



# 1

## God Calls Joshua



### Key Passages

- Joshua 1:1–2, 1:8–9

### Lesson Focus

- God is with us wherever we go.

## Lesson Overview



### Come On In

Students will color a picture of Moses and/or play with play dough.



### Circle Time

**Prayer**—Using the Flip Chart Prayer Page, discuss prayer and give each child the opportunity to pray after determining what type of prayer you will offer today.

**God's Word**—Students will hear how God prepared Joshua to be a strong and courageous leader through obedience to His Word.

**Song**—Students will learn a new memory verse as they sing the Memory Verse Song. Refer to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page while singing.



### Activity 1: Can You Obey?

Students will play a game similar to Mother May I? or Simon Says as they obey simple commands.



### Activity 2: Wherever You Go

Students will discuss pictures and review that God is with us wherever we go.



### Memory Verse Review and Activity

Students will review the memory verse using the Memory Verse Flash Cards.



### Applying God's Word/Snack

Students will review the lesson while enjoying the snack for the day.

# Lesson Preparation

## WHAT YOU WILL DO

## WHAT YOU WILL NEED



### FOR THE TEACHER

- Study the Prepare to Share section.
- Go Before the Throne.

- Student Take Home Sheets



### COME ON IN

- Print one Moses Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for each student.
- Bring play dough if appropriate.

- Moses Coloring Sheet for each student
- Crayons
- Play dough



### CIRCLE TIME

- Practice the Memory Verse Song at the back of this Teacher Guide.
- Print and color one Moses Coloring Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use during the lesson.

- Lesson Flip Chart
- Bible
- Stuffed animal for prayer time
- Moses Coloring Sheet



### CAN YOU OBEY?

- Print one Can You Obey? Commands Sheet from the Resource DVD-ROM for your use.

- Optional: Small rewards in a container
- Can You Obey? Commands Sheet



### WHEREVER YOU GO

- Print and cut out the eight Wherever You Go Pictures from the Resource DVD-ROM, one for each student.

- Eight Wherever You Go Pictures, one for each student
- Crayons



### MEMORY VERSE REVIEW AND ACTIVITY

- Print, cut out, and color (if desired) one set of Memory Verse Flash Cards from the Resource DVD-ROM.

- Lesson Flip Chart for memory verse review
- Memory Verse Flash Cards



### APPLYING GOD'S WORD/SNACK

- Prepare and bring snacks.

- Lesson Flip Chart for review
- Snacks



# Prepare to Share

## SCRIPTURAL BACKGROUND

Before you begin to prepare for your lesson this week, please prepare your heart and mind by reading Joshua 1, Matthew 4:1–11, and 1 Corinthians 16:13–14.

In the book of Joshua, we learn that the time had finally come for the Israelites to cross the Jordan into the land that had been promised by God to Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and their descendants (Genesis 12:7, 26:2–3, 35:11–12).

As background, God had previously led Israel out of Egypt in the Exodus and had brought them to the borders of the land they were to possess. But at that time, only Caleb and Joshua showed faith and confidence that God would fulfill His promise and give this land along with its giants into their hands (Numbers 13). Only Joshua and Caleb spoke favorably of the land, pleading with the Israelites to have courage and faith in God's promises—and to trust that the Lord was with them—there was nothing to fear (Numbers 14:6–9). But the people would not heed their pleas.

Because the people refused to obey God and enter the Promised Land, God sentenced the entire generation, all those aged 20 years and older (except for Joshua and Caleb), to die in the wilderness (Numbers 14:28–30).

Now that generation was gone. And God was about to fulfill the promise made to His people so long ago. In Joshua 1, after the death of Moses, the Lord spoke to Joshua (Joshua 1:1). God reassured him that He would be with him (Joshua 1:9). That promise, however, was coupled with the command to be obedient—to “observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you” (Joshua 1:7). God's fixed purpose was to honor the covenant He had made to the people and to bring them into their promised possession. God's purpose would stand, but He would demand obedience from the Israelites in order for them to see the fulfillment of His promises. He commanded Joshua to consider His Word, to meditate on it day and night, and to observe to do it. Only then would his way be prosperous and only then would God grant him success (Joshua 1:8).

It may seem mysterious to us that God has fixed purposes that do not change and will be fulfilled, and that these purposes are bound to conditions of obedience. God demands obedience in order for us to see His promises fulfilled, just as He required the

obedience of His own Son to bring redemption to sinners. For Jesus's perfect sacrifice on the Cross was by the “determined purpose and foreknowledge of God” (Acts 2:23), and yet it was fulfilled through Jesus's perfect obedience (Philippians 2:8).

Had Jesus failed to obey the will of His loving Father in heaven when He was tempted by Satan (Matthew 4:1–11), He would have been disqualified as our Redeemer. Had Joshua and the Israelites failed to obey God's commands (Joshua 1:6–8), they would have been disqualified to enter the Promised Land. Obedience is necessary to see the fulfillment of God's promises.

As we look into these two accounts of obedience to God, we recognize similarities. In Joshua's case, his obedience is tied to his knowledge and commitment to the Book of the Law (Joshua 1:8). In Jesus's case, His temptations were overcome and His obedience was demonstrated by His understanding and confidence in the truth of God's Word. He repeatedly put the devil off by reciting the Word of God (Matthew 4:4, 4:7, 4:10).

In both cases, knowledge of and obedience to God's Word provided the strength and courage to persevere. In both cases, obedience led through extremely difficult circumstances to reap immense blessings. Joshua and Israel would fight and sacrifice to possess the Promised Land (Joshua 1:14–15). Jesus would suffer and die for the redemption of His people for all eternity (1 Peter 3:18).

Joshua knew God's Word. Joshua believed God's promises. And Joshua knew that receiving God's promises of blessings depended on his obedience to God's Word.

Jesus knew God's Word. Jesus believed God's promise for redemption. And Jesus knew that the redemption and forgiveness of sins for all who would believe in Him would be fulfilled as He was obedient to His Father's will.

The Word of God is truly living and powerful. As we mature in our Christian walk, we will see more clearly that it is knowing the Word of God, meditating on it day and night, and being careful to do everything written in it that leads to obedience to our holy God. We will learn that obedience is often difficult and costs much by the world's standards. But it is only by the obedience wrought through God's holy Word, by His Holy Spirit, that we are given the opportunity and privilege to be used of God in accomplishing His perfect will.

## HISTORICAL/APOLOGETICS BACKGROUND

The overthrow of Canaan by Israel—in battle, by destroying those living there—is often a historical detail that people of our time struggle to accept. Is the destruction of these tribes really consistent with a God of love who provided the great sacrifice of His own Son to purchase the forgiveness of sinners? In Deuteronomy 9:5 and 18:12 (read in context), it is clear that Israel's possession of the land is part of God's judgment on the idolatry and wickedness of these nations. The nations Israel was commanded to drive out had for many generations practiced witchcraft, human sacrifice, and much wickedness (see Deuteronomy 18:9–11). Many generations had joined in these practices, and God used Israel to accomplish the judgment He had ordained for these nations. Remember that God's righteousness demands that all sin is judged. God's judgment is a serious and a righteous matter. It is sobering to think of the judgment visited upon these idolatrous nations, but it is perfectly consistent with God's holiness and repeated promises that judgment on sin is sure. The destruction of these nations is not arbitrary or harsh; it is the display in history of the truth that "the wages of sin is death" (Romans 6:23). This verse goes on to say "but the gift

of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." Let us praise our mighty Savior for the gift of eternal life for all who trust in Him.

For more information on this topic, see the Online Resource Page.



### BEFORE THE THRONE

Lord Jesus, you are the Word made flesh. I read about your life and marvel. You gave us the perfect model of how to wield the Sword of the Spirit! My heart's desire is to use your Word to fend off temptation and draw the lost to you. Please continue to humble me and use me to teach my students to treasure every word you have given us. Help them to recognize that you have a perfect will that you want to accomplish through them. Use your Word, the example of Joshua, and this lesson to inspire them to live out their faith with strength and courage. For those who are still unsure about who you are, have mercy on them, Lord, and draw them to yourself.



## COME ON IN

As children arrive . . .

- They will color a picture of Moses for review and/or play with play dough

During this time you should be at the door welcoming the children as they come in and directing them to sit down at the tables and begin the activity. Have an aid/helper ready to engage the children with the activity.



## REVIEW

Using the Flip Chart, quickly review the previous lessons with your students. Take 5 to 10 minutes to reinforce the important truths the students have heard so far in your class. Remember, children learn by repetition and review.

Ask the children questions about the previous lessons as you display the Lesson Flip Chart Pages. Remind the children of each lesson's focus. This will refresh the truths in your students' minds and maintain continuity as you teach through the lessons.



## Circle Time

*In an orderly manner, have the children assemble in a circle away from the tables—either on the floor or in their chairs. Bring your stuffed animal, Bible, Flip Chart, Moses Coloring Sheet from the Come On In activity, and any other props you brought or prepared for this lesson.*

### PRAYER

*This prayer time is designed to get children to begin to understand some simple concepts about prayer and to get them to understand that they can pray. Use a special stuffed animal—prayer bear—or appropriate object to pass around the circle as each child gets his or her turn to pray. Only the child with the stuffed animal is allowed to pray or speak during this time. Using the same stuffed animal or other object all year will add continuity and structure to this time.*

**We start our Bible study with prayer. Let's pray.** Turn to the Flip Chart Prayer Page. Briefly review the different types of prayer presented there. Then determine which type you want the children to pray today.

- I love you prayers—Adoration
- I'm sorry prayers—Confession
- Thank you prayers—Thanksgiving
- Please prayers—Supplication

*Today Confession is suggested. You might proceed this way:*

**Today let's say prayers of confession—and tell God we're sorry for the sinful things we've done.**

*The prayers you begin with should be specific to your needs. This will model to the children that you believe God does care about all the details of your life and you pray to Him about these things. Your example will increase their confidence in praying to God.*

➤ Prior to making your transition to Circle Time, we suggest you take time for restroom breaks and hand washing.

➤ Preschoolers need to move. This is a good opportunity to get them to move. Make an orderly transition to the Circle Time. You can have carpet squares if you want to sit on the floor, or help them to move their chairs into the circle.

► As you teach, refer often to the Lesson Flip Chart Page. When reading the lesson Scriptures, stand up, be enthusiastic, look at the children, and emphasize the answers to the questions you will be asking. This will help to keep the children engaged.

**I'll start. Dear God, you will forgive all our sins. Please forgive me for . . .**  
*(insert personal prayer).*

*Pass the stuffed animal around the circle giving all the children an opportunity to say a prayer of confession.*

**Very good! Now let's put our stuffed animal away, and we'll get into God's Word.**

## GOD'S WORD

*These first five questions will be repeated each week. The repetition of these questions will help to solidify these simple but foundational truths in the children's minds at a young age.*

- ? **Who made you?** *God.*
- ? **What else did God make?** *All things.*
- ? **Why did God make you and all things?** *For His own glory.*
- ? **Can you see God?** *No, I cannot see God, but He can always see me.*
- ? **Where is God?** *God is everywhere.*

*The following activity should be repeated at the beginning of each lesson to encourage anticipation and enthusiasm for looking into the Word of God. Use a sticky note to mark the passage before you begin.*

## Bible Pass Around

► Use a sticky note to mark the first passage to be read.

**We are going to start out today by looking into God's Word, the Bible.**  
*Hold up your Bible. God's Word is true and we can trust what it says. But where should we look? One of you will help me with that. We're going to play Bible Pass Around. Whoever ends up with the Bible must hold it very carefully until it is time to look in it. When it is time to read, you can bring it to me and we'll open it to see what we are going to talk about! Here's what we're going to do. I want everyone to count with me up to the number (choose a number). You may also choose to practice the alphabet, recite the books of the Bible, sing one of the lesson songs, or recite the memory verse as you do this activity. We'll start right here. Hand the Bible to the first student. As we say each number (or word) you must carefully pass the Bible to the person beside you. Remember, we don't want to drop it or tear it. Then when we get to the last number (or word), whoever has the Bible will hold on to it until we are ready to start our lesson. Are you ready? You may want to have the student who ends up with the Bible stand next to you until it is time to open it.*

► When the Bible Pass Around Activity is completed, continue with the lesson.

*Continue lesson when finished with Bible Pass Around. The verses we're going to learn from today are found in the book of Joshua! This is part of the Old Testament. We know it's true because it's in God's Word. Joshua lived many, many years before Jesus was born. He was the helper to Moses. You colored a picture of Moses with the Ten Commandments when you came*

in. God chose Moses to lead all the Israelites out of Egypt. God took care of the Israelites as Moses led them through the wilderness to a land that He promised to give to them. *Hold up the Moses Coloring Sheet.* He gave them commandments and laws that they needed to obey. Then when they were almost to the land God had promised, Moses died.

Let's open the Bible now! We are going to read Joshua 1:1–2. *Make this a special time as the student brings the Bible and he/she opens it to where the sticky note is.* Here is Joshua 1:1–2. *Show the students where the verse is. Have the student sit back down.* Now listen carefully as I read from this part of the Bible called the book of Joshua. I'm going to ask you some questions about it. *Read Joshua 1:1–2.*

- ? Who died? *Joshua 1:1. Moses.*
- ? Who did the Lord speak to after Moses died? *Joshua 1:1. Joshua.*
- ? What did God ask Joshua to do? *Joshua 1:2. Go over the Jordan with the people. Refer to the Flip Chart.*
- ? Where were the people going? *Joshua 1:2. To the land the Lord had given them.*
- ? What did God call the people? *Joshua 1:2. The children of Israel.*

*Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart Page.* God promised them a special land. The Promised Land was just across the Jordan River. They were almost there! Moses was dead, and God told Joshua to go with the people across the big river. But, there were still people living in the Promised Land. They weren't nice people. And they didn't want to give up their land. Joshua and the people were scared to go! They were afraid to obey God. God promised to help Joshua. Hmm. Let's see how God was going to help them.

*Refer to the Lesson Flip Chart Page.* God promised He would help Joshua and the Israelite people. But they had to trust God and obey Him. God told Joshua how to obey Him. Listen as I read this verse. *Read Joshua 1:8.*

- ? What is the Book of the Law God told Joshua to read? *Hold up your Bible as a hint. The Bible!*
- ? What were those laws called? *Show the Moses Coloring Sheet again. The Ten Commandments.*

Remember, God told Moses all the laws the people needed to obey. He gave them the Ten Commandments and some other laws so they would obey them. Moses wrote those all down and they were called the Book of the Law. Today, the Book of the Law is right here, in the Bible! Now we can learn how to be obedient to God, too! God wants us to obey Him.

- ? The Bible says the Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth. What does that mean? *Allow answers.*

It means we should talk about it. It shouldn't leave our mouth. God was telling Joshua to talk about His Word.

## Joshua 1:1–2

- Re-read the verses or the portion of the verse(s) that answer the questions you are asking of the text. The children should hear God's Word and know that they can answer questions from it. It is not too hard for them!

## Joshua 1:8

*Re-read Joshua 1:8.* God said Joshua should meditate on the Word. This means to think about it day and night! We should think about God's Word ALL the time! And God said that Joshua should obey His Word and His Law. God wants us to obey!

- ? Do you think it's important to obey God? *Yes!*
- ? How do we know how to obey God? *Allow discussion. Hold up your Bible. By reading His Word—the Bible.*
- ? And what does God want us to do after we read the Bible? *Joshua 1:8. God wants us to obey!*

## Joshua 1:9

Sometimes it can be really hard to obey! God wanted Joshua and the Israelites to obey, too. He wanted them to cross the Jordan River and take over the land. But there were mean people in the lands where they were going. And the Israelites and Joshua were afraid of those people. God knew they were scared. Listen to what He told Joshua. *Read Joshua 1:9.*

- ? What did God say Joshua should be? *Joshua 1:9. Strong and of good courage!*
- ? God told him to not be WHAT? *Afraid!*

God said do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. He told Joshua not to be scared and not to give up!

- ? Have you ever been afraid or felt dismayed? *Yes.*
- ? When have you been afraid? *Allow discussion. Tell of times you have been afraid. Storms, sickness, car accidents, etc.*
- ? Well, we have all been afraid. And Joshua and the Israelites were afraid. But who was going with them? Who was with them wherever they went? *Re-read Joshua 1:9. The Lord your God.*

God promised to be with them wherever they went so they wouldn't need to be afraid.

- ? But what about us? Is God with us too? *Yes!*  
Yes! God is with us wherever we go! We don't need to be afraid.
- ? Does God want us to obey Him? *Yes.*
- ? Will God be with us even when we're afraid? *Yes.*
- ? What if it's really hard to do what's right, should we still obey? *Yes.*
- ? Will God give us strength and courage to obey Him and do what's right? *Yes.*

Just like God promised to always be with Joshua, He promises in His Word that He will be with us, too. He will be with us wherever we go. We don't need to be afraid. We can be strong and of good courage! What a wonderful God!

## SONG

Joshua 1:9 is our memory verse! We are going to learn it together by singing the words! God told Joshua to cross the Jordan. God wanted Joshua to obey Him, but Joshua was scared. God told Joshua, “Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”

*Using the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page, teach the words to the students. Then sing the song together several times as time allows. You may want to add hand motions, stomping, marching, or instruments.*

God wants us to obey Him. He told Joshua to meditate on His Word and do what it says! That’s what He wants us to do, too.

► Turn to the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page during this part of the lesson.



## Can You Obey?

### MATERIALS

- Optional: Small rewards in a container for students who successfully reach the teacher
- Can You Obey? Commands Sheet

### INSTRUCTIONS

*This will be a game similar to Mother May I? and Simon Says. Have the students line up on one end of the room opposite you. The rewards container can be beside the teacher or kept as a surprise after the game.*

*The students must make their way toward you by obeying everything you tell them to do. Give them a small reward when they successfully reach you.*

We are going to play a game—an obedience game—let me explain what we are going to do. Line up against this wall. I’m going to stand over here across the room. When I give a command, then you have to obey and do exactly as I say. If you obey perfectly, you can take one small step forward. If you do not obey and do what I say, then you will have to take a step backward.

When you reach the end where I’ll be standing, then you may receive a reward for your obedience. So get ready, here we go!

*Play the game using the commands on the Can You Obey? Commands Sheet or make up your own.*

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God wanted Joshua to obey Him, cross the Jordan River with the people, and go to the Promised Land. God said He would be with him and would give him the strength and courage to obey. God wants us to obey Him, too. His Word, the Bible, tells us how to do that. God will give us strength and courage to do what’s right. Even when it seems hard to obey, we need to because God has told us to. God is pleased when we obey. We can ask God to help us do our very best so we can be obedient all the time—even when it’s hard.



## Wherever You Go

### MATERIALS

- Eight Wherever You Go Pictures
- Print duplicate pictures if you will have more than eight students so each child can color one after the activity
- Crayons

### INSTRUCTIONS

God told Joshua that He would be with him wherever he went! Well, guess what? God is with us wherever we go too! I have some pictures here and I want you to tell me what the children in the pictures are doing. Then I'll ask the question, "Who is with us?"

And I want you to answer, "God is with us . . . wherever we go!" Ready?

*Show one Wherever You Go Picture at a time. Ask the children what the child is doing in the picture. After the students have discussed what is happening in the picture, ask them, "Who is with us when we ride a bike? The children should answer, "God is with us . . . wherever we go!"*

*Continue through the pictures. When finished pass out one picture to each child to color.*

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

No matter what we are doing—if we are lost, afraid, having fun, sleeping, in the car, in the store . . . whatever we are doing—remember, God is with us wherever we go!



## Memory Verse Review and Activity

**Joshua 1:9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.

*Use the Flip Chart Memory Verse Page. Explain the verse to the children as you go over the verse together. Say the verse and point at each picture several times.*

### MATERIALS

- Memory Verse Flash Cards

### INSTRUCTIONS

*Put flash cards in order and talk about the pictures on each card as children learn each word of the verse.*

Now it's time to really work hard on learning our memory verse. So everyone come over here and get ready to memorize part of God's Word! Have students sit in the Circle Time area. After reviewing the cards, go through them

*holding them up. Ask what the picture represents on each one. They will begin to associate the pictures with the words. Sing the Memory Verse Song as you flash through the cards. Allow students to recite the verse individually looking at the flash cards.*

### CONNECT TO THE TRUTH

God's Word is very important. It tells us true things about what God has done since He created the world! But it also tells us about Him. We can get to know God and what He's really like when we read and listen to His Word, the Bible. Then when we memorize the words, they will be hidden in our hearts and we can think about God and His Word when we're afraid, or when we're feeling hurt or angry, or even when we're happy and we are praising God. So let's do our best to learn the memory verses from God's Word.



# Applying God's Word/Snack

## WHAT YOU HEARD IN THE WORD

*After thanking God for your snack, review today's lesson using the Flip Chart and any other props you've used today.*

God chose Joshua for a difficult job—leading the Israelites into the Promised Land. They would have to fight different people. They would have to cross the Jordan River. They were afraid! But God promised He would be with them wherever they went. He told them not to be afraid, but to be strong and have courage. God promises the same for us, too. He wants us to obey Him because He loves us and wants what is best for us. We don't have to be afraid either. He knows we're scared sometimes, but He tells us that we don't have to be—we can trust God! So when we obey and trust Him, we can be courageous for God.

## GOD'S WORD IN THE REAL WORLD

Now let's think for a moment. Are there ever times when it's just plain hard to obey God? Most of the time, the things we need to do are not too scary. We usually are not asked to fight a battle or do something that makes us afraid. But every day, things happen, and we have to decide if we are going to obey God and do what's right—or not. Are there times when your Mom or Dad ask you to do something and you don't want to? Is it hard to obey? Have you ever done something that you knew was wrong, but you did it anyway? When Mom and Dad say it's time to clean up the toys and get ready for bed, what do you do? Do you say, "Okay," and do it right away, or do you fuss and argue? Remember, God is with us wherever we go. He knows how you act. He knows if you obey right away or not. What should you do? Even when it's hard, we need to obey. And God promises to be with us, and He gives us strength and courage to do what's right even when it's hard.

► Pass out the Student Take Home Sheets and remind the children to practice the memory verse this week.



## Group Prayer Time

- Thank God for His Word and the truth.
- Thank God for promising to be with us wherever we go.
- Pray that God will give us strength and courage to obey Him.

**Do you still have more time? Review the past quarters using the Flip Charts, add another coloring sheet, recite and review the current and past memory verses, sing more songs, bring out play dough. Keep the children occupied with intentional, God-centered activities until their parents come to pick them up.**

# Song Sheet

## JOSHUA 1:9

*(To the tune of "Mary Had a Little Lamb")*

Shout... **Have I not commanded you?**

**Be strong and of good cou-ur-age,**

*(Mary had a little lamb,)*

**Do not be afraid,**

*(Little lamb,)*

**Nor be dismayed,**

*(Little lamb.)*

**For the Lord your Go—od is—**

*(Mary had a little lamb.)*

**With you wherever you go.**

*(Its fleece was white as snow.)*

Shout... **Joshua 1:9!**

*Think of fun ways to sing. For example:*

*Get children in a circle holding hands. They can go in one direction and at each verse quickly reverse direction.*

*Put one or more than one child in the middle of the circle. Go around them then move in and back out!*

*Get them into a straight line. Have them follow you around the room.*