

ANTIOCH CHICAGO
SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON
SPIRITUAL FORMATION AND DISCIPLESHIP TRAINING

UNIT III THEME
FROM NOMADIC TRIBES TO SETTLED PEOPLE

LESSON TOPIC

RENEWING OUR COMMITMENTS

UNIFYING TOPIC

The Covenant Continues

LESSON PASSAGE

Joshua 1:1-11

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Joshua 1

LESSON TEXT

- I. God's Commission to Joshua (Joshua 1:1-4)
- II. Strength and Courage in Obedience (Joshua 1:5-9)
- III. Mobilizing for the Journey (Joshua 1:10-11)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

I hereby command you: "Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

God commissioned Joshua to assume leadership of Israel as successor to Moses, instructing him to be strong, courageous, and obedient to the Law. In return, God would be with Joshua, granting him success in conquest.

LESSON AIM

Students will hear about how God facilitated the leadership of the Israelites in their transition from Moses to Joshua at the critical time of moving into the Promised Land.

LIFE AIM

Students will hold on to God's promise to be with them in whatever transitions life brings. Students will know that by doing their part of remaining in the Word, being a faithful leader or follower, and cultivating a relationship with God, who encourages and imparts strength, they will meet their goals.

SUNDAY SCHOOL PURPOSE STATEMENT

To teach the life-changing power of God's Word resulting in salvation to the lost, transformed lives, and renewed and strengthened relationships in Jesus Christ. – (Matthew 28:19-20; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)

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LESSON TOPIC

FAMILY LEGACIES

UNIFYING TOPIC

Remember God's Actions

LESSON PASSAGE

Joshua 4:14-24

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Joshua 4

LESSON TEXT

- I. God Exalts Joshua (Joshua 4:14)
- II. God's Power During the Journey (Joshua 4:15-19)
- III. A Memorial for Generations (Joshua 4:20-24)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

When your children shall ask their fathers in time to come, saying, What mean these stones? Then ye shall let your children know, saying, Israel came over this Jordan on dry land.
(Joshua 4:21-22, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

God instructed Joshua and the people to gather twelve stones from the Jordan River to establish a memorial of their successful crossing of the Jordan on dry ground.

LESSON AIM

Students will review and experience with the ancient Israelites the miraculous crossing of the last river, the Jordan River, into the Promised Land, and how they should remember God's work and its meaning for generations to come.

LIFE AIM

Students will be inspired to remember God's miracles and great works in the context of their own family and ethnic history, and to honor those on whose shoulders we stand in concrete and tangible ways that will influence future generations.

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LESSON TOPIC

FIGHTING AMONG THE NATIONS

UNIFYING TOPIC

God's Complicated Promise

LESSON PASSAGE

Joshua 11:6-9, 16-23

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Joshua 6; 8:26; 10:28-43; 11:1-23; Deuteronomy 7:1-26

LESSON TEXT

- I. God's Assurance of Victory (Joshua 11:6-7)
- II. Perseverance in Obedience (Joshua 11:8-9, 16-20)
- III. Fulfillment and Rest (Joshua 11:21-23)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

For it was the LORD'S doing to harden their hearts so that they would come against Israel in battle, in order that they might be utterly destroyed and might receive no mercy but be exterminated, just as the LORD had commanded Moses. (Joshua 11:20, NRSVue)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

Joshua led Israel in the battle against the Canaanite nations in response to God's guidance and with God's promise of victory.

LESSON AIM

Students will look at the event of war from various perspectives—spiritual, historical, biblical, and political—and examine what it means to gain peace in the world and in our lives.

LIFE AIM

Students will be aware that life is a battle, even for those who believe; however, through spiritual discipline and obedience to God, we have access to God's power to overcome the spiritual forces of wickedness that will arise.

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LESSON TOPIC

JOINING FORCES WITH UNLIKELY ALLIES

UNIFYING TOPIC

God's Compassion for Rahab

LESSON PASSAGE

Joshua 2:8-13; 6:16-17

BACKGROUND PASSAGE

Joshua 2; 6:16-25; Matthew 1:5; James 2:25; Hebrews 11:31

LESSON TEXT

- I. Rahab Recognizes God's Power (Joshua 2:8-10)
- II. Rahab's Plea for Mercy (Joshua 2:11-13)
- III. Set Apart for Salvation (Joshua 6:16-17)

THE MAIN THOUGHT

And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. (Joshua 6:17, KJV)

UNIFYING PRINCIPLE

In return for her and her family's safety, the prostitute Rahab protected the spies Joshua sent and assisted the Israelites in their conquest of Jericho.

LESSON AIM

Students will follow the life and actions of Rahab, gaining an appreciation for her level of faith in God, her business acumen, and her care for her family.

LIFE AIM

Students will learn to appreciate the faith of each person, no matter their past or present lives, and how they come to Christ. Students will become more accepting and welcoming of people, no matter their ethnicity, color, background, or manner of earning a living.

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