

Joshua Becomes Leader of Israel

Joshua 1:1-11

Although children at this age tend to be quite independent, they usually don't hesitate to ask for help. Some days they want more help than other days for the same tasks. Sometimes this is due to a desire for more attention. Just as kids need to know that you're there to help them when they need it, it's important for children to know that God is always there to help them. Use this lesson to help kids know that God is always with them, no matter what.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p>1</p> <p>Getting Started</p> <p><i>about 5 min.</i></p>	<p>Welcome and Celebrate</p> <p>Welcome each other, and praise God through music.</p>	<p>CD player, washable marker</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD</p>	
<p>2</p> <p>Key Verse Activity</p> <p><i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Wherever You Go</p> <p>Sing about God helping us be strong and courageous.</p>	<p>Bible, CD player</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD, royal crown</p>	<p>Form the royal crown.</p>
<p>3</p> <p>Bible Exploration</p> <p><i>about 15 min.</i></p>	<p>Puppy Pointers</p> <p>Hear how Theo trusts God to help him lead.</p>	<p>CD player, Theo puppet, small blanket</p> <p>Teacher Pack: CD</p>	<p>Place the blanket over Theo's head.</p>
	<p>Bible Time: Strong and Courageous</p> <p>Learn how God helped Joshua be strong and courageous.</p>	<p>Bible</p> <p>Teacher Pack: royal crown</p>	

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



► **Bible Point**
God is with us.

Key Verse
“For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).

Weaving Faith Into Life
Children will know God is with them all the time.

LESSON	WHAT CHILDREN DO	SUPPLIES	EASY PREP
<p style="text-align: center;">4</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Weaving Faith Into Life <i>about 20 min.</i> <i>(Choose 2 centers.)</i></p>	<p>Center 1: God With Me See themselves with God.</p>	My Bible Hugs, one 2x2-inch aluminum-foil square per child, marker, glue sticks	Remove the Lesson 10 pages from each My Bible Hugs student book, and write children's names on them.
	<p>Center 2: Stuck-Together Snack Make a snack that sticks together just as God sticks with them.</p>	large marshmallows, chocolate chips, napkins, antibacterial gel (optional)	
	<p>Center 3: God's Help Talk about how God can help them in different situations.</p>	<p>Teacher Pack: "Kindness" cards</p> 	
	<p>Center 4: Brave Hearts Make medals to remember Joshua and to honor the bravery of veterans.</p>	red paper, copies of the "Heart Medal" page (at the end of the lesson), washable markers, scissors, hole punch, 2-foot piece of yarn per child	Copy the "Heart Medal" page onto red paper, and cut out 1 heart per child. Punch a hole in the middle of the top of each heart.
<p style="text-align: center;">5</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Lasting Impressions <i>about 10 min.</i></p>	<p>Daily Challenges Choose a Daily Challenge to apply God's Word.</p>	My Bible Hugs	
	<p>Action Prayer Ask God to help them be strong and courageous.</p>	<p>Teacher Pack: royal crown</p>	
	<p>Weaving Faith at Home Talk about how to share what they learned with their families.</p>		

Bold text within the lesson is spoken text.



Welcome and Celebrate Supplies

CD player
washable marker

Teacher Pack

CD: "Welcome to Our Class" (track 16), "God Is With Me" (track 18)

1 GETTING STARTED

Welcome and Celebrate

 **Tip** Consistently use the same signal to announce a transition to the next activity. You could flip the lights off and on, use a train whistle, have a puppet rustling inside a bag, or sing cleanup songs. Keep it simple, consistent, and fun.

What You'll Do

As the children arrive, greet each one with a smile. When it's time to begin, use your signal to gather the children together in a circle on the floor.

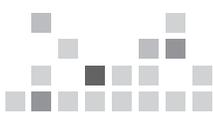
Lead children in singing "Welcome to Our Class" (track 16 on the CD) to the tune of "The Ants Go Marching." Encourage children to march around the room and follow the motions in parentheses.

 **We're so glad you're here today.**
Hooray! Hooray! (*clap to the beat*)
We're so glad you're here today.
Hooray! Hooray! (*clap to the beat*)
We're here to worship God today
To dance and shout and sing and play.
So let's all shake hands and say "Hooray!"
Hooray! Hooray! Hooray! (*clap to the beat*)
 (*Repeat 2x.*)

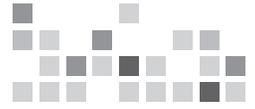
Say: **We have something to say "Hooray!" about today! We're learning that ► GOD IS WITH US. And that's what our next song is about. Let's sing.**

Lead children in singing "God Is With Me" (track 18 on the CD) to the tune of "Jesus Loves Me." Lead kids in singing. While they sing, use a washable marker to draw a cross on each child's hand.

 **My God loves me, this I know.**
He'll be with me wherever I go.
No matter what the time of day,
God is in my heart to stay.
Yes, God is with me.
Yes, God is with me.
Yes, God is with me.
He's in my heart to stay.
 (*Repeat.*)



Say: **I drew a cross on your hand because the cross can help us remember that ► GOD IS WITH US.** Today we'll hear how God showed a man named Joshua that he was with him.



2

**KEY VERSE
ACTIVITY**

Wherever You Go

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children form a circle and sit down. Open your Bible to Joshua 1:9, and show children the words. Tell kids the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Our Key Verse from the Bible says, "For the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9). This means that God is always with us no matter what. Let's say our Key Verse together.** Lead children in saying the second part of the Key Verse with you: **"God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).**

Say: **We can be so thankful that God's with us wherever we go. We know he'll take care of us and love us all the time.** Invite the children to tell things they do when they're thankful.

Say: **Some people sing when they're thankful. Let's sing a song now to thank God that's he's with us wherever we go.**

Lead children in singing "Wherever You Go" (Joshua 1:9) (track 4 on the CD). As children sing the song, have them take turns wearing the royal crown. Whoever is wearing the crown gets to flex his or her muscles and sing "Be strong!"



Have I not commanded you? (*stand with hands on hips*)

Be strong and courageous. (*make muscles*)

Do not be terrified; (*make scared face*)

Do not be discouraged, (*shake head "no"*)

For the Lord your God will be with you (*point up; then hug self*)

Wherever you go. (*point around the room*)

Wherever you go. (*point around the room*)

(Repeat 3x.)

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What did you like about wearing the crown?**
- **Tell about someone really strong you know.**
- **What are some ways God can help you be strong, too?**

Wherever You Go Supplies

Bible

CD player

Teacher Pack

CD: "Wherever You Go"
(Joshua 1:9) (track 4)
royal crown

Wherever You Go Easy Prep

Form the royal crown.





Puppy Pointers Supplies

CD player
Theo puppet
small blanket
Teacher Pack
CD: "Here, Theo"
(track 3)

Puppy Pointers Easy Prep

Place the blanket over
Theo's head.

Say: **Just as our Key Verse says, ► GOD IS WITH US** wherever we go—and he can help us be strong. That's a nice thing to remember when you feel scared or sad or even happy and glad! Let's hear how God was with a man named Joshua.

3 BIBLE EXPLORATION

Puppy Pointers

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Listen, everyone, Theo's coming! He has something to show us. Let's find out what it is.** Play "Here, Theo" (track 3 on the CD), and bring out Theophilus the FaithRetriever.

Teacher: Theo, is that you?

Theo: *(Quietly)* Yes.

Teacher: Theo, what's wrong? Take the blanket off your head so we can see you. *(Remove the blanket from Theo's head.)*

Teacher: Why are you hiding?

Theo: I have to lead my cousins in singing a song at the FaithRetriever family reunion.

Teacher: That sounds wonderful, Theo!

Theo: But I'm afraid of messing up.

Teacher: But Theo, you won't be alone when you lead the song. Today we're learning how God will always help us and be with us. Friends, can you tell Theo our Bible Point for today? *(Lead children in saying the Bible Point for Theo: ► GOD IS WITH US.)*

Teacher: And today we'll hear about a man in the Bible who was afraid because he had to lead God's people, the Israelites. But God was with him and he helped him.

Theo: So maybe God will help me lead the song, even though I'm afraid.

Teacher: That's right! Do you feel better now, Theo?

Theo: Yes.

Teacher: Great! Well, you'd better start practicing for your big performance! Let's say goodbye to Theo.

Encourage the children to wave or say goodbye to Theo. Then put Theo away in a safe place for next week's use.

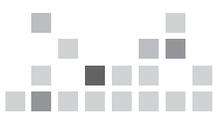
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **When have you been afraid like Theo was?**
- **What are some things you could lead?**
- **Why might knowing God's with you help you be a good leader?**

Say: **Being a leader is a big job, and that can be scary. But we don't need to be**



afraid, and neither does Theo because ► **GOD IS WITH US**, always. Let's learn how God was with Joshua and helped him not be afraid to lead the Israelites.

Bible Time: Strong and Courageous

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Open your Bible to Joshua 1, and show children the words. Tell children that the Bible is God's special book.

Say: **Today we'll learn how ► GOD IS WITH US and how God was with a man named Joshua. God told Joshua he wanted him to be the leader.** Put on the royal crown.

Say: **But Joshua was afraid. So God told him, "Be strong and courageous!"** Have children stand up, flex their muscles, and repeat "Be strong and courageous!" a few times. Then have kids sit again.

Say: **God said to Joshua, "You're going to lead my people into the land I will give them. I'll be with you wherever you go." But Joshua was still afraid. Let's remind Joshua to be strong and courageous again.** Have children stand up, flex their muscles, and say, "Be strong and courageous!" Invite children to take turns wearing the royal crown and leading the other children in repeating the sentence and motions.

Say: **God told Joshua, "Always remember to follow the rules I gave to Moses, and I will help you." But Joshua was still afraid. Let's remind Joshua to be strong and courageous again.** Have children stand up, flex their muscles, and say, "Be strong and courageous!" Invite children to take turns wearing the royal crown and leading the other children in repeating the sentence and motions.

Say: **God told Joshua, "I'll help you, so don't be afraid or sad." And do you know what? Joshua wasn't afraid anymore! He led the people into the land God gave them because he believed that ► GOD IS WITH US. With God's help, Joshua was strong and courageous.** Have children stand up, flex their muscles, and say, "Be strong and courageous!" Invite children to take turns wearing the royal crown and leading the other children in repeating the sentence and motions.

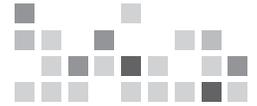
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

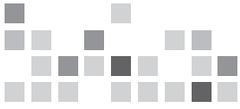
- **What things might help Joshua feel brave about being a leader?**
- **What helps you be brave?**
- **What can you do to remember God's with you next time you need to be brave?**

Say: **When you're afraid or sad, you can remember that just as God was with Joshua and helped him, ► GOD IS WITH US and helps us.**



Bible Time: Strong and Courageous Supplies

Bible
Teacher Pack
royal crown



Center 1: God With Me Supplies

My Bible Hugs
one 2x2-inch
aluminum-foil square
per child
marker
glue sticks

Center 1: God With Me Easy Prep

Remove the Lesson
10 pages from each
My Bible Hugs student
book, and write
children's names on
them.

4 WEAVING FAITH INTO LIFE

Choose at least two of the learning centers to help reinforce today's Bible lesson. Gather the needed materials, and put the supplies in an out-of-sight area until you're ready for them. Allow the children to choose which center they'd like to explore first. Then circulate among the children as they create and explore. Encourage them to make connections between their activities and the Bible by asking them the questions included with each center's description.

CENTER 1:

God With Me

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Give each child a Lesson 10 page from My Bible Hugs. Say: **Today we're learning ► GOD IS WITH US. Let's make something to help us remember that.**

Place aluminum-foil squares and glue sticks in the center of the table. Have kids glue aluminum-foil squares in the center of their pages as mirrors. Lead them in looking into the aluminum-foil mirrors to see their reflections.

Draw a cross on one corner of each child's mirror. Say: **You can see yourself, but there's also a cross on your mirror now. That's to remind you that wherever you go and whatever you do, God is always with you.** Have the children look in the mirrors again and notice the crosses near their reflections.

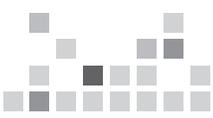
Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What do you think about God always being with you?**

Say: **No matter where you go or what you do, God is with you! It's as if God is always holding you in his hands. ► GOD IS WITH US, and he helps us be strong and courageous.**



CENTER 2:

Stuck-Together Snack

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Have children clean their hands and then sit down for the snack. Say: ► **GOD IS WITH US always. It's kind of like he's stuck to us. We can always know he's there, and we can always ask him for help.**

Give each child a napkin, 8 to 10 chocolate chips, and a large marshmallow. Say: **Let's make a snack to help us remember that God's always with us, almost like he's stuck to us.** Show kids how to lick the ends of their marshmallows and then use their sticky marshmallows to pick up the chocolate chips. Explain that just as the chocolate chips stick to the marshmallows, God sticks with us wherever we go.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Lead children in this discussion.

Ask:

- **What's good about knowing God's stuck to you?**
- **What are some ways that knowing God's with you can help you?**

Say: ► **GOD IS WITH US, just as he was with Joshua. Let's thank God for sticking with us and for providing our snack.** Invite a child to pray for the snack.

CENTER 3:

God's Help

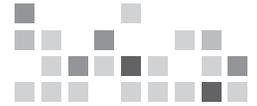
What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Say: **Today we learned how God was with Joshua and helped him be strong and courageous. God helps us, too. Let's look at some different times God can help us.**

Set out the "Kindness" cards. Have the children take turns identifying what's happening in the pictures on the cards. Then have children talk about how God can help the different children depicted in the pictures.

Talk With Kids ■■■■

Say: **Every day we have to do things that are hard for us. That's why it's so great to know that ► GOD IS WITH US! We know God is big and strong and he can help us with anything, just as he helped Joshua be a leader.**



Center 2: Stuck-Together Snack Supplies

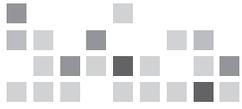
- large marshmallows
- chocolate chips
- napkins
- antibacterial gel (optional)

! ALLERGY ALERT

Center 3: God's Help Supplies

- Teacher Pack
- "Kindness" cards





Center 4: Brave Hearts Supplies

red paper
copies of the “Heart Medal” page (at the end of the lesson)
washable markers
scissors
hole punch
2-foot piece of yarn per child

Center 4: Brave Hearts Easy Prep

Copy the “Heart Medal” page onto red paper, and cut out 1 heart per child. Punch a hole in the middle of the top of each heart.

Daily Challenges Supplies

My Bible Hugs

CENTER 4:

Brave Hearts

What You’ll Do

Say: Today we heard how God helped Joshua be brave. And because ► **GOD IS WITH US, we can be brave, too.**

Give each child a heart, a piece of yarn, and a marker. Say: **When people are in the army, they can earn medals for being brave. Let’s make medals to remind us how God helped Joshua be brave.**

Have each child draw a picture of himself or herself looking brave. Help each child thread one end of the yarn through a paper heart. Tie the ends of the yarn together to close each necklace.

Talk With Kids

Say: **Wear your heart medals to remind you that you can be brave because God’s always with you. God helped Joshua be brave, and he can do anything to help you, too. This week remember that ► GOD IS WITH YOU.**

5

LASTING IMPRESSIONS

Daily Challenges

What You’ll Do

After the children have cleaned up their centers, bring everyone back to a circle area on the floor. Review the lesson activities and the Bible Point, and then encourage the children to share what they remember about what they learned from the Bible today.

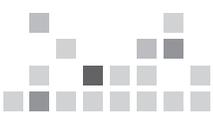
Also use this time to challenge kids in their faith. Encourage them to choose a Daily Challenge for applying today’s lesson to their lives this week. Use this challenge for encouraging your children’s growing relationships with Jesus.

Talk With Kids

Say: Today we learned that ► **GOD IS WITH US. I would like each of you to choose a way to remember God’s with you this week.**

Give kids these two challenges to choose from:

- **When you’re scared about something, ask one of your parents to hold your hand. Then tell your parent that God’s always with us, too, like he’s always holding our hand.**



- ■ **Wear your heart medal. When people ask you what it's for, tell them it's a reminder that ► GOD IS WITH US and he helps us be brave.**

Say: **If you want to hold your parent's hand, circle the choice with one dot. If you want to wear your heart medal, circle the choice with two dots.** Check that each child circled a choice on his or her My Bible Hugs page. Make sure you tell kids the challenge you choose. Your commitment will inspire children and will give them an opportunity to see God at work in your life as well as in theirs!

Action Prayer

What You'll Do ■■■■■■

Form a standing circle. Say: **God was with Joshua and helped him be a great leader, just as ► GOD IS WITH US.**

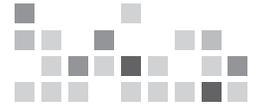
Have the children pass the royal crown around the circle. The child holding the crown will pray, "Dear God, please help me to be strong and courageous," and then pass the crown to the next child to pray. When everyone has had a chance to pray, close with the following:

Dear God, please help us be strong and courageous, just as you helped Joshua. Thank you for being with us wherever we go. We love you. In Jesus' name, amen.

Weaving Faith at Home

Have children take home their My Bible Hugs pages whether they worked on them or not. Have the children tell their parents the challenge they committed to in the "Daily Challenges" activity. Encourage the parents to help their kids fulfill this commitment during the week. By working together and focusing on the same goals, you and parents can help children weave faith into their lives!

Talk to your Director about emailing the FREE FamilyConnect to all your church's families. Available at group.com/digital.

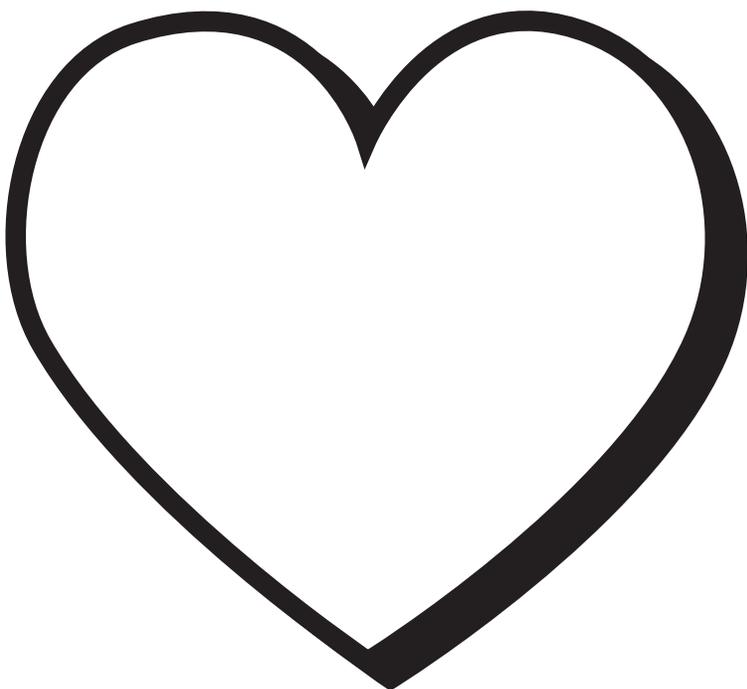
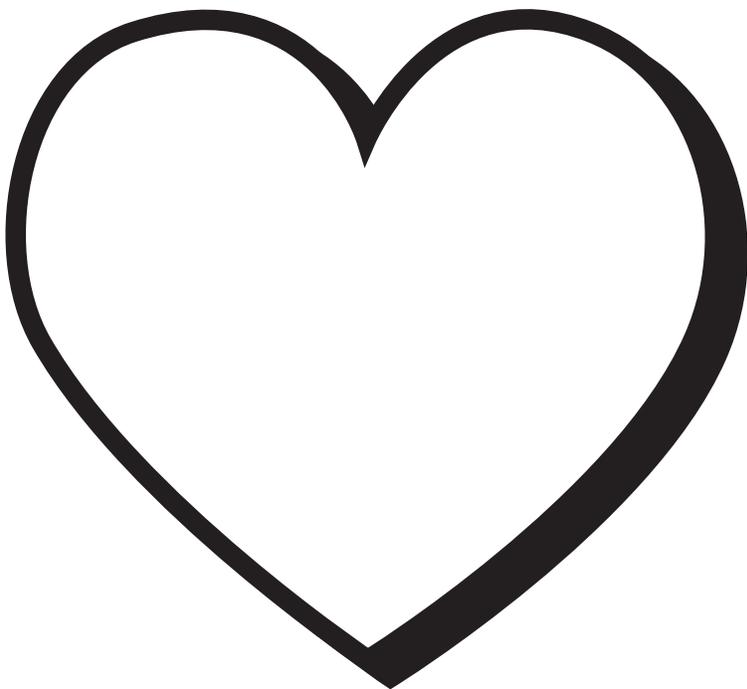
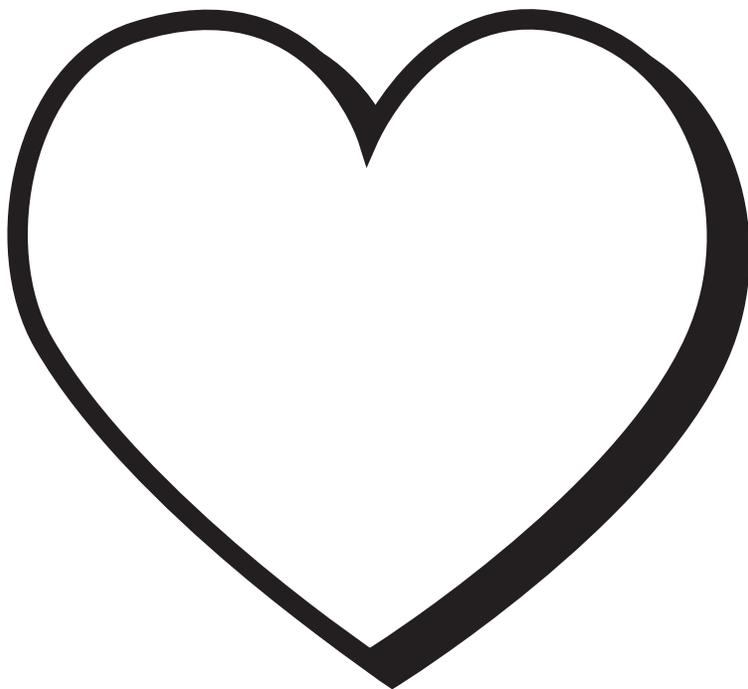


**Action Prayer
Supplies**

.....
Teacher Pack
royal crown



Heart Medal



**OK
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