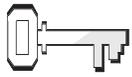


Whose Side Are You On?



References

Joshua 5:13–6:5;
Patriarchs and Prophets,
pp. 487-491



Memory Verse

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me” (John 14:1).

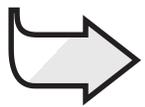


Objectives

The children will:
Know they can put their lives—all the time, every day—in God’s hands.

Feel God is awesome.

Respond by worshipping Him every day.



The Message

We can worship our awesome God every day.

Monthly Theme

We worship God every day.

The Bible Lesson at a Glance

After crossing the Jordan, Joshua goes to a place where he can see Jericho. Joshua seeks the Lord’s help. The Commander of heaven’s armies appears before him with a drawn sword. Joshua asks, “Are you for us or for our enemies?” After the Commander identifies Himself, Joshua falls down and worships, and asks what message the Lord has for him. The Lord commands him to take off his sandals, for the place where he is standing is holy.

This is a lesson about worship.

Our awesome God is bigger and more powerful than any problem or obstacle in our everyday lives. Our “Jerichos” are merely an opportunity for God to again demonstrate His power and love. He invites us to respond daily to His love by giving our lives to Him as an act of worship—choosing each day to let Him be Lord of our lives.

Teacher Enrichment

“Those who are confronted with formidable ‘Jerichos’ in their experience may call upon the help of these invisible forces and receive the assurance, as did Joshua, that the resources of heaven are available to every trusting soul. . . . As Captain, the Lord Himself would be there, superintending and disposing, ordering and commanding” (*The SDA Bible Commentary*, vol. 2, p. 195).

Room Decorations

See Lesson 9.

Program Overview

Lesson Section	Minutes	Activities	Materials Needed
Welcome	ongoing	Greet students at door; hear pleased/troubled	none
1 Readiness Options	up to 10	A. <i>Balloon Blowup</i> B. <i>Power Point</i>	(for each child:) a clear soda or water bottle, a balloon, about a tablespoon (15 grams) of baking soda, about 1/4 cup (50 grams) of vinegar, tablespoon none
Any Time Prayer and Praise*	up to 10	Fellowship Songbook Mission Offering Prayer	none <i>Sing for Joy</i> <i>Children's Mission</i> basket or bowl, flashlight battery a prayer song
2 Bible Lesson	up to 20	Experiencing the Story Memory Verse Bible Study	Bible-times costumes none Bibles, chalkboard or white board, chalk or marker
3 Applying the Lesson	up to 15	<i>Scary Situations</i>	for each child, one copy of supplied "Scary Situations" sheet (see p. 140)
4 Sharing the Lesson	up to 15	"Handy" Reminder	construction paper, pencils or markers, safety pins or tape, scissors

***Prayer and Praise may be used at any time during the program.**

TEACHING THE LESSON

Welcome

Welcome students at the door. Ask how their week has been—what they are pleased/troubled about. Give directions for the Readiness Activity of your choice.



Readiness Activities

Select the activity most appropriate for your situation.

You Need:

- a clear soda or water bottle
- a balloon
- about a tablespoon (15 grams) of baking soda
- about 1/4 cup (50 grams) of vinegar
- tablespoon

A. Balloon Blowup

Give each child an uninflated balloon. Help each pour about a tablespoon (15 grams) of baking soda into the balloon. Next, pour about an inch of vinegar into the clear soda or water bottle. Slip the end of the balloon over the mouth of the bottle so it forms a tight seal. Tip the balloon up so the baking soda falls out of the balloon into the vinegar. Watch the balloon inflate!

Debriefing

Ask: **Was that awesome? What do you think about blowing up a balloon without huffing and puffing? Is that like anything God can do?** (yes) **What?** (God can be with us and we cannot see Him; accept their answers.) **The good news is that God is with us every day—all the time.** Our message is:



WE CAN WORSHIP OUR AWESOME GOD EVERY DAY.

Say that with me.

B. Power Point

Form pairs. One person from each pair is to put an index finger on top of his or her head and hold it there as tightly as possible. The other person is to try to pull it off with a steady pull. No pushing or jerking! Reverse roles.

Debriefing

Ask: **What did you think would happen before we did this?** (Accept answers.) **What surprised you the most about this?** (I did not know I was so strong.) **Did you think your one finger could be so powerful?** (no) **Where do we get power?** (from God) **How does God show His power?** (in nature, in answering prayer, in helping us change) **What do you think about God's power?** (awesome, etc.) **When we stop and think about God and His power, we are worshipping. That brings us to our message:**



WE CAN WORSHIP OUR AWESOME GOD EVERY DAY.

Say that with me.

Prayer and Praise

Any
Time



Fellowship

Report the students' joys and sorrows (pleased and troubled) as reported to you at the door (as appropriate). Review the memory verse and allow time for sharing experiences from last week's lesson study. Acknowledge any birthdays, special events, or achievements. Give a special warm greeting to all visitors.



Suggested Songs

"He's Able" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 40)

"The Journey of Life" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 122)

"God of Great and God of Small" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 3)

"Bless His Holy Name" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 9)

"Praise Him" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 15)



Mission

Share a story from *Children's Mission*. Help the children identify God's power.



Offering

Say: **A good battery inside a flashlight gives it power to work. God inside us gives us power every day to live. Without Him we would be like a flashlight without a battery. Many people don't have power in their lives because they don't have God in their lives every day. We share our offering so others can learn about God's power.**

You Need:

- offering container
- flashlight battery labeled "God"



Prayer

Have the children sing a prayer. For example: "This Is My Prayer" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 106) or "Father, We Thank Thee" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 100). These are not preprayer songs or responses but actual prayers. Remind the children to think about what they are singing. Close with a spoken prayer.

You Need:

- a prayer song

2

Bible Lesson

You Need:

- Bible-times costumes for all

Experiencing the Story

This Bible story has only two characters, so divide the children into pairs and have everyone dress in Bible-times costumes and act out the story as you tell it. Remember, the children should not speak or act a part until prompted by you to do so.

Characters: Joshua; the Commander

Read or tell the story.

God had worked a miracle for the Israelites and had parted the waters of the Red Sea when they left Egypt. And now, 40 years later, when it was time for them to cross into the land of Canaan, God worked another miracle for them. He dried up the Jordan River so the people could cross safely.

As the people crossed, strong men, one from each of the 12 tribes, took up a huge stone from the riverbed and carried it up the bank. The men put all the stones together to make a huge memorial that would be a reminder forever to the power of their awesome God. The children of Israel were finally in the Promised Land.

[Motion for all the "Joshuas" to stand up and rub their chins with troubled expressions.] Joshua was troubled about his heavy responsibility as commander of Israel's army. So one evening he took a walk. The city of Jericho was in front of the camp. The Jordan River was behind it. They would have to capture Jericho before they could go any farther into Canaan. Jericho was a big city—a rich city—with high, thick walls. How could the Israelite army possibly capture Jericho?

They had been living in the desert for 40 years. They didn't know anything about war. They didn't have any fancy weapons. So Joshua did what many great men, like Moses and Daniel, have done. He found a quiet place where he could worship God and find out what God's plans were.

Suddenly Joshua saw a man standing in front of him holding a sword. *[Motion for the "Commanders" to come and stand in front of their "Joshua" partners.]*

Joshua walked up to the man and asked, "Are you for us, or for our enemies?" *[Prompt the "Joshua" children to repeat the line.]* If the man was an Israelite soldier, he was in trouble, because Joshua hadn't told anyone to leave camp. But if he was an enemy, Joshua was ready to fight.

"Neither," said the man. "I am here as the Commander of the Lord's army." *[Prompt the "Commanders" to repeat the line.]*

Then Joshua knew that he was standing in the presence of the Lord Himself. Joshua fell to the ground and bowed at His feet in worship. "What do You want me to do?" he asked. *[Prompt the children to bow and repeat the line.]*

"Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy ground," the Commander answered. *[Give the "Joshuas" time to remove their shoes.]*

Then the Lord told Joshua that He had already made the battle plans for Jericho. He told Joshua to have the army march around Jericho once a day for six days. On the seventh day they were to march around the city walls seven times. Then the priests would blow their trumpets, and the walls would fall down.

What a relief! *[Prompt the "Joshuas" to wipe their foreheads with relief.]* Joshua had been worrying about battle plans. But the

battle was in God's hands. God would be in charge. Joshua knew that he could trust God. Like Joshua, we worship our awesome God and know that we can trust Him too.

Debriefing

Say: **Why was Joshua troubled?** (Because Jericho was so big and he and his people felt so small and weak.) **What did Joshua do when he was troubled?** (He found a quiet place to talk to God.) **What do you do when you are troubled?** (wait for replies) **Who came to talk to Joshua?** (the Commander of heaven's army—Jesus) **What did the Commander tell Joshua?** (how to capture Jericho)

What battles do you worry about? How do you feel when you take them to your Commander, Jesus? (Relieved, because then it is His problem, not mine.) **Isn't it wonderful to know that we can trust God and that**



WE CAN WORSHIP OUR AWESOME GOD EVERY DAY.

Memory Verse

Form pairs to face each other and learn the memory verse as a pairs' clapping verse. They pat or clap as indicated:

Do not (own hands pat thighs twice)
let your (own hands clap twice)
hearts be (own hands pat thighs twice)
troubled. (partners clap other's hands twice)
You believe in (own hands pat thighs twice)
God; believe (own hands twice)
also in (own thighs twice)
me. (partners clap other's hands once)
John (own thighs twice)
fourteen (clap own hands twice)

and verse (clap own thighs twice)
one. (clap partner's hands once)

Bible Study

Write the following headings where all may see.

Joshua has a problem.
Joshua spends time with God.
No more problem.

Above *Joshua has a problem*, put a sad face. Above *Joshua spends time with God*, put some praying hands. Above *No more problem*, put a smiley face.

Have the children open their Bibles to Joshua 5 and read one verse each, starting at verse 13 and ending at Joshua 6:5. After each verse, pause and write the chapter and verse number where it fits under one of the three headings. When done, the headings will look like this:

Joshua has a problem.
5:13; 6:1
Joshua spends time with God.
5:13, 14, 15
No more problem.
6:2, 3, 4, 5

Debriefing

Ask: **What can we do when we have a big problem?** (Take it to God in prayer.) **What will God do?** (He will help us know what to do.) **What do you think about giving your worries to God?** (It's awesome!) **Let's say our message:**



WE CAN WORSHIP OUR AWESOME GOD EVERY DAY.

You Need:

- Bibles
- chalkboard/white board
- chalk or marker

3

Applying the Lesson

You Need:

- photocopy for each child (see p. 140)

Scary Situations

Read the following situations to the class or distribute the photocopied sheet (see p. 140) on which the situations are pictured.

After presenting each situation, ask: **What is there to be afraid about in this situation?** If the children claim not to be scared, have them think about the person who is scared. Ask what advice they would give that person.

Situation 1: You have always managed to avoid diving, but tomorrow you will be embarrassed in front of your entire class if you don't dive into the water.

Situation 2: Your neighbor's dog always acts as if it will attack you. Your mother needs help quickly. The only place to go for help is to that neighbor.

Situation 3: You attend public school. The class is studying evolution. God seems to be telling you to tell the class what you know about Creation. Maybe the class will make fun of you.

Situation 4: One of your parents is terribly sick. You are afraid he or she will

die. You don't know what might happen to your family.

Situation 5: Write or draw this one. Show or tell about something that scares somebody you know.

Debriefing

Affirm the children for their thoughtfulness and for their good advice. Say: **Sometimes our advice does not work for other people, or their advice does not work for us. We need to go to an expert for help. Who are some experts you would go to?** (doctor, coach, teacher, parent, God)

What advice does God give in the Bible that could help? Read aloud John 14:1. **In what situations might this text be helpful?** Have the children share what they wrote/drew for situation 5. Encourage everyone to say John 14:1 with you.

"Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me" (John 14:1).

What do you think of God? Can you trust an expert like Him? (Yes!) Do you thank Him and worship Him every day? Let's say our message:



WE CAN WORSHIP OUR AWESOME GOD EVERY DAY.

4

Sharing the Lesson

“Handy” Reminder

(Note: “Handy” will not mean much when it is translated into foreign languages. It will probably be translated as “useful.” However, the hand idea will still work.)

Ask the children to place one hand on the paper and draw around it. The children are to cut along the outer edges of their drawing. Inside the hand they write: “Awesome God: You can worship Him every day.”

Help them pin or tape the hand to their clothing. Remind them that when people ask what the sign means they can say their memory verse. As they work, practice saying the memory verse together.

Debriefing

Remind the children that the people they have learned about this month—

You Need:

- construction paper
- pencils or markers
- safety pins or tape
- scissors

Moses and Joshua—encouraged others to worship God. Ask: **How do you feel when you worship God?** (happy, relieved, full of love for Him, etc.)

How can we encourage others to worship Jesus this week? (By showing them the “hand” made in Sabbath School and reminding them to trust God; by telling them what God has done in our lives, and how we can’t praise Him enough, etc.) **We are worshipping when we think about how awesome God is.**

And remember:



**WE CAN WORSHIP OUR
AWESOME GOD EVERY DAY.**

Closing

Sing together “Praise Him” (*Sing for Joy*, no. 15). Encourage the children to have family worship every day in the coming week, for **WE CAN WORSHIP OUR AWESOME GOD EVERY DAY!** During closing prayer, pray that each family represented in your Sabbath School will worship God every day.

Whose Side Are You On?

References

Joshua 5:13–6:5;
Patriarchs and Prophets,
pp. 487-491

Memory Verse

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me”
(John 14:1).

The Message

We can worship our awesome God every day.

Have you ever had part in a program? I mean a really big program in a church with hundreds of seats? You feel important practicing for the program. You mustn't make any mistakes! But then you worry so much that you nearly forget your part. That is about how Joshua felt after Moses died.

Joshua walked between the rows of tents. He smiled at the families he passed, but he didn't stop to talk. He needed some exercise. He needed time alone to think. So many amazing things had happened in the past few days.

Joshua quickly reached the edge of the camp. His steps got even longer as he headed back across the fields. He walked on until he had a good view of the Jordan River. Then he stopped and just looked. The river was flooded and dangerous. But the Israelites were all safely across and in the Promised Land.

Once again their awesome God had seen them through.



The people had just finished celebrating the Passover. Soon it would be time to move on. But moving on was scary. The Israelites had powerful enemies in this new land.

As Joshua slowly turned in a circle, he studied the great walled city of Jericho. Big, tall walls. Thick walls. How small the Israelite camp looked with Jericho's walls towering above them. Joshua had no idea what to do. How was he going to lead the army of Israel against that mighty city? They had no fancy weapons of war. Joshua shuddered to think of his poorly trained soldiers. They were not ready for battle.

Suddenly someone stood in front of Joshua, holding a sword. Joshua stepped boldly up to him. “Whose side are you on?” Joshua asked. “Ours or our enemies?” If he were an Israelite soldier, he had some explaining to do! Joshua had not told any of his soldiers to leave camp. If the stranger were an enemy, Joshua was ready to fight.

“Neither,” the man answered. “I am here as the Commander of the Lord's army.”

Suddenly Joshua realized that this was no ordinary soldier. This was the Lord Himself! Joshua fell at His feet in worship. “I am Your servant, Sir. What do You want me to do?”

“Take your sandals off. You are standing on holy ground,” the Commander replied.

Joshua removed his sandals and worshipped the Lord. What a relief! Joshua had been thinking about battle plans. He had imagined there was to be a war, and he would be the general in charge. But now he learned that the battle was the Lord's. The plans were already made, and the Lord was in charge. Joshua did not have to bear the heavy responsibility of leadership all alone. *The Lord was here!* His awesome God was with him!

Daily Activities

Sabbath

- With your family, go to a quiet place, possibly by a river. If you can see a city in the distance (or imagine one)—it can remind you of Jericho, the city that Joshua saw from his quiet place of worship. Read your lesson story together. Read John 14:1. Sing together one of your favorite worship songs.
- Thank God for a quiet place to worship Him.

Sunday

- During family worship, read Joshua 5:13-15. What can we learn about everyday worship from these verses?
- Talk with your family about how you can worship God each day this week. Make a poster that will remind your family. Ask each family member to sign the poster, then hang it where all can see.
- Cut out 16 paper hearts. Write a memory verse word on each. Include the text on one of them. Use these to teach the verse to your family.

Monday

- With your family, read Joshua 5:14. Who was Joshua's visitor? What did Joshua do? Do you visit with Jesus each morning? What has He told you when He visits? Sing "He Is Lord" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 87).
- During this week, write down how much time you watch TV and how much time you spend worshipping God. On Friday, add up the hours. See how much you really spend at each activity. Ask God to help you make Him first in your life.
- Say or read your memory verse aloud.

Tuesday

- Read Joshua 5:15 during family worship. Why do you think the ground where the Commander stood was holy? Unscramble these words for the answer:
O D G A S W H T R E E.

— — — — — — — — — — — .

- Make a cardboard helmet and sword. Save it for Friday worship.
- Ask God to help you give all your worries to Him.

Wednesday

- Read Joshua 5:14, 15 again. What reasons did Joshua have to worship God that day? (Choose more than one.) Underline your answers.

1. God had taken good care of Israel.
2. Joshua loved God.
3. Joshua needed help.
4. God is holy.
5. God told Joshua to take off his shoes.
6. Taking Jericho was impossible.

- Ask your family: What reasons do you have to worship God?
- Say your memory verse together. Then thank God for His love.

Thursday

- For family worship, place a basket and a picture of Jesus on a table nearby. Ask each person to draw a picture of what worries them today. What does John 14:1 say about worry? Place your worry pictures in the basket. Pray together about the worries and trust that God will provide the help you need. Read together Philippians 4:19.
- Say John 14:1, 3 together.

Friday

- For family worship, act out your lesson story. (Use the sword and helmet you made Tuesday.)
- Tell three things that you learned from this story.
- Add up the hours on your TV/worshipping God chart. How did you do? What changes will you make?
- Read Psalm 16:8 together. Then sing "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" (*Sing for Joy*, no. 90) before prayer.