

JULY 5, 2026

Trust God Before You See the Miracle

Bible Story

Joshua Crosses the Jordan

Main Scripture

Joshua 3–4

Big Idea

Sometimes God asks us to take the first step before He shows us the whole plan.

Worship

Song 1

"I Will Build"  I WILL BUILD || KIDS WORSHIP MOTIONS & LYRICS || KID KARDIA & @Of...

Song 2

"God Knows What's Best"

 GOD KNOWS WHAT'S BEST || MOTIONS & LYRICS || @FamilyHymnal

Memory Verse

"Be strong and courageous...for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua 1:9

Bible Lesson

Joshua has become Israel's new leader after Moses. God has promised to lead His people into the Promised Land, but one huge problem stands in their way.

The Jordan River is overflowing because it is harvest season. The water is rushing too fast for thousands of people to safely cross.

There are no bridges.

There are no boats.

Everyone looks at Joshua.

What will happen now?

God tells Joshua something surprising.

The priests are to carry the Ark of the Covenant and step into the river first.

Only after they obey will God stop the water.

Sometimes God asks us to trust Him before we understand His plan.

Interactive Adventure

You Are There...

Imagine you're one of the children traveling with Israel.

You've packed everything you own.

You've waited forty years to enter the Promised Land.

Now you're standing beside a huge river.

The water is loud.

The current is fast.

You look at your parents.

They look worried.

Then Joshua walks through the camp.

He smiles.

"God has a plan."

Decision 1

Joshua tells everyone to get ready because tomorrow God will do something amazing.

What would you do?

A. Laugh because the river is too big.

B. Start building a boat.

C. Trust Joshua and get ready.

If the children choose **A**, they quickly realize laughing doesn't solve the problem.

If they choose **B**, they soon discover there isn't enough time to build boats for everyone.

The story returns to **C**.

Everyone prepares to follow God's instructions.

The next morning the priests pick up the Ark of the Covenant.

They slowly begin walking toward the rushing river.

Everyone watches.

Nobody speaks.

Decision 2

The priests reach the edge of the water.

What should they do?

A. Wait until the river dries up by itself.

B. Step into the water like God said.

C. Turn around.

Waiting and turning around don't show trust.

The priests choose **B**.

The moment their feet touch the water...

...something incredible happens.

The rushing river stops!

The water piles up far upstream, and a dry path appears.

Everyone gasps.

Decision 3

Now it's your family's turn to cross.

Some children are nervous.

What would you do?

A. Stay on the riverbank.

B. Run back to camp.

C. Walk across the dry riverbed with your family.

Choosing **C** means trusting God even when the miracle seems impossible.

You step onto the dry ground.

The riverbed is firm beneath your feet.

Your whole family crosses safely.

After everyone reaches the other side, Joshua has one more job.

He asks twelve men to pick up twelve large stones from the middle of the river.

Decision 4

Why did God want them to build a memorial?

A. To remember what God had done.

B. To make a new campground.

C. To decorate the riverbank.

The correct answer is **A**.

Years later, children would ask,

"What do these stones mean?"

Parents would tell the story of how God stopped the Jordan River.

Discussion Questions

1. Why was the Jordan River frightening?
 2. Why didn't God stop the water before the priests stepped in?
 3. Have you ever had to trust God before you knew what would happen?
 4. What are the "memorial stones" in your life—times when God helped you?
 5. How can remembering God's faithfulness help you trust Him today?
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Game

Cross the Jordan

Use blue painter's tape or a blue blanket to create a "river" across the floor. Place paper plates, foam squares, or cardboard circles as stepping stones.

Children take turns crossing the river by stepping only on the stones. After a few turns, quietly remove one or two stones before the next child starts. Tell the class they may only continue if they carefully listen to the leader's instructions about which stones to use. Afterwards, explain that trusting God's direction—even when the path changes—is like trusting Him when life doesn't go as expected.

Craft

Twelve Memorial Stones

Supplies

- Gray construction paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue
- Blue construction paper

Have each child cut out or receive twelve paper stones. Glue the stones onto blue paper representing the Jordan River. On each stone, write or draw one way God has been faithful, such as "God helped me when I was scared," "God answered my prayer," or "God gave me a loving family." Encourage children to add more memories throughout the month as they notice God's faithfulness.

Closing Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for always being with us, even when we can't see how things will work out. Help us trust You like Joshua and the Israelites trusted You at the Jordan River. When we feel afraid, remind us that You keep Your promises. In Jesus' name, Amen."

JULY 12, 2026

Trust God Even When You Stand Alone

Monthly Theme

Trusting God When Life Is Hard

Weekly Theme

Standing for God Even When It's Difficult

Bible Story

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego

Scripture

Daniel 3:1–30

Big Idea

Following God isn't always the easiest choice, but it is always the right choice.

Worship Songs

Song 1

Good God Almighty

 [GOOD GOD ALMIGHTY || WORSHIP MOTIONS & LYRICS || PASSION KIDS WORSHIP](#)

Song 2

God's Not Done  [GOD'S NOT DONE || WORSHIP MOTIONS & LYRICS || KID KARDIA](#)

Memory Verse

"If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us."

Daniel 3:17

Bible Lesson

King Nebuchadnezzar builds a giant golden statue and commands everyone in the kingdom to bow down and worship it whenever the music plays.

Everyone knows the punishment for refusing.

A blazing furnace waits nearby.

Thousands of people gather on the plain.

The instruments begin to play.

One by one, people kneel.

But three young men remain standing.

Shadrach.

Meshach.

Abednego.

They know what could happen.

They trust God anyway.

Sometimes following God means standing when everyone else is kneeling.

Interactive Adventure

You Are There...

Imagine you are one of the young Israelites living in Babylon.

You've heard rumors all week about the king's enormous golden statue.

Today everyone has been ordered to gather together.

Soldiers stand all around the crowd.

A huge furnace burns nearby.

The heat can be felt even from where you're standing.

A trumpet sounds.

The music is about to begin.

You notice Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego standing beside you.

One of them quietly whispers,

"Remember... God is with us."

Decision 1

The music begins.

Everyone around you starts bowing.

What would you do?

- A.** Bow so you won't get into trouble.
- B.** Pretend to tie your shoe.
- C.** Keep standing because only God deserves worship.

If you choose **A**, you may avoid trouble for a moment, but deep inside you know that only God deserves your worship.

If you choose **B**, the soldiers notice you are trying to avoid making a choice. Sometimes not choosing is still a choice.

Let's return to the story and choose the path of faith.

Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego remain standing.

People begin whispering.

Some point toward them.

Others quickly tell the king.

The king is furious.

Instead of punishing them immediately, he gives them one more chance.

Decision 2

The king says,

"Bow down now, and everything will be forgiven."

How should the three friends respond?

A. "We only worship the one true God."

B. Bow just this one time.

C. Ask for more time.

If they bow, they choose fear instead of faith.

If they ask for more time, they are still refusing to obey God completely.

The three friends courageously answer,

"We only worship the one true God."

Then they say,

"Our God is able to save us. But even if He does not, we still will not worship your statue."

The crowd becomes completely silent.

The king's face turns red with anger.

He orders the furnace heated seven times hotter than normal.

The flames roar higher than ever before.

Even the strongest soldiers step back from the heat.

Decision 3

The soldiers begin leading the three friends toward the furnace.

How do you think they choose to walk?

A. Angry and afraid.

B. Calmly, trusting God.

C. Begging the king to change his mind.

If they panic or beg, they are letting fear take control.

Instead, they choose to trust that God is with them no matter what happens.

Together they walk toward the furnace without turning back.

The soldiers throw them into the blazing furnace.

The king watches closely.

Suddenly...

He jumps to his feet.

His eyes grow wide.

He points toward the fire.

"Wait!" he shouts. "Something isn't right!"

Everyone turns toward the furnace.

The flames are still roaring, but something incredible is happening inside.

Decision 4

What does the king see?

- A.** Three men trying to escape.
- B.** Four people walking safely in the middle of the fire.
- C.** Nothing but smoke.

If you chose **A** or **C**, take another look.

The correct answer is **B**.

The king couldn't believe what he was seeing. He exclaimed,

"Didn't we throw three men into the fire? Look! I see four men walking around in the fire. They aren't hurt, and the fourth looks like the Son of God!"

The crowd gasps in amazement.

The flames cannot harm them.

The ropes that had tied them are gone.

God has not left His faithful servants alone.

He is with them in the middle of the fire.

When Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego step out of the furnace, everyone rushes forward.

Their clothes are not burned.

Their hair is not singed.

They don't even smell like smoke.

King Nebuchadnezzar praises the God of Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, declaring that no other god can rescue people the way the one true God has done that day.

Discussion Questions

1. Why was it difficult for the three friends to remain standing?
2. Would you have found it hard to be the only one not bowing?
3. Why do you think God allowed them to go into the fire instead of stopping it?
4. When have you had to stand up for what was right?

5. How does knowing God is with us give us courage?
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Game

Stand Firm

Create a large circle on the floor using masking tape or rope. Explain that the circle represents trusting God.

One child stands inside the circle while the leader reads situations such as:

- "Your friends want you to cheat on a test."
- "Someone is being teased at school."
- "Everyone says it's okay to tell a little lie."

If the child chooses to stand for God, they stay inside the circle. Pause after each situation and discuss why choosing God isn't always the easiest choice. Rotate until everyone has a turn.

Craft

Fireproof Faith

Supplies

- Black construction paper
- Orange, yellow, and red construction paper
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers

Children create a large furnace using the black paper. They cut and glue paper flames around it and place three figures inside the furnace.

Across the top they write:

"God Is With Me Even in the Fire."

Inside each flame they write or draw one situation where they need courage to trust God.

Closing Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for always being with us. Give us courage to stand for what is right, even when it is difficult. Help us remember that You never leave us, just as You were with Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego in the fire. In Jesus' name, Amen."

JULY 19, 2026

God Can Use You for a Special Purpose

Monthly Theme

Trusting God When Life Is Hard

Weekly Theme

Having Courage to Do What Is Right

Bible Story

Esther Saves Her People

Scripture

Esther 4–7

Big Idea

God has a purpose for every person, and He can use you to make a difference.

Worship Songs

Song 1

God's Not Done  GOD'S NOT DONE || WORSHIP MOTIONS & LYRICS || KID KARDIA

Song 2

I Will Build  I WILL BUILD || KIDS WORSHIP MOTIONS & LYRICS || KID KARDIA & @Off...

Memory Verse

"Who knows but that you have come to your royal position for such a time as this?"

Esther 4:14

Bible Lesson

Esther is now queen, but almost no one knows she is Jewish.

One day, a wicked man named Haman convinces the king to make a law that will destroy God's people.

Everyone is frightened.

Mordecai sends a message to Queen Esther.

He tells her that God may have placed her in the palace for this very moment.

Speaking to the king without being invited could mean death.

Esther must decide whether to stay silent or trust God.

Interactive Adventure

You Are There...

Imagine you are one of Esther's servants.

The palace is beautiful.

Golden pillars stretch high above your head.

Soldiers quietly guard every doorway.

Everyone whispers because something terrible has happened.

A new law has been written.

Soon God's people will be in danger.

You find Queen Esther sitting quietly by the window.

She is reading a message from Mordecai.

As she finishes reading, she looks at you.

"I don't know what to do."

Decision 1

What would you tell Esther?

A. Stay quiet so you'll be safe.

B. Ask God for wisdom and courage.

C. Leave the palace.

If Esther stays silent, God's people remain in danger.

If she runs away, she cannot help anyone.

Esther chooses **B**.

She asks everyone to pray and fast for three days before she goes to the king.

Three days later...

The palace halls are unusually quiet.

The king has not called for Esther.

She takes a deep breath.

She begins walking toward the throne room.

Every step feels heavier than the last.

The guards notice her coming.

No one is supposed to enter without permission.

Decision 2

What should Esther do?

- A. Turn around because she's afraid.
- B. Walk confidently toward the king.
- C. Hide behind a pillar.

If Esther turns back or hides, she will miss the opportunity God has given her.

She chooses **B**.

The king looks up.

The whole room becomes silent.

Everyone waits.

Then...

The king smiles.

He stretches out his golden scepter.

Esther is safe.

The king asks,

"What would you like, Queen Esther?"

Instead of answering right away, Esther invites the king and Haman to a special banquet.

That evening everyone gathers around the table.

Decision 3

What should Esther do?

- A. Tell the truth about Haman's plan.
- B. Say nothing.

C. Leave the banquet.

If Esther says nothing, Haman's plan continues.

If she leaves, the king never learns the truth.

Esther bravely chooses **A**.

She tells the king everything.

The king is shocked.

He realizes Haman has lied.

The king immediately stops Haman's evil plan.

God's people are saved.

The palace fills with celebration.

Mordecai smiles as he thanks God for His faithfulness.

Decision 4

Why was Esther able to help so many people?

A. Because she trusted God's plan and obeyed Him.

B. Because she was the strongest person in the kingdom.

C. Because she was the richest queen.

If you chose **B** or **C**, think again.

The correct answer is **A**.

God had placed Esther in exactly the right place at exactly the right time.

Her courage helped save an entire nation.

Discussion Questions

1. Why do you think Esther was afraid?
 2. What helped Esther find courage?
 3. Have you ever been nervous about doing the right thing?
 4. How can God use children to help other people?
 5. What does "for such a time as this" mean to you?
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Game

Courage Path

Supplies

- Painter's tape
- Index cards
- Markers

Use painter's tape to create a winding path across the room.

Place index cards along the path with different situations written on them, such as:

- "A new student is sitting alone at lunch."
- "Someone asks you to lie."
- "You see a child being left out."

As each child reaches a card, read the situation aloud.

Ask the child what they would do.

Discuss how choosing to obey God sometimes requires courage.

After answering, they continue to the next space until reaching the end.

Explain that Esther had to take one courageous step at a time, just like they did.

Craft

Crown of Courage

Supplies

- Gold or yellow construction paper
- Jewel stickers or sequins
- Glue
- Scissors
- Markers

Help each child create a paper crown.

Across the front write:

"God Can Use Me!"

On each paper jewel, children write or draw ways they can show courage this week, such as:

- Tell the truth.
- Invite someone to play.
- Pray for a friend.
- Help someone in need.

As they wear their crowns, remind them that God doesn't just use queens—He uses anyone who is willing to trust Him.

Closing Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for Queen Esther's courage. Help us remember that You have a purpose for each one of us. Give us the courage to do what is right, even when it feels scary. Help us trust that You can use us to show Your love to others. In Jesus' name, Amen."

JULY 26, 2026

Trust God Enough to Obey

Monthly Theme

Trusting God When Life Is Hard

Weekly Theme

Choosing Obedience Even When It's Difficult

Bible Story

Jonah and the Great Fish

Scripture

Jonah 1–4

Big Idea

God's plans are always better than our plans, and He lovingly gives us another chance when we choose to obey Him.

Worship Songs

Song 1

God Knows What's Best

 GOD KNOWS WHAT'S BEST || MOTIONS & LYRICS || @FamilyHymnal

Song 2

I Will Build  I WILL BUILD || KIDS WORSHIP MOTIONS & LYRICS || KID KARDIA & @Off...

Memory Verse

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding."

Proverbs 3:5

Bible Lesson

One day God gave Jonah an important mission.

"Go to the city of Nineveh and tell the people to turn back to Me."

Jonah knew God loved the people of Nineveh.

But Jonah didn't want to go.

Instead of obeying, Jonah ran in the opposite direction.

He boarded a ship, hoping he could escape God's plan.

But no one can run away from God.

God loved Jonah too much to let him miss the purpose He had planned for him.

Interactive Adventure

You Are There...

Imagine you are standing on a busy dock beside the sea.

Large ships are loading food, supplies, and travelers.

You notice Jonah hurrying toward one of the ships.

He keeps looking over his shoulder as if he doesn't want anyone to recognize him.

You catch up to him.

"Jonah," you ask, "where are you going?"

He quietly answers,

"I'm going as far away as I can."

"But didn't God tell you to go to Nineveh?"

Jonah looks down.

"I know... but I don't want to."

The captain calls for everyone to come aboard.

The ship slowly leaves the harbor.

The wind is gentle.

Everything seems peaceful.

For a while.

Decision 1

If you were Jonah, what would you do?

A. Keep running from God.

B. Pray and obey God.

C. Pretend nothing is wrong.

If Jonah keeps running or pretends nothing is wrong, he is still choosing his own way instead of God's.

Let's return to the story and choose the path of obedience.

Jonah continues sailing, but God has not forgotten him.

Dark clouds suddenly gather.

The wind begins to roar.

Huge waves crash against the ship.

The sailors race back and forth trying to save it.

Water splashes across the deck.

Everyone is frightened.

Jonah realizes why the storm has come.

Decision 2

What should Jonah do?

A. Hide below the deck.

B. Tell the sailors the truth.

C. Blame someone else.

If Jonah hides or blames others, the storm continues and no one learns the truth.

Jonah bravely tells the sailors,

"This storm is because I ran from God."

The sailors are surprised.

They don't want to throw Jonah into the sea, but the storm keeps growing stronger.

Finally, Jonah tells them what they must do.

They pray, then gently lower Jonah into the water.

The moment Jonah reaches the sea...

The storm stops.

The waves become calm.

The sailors are amazed by God's power.

As Jonah sinks into the deep water, he knows his life is in God's hands.

Suddenly...

Something enormous swims beneath him.

A great fish opens its mouth and swallows Jonah.

Inside the fish it is dark and quiet.

Jonah has plenty of time to think.

Decision 3

What should Jonah do now?

A. Stay angry.

B. Pray and ask God to forgive him.

C. Keep blaming everyone else.

If Jonah stays angry or blames others, his heart doesn't change.

Jonah chooses **B**.

He prays to God.

He thanks God for not giving up on him.

For three days and three nights Jonah stays inside the great fish.

Then God commands the fish to spit Jonah safely onto dry land.

This time, when God speaks to Jonah, the message is the same:

"Go to Nineveh."

Jonah smiles.

He understands that God's way is always best.

He walks toward the great city.

The people listen to God's message.

They repent and turn back to God.

God shows them mercy.

Decision 4

What did Jonah finally learn?

- A.** God's plans are always better than our own.
- B.** Running away solves problems.
- C.** Obeying God isn't important.

If you chose **B** or **C**, think again.

The correct answer is **A**.

Jonah discovered that even when we make mistakes, God is patient, loving, and ready to forgive.

God gave Jonah another opportunity to obey.

And because Jonah obeyed, an entire city heard God's message.

Discussion Questions

1. Why didn't Jonah want to go to Nineveh?
 2. Can we ever hide from God? Why or why not?
 3. What happened when Jonah finally obeyed?
 4. Has there ever been a time when you knew the right thing to do but didn't want to do it?
 5. What does Jonah teach us about God's forgiveness?
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Game

Follow the Captain

Supplies

- Painter's tape

- Chairs or cones
- A blindfold (optional)

Create a simple pathway around the room using chairs or cones. One child is the "captain," and another is the "traveler." The traveler closes their eyes or looks straight ahead while the captain gives simple directions such as "take two steps forward," "turn left," or "stop."

After everyone has had a turn, explain that just as the traveler had to trust the captain's directions, Jonah needed to trust God's direction—even when it wasn't the path he wanted to take.

Craft

Jonah's Second Chance

Supplies

- Blue construction paper
- Gray or brown construction paper
- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Glue
- Markers

Children glue a large fish onto blue paper.

Beside the fish they glue or draw Jonah walking toward the city of Nineveh.

Across the top they write:

"God Gives Second Chances."

On the fish, children write or draw one area where they want to obey God this week, such as:

- Obey my parents.
- Tell the truth.
- Be kind to my brother or sister.
- Pray every day.
- Help someone without being asked.

Remind the children that when we make mistakes, God lovingly invites us back to Him.

Closing Prayer

"Dear God, thank You for loving us so much that You never give up on us. Thank You for giving Jonah another chance to obey You. Help us trust Your plans, even when they are different from our own. Give us willing hearts to follow wherever You lead. In Jesus' name, Amen."

July Review

Throughout this month we learned that courage grows when we trust God.

- **Week 1:** Joshua taught us to trust God before we see the miracle.
- **Week 2:** Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego taught us to stand for God even when we stand alone.
- **Week 3:** Esther showed us that God has a purpose for each of our lives.
- **Week 4:** Jonah reminded us that God's plans are always best and that He lovingly gives us another chance when we choose to obey.

Monthly Challenge

This week, ask God each morning:

"Lord, help me trust You and obey You today."