

Joshua Dies

Judges 2:7-10

MEMORY VERSE

JOSHUA 23:3

“You have seen all that the LORD your God has done to all these nations because of you, for the LORD your God is He who has fought for you.”

WHAT YOU WILL NEED:

Bring some items to demonstrate half and whole, for example: half a paper grocery bag (cut vertically), half of a plastic container (possibly a plastic butter dish cut vertically), half of a dollar bill, half a pair of scissors, half a pair of shoes, half a recipe (written or mixed) or a CD case without the CD.

As many sheets of blank paper as the number of children in your class, a circle pattern made from heavy paper and markers.

ATTENTION GRABBER!

What About the End?!

Play or sing a song for (not with) your class. Stop the song before the end, leaving everyone with that funny “you have got to finish that!” feeling.

While you have their attention, talk about serving God for our whole lives, all the way to the end! God wants us to start our serving Him and finish our lives doing the same.

LESSON TIME!

Each of us has a choice to make. Will we serve the Lord God with all of our lives or won't we? We must choose if we will follow God and His ways or if we will follow our own ways which will only lead to misery and destruction. Joshua was a man who faithfully walked with God in obedience to His word. And he walked with God his entire life.

Joshua is an example to us as we study his faithful and blessed life. We have seen that his faithfulness came out of a love for God. May each of us walk in this way, faithful to our Creator. We will learn that Joshua was faithful to the very end. **God wants us to serve Him for our entire lives.**

JUDGES 2:7-9

So the people served the LORD all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua, who had seen all the great works of the LORD which He had done for Israel.

Now Joshua the son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died when he was one hundred and ten years old.

And they buried him within the border of his inheritance at Timnath Heres, in the mountains of Ephraim, on the north side of Mount Gaash.

Joshua was a man who served God until his death. Joshua was not a perfect man, but he made the decision to follow God. Each day we make the choice to follow after God. May we be like Joshua and serve God all the days of our life for He is a good God. Let's look back at some of the events in Joshua's life so that we may see the characteristics of a godly life.

EXODUS 17:9-13

And Moses said to Joshua, "Choose us some men and go out, fight with Amalek. Tomorrow I will stand on the top of the hill with the rod of God in my hand."

So Joshua did as Moses said to him, and fought with Amalek. And Moses, Aaron, and Hur went up to the top of the hill.

And so it was, when Moses held up his hand, that Israel prevailed; and when he let down his hand, Amalek prevailed.

But Moses' hands became heavy; so they took a stone and put it under him, and he sat on it. And Aaron and Hur supported his hands, one on one side, and the other on the other side; and his hands were steady until the going down of the sun.

So Joshua defeated Amalek and his people with the edge of the sword.

Here we see the obedience of Joshua. He followed the orders of his godly leader, Moses. Not only was he obedient, but Joshua was also an encourager and a helper to those around him.

God blessed Joshua's obedience by giving the people victory over their enemies. May we be obedient unto God and follow His word so that He may be able to work through us and give us victory as He did through Joshua.

There is a blessing that comes from being obedient to God's commands. God would have us to encourage others all of our lives, like Joshua did. We should also listen to and support those he has appointed as our leaders.

We should certainly continue to hold them up in prayer. Joshua is an example in this area. **God wants us to serve Him for our entire lives.**

Half or Whole?

Bring some of these items to demonstrate the importance of half and whole: Half a paper grocery bag (cut vertically), half of a plastic container (perhaps a plastic butter dish cut vertically), half of a dollar bill, half a pair of scissors, half a pair of shoes, half a recipe (written or mixed!), or a CD case without the CD.

Show these items to the class and ask what is wrong with them (they aren't complete). Stress the importance of serving God for our whole lives, not just part of them. Our goal is to hear the words, "Well done my good and faithful servant." We want to finish the race and win the prize. The only way we can do that is to remain faithful our entire lives like Joshua did. **God wants us to serve Him for our entire lives.**

EXODUS 33:11

So the LORD spoke to Moses face to face, as a man speaks to his friend. And he would return to the camp, but his servant Joshua the son of Nun, a young man, did not depart from the tabernacle.

One of the most striking characteristics of Joshua's life was the fact that he loved to spend time in God's presence. He didn't want to leave God's presence in the tabernacle. What a beautiful example for us as we desire to serve the Lord all of our lives.

It is so important to have a good devotional life. What we mean by devotional life is to simply spend time with the Lord in His word and in prayer on a daily basis. The more time we spend with the Lord, the more that we will get to know Him. The more we know

Him the more we want to serve Him and others and live our lives for Him. **God wants us to serve Him for our entire lives.**

NUMBERS 14:8, 9

"If the LORD delights in us, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.'

Only do not rebel against the LORD, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the LORD is with us. Do not fear them."

In this next situation in Joshua's life, the Israelites were not trusting in the Lord. They were too afraid to possess the land which God had promised them. Yet Joshua did not fear man but he had faith in God. Joshua encouraged the people to believe in God's faithfulness instead of fearing man.

Joshua was willing to stand on the word of God even though everyone else stood against him. Let us stand for what is right and not be fearful of wicked people for God is on our side and His word alone shall stand.

Joshua made a choice to follow God. Not all those around him made this same decision, yet Joshua stood firm in his belief. Joshua followed God because of his love for God and was willing to be faithful no matter what the others chose. Before his death Joshua said, "Choose this day who you will serve, but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (Joshua 24:15b). After Joshua's death the next generation chose to reject God. **God wants us to serve Him for our entire lives.**

JUDGES 2:10

When all that generation had been gathered to their fathers,

another generation arose after them who did not know the LORD nor the work which He had done for Israel.

The generation after Joshua's death chose not to acknowledge God's goodness and faithfulness to them. They rejected God's love and chose to walk in darkness. Let us not choose wickedness nor the miserable life of sin but let us choose to be like Joshua, who was faithful, obedient, and a lover of God.

PSALM 31:23, 24

Oh, love the LORD, all you His saints! For the LORD preserves the faithful, And fully repays the proud person.

Be of good courage, And He shall strengthen your heart, All you who hope in the LORD.

God wants us to serve Him for our entire lives.

A Piece of the Pie

Have each child make a pie chart showing how much of his time is spent serving the Lord. Fold a piece of paper in quarters. Make one for each child. Cut out a pattern of a pie (a circle) from heavy paper for them to trace onto the 1/2 of the sheet of folded paper. Let the kids cut out a circle for their pie chart.

Teachers should make one as well and tape on the chalkboard. Divide the pie in a way appropriate to the ages of your class, such as: morning, noon, and night; or day and night, or maybe hourly.

Have the children fill in or shade in the amount of time spent serving the Lord. Is it 10%? Or 25%? Or 50%? Discuss how God wants us to serve Him with our entire lives. Write the theme or memory verse on the chart.

PRAYER

Lead the children in a prayer of commitment to serve the Lord for all of their lives like Joshua did. Also, the children can ask the Lord to show them what His will is for their lives and then to do what He asks of them. If there are any children who have not yet responded to the gospel, give them opportunity to do so.