



## **SERIES: LESSONS FOR LIFE FROM GOD'S SERVANT, JOSHUA**

### **Lesson #1:- “Be Strong and Courageous”**

#### **Joshua 1**

#### **Announcements and opening prayer**



**Connect:** an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** What are some of the things in life you are afraid of? How does fear hold us back from doing great things for God?

**Transition:** I think we often forget the power of the Almighty God who lives within us. God can do immeasurably more than we can hope or imagine. So what causes us to hold back in fear and be less for God than we could be?

**The Bottom Line:** If God is with us, there is no reason to have any fear!

#### **LESSON PLAN**



**Denotes “Apply”**

**Background:** *The first 5 books in the Old Testament are called the Torah in Hebrew, which means Law or Instruction; They are called the Pentateuch in Greek meaning Five Books. They are the books of Law written by Moses. Now we move to Joshua which is the first of 12 books of Jewish history. Joshua's name means “The Lord Saves.” Nothing could be truer than that message in the history of God's people. This book will reveal some of those adventures. The book begins immediately after the death of Moses. The people of Israel mourned for 30 days after Moses' death. When the period of mourning was over, God is ready to move His people into the promised land. Josephus, the Jewish Historian recorded that Joshua was 85 years old when he led them forth. The Exodus is dated to 1447 B.C. They wandered 40 years, which means the story of Joshua begins in 1407 B.C. Joshua lived for 30 more years and died in 1377 B.C. at the age of 110. This was one tough servant of God!*

**Question:** After the Hebrew people sinned against God and would not trust Him, who was allowed to go into the Promised Land and who was not? *See Numbers 14:33*

#### **Read Joshua 1:1-5**

1. Why do you think God chose Joshua to lead His people into the Promised Land?

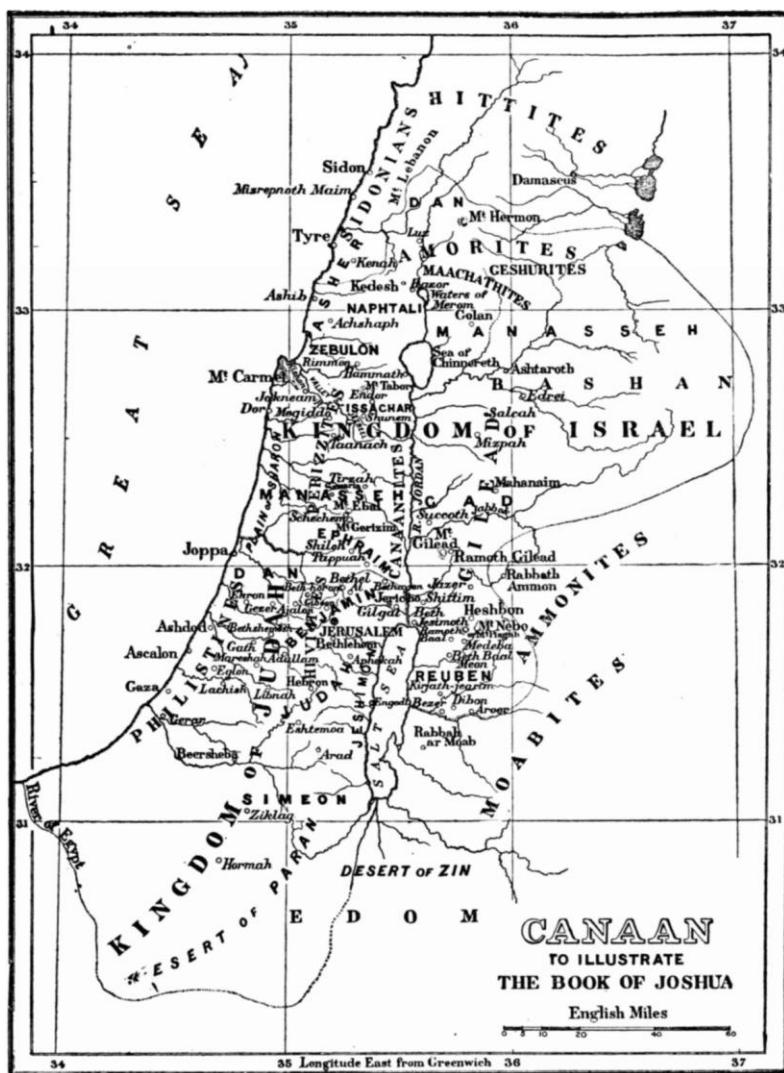
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*Joshua who had been the strong arm of Moses ever since the exodus. He was one of the 12 spies sent into the land. Only he and Caleb came back excited about what God would give them, while the other 10 spies came back whining and having no trust in God's power to give the land over to them. Joshua was a proven leader, bold before God and man.)*

2. Describe the territory God was sending them in to posses.



Notice the 60 English Miles ruler

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3. How could a group of nomadic people who just spent the last 40 years in the desert wandering aimlessly conquer a great territory full of people who knew how to fight and defend their homelands?

⌚ What promises has God made to you that He has kept faithfully?

**Read Joshua 1:6-9**

4. Let's looks at God's instructions to Joshua as the chosen leader of His people.
  - a. Be strong and courageous: Why?

- b. Be strong and very courageous:
    - 1) How?

- 2) Why?

- c. Be strong and courageous:
    - 1) How?

- 2) Why?

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**Ugarit tablets dating from 1400 B.C.**

*Ugarit was a city in Northern Syria. Archaeologist discovered a huge archive of tablets, some of which you have pictures of in your lesson. These people had close ties to the Canaanites, including religion and language. The language is very close to Hebrew and has helped scholars better understand ancient Hebrew. They mention the gods Ugarit and Canaan shared. El was the big god. His partner was Athirat, a sea goddess also known in the Old Testament as Asherah. El's grandson was Baal, the mighty storm god and fertility god in many of the Old Testament books.*



**Interactive Teaching Ideas:** ideas for learner-focused teaching. Ask the class to discuss at each table the following assignment and then share the results from each table: **Share a time when you had to be strong and courageous to follow God. Discuss how not going to the left or right made the outcome possible.**

**Read Joshua 1:10-18**

5. What rallying cry has this great leader of God placed within the hearts of the people?
  
6. Had these people faithfully followed Moses?

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7. How would this war be even more difficult for the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh?

⌚ Would you be willing to leave your home to build the Kingdom of God on earth?



**Going Deeper/Homework:**

**Memory Verse:** “Be very strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).