be ready to discuss them. Is it O.K. to lie---

When the truth will make someone angry or sad

When you might hurt someone's feelings

When someone might kill you for the truth

When you are trying to save someone else

When it is to help your country (a spy might lie)

When the truth will cause a fight

When you will be in trouble for the truth

15. Colossians 3: 9 says, Do not _____ to one another—that means not some of the time, not most of the time, but ALL the time. **Don't do it!**

16 _____ cannot lie. (Who is all goodness and cannot lie?)

10

The Sun Stands Still

Joshua 10: 1 - 15

Memory verse: “The Lord said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Joshua 10: 8

Overview: When some of the kings heard about how the Gibeonites had made peace with Israel, they were afraid because Gibeon was a large city. So, five kings decided to attack Gibeon. They gathered their armies and started a war against Gibeon.

The Gibeonites sent a message to Joshua asking him to come help and save them. Joshua took all his men of war and mighty men of valor (bravery) and went to help.

And the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you.” So Joshua marched up all night from Gilgal and came upon them suddenly. God caused the Canaanite armies to panic, which means they were very afraid and started to act wildly. Israel caused them a lot of harm at Gibeon and chased them a long way. As they ran away from the Israelites, God threw big stones (probably large hail stones) down from heaven and killed more of the Canaanites than the Israelites killed with the sword.

That day Joshua had spoken to God in the sight of Israel and asked him to make the sun stand still. The Bible says, “The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day. There has been no day like it before or since, when the Lord heeded (listened to) the voice of a man, for the Lord fought for Israel.”

Then Joshua and the Israelites went back to their camp at Gilgal.

Lessons to learn: The Israelites had to help the Gibeonites now because they had made a covenant or agreement to be friend with them. Once again God was with Israel and helped them win a battle.

True or False:

- _____ 1. The Gibeonites decided to go to war with Canaanite kings.
- _____ 2. Joshua had made an agreement for peace with the Gibeonites, so the Gibeonites expected him to come help them.

- _____ 3. Joshua wasn't afraid only because he had his soldiers and brave men with him.
- _____ 4. Joshua asked God to do something for him that had not been done before and hasn't ever been done again.
- _____ 5. Most of the Canaanites died from the Israelites' swords.

Short Answer:

6. Fill in the blanks.

And the Lord said to _____, "Do not _____ them, for I have given them into your _____ . Not a man of them shall stand before you."
Joshua 10:8

7. How did Joshua surprise the Canaanites at Gibeon? _____

8. What did the Canaanites armies do when Joshua surprised them?

9. How were most of the Canaanites killed?

10. What did Joshua ask God to do, and did God do it?

11. Fill in the blanks.

“The _____ stopped in the midst of _____

and did not hurry to set for about a whole _____.

There has been no day like it before or since, when the

_____ heeded the voice of a _____, for the Lord fought for Israel.” Joshua 10: 13 -14

Remember this:

12. God did three things to help the Israelites. List them.

13. The Bible says that God hears the prayers of a

_____ man. (John 9:31) So, we know that Joshua was righteous.

14. Find Gilgal and Gibeon on the map and draw a line from Gilgal to Gibeon.

15. Can you find at least two other cities you have heard about in the Bible?



11

Conquest of Canaan

Joshua 9-11; Jer. 10: 10; Deut. 7: 1-11; Joshua 23: 12, 16; 24: 20

Memory verse: “Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had spoken to Moses.” Joshua 11: 23

Overview: The Israelites had to fight many more battles in Canaan. You remember that they fought against Jericho and Ai already. But God wanted them to destroy all the wicked people who lived in Canaan. These people did not worship God; they worshipped idols. God knew that if these people stayed in the land of Canaan, they would be a bad example for Israel and cause them to sin.

God had commanded the Israelites to utterly destroy all the wicked people and all their idols. They were not to marry any of the bad people, and they were not to start worshiping idols. If Israel started doing any of these bad things, the Lord would be angry and destroy them.

God had commanded the Israelites that they were only to worship Him. God is the only true, living God. He led the Israelites out of Egypt. He divided the waters of the Red Sea. He protected the Israelites from their enemies. He gave them food and water in the wilderness. He gave the Israelites clothes and shoes that would not wear out. And, God was the one who stopped the waters of the Jordan River so the people could cross over into Canaan on dry land.

God had promised to give the Israelites the land of Canaan. Do you remember that many years ago He had promised the land of Canaan to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and to their children? So, the Israelites had to destroy the wicked people who lived there already.

After some time, the Bible tells us that, “Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord said unto Moses; and Joshua gave it for an inheritance unto Israel...And the land rested from war.”

Joshua had chosen to follow God. He reminded the Israelites that God had done what He had promised and given them the land of Canaan. He warned the Israelites to “fear the Lord, and serve Him in sincerity and in truth.”

We need to be careful what kind of people we are around, too. We need to stay away from wicked people who try to make us turn away from God. Our best friends, the people who we spend time with, and the person we marry should be people who love and obey God.

Lessons to learn: We are to worship God, not idols.

God helped the Israelites take over the land of Canaan just as He had promised. God helps His people who obey Him.

We need to spend time with good people, not bad people.

True or False:

- _____ 1. God wanted the Israelites to drive out most of the evil people of Canaan.
- _____ 2. God had promised to give the land of Canaan to the Israelites.
- _____ 3. It doesn't matter what kind of people you spend your time with.
- _____ 4. Bad people usually try to make other people act badly too.
- _____ 5. None of the cities of the land of Canaan made peace with the Israelites.

Short Answer:

6. Do you think it was very important to God that the Israelites stay away from evil? What in this lesson tells you so?

7. How much of what God told him did Joshua do?

8. Name at least three people to whom God had promised the land of Canaan.

9. What were two of the evil things that God did not want the Israelites to do?

10. List some of the things God did for the Israelites on their way from Egypt to Canaan.

Remember this:

11. Who should we worship? Luke 4: 8 says, “It is written, ““You shall _____ the Lord your _____, and Him only shall you _____.”

12. God promised Canaan (the Promised Land) to the Israelites if they obeyed Him. God promises us a better, heavenly land if we obey Him. Where is our Promised Land?

13. What does “fear the Lord and serve Him” mean?

Be scared of God

Respect God

Obey God

Give God what He needs

14. Circle the item on each line that is the most important thing.

Doing homework

Doing your Bible lesson

Spending time with Christians

Doing things with Non-Christians

Watching TV

Reading the Bible

Memorizing Bible verses

Playing with friends

Shopping

Doing whatever you want

Helping the needy

12

Joshua Divides the Land of Canaan

Joshua 13-22

Also I Peter 3: 12; Gen. 48:1; Ex. 29: 38-39; Lev. 6: 13, 10: 11, 21: 3;
Deut. 33:10; Joshua 13: 33, 18:7; 21: 43-45

Memory verse: "...As the Lord commanded Moses; they divided the land."
Joshua 14: 5

Overview: Once the Israelites had destroyed the wicked people in Canaan and taken the land, Joshua had to divide the land up for the 12 tribes. The twelve tribes were the families of Jacob's twelve sons. (Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Issachar, Zebulan, Dan, Naphthali, Gad, Asher, Joseph, and Benjamin) Joseph did not have a tribe named after him, but his sons had tribes named after them--Manasseh and Ephraim. And we will see that the tribe of Levi was special.

Each of twelve tribes received part of the land of Canaan for their family to live in. The Israelites divided the land up just as God had commanded Moses.

Only the tribe of Levi did not receive part of the land. The Levites were the tribe from which all the priests came. They took care of the tabernacle, the sacrifices, and all the work of God. They taught the Israelites the word of God. The other tribes were supposed to give the Levites what they needed to live since the Levites spent all their time doing work for God.

Now all the land was Israel's. The Bible says, "The Lord gave unto Israel all the land which He swore unto their fathers; and they possessed it, and settled there. The Lord gave them rest on every side...Not one of all the Lord's good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one came to pass."

God always keeps His promises. He kept His promises to Israel and He keeps His promises to us. The Bible says, "For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous, and his ears are open unto their prayers; but the face of the Lord is against them that do evil." This reminds us that God takes care of people who obey Him and hears their prayers. But, He does not hear the prayers of those who do not obey Him.

Lessons to learn: God always keeps His promises.

God takes care of the people who obey Him.

We should always try to obey God so that He will take care of us and hear our prayers.

True or False:

- _____ 1. Joshua divided the land of Canaan among all thirteen tribes.
- _____ 2. Manasseh and Ephraim were the names of Joseph's sons.
- _____ 3. Only Joseph's tribe did not receive any land.
- _____ 4. Priests came from the tribe of Levi.
- _____ 5. God hears the prayers of wicked people.

Short answer:

6. Which tribe was special, and how did that tribe get what they needed?

7. How many of God's promises came to pass?

None Some Many Most All

8. What special work did the tribe of Levi do? _____

9. Who were the tribes of Israel named after? _____

10. When does God keep His promises? _____

Remember this:

11. Fill in the blanks. Joshua 21: 45 says,

“Not one _____ of all the Lord’s good _____
to the house of _____ failed; _____
came to pass.”

12. Name some of the things which God has promised people who obey Him today.

13. I Peter 3: 12 says, “For the eyes of the Lord are over the righteous...” This means that God watches over and cares for His people. Can you name some ways that God takes care of Christians today? Ask a parent if you need help.

14. Children can obey God, too. Circle the things you can do to obey.

Obey my mom and dad

Pray

Fight with my brothers and sisters

Listen to my Bible lesson

Sing praises to God

Be kind to other people

**Throw a temper
tantrum**

Love God

Always want my own way

Tell friends about God

Give to the needy

Do what “everyone” else is doing so they like you

13

Israel's Promise to Joshua

Joshua 23-24

Memory verse: “We will serve the Lord because He is our God.” Joshua 24: 18

Overview: A long time after God had given Israel rest in the land of Canaan, Joshua called all of Israel to him. He told the people that he was old and he would soon die. He reminded Israel that God had fought for them to take the land of Canaan, and all His promises had come to pass.

“Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left.” Joshua reminded the people to stay away from the wicked nations around them and not turn to worshipping idols. God would be with them unless they disobeyed Him.

Joshua retold the story of how God promised Canaan to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and how God had brought them out of the land of Egypt and into Canaan. He told the people to “fear the Lord, and serve Him in sincerity and in truth.” And, He told the Israelites that he and his household would serve the Lord, and they should choose whom they would serve.

The Israelites answered Joshua that they would not leave God to worship idol gods. They knew that God had brought them out of Egypt, had protected them on their journey, and had driven the wicked nations out of Canaan. They told Joshua, “We too will serve the Lord, because He is our God.” “We will serve the Lord our God and obey Him.” This was a promise and covenant the people made with Joshua.

Then Joshua took a large stone and set it up under the tree near the holy place of the Lord. He said the stone would be a witness of their promise to obey God.

Lessons to learn: We should obey what God tells us and not turn to the right or the left.

God is with His people who obey Him.

When we make a good promise, we should keep our promise.

We should choose to obey God, too.

True or False:

- _____ 1. This was the first time that Joshua had reminded the Israelites of all the good that God had done for them.
- _____ 2. Since the Israelites were God’s people, God would be with them no matter what they did.
- _____ 3. Joshua told the people that they had to choose whom they would serve.
- _____ 4. Joshua planted a tree by a large stone to be a witness of the promise the Israelites had made to obey God.
- _____ 5. The wicked nations around the Israelites worshipped idols.

Short Answer:

6. Why do you think that Joshua told the story of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and the land of Egypt to the Israelites again?

7. Could idols have taken care of the Israelites on their journey or in Canaan? Why?

8. Joshua said,
“Be very _____; be careful to _____
all that is written in the Book of the Law of _____,
without turning aside to the _____ or to the _____.”
Joshua 23: 6

9. How many of the good things that God had promised the Israelites had come to pass?

10. What choice did the Israelites make about whom they would worship?

Remember this:

11. Parents, preachers, and Christians often remind us of what the Bible says, even if we have heard it before. How does this help us?

12. Why did Joshua set up the large stone under the tree by the Tabernacle?

13. Joshua told the Israelites to obey God and not turn to the right or the left. What did he mean, “not turn to the right or the left”?

14. God lets people choose what they want to do, whether that is good or bad. Does that mean that it is O.K. for a person to choose the bad thing?

15. There is still a reward for God’s people who believe and obey and punishment for people who do not obey. What is the land of promise for us if we obey?

What is the place of punishment?

14

Judah Leads Israel Against the Canaanites

Judges 1; Joshua 17: 18; Ephesians 6: 1

Memory verse: “Judah shall go...I have given the land into his hand.”
Judges 1: 2

Overview: You will remember that Joshua was old when the Israelites promised to obey God and not to worship idols. When Joshua died, there was no leader for Israel. But while the people who had seen everything that the Lord had done for Israel were alive, Israel obeyed God.

There were still some wicked Canaanites living around Israel. Israel knew that God wanted them to destroy all the Canaanites because they worshipped idols and did not obey God. Since there was not a leader, the Israelites asked God who would go and fight against the Canaanites for them.

God said, “Judah will go; I have given the land into his hand.” Judah was one of the twelve tribes of Israel.

So, the men of the tribe of Judah went to the tribe of Simeon and asked those men to go with them. The men of the tribe of Simeon agreed and went.

The Lord was with the men of Judah and Simeon. They were able to drive the wicked Canaanites out of the hill country. They did not drive the Canaanites out of the plains because they had iron chariots.

Israel did not have iron chariots, but they had God. They should have believed that God would help them. God was able to make them win the battle as He always had done when they obeyed Him.

But Israel did not drive **all** the Canaanites out of Canaan. There were still Canaanites among the twelve tribes. They should have obeyed God. Soon we will find out the troubles that came to Israel because of the wicked people around them.

God tells us how to obey Him, and we must be careful to do everything He wants us to do.

Lessons to learn: When Israel wanted a leader they knew to ask God who should lead them.

God was with Israel when they obeyed Him.

Trouble would come to Israel because they did not drive all the wicked people out of Canaan.

We must always do all that God tells us to do.

True or False:

- ___ 1. The Israelites knew that God wanted them to get rid of all the evil nations that worshipped idols.
- ___ 2. Since Joshua had died and there was not a leader, the Israelites picked a new leader.
- ___ 3. Two tribes went to fight the Canaanites.
- ___ 4. The twelve tribes drove all the Canaanites out of the land.
- ___ 5. The Canaanites left among the tribes caused them trouble later.
- ___ 6. It is obeying if a person does some of God's commandments.

Short Answer:

7. Who chose the leader for the Israelites?

8. What part of the land did Judah and Simeon drive the Canaanites out of?

9. Why didn't the Israelites drive the Canaanites out of the plains?

10. Was that a good reason for not driving the Canaanites out of the land?
Why?

Remember this:

11. How could the Israelites drive out the Canaanites who had horses and iron chariots?

12. In John 15:14 Jesus said, “If you _____ me, you will keep my _____.”

13. See if you can find these things on the map.
Cities: Jericho, Jerusalem Jordan River
Color the land of Judah and Simeon green.



15

Israel Forsakes God

Judges 2

Memory verse: The angel of the Lord said, “You have not obeyed My voice.” Judges 2: 2

Overview: Do you remember that the Israelites promised Joshua that they would obey the Lord? The Bible says that as long as the people lived who knew the all works of the Lord that He had done for Israel, they served God.

But, after awhile those people died, and their children who were born after Joshua died were grown up. They hadn’t seen the mighty works God had done, and they “did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.”

Because they did not listen to the laws of God, these children turned away from God and worshipped idols like the people around them. Remember that God had warned the Israelites to destroy all the wicked people in Canaan, but they had not done that. Joshua told the Israelites that they were not to marry the wicked people or worship their idols, but these children did worship the idols. Disobedience had brought trouble to Israel.

The angel of the Lord came and reminded the Israelites of God’s word that they were not to be like the wicked people around them. “But you have not obeyed My voice; why have you done this?” The people cried when they heard his words.

God was very angry with Israel for worshipping idols, so He let their enemies cause them trouble as thorns in their sides. God did not save the Israelites from their enemies when they were not obeying Him.

God even raised up judges to lead them and save them from their enemies; but as soon as each judge died, the Israelites began doing bad things again--even worse than what they had done before. The Bible says they were stubborn.

Many people turn away from God today, too. They refuse to listen to His word, the Bible. They want to do whatever they feel like doing. This is sad. We need to try to teach those people so that maybe they will turn back to God before it is too late. And, we must be sure that we are always trying to do exactly what God tells us to do.

Lessons to learn: When people sin, they bring troubles upon themselves. God is only with us when we obey Him.

We need to teach people God's word.
We must be sure we are obeying God all the time.

True or False:

- ___ 1. The Israelites who had seen the miracles of God obeyed Him during their lives.
- ___ 2. The children who did not know did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel, either were not taught or did not listen to the stories of God's great works.
- ___ 3. God had told the Israelites what trouble would happen to them if they did not obey Him.
- ___ 4. The Israelites were angry when the angel of the Lord reminded them they were not supposed to be like the evil nations around them.
- ___ 5. God was still going to help the Israelites drive the evil nations out of the land of Canaan.

Short Answer:

6. Who came and reminded the Israelites of God's word that they were not to be like the wicked people around them.

7. God said that the Israelites' enemies would be

“ _____ in your _____ ”

8. Because the Israelites were worshipping idols, what happened to their protection from God?

9. The Bible says that the Israelites were _____, which means they did what they wanted to do rather than what was right and would not change.

10. How are children supposed to learn about what God wants them to do?

Remember this:

11. Fill in the blank correctly. **You shall worship the _____**

your _____ and Him only shall you serve.

Matthew 4: 10

12. One of the Ten Commandments said, "You shall not make for yourself

an _____," (Exodus 20:4) but the Israelites bowed down to the baals like the nations around them.

13. Whose responsibility is it to teach their children about God and make sure the children know how mighty God is?

14. The Bible says that anything that we put first before God is an idol. Can you think of some things that people put before God? Think about what people spend time on and what they do on Sundays.

16

Trouble Comes to Israel

Judges 2:14-3:5

Memory verse: “The Lord was very angry with Israel... and He sold them into the hands of their enemies.” Judges 2:14

Overview: The Israelites who were born after Joshua died were grown up. They hadn't seen the mighty works God had done, nor had they listened to their parents when they taught the children about God's great works.

Because they did not listen to the laws of God, Israel turned away from God and worshipped idols. Remember that God had warned the Israelites to destroy all the wicked people in Canaan, but they had not done that. Now the Israelites worshipped the idols of the people around them.

God was very angry with Israel for worshipping idols, so He let their enemies to cause them trouble. “Whenever Israel went out to fight, the hand of the Lord was against them to defeat them.” This means that God let the enemies win the battles. Disobedience had brought great trouble to Israel.

Then God raised up judges to lead them and save them from their enemies; but the Israelites would not listen to them. They quickly turned from the way of God.

A judge was a ruler over just part of Israel. The judge was sent by God to save just that part of Israel which was in bad trouble. There were fifteen judges altogether. We will learn more about them later.

God was with the judge and saved the Israelites from their enemies as long as the judge lived because he had compassion for the Israelites. This means He felt sorry for the Israelites when they cried out because of the terrible way their enemies treated them. But as soon as each judge died, the Israelites began doing bad things again--even worse than what they had done before. The Bible says they refused to give up their evil and stubborn ways.

So God was very angry. He said that He would not longer drive the evil nations out of Canaan. He would use them to test the Israelites to see if they would keep the way of the Lord.

Unfortunately, the Israelites married their sons and daughters to the sons and daughters of the evil people around them. They forgot God and served idols.

Lessons to learn: We can choose to do good things or to do bad things. We should remember God's word and always choose to do good things.

God takes care of His people who obey Him, but He is against those who do wrong.

We should not want to be like the evil people in the world.

True or False:

- _____ 1. Whenever Israel went out to fight, god helped them defeat (beat) their enemies.
- _____ 2. God provided a way to help the Israelites, but the Israelites would not keep obeying God.
- _____ 3. A judge was a ruler over all Israel like Joshua was.
- _____ 4. God felt sorry for the Israelites when they cried out for help from their enemies.
- _____ 5. God was going to use the evil nations to see if the Israelites would keep His commandments.

Short Answer:

6. What happened now when the Israelites went to war?

7. God felt compassion for the Israelites when they cried out for help from their enemies. What does “compassion” mean?

8. What do we call the people who were sent to help the Israelites when their enemies were causing them great trouble?

9. What would happen as soon as one of those rulers died?

10. Besides worshipping idols, what other bad thing did the Israelites do that God had told them not to do with the evil nations.

Remember this:

11. When you do something wrong, what should you do? _____

12. Practice learning this cycle of what happened with Israel many times with the Judges.

