

Unit 8: Into the Land

Unit Description: Joshua and the Israelites saw God do what the previous generation had doubted: God went before them into the land and conquered their enemies through His wondrous works. At the end of his days, Joshua challenged the people to remember who God is and what He had done and worship only Him forevermore.

Big Picture Question: What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.



SESSION 1: God Defeated Jericho

Joshua 2; 6



SESSION 2: God Gave the People the Land

Joshua 7–11



SESSION 3: Joshua Challenged the People

Joshua 23–24



UNIT 8 | SESSION 3

JOSHUA CHALLENGED THE PEOPLE

JOSHUA 23–24

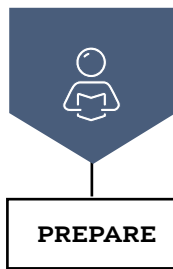
KEY PASSAGE: You are the God who performs miracles;
you display your power among the peoples.
Psalm 77:14 NIV

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

As Joshua prepared for his own death, he left behind a legacy of obedience to God. After Jesus' death and resurrection, He appeared to the disciples and left them with a legacy: to obey Him by making disciples of all nations.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION



LEADER Bible Study

Joshua was getting along in years, so he gathered the people at the place where God had made a promise to Abraham. (See Gen. 12:6-7.) Joshua wanted the people to remember and to live based on what they knew to be true about God: God can be trusted. He is good, and He is faithful.

Joshua issued a challenge: “Be very strong and continue obeying all that is written in the book of the law of Moses.” Reading, studying, and obeying God’s Word is a mark of belief in God. Joshua reminded the people that they were successful over their enemies because of their obedience to God.

Joshua also gave the Israelites a warning. Just as all the good things God promised had been fulfilled, so would all the bad things He promised if the Israelites disobeyed Him.

Further, Joshua reminded the leaders of their nations’ history—from the birth of Isaac to Israel’s escape from Egypt. Over and over, God had demonstrated His power and goodness to the Israelites. Their ancestors had repeatedly turned from God to worship the false gods of other nations.

Joshua said, “Choose for yourselves today: Which will you worship ... As for me and my family, we will worship the LORD” (Josh. 24:15).

The Israelites had a choice: Continue

to worship God or choose to serve other gods. In response to God’s faithfulness to His promises, the Israelites renewed their covenant to be faithful to the Lord.

As you share the story of Joshua’s legacy with kids, point them to a greater legacy found in Jesus Christ. Jesus gave a similar type of farewell speech at the Last Supper, exhorting His disciples to not only love God but love one another.

After His resurrection, Jesus sent His disciples out to tell the nations about Him. Jesus calls all people who trust in Him to tell others about Him.

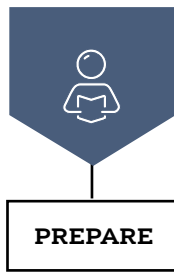
BOOK OF JOSHUA

Joshua 1:1–5:12:
Preparation for the land

Joshua 5:13–12:24:
Victories in the land

Joshua 13:1–21:45:
Allotment of the land

Joshua 22:1–24:33:
Worship of God



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

GATHER Supplies

Keep a regular supply of the following items available at all times: Bibles, pens or pencils, markers, crayons, colored pencils, scissors, glue or tape, paper.



WELCOME

Activity Page

- ☐ “This or That?” activity page

Session Starter (Option 2)

- ☐ plastic or paper cups (not clear), 10-15
- ☐ small items, 5 (buttons, coins, pom poms, etc.)



LEARN

Introduce the Session

- ☐ countdown video

Big Picture Question

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster

Review the Timeline

- ☐ Giant Timeline

Tell the Bible Story

- ☐ “Joshua Challenged the People” video
- ☐ Bible Story Picture Poster

Questions from Kids

- ☐ “Unit 8, Session 3” questions from kids video

Missions Moment

- ☐ “He Is Worthy” missions video

Key Passage Activity

- ☐ Key Passage Poster
- ☐ “The God Who Works Wonders (Psalm 77:14)” song
- ☐ worship song of your choice (optional)



LOVE

Review & Bible skills

- ☐ Small Group Timeline and Map Set
- ☐ world map



LIVE

Activity Choice (Option 1)

- ☐ large sheet of paper

Activity Choice (Option 2)

- ☐ Big Picture Question Poster
- ☐ 12-inch dowels, 1 per kid
- ☐ half-sheets of paper

Journal and Prayer

- ☐ Journal Page
- ☐ “Joshua’s Challenge” activity page



WELCOME Kids

Greet each kid as he or she arrives. Use this time to collect the offering, fill out attendance sheets, build relationships, and help new kids connect to your group.

SAY “ Think back to when you were younger. What is one of your earliest memories? What is one of your favorite memories from your life so far? ”

1 ACTIVITY PAGE (5 minutes)

Invite kids to complete “This or That?” on the activity page.

SAY “ In the Bible story we will hear today, Joshua told the Israelites that had to make a choice. Do you ever have a hard time deciding between one option and another? How do you choose? ”

2 SESSION STARTER (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: BEGINNING TO END



Direct kids to stand in a single-file line. Each kid should place his hands on the shoulders of the kid in front of him. Challenge the kid at the beginning of the line to tag the kid at the end, while all others remain in an unbroken line.

If the first kid succeeds in tagging the last, he may remain at the front of the line for another round; however, if the line breaks, the kid in front must move to the back. The next player in line becomes the tagger.

SAY “ At the end of Joshua’s life, he spent time thinking about the things God had done. The end of the book of Joshua connects back to the beginning, and both the beginning and end show the importance of God’s Word. ”

☐ OPTION 2: SEE AND DECIDE

Direct kids to form groups of three or four. Give each group three cups and one small item. Instruct one kid from each group to hide an item under a cup and then mix up the cups while the others watch. Kids should then guess which cup conceals the item. Within each group, allow kids to take turns hiding items and guessing.

SAY “ You had to watch closely to see and then decide which cup contained the item. In today’s Bible story, we will hear about some of God’s miracles that the Israelites had seen. God proved that He is all-powerful. Joshua challenged the Israelites to decide whether or not to follow and worship God. What do you think they decided? ”





THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

INTRODUCE the Bible Story

1 INTRODUCE THE SESSION (3 minutes)

Show the countdown video as you transition to introduce the Bible story. Set it to end as the session begins.

SAY “Hello everyone. My name is [your name]. I decided to follow Jesus when I was [provide answer] years old. That means I have been following Jesus for [length of time]. I mentioned this because in the Bible story we will hear today, Joshua challenged the people to decide whether or not they would follow and worship God. I want to encourage you to follow God as soon as you are ready and to follow Him for the rest of your life.

If you brought a Bible, open it to the Book of Joshua. [Distribute additional Bibles as needed.] Let's listen together to what God wants to teach us from His Word today. ”

2 BIG PICTURE QUESTION (1 minute)

SAY “Our big picture question for this week is, **What is a miracle?** We started learning the answer to this question a couple weeks ago. Who remembers the answer? [Allow responses.] That's right! **A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.** ”

3 REVIEW THE TIMELINE (1 minute)

Show the giant timeline. Point to individual Bible stories as you review.

SAY “The Bible tells one big story—the story of how God rescues sinners through His Son, Jesus. Many people have been a part of God's story. So far we have learned about Adam and Eve; Noah; Abraham and his descendants, Isaac, Jacob, and Joseph; Moses; and Joshua. Today, we will learn about the end of Joshua's part in God's story. ”



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

LEARN the Bible Story

1 TELL THE BIBLE STORY: VIDEO OR STORYTELLER (10 minutes)

Open your Bible to Joshua 23–24. Use the Bible storytelling tips to help you tell the story, or show the Bible story video “Joshua Challenged the People.” Use the bold text to retell or review the story.

JOSHUA CHALLENGED THE PEOPLE

“Many years had passed since Joshua and the Israelites had defeated Jericho, Ai (AY igh), and the kings of the land. God had allowed the Israelites to rest from battles against their enemies. **Now Joshua was getting old. He gathered all the people of Israel because he had some important things to say to them.**

Joshua said, “**You have seen everything the LORD your God has done.** He has fought your battles for you. The rest of the land will be yours too, just as the LORD your God promised.

“**Therefore,**” Joshua continued, “**Be careful to obey everything that is in the book of the law of Moses. Do not turn aside from it;** do not mix with the nations in this land or worship their gods. **Keep clinging to God. He fights for you! Love the LORD your God. If you disobey God, He will no longer help you win these battles.** In fact, you will die here if you disobey Him.”

Joshua reminded the people about the things God had done in the past: God had called Abraham and had given him a son, Isaac. He had given Isaac two sons, Jacob and Esau. Jacob’s children had become slaves in Egypt, where God had sent Moses and Aaron. **God had rescued the Israelites from the Egyptians, bringing them safely across the Red Sea.** They had fought and won many battles because God was fighting for them. God had done so many great things for His people!

Joshua commanded the people, “**Fear the LORD and worship Him.** Or will you worship false gods? As for me and my family, we will worship the LORD.”

The people replied, “**We will not abandon the LORD!** We know how much God has done for us, and we love Him!”

Joshua warned the people, “**If you do abandon God to worship other gods, God will turn against you. He will destroy you.**”

“No!” the people replied. “**We will worship the LORD!**”

On that day, **Joshua made a covenant with the people.** He wrote it down and also set up a large stone under an oak tree.

Joshua said, “This stone will be a reminder of your duty to serve the LORD, who kept every promise in bringing you into this land.” Then Joshua sent the people back to their homes.

After that, Joshua died. He was 110 years old.

STORYTELLING TIPS

Call for active listening: Explain that you will pause each time you come to the word **LORD** in the story. When you pause, invite kids to provide the missing word. Lean forward to help signal the appropriate time for kids to respond.

Practice a call and response: The dialogue in this story alternates between Joshua and the people. Provide the responses of the people via a handout or visual aid. Read Joshua’s dialogue (leader), and invite kids to read the people’s responses in unison.



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

Christ Connection: As Joshua prepared for his own death, he left behind a legacy of obedience to God. After Jesus' death and resurrection, He appeared to the disciples and left them with a legacy: to obey Him by making disciples of all nations. ”

2 REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

SAY “ Joshua challenged the people to obey God's law. Look at Joshua 23:6. [Choose a volunteer to read the verse aloud.] Does this sound familiar? We read a similar passage only a few weeks ago. Look back at Joshua 1. [Choose a volunteer to read Josh. 1:7-9.] These two passages connect the end of the Book of Joshua to the beginning. They also tie the entire book closely to God's Word.

The Israelites viewed Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy as one big book called the Torah—the book of the Law, or the book of instruction. At that time, the Torah was the full Scriptures; the rest of the Bible had not been written yet. So when Joshua told the Israelites to obey everything written in the book of the Law, he was telling them to obey the Bible. When God told Joshua to meditate on the book of instruction, God was telling Joshua to meditate on the Bible. God's Word gives His people courage. The promises of God's Word challenge His people to worship and follow Him.

Why did Joshua remind the people of all God's works? Look at Joshua 24:14. [Choose a volunteer to read the verse.] Joshua reminded the Israelites of God's miracles so they would understand that God is the all-powerful, one true God and so they would choose to fear and worship God. ”

3 CHRIST CONNECTION

SAY “ As Joshua prepared for his own death, he left behind a legacy of obedience to God. After Jesus' death and resurrection, He appeared to the disciples and left them with a legacy: to obey Him by making disciples of all nations. ”

(Tip: Use Scripture and the Gospel Plan Poster to explain how to become a Christian. Make sure kids know when and where they can ask questions.)

4 QUESTIONS FROM KIDS (3 minutes)

Show the “Unit 8, Session 3” questions from kids video. Prompt kids to discuss:

1. How can you do the right thing if no one around you is?
2. What will you say or do next time you face a situation where those around you are choosing sin?

5 MISSIONS MOMENT (3 minutes)

SAY “ Joshua challenged the Israelites to continue obeying God even after he died. Joshua's story reminds me of the Worthys, missionaries who challenge people to trust and obey Jesus. The Worthy



THE STORY OF THE GOSPEL

family loves to plan events in their community for their friends. These parties are sometimes called 'outreach events.' An outreach event is a way to reach outside of your church to the community around you to provide a place for building friendships and to have conversations about Jesus. ”

Play the missions video. Ask the kids to share which they would be most excited about if they were invited to the Worthys' event: the games or the food. Remind them that we can have fun while sharing Jesus with others. Ask a volunteer to pray for the Worthys as they think of new and fun ways to reach out to their friends.

6 KEY PASSAGE ACTIVITY (5 minutes)

Before the session, write the key passage as words or phrases on separate index cards. If your group is large, prepare multiple sets and form groups of kids. Show the key passage poster. Lead kids in reading aloud Psalm 77:14 together.

Place the key passage cards facedown in a pile on the floor. Encourage each kid to pick up a card and then work together to line up in the correct order without speaking. Then lead kids to say the key passage together.

SAY ” God's Word provides a record of many incredible things that God has done. These things help us to see, trust, and know that God is all-powerful. ”

Invite any kids who have memorized the key passage to say it aloud. Lead kids in singing "The God Who Works Wonders (Psalm 77:14)." You may also choose to sing a worship song of your choice.

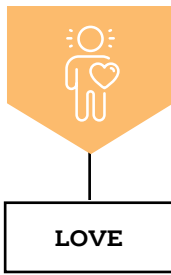
7 PRAY (2 minutes)

Invite kids to pray before transitioning to Love.

SAY ” Thank You, God, for Your Word. Thank You for all the amazing stories in the Bible and how they remind us that You are the one true and all-powerful God. Help us to believe in You and follow You all of our lives. Amen. ”

Transition from **LEARN** to **LOVE**





THE GOD OF THE GOSPEL

LOVE God by Applying the Story

1 REVIEW & BIBLE SKILLS (5 minutes)

Distribute Bibles and display the Old Testament Kingdoms Map. Guide kids to open their Bibles to Joshua 23. Explain that at the end of Joshua's life, the Israelites buried him in the hill country of Ephraim. This was a little north of Jerusalem (H5).

Consider comparing the Old Testament Kingdoms Map Guide to a modern-day map to help kids understand where these stories took place. (Tip: Locate the area north of modern-day Jerusalem.)

Choose a volunteer to read aloud Joshua 23:6-8.

SAY “Joshua reminded the people that God had fought for them and given them victory, and he reminded them of all the miracles God had accomplished on the Israelites’ journey out of Egypt, through the wilderness, and into the promised land. **What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.** The Israelites listened to Joshua and said they would worship and serve the one true God.”

2 GROUP DISCUSSION (10 minutes)

Ask the following questions. Lead the group to discuss.

SAY “Why do you think Joshua wanted the Israelites to meditate on and obey God’s Word?”

Joshua knew that God’s word would help direct the people and show them how to live. The Bible helps us to follow God’s plan for our lives. It helps us to know and follow Him.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Isa. 46:9.)

SAY “Joshua 24 says that the Israelites also buried Joseph’s bones in the promised land. Why was this significant?”

Joseph represents the generation who went to Egypt at the end of Genesis. Joshua represents the generation who returned to the promised land. The burials of Joseph and Joshua connect the beginning of this big story to the end. It shows the completion of this part of the journey for God’s people, and it helps emphasize God’s faithfulness. He did what He said He would do. God does amazing things.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Ex. 13:19.)

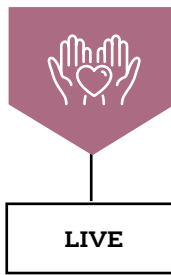
SAY “How can we respond to the truth that God is all-powerful?”

Joshua reminded the people of the many miracles God had worked, and then he told them to choose whether or not to follow God. When we remember that God is all-powerful, we can respond by deciding to follow and live for Him. We can respect, honor, and worship Him, and we can have faith, courage, and confidence.

(Option: Choose a volunteer to read Josh. 24:15.)

Transition from **LOVE** to **LIVE**





THE MISSION OF THE GOSPEL

LIVE the Mission

1 ACTIVITY CHOICE (10 minutes)

☐ OPTION 1: OUTREACH MURAL



Roll out a large sheet of craft paper and give the kids crayons and pencils. Ask the kids to think about some of the games, activities, and food they saw in the missions video.

SAY “Before he died, Joshua gathered the Israelites and challenged them to continue obeying God. The Worthys hold outreach events to gather people and build friendships and share the gospel. You can be on mission wherever you are when you tell others the good news about Jesus.”

Guide the kids to choose a spot on the paper to draw things they saw at the Worthys’ outreach event. Then ask them to use speech bubbles to show what a Christian might say to someone at an outreach event.

When kids finish drawing, hang the mural on the wall. Encourage the kids to tell someone about Jesus this week.

☐ OPTION 2: PLANT YOUR FLAG

Distribute dowels, half-sheets of paper, tape, and coloring utensils. Invite kids to draw a picture that represents someone following God. On the other side of the paper, direct kids to write, *As for me, I will worship the LORD.*

Explain that kids should only write this phrase if they truly want to worship and follow God. If kids haven’t decided to follow God or aren’t ready yet, allow them to leave this side blank until they are ready.

Direct kids to tape their papers onto the side of a dowel to create a flag.

SAY “Joshua challenged the people to decide whether or not to follow God. We often use the phrase ‘plant a flag’ when someone makes an important decision. This means a person’s mind is firmly made up. This flag you created can be your own monument or flag to help you remember your important decision to follow and worship God.”

2 JOURNAL AND PRAYER (5 minutes)

Distribute journal pages and pencils. Guide kids to think about and answer the questions listed on the page. As kids journal, invite them to share their ideas.

- What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
- What does the story teach me about myself?
- Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God’s glory and my good?
- Are there promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
- How does this story help me to live on mission better?

Review the gospel and encourage kids to speak with you or another teacher if they have questions. Then pray for kids to have a deep hunger for God’s Word. Ask God to reveal Himself to kids through the Bible. As time allows, lead kids to complete “What Doesn’t Belong?” on the activity page.



JOURNAL PAGE

1. What does this story teach me about God or the gospel?
2. What does this story teach me about myself?
3. Are there any commands in this story to obey? How are they for God's glory and my good?
4. Are there any promises in this story to remember? How do they help me trust and love God?
5. How does this story help me to live on mission better?



Unit 8 • Session 3

JOSHUA CHALLENGED THE PEOPLE

Joshua 23-24

WHAT IS A MIRACLE? A MIRACLE IS SOMETHING GOD DOES THAT USUALLY CANNOT BE DONE SO THAT WE CAN KNOW HE IS ALL-POWERFUL.

Many years had passed since Joshua and the Israelites had defeated Jericho. Now Joshua was getting old. He gathered all the people of Israel because he had some important things to say to them.

Joshua said, "You have seen everything the LORD your God has done. Therefore, be careful to obey everything that is in the book of the law of Moses. Do not turn aside from it. Keep clinging to God. He fights for you! Love the LORD your God. If you disobey God, He will no longer help you win these battles."

Joshua reminded the people about the things God had done in the past. God had rescued the Israelites from the Egyptians, bringing them safely across the Red Sea.

Joshua commanded the people, "Fear the LORD and worship Him."

The people replied, "We will not abandon the LORD!"

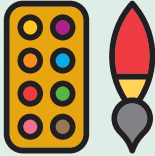
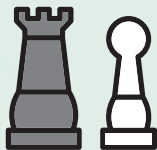
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The people replied, "We will worship the LORD!"

Joshua made a covenant with the people. After that, Joshua died.

Christ Connection: As Joshua prepared for his own death, he left behind a legacy of obedience to God. After Jesus' death and resurrection, He appeared to the disciples and left them with a legacy: to obey Him by making disciples of all nations.

This or That? | Circle your preference for each option.



Joshua's Challenge | In each box, identify the missing letter of the alphabet and write it in the space provided.

1

M S D U V W
H C E Q K P
I L Y B T Z N
X G A F R J

2

E D W V I R
Y K F X H M
Z S T C U A
Q G P J L O N

3

Y Z G X T L
M A J W B C
H R P Q S D
O I K F V U N

4

K P D T W N
Z U J S X F
Q E H A B C
O V I M R G L

Joshua challenged the people to 1 2 3 4 the Lord.

NAME: _____



the **GOSPEL** PROJECT

Joshua Challenged the People

BIBLE STORY SUMMARY:

- Joshua knew he was old and would die soon, but he wanted the people to always obey God.
- Starting with Abraham, Joshua reminded the Israelites of all the wonderful things God had done for them.
- Joshua warned them that God would allow their enemies to rule over them if they dishonored Him.
- The people agreed that they would worship only God.

CHRIST CONNECTION:

As Joshua prepared for his own death, he left behind a legacy of obedience to God. After Jesus' death and resurrection, He appeared to the disciples and left them with a legacy: to obey Him by making disciples of all nations.

KEY PASSAGE: Psalm 77:14

BIG PICTURE QUESTION:

What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.

