

Session 2

Joshua, the new leader: Leader of action

Joshua was a leader who trusted God and his promises

Scripture: Joshua 1 and 24

Supplies:

- Welcome cards that say: “Be strong, be courageous, because God has chosen you.”
- Write Joshua 1:9 on a poster and cut out blank strips of paper the same size as the words (will be used to cover the words)
- Cardboard for bookmarks and other decorations
- Paint and A4 paper with sticks make flags
- Popsicle sticks for frames
- Picture of a lion with today’s scripture to colour
- Salt clay baked in a “J”, “1”, and “9” to make a bracelet
- Pens, pencils, eraser and paper



Welcome

Each child gets a card saying: “Be strong, be courageous, because God has chosen you.”

Follow the leader

The leader walks in front and the children march behind them.

Practise saying: “We’re not afraid!”

The leader calls: “We are Kix!”

Children answer: “We’re not afraid!”

Keep calling and making different statements like:

“We read the Bible!”

“We go to church!”

“We speak the truth!”

“We help others!”

“We love Jesus!”

Back at the start, sing “Walking in the light of God” while everyone finds their seats.

Impromptu story

Sit in a circle and put an item in the middle. (*It can be anything, even a pencil case or a tennis ball.*) You are going to invent a story. The leader starts. Take the item and hold it while telling the story:

“William is a lion; a big, golden brown lion with a thick mane of hair and massive paws. But William is a scared lion. Very scared! Even his toenails shake when he hears a mouse peep. One day William woke up and saw that his family was gone. They went hunting. Suddenly he heard the leaves behind him rustling. Something came closer. He turned around and saw a ... “

Put the item back in the middle and let one of the children pick it up and continue the story. The child then puts it back in the middle and gives another child a chance. Encourage them to have fun with the story and to respect each other.



Worship

Settle down ritual: Play the sound clip (download it free from our website and play on a phone.)

Loud sounds

“Look left and look right, but don’t be scared!” (*Show with movements*)

Thunder etc.

“Look up, look down, and don’t be afraid.” (*Show with movements*)

Music

“In front and behind you, above and below you, around you and inside you is God, the everlasting Lord.” (*Turn around with your arms spread out.*)



Word

“We’re not afraid!” we called as we were walking. We’re not afraid to read the Bible or pray, we’re not scared to come to our Kix group and many other things. It’s easy to say this, but we do get scared when we know about danger.

After Moses died, the Israelites had to move into Canaan. Joshua was their leader now. In Canaan there were many dangers, that’s why God had to encourage Joshua.

We’re only reading 3 of the verses in the Bible. Joshua 1:5 and Joshua 1:8–9

Repeat verse 9. Stick the verse’s words on the wall and let the children read it along with you. Read it rhythmically and keep to the rhythm. It will help the children to remember the verse.

Now ask a child to find all the “be” words and stick a blank strip over it. Now read the verse again.

The next child can close the words “do not” and then you read the verse again.

Joshua had to handle many problems. He was the new leader of thousands of Israelites and they were very rebellious and disobedient. Would they listen to him? There were wars ahead. They had to cross a river and they needed food and water every day. God knew that Joshua was worried about all these things. That’s why He made the promise. Cover “strong”, “afraid”, and “the Lord your God” and then read the verse again.

In many countries, there are people who aren’t allowed to read the Bible or believe in Jesus. They get caught when praying or reading the Bible. They know they must memorize as much of the Bible as possible, otherwise they’ll forget it and they can’t look it up. They must think about it day and night. When the Christians get together, they must whisper while reading the Bible, singing or praying. We are going to whisper the verse now:

- *Whisper verse 9*
- *Ask the children if they feel ready to cover more words*
- *Read it once or twice again*

Think about something that scares you. (*Name a few examples from the children’s lives.*) Write it with your index finger in the palm of your hand. Make fists with your hands and squeeze your fingers tightly into your palms.

Say the verse again while opening your hands and holding them in front of you. Do you believe that these words from verse 9 are true and that God will be with you?

Joshua believed and he was obedient to God. God was with him the whole time. In the next two weeks, we will hear about the wonders that God did because Joshua was obedient.

- *Ask the children if there are any of them who are willing to say the verse by themselves. If not, ask if two of them would like to say it together.*
- *Let everyone get up and march in place while repeating the verse. Sit down again.*

It wasn’t only Joshua who worshipped God. His whole family believed in God. And not only them! Joshua also challenged all the Israelites to choose God. There were many idols in Canaan and Joshua knew that the people

could quickly forget about God. It was interesting to them to learn about the idols and they could soon begin worshipping them. Joshua told the Israelites: "Choose God and worship Him, but beware! You must choose wisely because you can't mess God around. If you say that you choose Him, you can't turn around tomorrow and choose an idol."

Joshua said another important thing. He said that, even if the Israelites did not choose God, he and his family would serve God.

Children reflect on the story:

1. I wonder how Joshua's children felt when they heard what their dad said.
2. I wonder how you would feel if your dad or grandpa got up in front of everyone and said: "As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord." (or your mom, grandma, or your teacher)
3. I wonder which word in Joshua 1:9 is the most important to you.
4. Say a prayer and thank God for his promises and refer to the things that were important to the children.



Working and Playing

- Make a bookmark with Joshua 1:9 or part of it written on it.
- Make a "J", "1", and "9" from clay. Poke a hole in it to thread some string. Let it dry and then make bracelets to remind the children of the scripture.
- Paint "My family and I will serve the Lord" on an A4 paper. When it has dried, glue it around a stick to make a flag.
- Paint "My family and I will serve the Lord" on cardboard. Paint popsicle sticks and glue them around the words like a frame.
- Have paper, pens and pencils ready for children who want to write a prayer to God to tell him how they feel about his promise in Joshua 1:9.

Closing prayer to end the session

(Joshua 1:9 is memorized at the beginning of the term and can be used as closing prayer for the rest of the term.)

Joshua 1:9 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

