

L 2 JOSHUA MEANS SALVATION

Objective: Salvation is Jesus, a Life living in us, when we believe Him. It brings us out of living by our self life and into living by a new Life.

Key Verse: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved. Acts 16:31

Review:

Last time we learned how Moses had led the people of Israel out of slavery in Egypt. God had promised them their own land to live in, but they were afraid and didn't go in. What did they see that made them afraid? *Giants*. Who was not afraid? *Joshua and Caleb*. Why weren't they afraid? *Because they trusted God's Word*. Do you remember the verse you learned? *Your Word is true John 17:17*. The Bible is God's Word. It is always true. Who is God's Living Word? *Jesus* We can always trust Him, too.

Introduction:

The people of Israel wandered in the desert for forty years until all of the disbelieving people had died. Now their children are grown up and God is telling them it's time for them to go into the land. Do you think they will believe and follow God this time? Let's see.

Moses had died and God made Joshua to be the leader of the people. The name Joshua means "salvation." The name Jesus also means "salvation." What IS salvation? What does it mean to be saved from something? Example: What if you fell into a river and you couldn't swim. Then your Dad jumped in and pulled you out. What were you saved from? *The river*. Who saved you? *Your Dad*. We have heard people say that Jesus saves. What does He save us from? He saves us from our selves and from sin. Without Jesus, we are stuck living a life that cannot please God. No matter how good we try to be, we can't be good enough. So God sent Jesus to save us. He saves us from ourselves. He takes us from out of our way of living and brings us into His new Life. (Use a toy person and a circle shape on the table representing God. Show the person separate from God- out of the circle. Then bring the person into the circle. Tell children that this is what Jesus has done. He's brought us out of living separate from God and has brought us into Himself.)

We said that Joshua also means "salvation." What did he do? He brings the people of Israel out of the wilderness and into the land God promised. Yes, this time the people believe God's Word and trust Him. This time the people get to go into the land. (Again illustrate this idea using a toy figure a piece of paper with brown on half- the wilderness, and green on the other half- the land. Move the figure from the brown to the green showing how the people were saved out of the one and brought into the other).

Conclusion:

There were two groups of Israelites who were going into the land. The first group did not believe, so they didn't get to go in. Instead, they died in the desert. But the second group

of Israelites believed God's Word and Joshua led them into the land. The Bible tells us that we must believe if we are to be saved. "He that believes on the Son (that's Jesus) has everlasting life: and he that does not believe the Son shall not see life (Jn. 3:36a)." If we want to leave our way of living and live by His life, He will bring us there, but we have to believe.

Let's say a verse together and try to learn it: Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and you shall be saved. Acts 16:31

Review:

Who brought the people of Israel into the promised land? *Joshua* What does His name mean? *Salvation* What other name means salvation? *Jesus* What does salvation mean? How are we saved? *By believing in Jesus.* By believing in Jesus we are saved from our own selves. Does anyone want to say that they believe in Jesus and ask Him to save them? *Lead any children who want to in a prayer for salvation.*