

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

The Promised Land

JOSHUA TAKES THE LEAD

Deuteronomy 34:5-Joshua 1:9

Elementary Lesson

Year One, Quarter Three, Lesson Six

[0310]

AIM: to teach my students that God will **help** you do any job that He **asks** you to do

OBJECTS TO HAVE: A happy meal box
A small toy
A dollar
A picture of a mountain
Your Bible

POINT OF CONTACT: Kids, one of the most important things that you will ever learn how to do is to work. A person who does not learn how to work will never amount to anything in life.

How many of you like to go to McDonald's to get a Happy Meal? Of course, we all do. But in order to give you a Happy Meal, the McDonald's people want you to give them something. Somebody tell me, what do they want? That's right, money.

Do you like to go to Toys R Us and look at toys? How many of you like to get a new toy from the toy store? Sure you do. But before the Toys R Us people will give a new toy to you, what do they want you to give to them? That's right, money.

You can't live without money. You need money to pay for a place to live, clothes to wear, food to eat, a car to drive, and a lot of other things. So where do we get money from? We are supposed to get money one way: by working for it. You are not supposed to beg for it, steal it, cheat people out of it, or try to win it. You are supposed to work for it. And that is why I began by saying that one of the most important things that you will ever learn is how to work. If you want to have money to live on, you have to work for it, and you have to have a job where you work every day.

One of the toughest parts of working is learning how to do a brand new job. If you ask your dad or your mom about their first day at a brand new job, they'll tell you that it was one of their worst days. It's never fun to start a brand new job. One reason your first day on the job is so hard is that you wonder, "Can I do this? Will I ever catch on? Will I ever figure out how to do this job right?" The good news is that God will help you do any job that you are supposed to do.

Today I am going to tell you about somebody who had a brand new job. That brand new job was given to him by God. The job looked pretty scary, especially on his first day. But God told him that He would help him do the job that God had called him to do.

LESSON: Two weeks ago we learned how the children of Israel came to the entrance of the Promised Land and decided to say "no" to God. Because they did, they had to wander in the wilderness for 40 years. Now, 40 years is a long time. For most of you, 40 years is older than your mom and dad. That means that if your mom or dad had been in Israel back then they would have spent their whole lives in the wilderness. That meant 40 years living in a tent and not a house; 40 years of not owning their own land; 40 years of moving from place to place every couple of days; 40 years of living in danger and fear of the people in whose land you are visiting. What a hard way to live! But that is what happens when you say "no" to God—things just don't work out right.

Now the end of the 40 long years has finally come. The older generation of Israelites—the generation that said "no" to God's will—they have all died. The younger generation has grown up and taken charge. It was now time for them to come to the doorstep of the Promised Land once again.

But wait a minute! There is one more person whom God must take to heaven before the children of Israel can enter the Promised Land. That person is Moses. Wait a minute...Moses? God is going to let Israel go into the Promised Land without Moses? Moses was the one who bravely told Pharaoh, "Let my people go!" Moses was the one who

made all those plagues happen so Pharaoh would let Israel go free! Moses was the one who raised his rod over the Red Sea so Israel could walk through on dry land! Moses was the one who brought the Law down from the mountain. Moses was the one who prayed for Israel when they were in trouble, who gave them good water, prayed down manna and quail, loved them, led them, and encouraged them! How can they go into the Promised Land without Moses? But God said that's the way it must be. So God led Moses up to the top of a high mountain from which he could look out and see the beautiful Promised Land. Moses looked out from the top of the mountain and he saw all of the beauty: every hill, every valley, every river, and every plain. The Lord helped Moses see all the way to the Mediterranean Sea, which was many miles away. And then the Bible says that Moses died in that mountain.

The people cried for their leader Moses for thirty days after he died. They had never known life without their great leader, Moses. Everybody in Israel was heartbroken that their leader had died, and they cried for a whole month.

But after they were done mourning Moses' death, people began to ask the question: who is going to lead us now? Who is going to take Moses' place, and lead us into the Promised Land? The answer was simple, for before Moses died he had laid his hands upon his young helper, a man named *Joshua*. Joshua had been the man who had stood beside Moses. When Moses needed a cold drink, Joshua got it for him. When Moses needed his rod, Joshua got it for him. When Moses needed to sit down, Joshua prepared a chair for him. Joshua was Moses' servant. By the way, boys and girls, the greatest thing you can be is a servant. Everybody wants to be in charge, but God is looking for somebody who is willing to be a servant. You ought to work at being a servant to your parents, to your brothers and sisters, to your friends, to those around you, and most importantly, to God.

So now Joshua must be the one to pray for the people. Now Joshua must be the one to love them, encourage them, and lead them. Now Joshua must be the one who has the answer when the people come to him and say, "What do we do?" This was a great big job! There were hundreds of thousands of people that Joshua had to lead. How could he know what to do? How could he begin to do this brand new job the way it was supposed to be done? For Joshua the first day on the job must have looked scary.

There is only one way that Joshua could do this great job, and that is if God would go with him and teach him everything that he must do. And in Joshua 1:5 God promised Joshua that He would do exactly that: "as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee." God's Holy Spirit was going to go with Joshua to show him what to do, and how and when to do it. God was not going to leave Joshua all alone in this brand new job. No, God was going to see to it that Joshua had all the help he needed to do his big new job right.

Kids, God makes the same promise to us. God promises that if we will do what He has called us to do, that He will be with us and help us to do it. You see, many times in your life you will face new jobs, and you will not know how to do them. Some day you will begin high school. Starting high school always looks very scary. What will you do? Before you begin, ask God to help you. He will not fail you.

Maybe some day you will go to college. When you begin college, it will be very exciting, but it will also look scary to you. But if you ask God to help you, He will go with you and show you exactly what to do.

Some day you will go soul winning, and for the very first time you will have to tell somebody how to go to heaven. It will seem scary to you, so before you begin, pray and ask God to help you. You will be surprised at how He will be right there for you.

Some day you will have your very first job, where you go to work every day and get paid for your work. That first day is always scary. Too many people quit a new job on the first day, just because they are scared. If you will ask God for His help, He will go with you on that first day, and every day after that.

Some day you will get married. Of course, it will be an exciting day for you. But it will also be a scary thing. Your whole life is about to change. What if you don't do a good job as a husband or a wife? That's why you must ask God to help you. If you ask Him to help you, He will.

Life will be full of new jobs and new responsibilities. But God does not make you face them all alone. God says that He will go with you and He will help you. But you must ask for His help, and you must trust Him and obey Him. He will never leave you nor forsake you.

Let's learn our memory verse: **1 Thessalonians 5:24 - Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.**

SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

The Promised Land

JOSHUA TAKES THE LEAD

Deuteronomy 34:5-Joshua 1:9

Teen and Adult Lesson

Year One, Quarter Three, Lesson Six

[0310]

Teacher, choose one of the following truths to expand upon in teaching this portion of Scripture to your teen/adult class. Teach and apply the truth that you choose using statements and illustrations that are most helpful and applicable to your students.

- I. LIFE IS FILLED WITH TRANSITIONS THAT WE MUST HAVE GRACE TO HANDLE. No one is going to live a life that is free of difficult changes and transitions. Probably the most difficult transitions to face are the ones that we can't do anything about. A new family member. A new teacher in the middle of the year. A new house. A new routine. New neighbors. There are so many different kinds of changes that alter what we are used to, and it can be very hard to adjust. Ask God to give you the grace and the wisdom to make those difficult adjustments.
- II. WE MUST NOT LET LIFE'S HEARTACHES GET US OFF THE TRACK OF GOD'S PURPOSE. Israel mourned for thirty days after Moses' death. It was a huge loss to them. Moses was a far greater part of those people's lives than we can comprehend. But they set a time to grieve for him, and when that time was over, they moved forward with God's purpose for their lives. There are certainly heartaches, difficulties, and disappointments in life that are overwhelmingly difficult. But these are only complicated and multiplied when we allow them to get us off the track of God's best for our lives. We must allow God to pick us up from our heartache, and lead us on.
- III. GOD ALWAYS HAS A PLAN TO FILL THE VOID. No matter what the void is, seek His face. He knows what you need. He knows the answer. He already had the solution before the problem became evident. Just as Joshua was being prepared long before Moses' death, God has filled the void in your life long before you know that there is a void. Seek Him. Let Him show you.
- IV. TRUST GOD TO HELP YOU DO THE IMPOSSIBLE JOB. How could Joshua hope to lead these people who had been following Moses for the past 40 years? How could Joshua hope to accomplish what Moses could not accomplish, that is, leading them into Canaan? He could only do it if God would go with him. Remember this: **if God is in it, you can do it.** When God commissioned Joshua (Joshua 1:1-9), He made it clear that He would be with Joshua as he led the people. If you will spend the time with God in His Word and in prayer, He will make it clear to you whether He will be with you in a given endeavor.
- V. GOD INSTRUCTS THE LEADER TO HAVE COURAGE. Three times in a very short space God commands Joshua to be strong and courageous. Joshua 1:6-9. When God tells you to take courage, He is telling you to tap the courage that He has given you. He is saying, "Step out boldly." When He sends us out to spread the Gospel, He challenges us, "Step out boldly." Don't sit and wait to feel confident. You will never feel confident. You must act in confidence, trusting that He is with you.

Joshua Takes the Lead

Deuteronomy 34:5-Joshua 1:18
[0310]

A New Generation of Israelites

I. DEUTERONOMY 34:5-12 THE DEATH OF MOSES

5-8 Moses' death and burial

9 Moses' successor

10-12 Moses' legacy

II. JOSHUA 1:1-9 GOD INSTRUCTS JOSHUA

1-2 God instructs Joshua to lead Israel into the Promised Land

3-5 God promises Joshua that He will cause him to prosper as he advances

6-9 God encourages Joshua to be strong and courageous

III. JOSHUA 1:10-18 JOSHUA INSTRUCTS THE PEOPLE

10-11 Joshua tells the people to prepare to cross the Jordan in three days

12-15 Joshua instructs the tribes that will be settling on this side of the
Jordan

16-18 The people promise to follow Joshua as he follows God

1 Thessalonians 5:24 *Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.*

JOSHUA TAKES THE LEAD

Deuteronomy 34:5-Joshua 1:9

[0310]

Circle the letter next to the correct answer to each question from the Scripture passage and from today's Bible story.

1. How long did the Israelites wander in the wilderness because of their sin?
a. 40 days b. 40 months c. 40 years
2. What happens when you say "no" to God's instructions?
a. things don't work out right b. God blesses you c. your life gets much easier
3. To whom did God show the Promised Land from the top of a mountain?
a. Moses b. Aaron c. the Israelites
4. What is the name of the sea that Moses could see from the mountain?
a. the Northern Sea b. the Deep Blue Sea c. the Mediterranean Sea
5. What happened to Moses after he viewed the Promised Land?
a. He went home b. He died c. He got really scared
6. How long did the people weep for Moses after his death?
a. 30 days b. 30 years c. 30 minutes
7. What was the name of the man God chose to take Moses' place?
a. John b. James c. Joshua
8. What position had Joshua held under Moses?
a. captain b. commander c. servant
9. Who promised Joshua, "As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee"?
a. the Israelites b. God c. Caleb
10. What should we do before we start any new challenge in life?
a. cry b. quit c. ask God to help us

Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it.

I THESSALONIANS 5:24

JOSHUA TAKES THE LEAD

Deuteronomy 34:5-Joshua 1:9

[0310]

The answers to today's puzzle.

1. How long did the Israelites wander in the wilderness because of their sin?
a. 40 days b. 40 months c. 40 years
2. What happens when you say "no" to God's instructions?
a. things don't work out right b. God blesses you c. your life gets much easier
3. To whom did God show the Promised Land from the top of a mountain?
a. Moses b. Aaron c. the Israelites
4. What is the name of the sea that Moses could see from the mountain?
a. the Northern Sea b. the Deep Blue Sea c. the Mediterranean Sea
5. What happened to Moses after he viewed the Promised Land?
a. He went home b. He died c. He got really scared
6. How long did the people weep for Moses after his death?
a. 30 days b. 30 years c. 30 minutes
7. What was the name of the man God chose to take Moses' place?
a. John b. James c. Joshua
8. What position had Joshua held under Moses?
a. captain b. commander c. servant
9. Who promised Joshua, "As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee"?
a. the Israelites b. God c. Caleb
10. What should we do before we start any new challenge in life?
a. cry b. quit c. ask God to help us