UNIT 7 | SESSION 5

JOSHUA'S FAREWELL

JOSHUA 23-24



CHRIST CONNECTION: Joshua reminded God's people to love God and obey Him. After Jesus died on the cross and rose again, Jesus reminded His followers to love and obey Him too.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION: Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful.

KEY PASSAGE: Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty. Psalm 24:8

STORY POINT: Joshua reminded the people to worship and obey God.



PRIOR TO TEACHING THE SESSION

LEADER Bible Study

The book of Joshua ends with a farewell address to God's people about 20 years after they first found rest in the Promised Land. Joshua took one last opportunity to challenge the people to continue following the Lord and remind them how they were called to live in view of what God had already accomplished on their behalf.

What did Joshua commission the Israelites to do in his farewell address? How does this parallel with how Christ followers should live today?

Joshua spent his last moments on earth reminding the Israelites of the grace God had shown them by giving them the land He promised to Abraham long ago. Joshua led them through the history of their people, through the patriarchs and battles that brought them to the land. He also impressed upon them the truth that God's promise to bless them had been fulfilled, but the rest they were experiencing in the land was contingent upon their covenant loyalty to worship God alone.

The Israelites were commissioned to get rid of the foreign gods that were among them and turn their hearts to the Lord (Joshua 24:23). We, like the Israelites, are called to lead lives of obedient worship, turning away from idols in our midst. By the grace of God, we can have hearts that desire to follow His commands through faith-filled obedience as we live through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Lead boys and girls to see the awe-inspiring deliverance God extends to the people He has sworn to provide for—those who place their faith in His Son. Help kids see that God's greatest act of love is found in Jesus, whose sacrifice atoned for the sins of His people long ago and for us today. Ask the Lord to instill upon the children in your class a deep desire to know and worship Him in light of the promise of eternal life in Christ's presence.



THE WEEK PRIOR

Prepare your heart to teach; plan the session



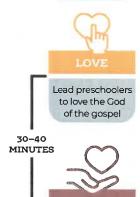
10-15 MINUTES

Greet preschoolers and open the session



25-30 MINUTES

Teach preschoolers the story of the gospel



Lead preschoolers to live the mission of the gospel



60-65 MINUTES

Teach
preschoolers for an
additional hour



GATHER Supplies

Keep a supply of the following items available during all teaching sessions: Allergy Alert, Bibles, washable markers, crayons, scissors (adult use), blunt-tipped scissors, construction paper, copy paper, glue sticks, glue, tape, baby dolls, blocks, play dough, and a beanbag.

WELCOME	LIVE
Complete the puzzle Bible Story Picture Poster, 2 Big Picture Question Poster LEARN	Paint rocks rocks, 1 per child paper plates, 1 per child washable paint paint brushes art smocks "Key Passage Phrase Labels" printable
Tell the Bible story "Joshua's Farewell" video (optional) Learn and practice the key passage phrase [Key Passage Phrase Marker LOVE	Missions Activity "South Asian Peoples Intro" missions video Snack and Transition hand sanitizer (optional) "Circle Many Ways to Worship" activity page, 1 per child Big Picture Cards for Families
Play instruments instruments care for babies and families baby care items small blankets play food play dishes	Wear a heart heart-shaped stickers, 1 per child Say the key passage phrase Key Passage Phrase Marker Examine and sort rocks rocks of varying sizes magnifying glasses small flashlights Decorate paper hearts assorted stickers



WELCOME Preschoolers

Provide as many learning activities as possible from the Love and Live sections to give preschoolers choices to learn. Incorporate the Bible story, the Christ Connection, story point, and key passage phrase in your conversations as the preschoolers engage in learning activities throughout the session.

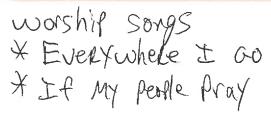
Use the following activity to greet children as they enter the classroom. Talk about the big picture question and answer. After each child completes the welcome activity, encourage him to participate in the activities provided from the Love and Live sections of the leader guide.

COMPLETE THE PUZZLE

Print two copies of the Bible Story Picture Poster. Cut one poster into a simple. Place the other Bible Story Picture Poster on a table inside the classroom. Post the Big Picture Question and Answer Poster near the entrance to the classroom. Greet preschoolers as they enter the classroom and point out the Big Picture Question and Answer Poster. Hand preschoolers a puzzle piece as they enter the classroom and encourage them to add it to the puzzle. Once the puzzle is complete, remove the pieces for the next preschoolers who arrive.

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SAY Welcome to church. Our big picture question asks, Why can we trust God? We can trust God because He is faithful. We are completing a puzzle in our class today. Can you add this puzzle piece to our puzzle? It is a picture of Joshua talking to God's people. JOSHUA REMINDED THE PEOPLE TO WORSHIP AND OBEY GOD. We can worship and obey God too. We can trust God because He is faithful.







LEARN the Bible Story

11 PRETEND TO CARRY A HEAVY STONE

Encourage preschoolers to pretend to carry a heavy stone as they come to group time. Demonstrate how to stretch your arms out or bend over as you walk. Make noises to show how much effort it takes to carry the pretend stone.

SAY We pretended to carry a big, heavy stone. Joshua put a big stone under a tree to help the people remember a promise they made. The people promised to always worship the one true God. They promised to love and obey Him. **JOSHUA REMINDED THE PEOPLE TO WORSHIP AND OBEY GOD.**



2 TELL THE BIBLE STORY Video

Open you Bible to Joshua 23–24. Tell the Bible story using the following summary. You may choose to review the Bible story by showing the video.

JOSHUA'S FAREWELL

SAY If Joshua was getting older. He was the leader of God's people, so he called them all together. He had something very important to say. Joshua told the people, "Remember all the amazing things God did for us. When we were in trouble, God helped us! Let's always do what God says and love Him with all our hearts."

Joshua reminded everyone how God never, ever breaks His promises. He told them about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and how God saved them from their enemies. "God did so many wonderful things for us!" Joshua said.

Then Joshua asked the people, "Who will you worship? Will you follow the one true God or pretend gods?" Joshua and his family promised to always worship the one true God.

The people shouted, "We love God! We won't ever worship pretend gods!"

But Joshua warned them, "If you worship pretend gods, God will be sad." Again, the people promised to love God and obey Him.

So Joshua put a big stone under a tree. "Whenever you see this stone," he said, "remember your promise to God. God always keeps His promises." Then Joshua sent the people back to their homes.

Christ Connection: Joshua reminded God's people to love God and obey Him. After Jesus died on the cross and rose again, Jesus reminded His followers to love and obey Him too.



REVIEW THE BIBLE STORY

Encourage preschoolers to help you think of some of the amazing things God has done for us. Hold up one finger for each thing you think of until you reach five.

SAY ff Joshua helped the people remember all the amazing things God did for them. Joshua told the people that he and his family promised to always worship the one true God. Joshua reminded GOD'S PEOPLE TO LOVE GOD AND OBEY HIM. After Jesus died on the cross and rose again, Jesus reminded His followers to love and obey Him too.

SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow":

Who is the King of Glory?

Who is the King of Glory?

Who is the King of Glory?

The LORD, strong and mighty.

Strong and Mighty" Sont 5 LEARNAND PRACTICE THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Psalm 24:8. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Encourage preschoolers to say the phrase with you several times. Each time you say the phrase, leave out a word, leading preschoolers to say the missing word.

SAY fff The LORD is strong and mighty. He is the King of glory. He always keeps His promises, and we should always worship Him, the one true God. 🧦

6 PRAY

Pray, thanking God for always keeping His promises. Ask the Lord to help us only worship Him.







LOVE God because of what we learned

EXPLORE BIBLES



Cut a piece of paper into strips to create bookmarks. Use the strips to mark the stories of Abraham (Genesis 12), Isaac (Genesis 21), Jacob (Genesis 32), and Joshua (Joshua 1) in the Bible. Invite preschoolers to explore the Bibles. Talk about the stories that are marked. If you are using a Bible with illustrations, spend time looking at the pictures and remembering the stories.

The Bible is a very special book. It tells us about God and how much He loves us. It tells the stories of people like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and Joshua. Joshua reminded the people how God never ever breaks His promises. He told them about Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob and how God saved them from their enemies. God did so many wonderful things for His people. Joshua asked the people, 'Who will you worship? Will you follow the one true God or pretend gods?' JOSHUA REMINDED THE PEOPLE TO LOVE AND OBEY GOD. After Jesus died on the cross and rose again, Jesus reminded His followers to love and obey Him, too.

PLAY INSTRUMENTS

Place a variety of classroom instruments out for preschoolers to explore and play. Invite preschoolers to play along as you sing the key passage phrase song. Sing several times as the children rotate instruments.

SAY Singing and playing instruments is one way we can worship. Joshua asked the people who they would worship. Joshua and his family promised to always worship the one true God. Joshua warned the people that if they worshiped pretend gods, God would be sad. The people promised to love God and obey Him. Joshua told the people to remember all the amazing things God did for them. JOSHUA REMINDED THE PEOPLE TO WORSHIP AND OBEY GOD.

CARE FOR BABIES AND FAMILIES

Place baby dolls, blankets, baby care items, play food, and dishes out for preschoolers to explore. Encourage preschoolers to pretend to feed and rock the babies. Demonstrate how to wrap a baby doll in a blanket and rock her to sleep. Invite preschoolers to pretend to prepare a meal for friends and family members. Join in, pretending to eat the meal and offering to help clean the dishes after you have eaten.

SAY You did a great job caring for the baby and her family! Joshua talked about his family when he spoke to the people. Joshua told the people to remember all the amazing things God did for them. Joshua asked the people, 'Who will you worship? Will you follow the one true God or pretend gods?' Joshua and his family promised to always worship the one true God.

Transition from LOVE to LIVE





LIVE for God out of love

O PAINT ROCKS

Place rocks, paper plates, washable paints, and paintbrushes on the table. Assist preschoolers with placing an art smock over their clothing. Place a rock on a paper plate for each preschooler. Invite preschoolers to use the paints to decorate their rocks. Encourage them to stick a key passage phrase label on back of their rocks, once dry.

SAY Joshua put a big rock under a tree. He told the people to remember the promise they made to God every time they saw the rock. Joshua REMINDED GOD'S PEOPLE TO LOVE GOD AND OBEY HIM. They promised to always worship the one true God. Our key passage phrase asks, 'Who is the King of glory? The LORD, strong and mighty.' The Lord is strong and mighty. He always keeps His promises, and we should worship Him.

@ MISSIONS ACTIVITY



Show the "South Asian Peoples Intro" missions video.

SAY §§ Aadya is a woman from South Asia who tells people in her country about Jesus. Missionaries Clark and Elizabeth Atwood are training Aadya and other church leaders to help them know how to tell people about Jesus. [Lead a prayer.]

3 SNACK AND TRANSITION



Post an Allergy Alert. Serve the snack. As children eat, review and talk about the Bible story. When children finish their snack, lead them to complete the activity page. As they work, continue talking about the Bible story and emphasize the Christ Connection.

SAY M Joshua reminded God's people to love God and obey Him. After Jesus died on the cross and rose again, Jesus reminded His followers to love and obey Him too.

Remember to communicate helpful information to the bonus teaching hour leaders. If parents are picking up children at this time, tell them something their child did well during the session. Distribute Big Picture Cards for Families. Encourage parents to engage with the family discussion starters and family activities during the week.



BONUS Teaching Hour Group Time

WEAR A HEART

Invite preschoolers to join you for group-time. Give each child a heart-shaped sticker to place on her shirt as she comes to the group time area. Tell preschoolers that hearts remind you of love. JOSHUA REMINDED GOD'S PEOPLE TO LOVE GOD AND OBEY HIM.

2 TALK ABOUT THE BIBLE STORY

Open the Bible to Joshua 23–24. Use the summarized points below to talk about the Bible story:

JOSHUA'S FAREWELL

- Joshua was getting older. He called God's people together. Joshua said, "Remember that God helped us! Let's always do what God says and love Him with all our hearts."
- Joshua reminded everyone how God never, ever breaks His promises. "God did so many wonderful things for us!" Joshua said.
- •Then Joshua asked the people, "Who will you worship?" Joshua and his family promised to always worship the one true God.
- The people shouted, "We love God!" The people promised to love God and obey Him. So Joshua put a big stone under a tree to remind them of their promise to God. Joshua said, "God always keeps His promises."

SING A SONG

Sing the song to the familiar tune of "For He's a Jolly Good Fellow":

Who is the King of Glory?

Who is the King of Glory?

Who is the King of Glory?

The LORD, strong and mighty.

3 SAY THE KEY PASSAGE PHRASE

Place the Key Passage Phrase Marker at Psalm 24:8. Invite a child to open your Bible to the key passage. Say the key passage phrase several times together. Encourage preschoolers to turn and tell a friend the key passage phrase. Repeat several times.

5 PRAY

Pray, asking God to help us always obey Him and love Him with all our hearts.



BONUS Teaching Hour Activities

6 MAKE A PAPER CHAIN



Cut construction paper 1 ½ inch strips. Place the paper strips and tape on the table. Encourage preschoolers to help you list things God has done. Sample ideas: making the trees and grass, blessing us with friends and family, or sending Jesus. Write each idea on a separate strip of paper. Invite preschoolers to help you create a paper chain with the strips. Form the first paper strip into a circle and secure with tape. Loop the next paper strip through the first one and secure with tape as well. Continue until you have looped all the paper strips into a chain. Hang the paper chain in the classroom.

SAY We thought of so many things God did for us and blessings He gives us. Joshua helped the people remember all the amazing things God did for them as well. He told the people, 'When we were in trouble, God helped us! Let's always do what God says and love Him with all our hearts.' Joshua reminded everyone how God never, ever breaks His promises. JOSHUA REMINDED THE PEOPLE TO WORSHIP AND OBEY GOD.

EXAMINE AND SORT ROCKS

Place rocks of all shapes and sizes on the table as well as magnifying glasses and small flashlights. Invite preschoolers to examine the rocks with the magnifying glasses and flashlights. Talk about the details you see when you examine them closely.

SAY Joshua put a big rock under a tree. He told the people that the rock should remind them of the promise they made to God. The people promised to always worship the one true God. **Joshua REMINDED THE PEOPLE TO WORSHIP AND OBEY GOD**. After Jesus died on the cross and rose again, Jesus reminded His followers to love and obey Him, too.

13 DECORATE PAPER HEARTS

Cut out large paper hearts from construction paper. Write Joshua reminded the people to worship and obey God on each heart. Place the hearts, crayons, and stickers on the table. Invite preschoolers to decorate their hearts with the crayons and stickers.

SAY JOSHUA REMINDED THE PEOPLE TO WORSHIP AND OBEY GOD. Joshua called all the people together to tell them something very important. He told the people, 'Remember all the amazing things God did for us. When we were in trouble, God helped us! Let's always do what God says and love Him with all our hearts.' We can love God with all our hearts and obey Him too.

Release preschoolers to parents according to your church's security procedure. Tell them something that their child enjoyed doing or did well during the session.