



THE WORD OF GOD

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NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Display each illustration where indicated in text, laying volume aside when the story line continues beyond the picture.

Lesson 1

KNOWING GOD'S WORD

Scripture to be studied: Joshua 1; verses cited in lesson

The aim of the lesson: To show the importance of meditating upon (studying and thinking about) the written Word of God.

What your students should know: That a good leader must know and obey God's Word.

What your students should feel: A strong desire to study the Word of God and live by it.

What your students should do: Read God's Word every day; pray that the Holy Spirit will help them obey it.

Lesson outline (for the teacher's and students' notebooks):

1. Joshua served God under Moses (Exodus 17:8-13; 24:13; 32:1-35; Numbers 13:1-14:45).
2. Joshua listened to God's Word (Joshua 1:1-9).
3. Joshua believed God's promises (Joshua 1:1-9).
4. Joshua followed God's commands (Joshua 1:10-18).

Remember! No one can become a good leader who has not first learned to be a good follower!

The verse to be memorized:

This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth; but thou shalt meditate therein day and night, that thou mayest observe to do according to all that is written therein: for then thou shalt make thy way prosperous and then thou shalt have good success. (Joshua 1:8)

THE LESSON

Do you belong to a family? Do you have rules in your home? How do the children in a family know the family rules? (Their parents tell them.)

When we trust in the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation from sin, we are born into the family of God. (See John 1:12.) God has rules for His family. He also gives His children many wonderful promises. He has written His rules and promises in His Word, the Bible. And He wants us to read His Word, believe it and obey it.

NOTE TO THE TEACHER

Joshua continues the history of the people of Israel. It marks the end of their wanderings in the wilderness and the beginning of their new lives in Canaan. God had promised Moses He would lead them to the land of Canaan—the same land He had promised to Abraham more than 400 years before. (See Exodus 3:8; Genesis 12:1-3; 15:13-21.)

The book of Joshua provides historical accounts of: (1) the Israelites' conquest of Canaan under the leadership of Joshua and (2) the division of the land among the 12 tribes.

There are many spiritual lessons in Joshua showing those who believe in Christ how to live lives of Christian victory. Ask the Holy Spirit to apply these truths to your own life before you teach them to your students.

Our first lesson emphasizes the importance of God's *written* Word. Impress upon your students the need for reading and studying God's Word regularly and prayerfully. Only then can they *know, believe, and obey* what He says.

Today we are beginning the study of Joshua, another Old Testament book. Forty years before the time of this book, Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt. (See Exodus.) While the people of Israel were in the wilderness, God gave them His law so they would know how they should live. God also taught them how they should worship Him. (See Leviticus.)

The Israelites could have entered the land God promised them quite quickly. But because they disobeyed Him, they were punished. They wandered in the wilderness outside their promised land for 40 years. (See Numbers.) At the end of that time, Moses died and God buried him—no one knows where. (See Deuteronomy 34:5-6.)

Before Moses died, God commanded him to turn over his leadership and authority to Joshua. God had chosen Joshua to replace Moses. (See Numbers 27:15-23; Deuteronomy 34:9.)

Who was Joshua? Would he be able to lead over 2,000,000 people? Would he be able to defeat their enemies in Canaan?