

L1 JOSHUA BELIEVED GOD'S WORD

Objective: God's Word is always true and can be trusted.

Key verse: Your Word is true. Jn 17:17

Introduction:

For the next few lessons we are going to be learning about a man named Joshua. Do you remember learning about Moses? Joshua was a young man when Moses was leading the people of Israel. Let's think back to what we remember about Moses.

Moses was a man God used to bring the people of Israel out of the land of Egypt where they were living as slaves. Slaves are people who have to work for others without getting money. They aren't treated very well and they have a very difficult life. God was ready to bring His people out of that place so that they could be free. So Moses told the Pharaoh, the ruler of Egypt, that God said to let His people go. Pharaoh wouldn't let them go. He kept saying *no* to Moses and to God. But finally he let them go. How do you think they felt? They weren't slaves anymore! That was wonderful.

But when they left Egypt, they left their houses and their gardens. Where would they live? What would they eat? Where would they go? Do you think God freed them just so they could die in the desert? No. God promised them a land of their own where they could live. A place that already had houses!! Wow. But there were **people** in those houses.

This is where Joshua comes in. Moses decided to send twelve spies into this land. Do you know what a spy is? A spy sneaks into a place and looks around to get information. Joshua was one of the twelve spies. These twelve spies went into the land before everyone else to check it out. What did they see? Well, it had lots of fruit. Grapes so huge that it took two men to carry a branch full! But they also saw that the cities were very strong with **giants** living there.

When the spies returned, they gave their report. Joshua and another spy named Caleb both said, "Let's go right away and take the land. We can do it! If the Lord delights in us, then He will bring us into the land and give it to us." But the other ten spies said, "No way, they are stronger than us." Who do you think the people should listen to- Joshua and Caleb who are saying, "Let's go!" or the others who are saying, "We're scared."? Would you be scared?

The people were scared. It's okay to be scared sometimes. But God had made a promise- that He would give them the land. God is always true, and we can trust His Word. He said that they could have the land, but the people didn't trust Him. It was okay that they were afraid, but they could have trusted Him anyway like Joshua and Caleb. Instead, they just stayed afraid and didn't trust God. Because they didn't trust Him, they didn't go into the land.

Conclusion:

There is a verse in the Bible that says, “Your Word is Truth” Jn. 17:17. We can always trust God’s Word because it is true. Joshua and Caleb believed God’s Word but the people of Israel didn’t trust God’s Word because they looked around and saw giants in the land. Looking at the giants instead of looking to Him and trusting in Him made them scared. When God tells us something but it doesn’t seem true, or we can’t understand it, we can still believe Him because He is always true. Because Joshua and Caleb believed God’s Word, they DID get to go into the land.

Review:

Who was Joshua? *One of the spies.* Did he see the giants? *Yes.* Was he afraid? *No.* Why not? *Because he trusted God’s Word more than what his eyes saw.* Can we trust God’s Word? *Yes, always.*

Have children repeat Bible verse: Your Word is true. Jn 17:17

Craft:

We learned the verse “Your Word is true,” but what is God’s Word? Where do we go to find out what God says? The Bible. The Bible is a book with God’s written Word in it. Your parents and teachers might read to you from the Bible and tell you what it says. You can believe God’s Word and trust in Him. There is another way that God speaks to us; it is by the Living Word, Jesus Christ. Jesus is the Life we have if we believe in Him. Sometimes His Life will speak in our hearts. We can learn to hear Him by the Spirit. We can trust what He says.

Materials: black construction paper, cross stickers, “God’s Word” stickers, “Jesus” stickers, “Your Word is true. Jn 17:17” stickers. Optional- tape, red ribbon

Fold paper to look like a book. Put cross sticker and “God’s Word” sticker on the cover. Remind children that the Bible is God’s Word. Open and put “Jesus” and “Your Word is true” stickers inside. Remind children that Jesus is also the Word of God. Review key verse. Optional- place red ribbon inside book and tape it to the back cover to resemble a book mark.

Snack: Grapes

Additional activities: Using play figures (soldiers, lego men, etc), help children to reenact the twelve spies finding grapes (use real grapes) and seeing giants (use larger figures) and returning with their report. Two of the spies were not afraid because they trusted God’s Word no matter what. But ten gave an evil report and all of the people got afraid. Like Joshua, we can put our trust in God because His Word is true.