

Lesson C1.7 - God Shows the Way



Teacher's Pages with Step-by-Step Lesson Plan

For Lower Elementary Students and Classes

Recommended for students in Preschool, Kindergarten, and Grades 1-2.

Quick Facts for the Teacher

Lesson Summary: Joshua 3:1-17

► Bible Characters: Joshua, God, the Israelites
After Moses died, God chose Joshua to lead his people. To enter the Promised Land, however, they would need to cross the Jordan River. God performed a miracle by stopping the river from flowing so the people could safely cross. Later, they built a monument of stones to remember this.

Brief Bible Background

- Today's Lesson is from the Old Testament
- Scripture Section: Conquest

Joshua led the people into the Promised Land and captured the cities of the Canaanites. God performed many miracles along the way, including today's story and the Battle of Jericho.

For More Information

The primary role of a Sunday School teacher for Preschool, Kindergarten (pre-readers), and Early Elementary (new readers) is to simply tell children the stories of Scripture and introduce them to the major characters of the Bible.

Teachers who want to know more about the lessons for their own familiarity with the story are encouraged to read the information in the SEED Upper Elementary and Youth Teacher's Pages.

a. Classroom Greeting

Teachers should arrive 10 to 15 minutes before class and greet students and parents by name. Write the day's Bible Message on the white board or poster board for all the kids to see. Have kids gather on a rug or in a dedicated meeting space. Encourage the children to learn each other's names.

b. Opening Prayer Song

This same opening prayer song should be sung every week with young kids — remember, repetition is good.

The words to this song are sung to the tune of "This Old Man." No accompaniment is needed. Clap along in rhythm as you sing.

*Welcome, friends! Welcome, friends!
Glad to see you all again!*

*Now it's time to learn and pray together, too:
Thank you, Lord, for all you do!*

c. Introduction to Today's Message

*Teacher's Script (student responses are in **bold**).*

Have you ever tried to cross a street and something big was in the way? (Call on volunteers) When we are blocked from going forward, we can feel confused and a little lost. But we can pray to God for help. **God shows the way!** Say that with me: **God shows the way!**

- What can we do if we are lost or not sure where to go?
[Pray to God, find a trusted adult to help, etc.]
- How is it that **God shows the way?** *[Give us wise ideas, send good people to help us, even do a miracle!]*

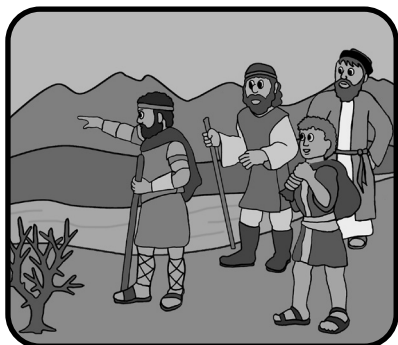
In today's Bible story, Joshua and God's people were traveling to the Promised Land. But the Jordan River was too big to cross. They learned that **God shows the way!**

d. SEED Bible Story Video

The teacher may introduce the lesson by playing the video clip from the SEED website. This may be displayed simply on a laptop computer or tablet. If the classroom is equipped with a computer video monitor or video projector, the video can be displayed in a larger size.

e. Read the Story with Poster Pictures

The Bible Story has been divided into four parts, each with an accompanying Poster Picture. The teacher should hold up or point to the relevant Poster Picture while reading the individual part of the story, asking questions while reading. Posters may be printed on letter-sized paper, or enlarged and printed on ledger-sized paper if a bigger printer is available. Poster pictures may also be opened as a PDF on a computer screen, scrolling through each of the four pages.



Picture 1

Tell the children: After Moses died, God chose another leader. His name was Joshua, and he was very brave. He also looked to God to guide him as he made decisions.

Read the caption: Joshua led God's people out of the desert to the good land God had promised them. But there was a river blocking the way.

- *Look at the picture. Which person do you think is Joshua? [The one pointing and wearing a blue outfit.]*
- *Raise your hand if you can tell me what the people are doing. [They are listening to Joshua and looking at the land across the Jordan River.]*



Picture 2

Tell the children: God told Joshua that even though the river was deep and wide, there was no need to worry. God would do a miracle!

Read the caption: God said, "Carry the box with the Ten Commandments out into the river, and I will make it so you can cross on dry land."

- *What is Joshua doing in this picture? [Explaining to the priests that they needed to go into the river first.]*
- *Raise your hand if you want to tell me what you think the priests felt about this plan. [Scared, excited, curious.]*



Picture 3

Tell the children: Even though they might have been scared, the people trusted God. The priests started walking, carrying the box with the Ten Commandments in it.

Read the caption: When the priests brought the box into the river, the water stopped flowing. All of God's people were able to cross on dry land.

- *Look at the river in this picture. What do you notice? [Land is showing through where the river was.]*
- *Look at the priests. Raise your hand if you want to tell me what you think they're feeling now. [Maybe surprised, but also happy. They are almost to the other side.]*



Picture 4

Tell the children: When they got to the other side, Joshua had one man from each of the 12 tribes of Israel take a big stone out of the river.

Read the caption: Joshua set up a big pile of stones to mark the place where this happened so everyone would remember what God had done.

- *What is Joshua doing in this picture? [Pointing at the stone marker they built.]*
- *Raise your hand if you have ever visited a place where something important happened. How was it marked? [Plaque, sign, stone marker.]*

Remember today's message: **God shows the way!**

f. Bible Story Rhyme (optional)

The Bible Story Rhyme below is the same one found on the Upper Elementary Student sheet. The teacher can read the beginning of the line and see if the children can finish the last rhyming word of the phrase.

*A short time after Moses died,
God found a new, trustworthy guide.
His name was Joshua, and he
was brave and faithful as could be!*

*While traveling one day, he said,
“Let’s cross that river up ahead.”
And while the water looked quite high,
God stopped its flow, and all stayed dry!*

*Then, after they had safely crossed,
and not a soul had gotten lost,
they built a monument of stone,
remembering what God had done.*

h. Young Children’s Activity (optional)

Simple in-class crafts or activities may be completed by the children if there is time left at the end of class. (Note: For the youngest children, simply providing crayons and letting them complete the Coloring Page may serve as the “craft” for the day.)

Carry It Across Activity

Materials needed: Yarn or heavy string, scissors, big lightweight book (like a children’s book), masking tape

Instructions: Using masking tape, make two long lines on the floor near one end of a room or long hallway. These represent the Jordan River. Cut two pieces of yarn or heavy string, the same length, between 3 feet and 4 feet long.

Divide the class into pairs and stand in line. Invite both kids in the first pair to stand a couple of feet apart from one another, both facing forward. Then, give them two pieces of string and a book. Have the kids hold a piece of yarn in each hand, and pull it taut between them. This will form a support on which you can balance a book.

Explain that these pairs are going to be like the priests in today’s story, carrying the Ark of the Covenant across the water. Point to the masking tape and explain that this represents the river Jordan. The goal will be for each pair to find a way to carry to book across the river without dropping it. Let pairs go one at a time. If a pair drops the book, let them try again.

**g. Song (optional)**

The tune to this classic children’s song can be found on YouTube, Vimeo, or online children’s music sites.

Bring five sheets of card stock (or cardboard) and a thick marker to class. On each sheet of card stock, write one letter. So, the first sheet would be “B,” the second would be “I,” and so on.

When it’s time to sing, invite five kids to come up front. Give each one a letter. Explain that they will hold up their letter when it is sung in the song. They will have to listen closely as the letters are sung quickly!

The B-I-B-L-E Song

The B-I-B-L-E

Yes, that’s the book for me

I stand alone on the Word of God

The B-I-B-L-E

i. Story Review: Then What Happened?

Then What Happened is a learning game that helps kids retell the story and remember the flow of events. The teacher reads the starting sentence and then chooses a student to continue the story. There are two rules: each student may only add one sentence or say one new thing, and events in the story need to be in the right order.

► **Start: After Moses died, God chose Joshua to lead his people into the Promised Land. Then what happened?**

If the younger kids have trouble, cut a Take-Home Page into four pieces (with no words) and let the kids put the illustrations in order while they tell the story.

j. Closing Prayer

Send the children home with the Take-Home Page, and tell them to ask their parents to read the story to them again (or, perhaps, they can read it to their parents).

End class with this closing prayer, repeated each week for memorization.

Dear God,

Thank you for the world you made

For rain and plants and sun and shade

For those we love who love us too

We are so blessed because of YOU! Amen.