

Teacher Preparation

Reading: Joshua 1: 1-9; Joshua 1:16; Joshua 3:7; Joshua 6:1-27

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that victory comes by faith in God and not by military power or might.

Materials: Bible, paper towel tubes, wax paper, rubber bands, pencil, crayons, stickers

Memory Verse: "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee withersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1: 9).

Lesson Summary

Joshua was chosen to lead the children of Israel after the death of Moses. God promised Joshua he would possess the land which was promised to his fathers. God also promised that He would be with him every step of the way. He promised Joshua victory over every place the soles of his feet walked. One of these cities was Jericho. The city of Jericho was surrounded by two gigantic walls. The walls were approximately 60 feet tall and over 6 feet thick!! To anyone looking upon this wall, it seemed impossible to conquer. However, Joshua was not discouraged. He trusted God completely! He remembered what God had promised him. God had given him specific instructions concerning Jericho (Joshua 6). Joshua followed God's instructions and victory was won by the children of Israel that day. The walls of Jericho came down just as God had promised. The people of Israel learned a crucial lesson under Joshua's leadership---VICTORY COMES BY FAITH IN GOD AND NOT BY MILITARY POWER OR MIGHT!! Just as Joshua trusted God for victory, we must trust God for victory in our lives. We must obey all He commands!! Faith brings obedience, and obedience brings victory over Satan!

Bible Point:

Faith and
obedience
brings
victory!!



Ideas to Illuminate:

Jericho horns: let each child decorate a paper towel roll tube with markers, crayons, stickers, etc. Take the wax paper and cut into squares to cover one end of the paper towel tube. Attach the wax paper to one end using a rubber band. Poke a small hole in the wax paper with a pencil. Pretend to march around Jericho and let the children blow their horns.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What were the instructions that God gave Joshua about Jericho?
2. What happened when Joshua and the children of Israel obeyed God's instructions?
3. What might have happened if Joshua would have disobeyed God's instructions?
4. What are some commandments/instructions that God has given us?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Numbers Ch. 13 & 14; Hebrews 3: 8-11; Hebrews 3:14

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God's promises are for those who trust God and obey His Word.

Materials: Bible, construction paper, Pencil

Memory Verse: "Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest" (Joshua 1: 9).

Lesson Summary

Joshua was one of the twelve spies that Moses sent to search the land of Canaan. He and Caleb were the only two who came back with a good report. The others brought slander against the land. This caused the children of Israel to murmur and complain against God. They stated they would rather have stayed in Egypt than to have been brought out in the desert to die! Despite all the miracles they witnessed, they still rebelled against God and doubted Him. Because they failed to hearken to the voice of the Lord, God told them that they would not see the land which was promised to their fathers! Only their children, along with Joshua and Caleb, would inherit the land. Therefore, the people wandered in the desert for 40 years until all the older generation passed. Because Joshua trusted the Lord and remembered the promise God made to him, he was able to enter into the promise land. God has many promises for His children, but we must be obedient to His Word to see them. God has promised that one day He is returning to bring His people home. But we must accept Him as Lord and Savior in order to make it to heaven. One day, if we will believe and obey God's Word, then we will receive his promise of a home in heaven.

Bible Point:
**God keeps
His
promises.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

1. Trace the children's feet or have cut outs of footprints to give the children. Label one side "Standing on the Promises of God." On the other side have them list several promises that they have read in the Bible.
2. Sing the Hymn – "Standing on the Promises of God."

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How many spies came back with a good report after searching out the land of Canaan?
2. What were the names of these two spies?
3. Why did God not allow the original generation that he brought out of Egypt to see the promise land?
4. Why did Joshua get to see the promise land?
5. Name some promises that God has made to you.

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Joshua 24; Ezekiel 20:7, 18, 39, 40

Lesson Objective: The students will learn they must choose to serve God.

Materials: Bible, large poster board, scissors, markers

Memory Verse: "Now therefore fear the Lord, and serve him in sincerity and in truth" (Joshua 24:14).

Lesson Summary

Joshua gathered all of the people of Israel to a place called Shechem. He spoke to the people and reminded them of all the ways God had delivered their fathers from bondage and danger in order to lead them into the land He promised. Then he reminded the Israelites that they were living in the promise land without having to fight for it or even build it with their own hands. Joshua warned the Israelites to turn away from their false gods and to "fear the Lord, and serve Him in sincerity and in truth" (Josh 24:14). Otherwise, God would withdraw the good that had been given to them. Joshua told the Israelites: "Choose you this day whom ye will serve." He then stated boldly, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24:15).

Bible Point:
**We will
serve God.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Cut a poster board into large squares. On the front of each square write the name of a category such as friends, school, home, etc. Then on the back of each square write a scenario of a challenge that might arise in that category. Have the students take turns drawing a card and deciding how he/she would choose to serve God in each situation.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why was it important for the Israelites to choose whom they would serve?
2. Who did Joshua choose to serve? How do you know?
3. How do you choose to serve the Lord?
4. Will you choose to serve God even when no one else will?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Joshua 22:5; Joshua 23

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God fights our battles and will use those who are faithful to carry out His work.

Materials: Bible, heavy poster board, scissors, crayons, stickers, two bags of adult clothing

Memory Verse: "And ye have seen all that the Lord your God hath done unto all these nations because of you; for the Lord your God is he that hath fought for you" (Joshua 23:3).

Lesson Summary

There is a constant spiritual battle going on, and God is the Commander-In-Chief. He chooses and uses those He can trust to carry out His commandments. Joshua was a faithful servant and leader to the Israelites. God spoke to Joshua and gave him instructions on how to defeat the enemy. He reassured Joshua that the battles were already won, if they would only be faithful. Time after time, the enemy was delivered into the hands of the Israelites because it was God who did the fighting (Joshua 23:3). God warned the Israelites to be faithful and not turn to the right or to the left and serve other gods (Joshua 23:6-7). Joshua instructed the Israelites to cling to the Lord and love Him because not one thing He has said has ever failed (Joshua 23:8, 11, 14).

Bible Point:
**Jesus
gives us
victory.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Craft/Activity: Before class, cut small shields and swords from heavy poster board. Have the students color and decorate their battle gear with crayons and stickers. Allow the students to dress up for battle. Lead them in a march around the room and sing, "I'm on the Battlefield for my Lord" and "I'm in the Lord's Army."

Game: Divide students into two teams. Give each team a bag of adult clothing such as coat, trousers, hat, shoes, etc. Each team should have the same amount of similar items. Give a signal to begin. Allow each team member to put on the clothes, run to the opposite end of the room, shout the Bible Point, and then return to the team. He should remove the clothing and give the items to the next member who will repeat the process. Cheer as each team finishes.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did God choose Joshua to lead His people?
2. Is God faithful to His Word?
3. In what ways are you on the battlefield for the Lord?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 4:18-20; Mark 1:16-18; Luke 5:1-11

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Jesus called Peter to leave everything and follow Him.

Materials: Bible

Memory Verse: "And he saith unto them, Follow me, and I will make you fishers of men" (Matthew 4:19).

Lesson Summary

Wherever Jesus preached many people followed him. Jesus was walking by Lake Gennesaret and saw two fishing boats. The fishermen were cleaning their nets after a long night of unsuccessful fishing. Jesus got into Peter's boat and asked him if he would go out in the water a little way so he could teach the crowd of people. After Jesus had finished teaching the people, He told Peter to row out a little deeper and cast his nets into the water. Peter explained to Jesus that they had been fishing all night without catching anything, but since Jesus said to do it, he would. The men did as they were told, and were surprised at how many fish there were. Their nets were so full they were breaking from the weight of the fish. They called to the other fishermen in the second boat to come help them. Both boats were so heavy with fish they were sinking. When Peter saw the great catch, he came to Jesus and dropped to his knees and said, "Lord, I don't deserve to be around you. I'm a sinful man." Jesus told him not to be afraid to follow him. He was going to make them "fishers of men." Peter left his job and all he knew to follow after Jesus.

Bible Point:
Follow Jesus
when He
calls.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have the kids take turns being "Jesus" and play a follow the leader game. Sing the song "I will make you fishers of men, fishers of men, fishers of men. I will make you fishers of men, if you follow me."

Questions for discussion:

1. Why was Peter surprised when they caught so many fish?
2. Do you think Peter was happy that he obeyed Jesus even though he didn't understand Jesus' command?
3. What does it mean to be a fisher of men?
4. How can you follow Jesus?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 14:22-33; Mark 6:45-51; John 6:16-21

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that Christians should not be fearful.

Materials: Bible, paper, pencils or crayons

Memory Verse: "But he saith unto them, It is I; be not afraid." (John 6:20)

Lesson Summary

After Jesus fed the five thousand men, he wanted to spend time alone to pray. He told his disciples to go ahead of him to the other side of the lake while he sent the multitude (large group) of people away. The disciples were in the middle of the lake when a terrible storm started. The winds were blowing hard making the waves crash against the sides of the boat. Jesus walked out on the water toward their boat. When the disciples saw him they were afraid. They thought it was a ghost! Jesus spoke out to them and told them to "Be of good cheer, it is I; don't be afraid." Peter wanted Jesus to ask him to come out on the water. Jesus told him to come. Peter stepped out of the boat onto the water to walk toward Jesus. But when Peter saw the wind fiercely blowing all around him, he became afraid. He started to sink and cried out to the Lord. Immediately Jesus reached out his hand to save Peter. Jesus asked him why he doubted and had just a little faith. The storm stopped as soon as the two got back in the boat. The disciples worshipped Jesus proclaiming the truth that he was the Son of God.

Bible Point:
Keep your
eyes on
Jesus.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Take a piece of paper for each child and fold in half and then in half again. This should make a book. Have the kids label the front PRAYER JOURNAL. Write down requests on the inside and check them off as God answers.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why wasn't Jesus in the boat with the disciples in the first place? Is it important for us to be alone to pray?
2. Why wasn't Jesus afraid of the storm?
3. How was it possible for Peter to walk on the water? Why didn't he sink right away?
4. I love Peter's excitement when he saw Jesus. He wasn't thinking about the storm when he was looking at Jesus. We will all have "storms" or troubles in our life. How can we make it through our storms? What are some storms you have experienced?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Matthew 16:13-20

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God uses us to build His Church.

Materials: Bible, paper, scissors, colored markers, adhesive tape, empty cereal boxes or wooden blocks, glue, craft sticks or wooden toothpicks

Memory Verse: “. . . upon this rock I will build my church . . .” (Matthew 16:18).

Lesson Summary

Jesus had been performing miracles in the area. He had just fed four thousand men with seven loaves of bread and two fish. When Jesus came into the coast of Caesarea he asked his disciples, “Who do men say that I am?” His disciples answered him that some thought he was John the Baptist; some said that he was Elijah; others said he was Jeremiah or one of the other prophets. Jesus asked them directly, “Who do you say that I am?” Peter spoke right up and answered, “Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God.” Jesus responded by saying that Peter was blessed because man did not reveal this to Peter, but the Father in heaven had revealed this to him. Jesus told Peter that he was going to use him to build His church. Today, Jesus will build His church through people just like Peter – people who know that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. Jesus promised that the gates of hell will not prevail against his church. He also promised to give authority to his people as we build it (i.e. the keys to the kingdom of heaven, along with the power to bind and loose).

Bible Point:
**I will
build
God's church.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Activity: Write the following words on pieces of paper: Jesus, love, faith, truth, grace, forgiveness. Tape the words onto empty cereal boxes or wooden blocks. Discuss each word with the children and how it is important in building God's Church. As you talk, have the students arrange the blocks to form a building with the “Jesus” block being the foundation for the structure.

Craft: Give each child a piece of paper and a handful of craft sticks or toothpicks. Allow the students to glue the sticks on the paper in the shape of a church building. Have the students to print the Bible point on the top of the paper.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Do you know who Jesus is?
2. Have you accepted Jesus as your Savior?
3. How can you help in building God's Church? (Clean, give offerings, invite friends, love and forgive others, and so on.)

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Acts 3:1-26

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that God gave Peter boldness to pray for the healing of a lame man.

Materials: Bible, costumes (robes, towels, sandals, etc.)

Memory Verse: "That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God" (1 Corinthians 2:5).

Lesson Summary

Peter and John were going to the temple to pray. There was a man who had been crippled all his life, and he was sitting by the gate. He had to be carried there every day to beg for money. When he saw Peter and John going into the temple, he asked them for some money. Peter looked directly at him and told him he didn't have any silver or gold to give him. But then Peter said he would give him something; he commanded him in the name of Jesus to get up and walk. Peter took him by the right hand and lifted him up. Immediately his feet and ankle bones were strengthened. He went into the temple with Peter and John walking, and leaping, and praising God. He had never walked before. Can you imagine that? He was so excited! All the people in the temple recognized him as the lame man who begged at the gate. They gathered around him amazed at this miracle. Peter explained to the people that it wasn't his power that healed the man. He preached to them about Jesus and urged them to repent of their sins. Jesus used Peter to glorify His name through the healing of the crippled man.

Bible Point:
Healing
comes in
Jesus' name.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Let the kids act out this Bible story. If you have costumes, let the kids dress up. This is a dramatic event! Choose a child to be Peter, one to be John, another to be the crippled man, and the rest to be the amazed people. Peter can preach at the end of the story!

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Where were Peter and John going when they saw the lame man?
2. What was the crippled man doing by the gate? How long had he been unable to walk?
3. What gift did Peter give to the cripple man?
4. Are you surprised that the man was jumping around excitedly? How would you feel if you were him?
5. Jesus never changes. Can God still work through us like he did with Peter? Are you willing to let God use you?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Acts 12:1-19

Lesson Objective: The student will learn how God miraculously freed Peter.

Materials: Bible, paper, pencil or crayons

Memory Verse: "Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us" (Ephesians 3:20).

Lesson Summary

Herod the king was persecuting the church. He had just killed James the brother of John. When he saw the Jews were happy with this, he planned to arrest Peter. Herod put Peter in prison with four guards. Meanwhile the church was in constant prayer for Peter. On the night before Herod was going to bring Peter before the people, an angel of the Lord appeared to Peter with a shining light. The angel told Peter to get up quickly. He instructed Peter to get dressed and follow him. Peter's chains fell off. Peter didn't know if he was dreaming or not. They passed the first two guards and came to the iron-gate going into the city. The gate opened by itself, and they walked out into the street. The angel then disappeared. When Peter realized he was outside the prison he knew that it was the Lord that had sent the angel to deliver him. Peter went to the house of Mary, John's mother. Many people were gathered together to pray for him. As Peter knocked on the door a girl named Rhoda came to answer it. When she heard Peter's voice, she was so excited she ran to tell the praying Christians. They thought she was crazy and told her it must be his ghost. Peter was still knocking at the door. They finally opened the door, and Peter explained to them how he had been delivered by an angel of the Lord. The next day when Herod found out Peter had escaped, he was furious. He ordered the guards to be put to death. God had protected Peter from the wicked king and rescued him from great danger.

Bible Point:
Jesus
brings
deliverance.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have the students draw their favorite scene from this Bible lesson. Let them take turns sharing their picture with the class.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Who had put Peter in prison? Why?
2. How did Peter escape from prison?
3. What was the church doing for Peter while he was captured?
4. What was the reaction to seeing Peter freed?
5. Do you think the believers' prayers had any effect?
6. What is something that you've been praying about that seems like only God can answer?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Esther 1-2:17; 1 Peter 2:9

Lesson Objective: The student will learn that a Hebrew girl named Esther was chosen by God to fulfill a great mission, and that God continues to call us today to fulfill His mission.

Materials: Aluminum Foil, Construction paper, Markers

Memory Verse: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light" (1 Peter 2:9).

Lesson Summary

King Ahasuerus was a very powerful man that ruled a large kingdom. The king invited lots of people to a banquet at his palace in Shushan. On the seventh day, the King told the servants to go get his wife, Queen Vashti, to show the princes and people and the banquet how beautiful she was. However, Queen Vashti refused to come and the King was very angry. The King then said that Vashti would no longer be queen according to the law, and someone else would become queen. King Ahasuerus sent out men to find the most beautiful women in the kingdom to come to the palace, and he would then choose a new queen. Mordecai was a Jew that worked in the king's palace; he had a young girl named Hadassah. Hadassah was actually Mordecai's cousin, but he was raising her. Hadassah was a Jewish name, and Mordecai knew if she was taken to the palace that she would need to have another name. He called her Esther. He told her not to tell anyone she was a Jew. Esther was chosen to go to the palace and found favor in the sight of the king's servant. The King met all the women, but Esther pleased him and was chosen to be the new Queen.

Bible Point:

God Chooses Us



Ideas to Illuminate:

Make crowns by cutting construction paper into strips and stapling or taping to fit each child's head. Let the children decorate with markers or aluminum foil. Remind each of them that just as the King chose Esther to be Queen, God has chosen us to be his 'royal priesthood.' Students can also wear the crowns to act out the memory verse or play a game of "The King/Queen Says." This is the old game, "Simon Says," with a different name.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. Why did the King become upset with Queen Vashti?
2. Why was Esther different from the other women? Where did she come from?
3. Esther was chosen for a specific purpose that we will learn about later. Does God choose us? What is our purpose?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Esther 2:21-3:15; Matthew 5:11; Matthew 10:22

Lesson Objective: The student will learn how Esther and her people (the Jews) were in grave danger because of their faith in God; just as many Christians are today.

Materials: Large sheet of construction paper or poster board, markers/crayons

Memory Verse: "And ye shall be hated of all men for my name's sake: but he that endureth to the end shall be saved" (Matthew 10:22).

Lesson Summary

Queen Esther and her people (the Jews) were in grave danger. The King loved Esther, but he did not know that she was a Jew. There was a plot to kill the King! Mordecai warned Esther and the men were caught. However, the King thought a man named Haman had discovered this, and he rewarded him by giving him great power of those in his kingdom. Haman was an evil man that secretly hated the Jews. When he discovered Mordecai was a Jew and that Mordecai refused to bow before him; he was very angry! He went to the King and told him the Jewish people living in his kingdom did not follow his laws and requested a decree to kill all the Jews. The King gave Haman his ring and told him to do what he wanted. The Jews were to be killed, not because they had done anything wrong, but because of their faith in the one true God. Haman had lied to the King and deceived him. However, God had a plan. Remember Esther was chosen for a purpose and now God would call her to stand for Him. Today, many people are still persecuted by evil men because of their faith in God. God still calls us to stand for Him, and He has a plan!

Bible Point:
**God Calls Us
to Stand.**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Have students to brainstorm with you to name other Bible characters who were persecuted for their faith. Then divide your students into groups of 4-6 and have them choose one of the characters. Have them search the scripture (with your help as needed) and list facts about that character. Let them draw a picture of the character and list important facts to share with the class. (If you have younger children, you could provide the characters and reference scriptures).

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What does it mean to be persecuted?
2. Do we ever suffer because people know we are Christians? Explain.
3. How does the Bible sav to treat those who persecute us? Whv?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Esther 4-5:3; Ephesians 6:10; 2 Timothy 2:1

Lesson Objective: The student will learn God sometimes asks us to be brave, strong, and courageous in Him as we face the enemy.

Materials: Yarn or rope, index cards, pencils/pens/markers, glue or tape

Memory Verse: "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might" (Ephesians 6:10).

Lesson Summary

Haman's decree has gone out, and Mordecai and Esther have learned what is to happen. They know they must seek God to save His people. The Jews joined together and declared a fast to call upon Jehovah. However, God's answer required Esther to be very brave. Queen Esther had to go before the King, and break the law. The law stated that no one could enter into the inner court of the King unless he had sent for them. The penalty for breaking the law was death, unless the King extended his golden scepter to pardon them. Queen Esther was afraid, but she knew God was asking her to be brave and trust Him. Queen Esther dressed in her royal clothing and went to the court. The words of Mordecai were, no doubt, echoing in her mind: "and who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a time as this?" (Esther 4:14). The King saw Esther standing in the court, and she found "favour in his sight" (5:2). He stretched out his golden scepter, and asked Esther, "What is thy request" (v. 3)? God was with Esther when he asked her to stand for Him, and he will be with us too. Remember our strength comes from Him alone.

**Bible Point:
Be Strong
in the Lord**



Ideas to Illuminate:

Cut enough pieces of yarn or small rope for each student. The length should be about 1 ft. Have the students take an index card or piece of paper and write the memory verse on it. Then give each student their piece of rope/yarn and tell them to let the rope or yarn stand alone. Let them try several times. Then ask them if it worked. Discuss the fact that we can't stand in our own strength, it is like the rope or yard. Now ask the students to hold their piece of rope/yarn up with their hand. That is what God does for us. He helps us to be strong in his might, not in our own strength. Let the students glue or tape the rope/string to their memory verse cards as a reminder.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. What does it mean to be brave?
2. Can you be afraid and still be brave?
3. What does it mean to be strong in the Lord?

Teacher Preparation

Readings: Esther 5:4-5; 7:1-8:17

Lesson Objective: The student will learn God is faithful to deliver His chosen people.

Materials: Smooth Rocks or Stones or construction paper cut into the shape of a rock; paint/crayons

Memory Verse: "And he said, The Lord is my rock, my fortress, and my deliverer" (2 Samuel 22:2).

Lesson Summary

Esther's request was that the King and Haman attend a banquet she would prepare. The King granted the request and Haman was very pleased to be included. When they arrived at the banquet and had feasted, on the second day the King asked Esther again what she wanted. She answered by saying, "If I have found favour in thy sight, O king, and if it please the king, let my life be given me at my petition, and my people at my request" (7:3). Esther went on to tell the story of how the Israelites (Jews) had been sold as slaves and treated poorly at the hand of an evil man. She then revealed to the King that Haman was that man. The King ordered Haman to be killed after he learned of his lies and deception. He also granted Mordecai Haman's position, giving him great power and authority. The Jews were finally saved! Queen Esther was God's chosen vessel that stood for Him in the face of danger. She was strong in the Lord and saw God deliver her and her people. We too can be like Queen Esther if we understand God is our strength and our deliverer. Let's place our faith and confidence in God, believing that he will deliver us from trouble.

Bible Point:
God Will
Deliver Us.



Ideas to Illuminate:

Discuss with students how God is like a rock. What are the characteristics of a rock? Have students paint or color a rock with images that will remind them of the memory verse. Ask them to say the verse as they hold their rock. If you use paper cut into the shape of a rock, students can write the verse on the paper.

Questions for Class Discussion:

1. How did God use Esther to deliver His people?
2. Does God use people today? How?
3. What does God want to deliver people from in today's world?