

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

3rd - 5th Grade

Sunday Morning

Study 1

God Keeps His Promises

God Keeps His Promises

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective Using the covenants to Abraham in Genesis 15 and Moses in Deuteronomy 11, demonstrate that God is faithful to His promises. If He says it, He will do it!

Key Verses

Joshua 1—Main Teaching Passage

Genesis 15:12-16

Deuteronomy 11:24

Memory Verse - Joshua 1:9

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Hook

Ask the class the following questions, "Have you ever made a promise to someone that you didn't keep?"

"How does it feel when someone makes a promise to you, and then they break that promise?"

God has made many promises in the Bible, and He has never broken a single one.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

God made several promises to Abraham in Genesis 15. Specifically in verses 1-16, it says that :

- God would make Abraham's descendants as numerous as the stars in the sky.
- Abraham's descendants would be sojourners, persecuted slaves, in a different land for 400 years.
- They would return to the Land God had promised them.

All of these promises were fulfilled in the story of Moses and the Exodus. After 400 years of captivity and slavery in Egypt, God rescued the Israelites and brought them to the Promised Land. God promises Moses in Deuteronomy 11 that the Israelites would enter into the land and that everywhere they set foot in the land would become theirs. Joshua 1 is the beginning of that fulfillment.

Notice in Joshua 1:3 that God stood on His promise with Moses. Just as He promised to Moses, so was He doing. God then used the fulfillment of that promise as an encouragement, effectively saying, "Because I have been faithful in what I promised you previously, you can be assured that I will continue to be faithful to you. Therefore be strong and courageous, don't be afraid, I promised you this land, therefore you WILL have it. No matter what armies, cities, or giants you might face. I have been faithful in the past, so believe Me now."

LOOK

The ability to stand on God's faithfulness is of the utmost importance for all believers. God is true. What He says is true. He does not lie (Titus 1:2), He does not change, He is completely and eternally faithful. This doesn't mean that we live perfect, happy lives. Nor does it mean that we will live lives without knowing any kind of hardship or suffering. One of God's promises to Abraham was that his descendants would be persecuted as slaves for 400 years. But God also promised that he would return those same people back to the land of Israel and deliver it to them.

In Joshua 1, the Israelites were standing before the land, ready to enter in, but they were afraid. They knew that the people who lived in the land were great warriors, and that they were going to fight to keep the land for themselves. God said to the people, "Hey, have I ever lied to you? Have I ever broken a promise? Okay, well didn't I promise to give you the land? In fact, I promised Moses that wherever you go in this whole land, it will become yours. Don't be afraid of the people in the land. Don't be anxious or worried about what is going to happen when you go in. I said I will be with you, and that I will give you victory, so be strong, be courageous. I am with you!"

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

This is an important truth for all of us to understand. We can trust God for a few really good reasons. The most important one is that He has proven himself faithful. He has never let us down in the past, so why should we begin to think that he is going to let us down now? In Matthew 28:20, Jesus said, "I am with you always, even to the very end of the age." Just as God promised Joshua that He would be with him in his battles across Israel, Jesus promised us that He will never leave us. Therefore we too can be strong and courageous, and we can trust what God has said.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

As a class memorize Joshua 1:9.

Tell the kids when they get home, to write down a list of all the ways that God has been faithful in their families lives. They might ask their mom, dad, grandma or grandpa to help them make this list. Hang the list on the fridge, or somewhere else they can easily see it. When things get tough or they get worried or concerned, they can go to that list and remember that God is faithful.

Have the kids commit to praying for God to increase their faith. Just as the disciples prayed, it is okay for us to also pray "I believe, help my unbelief" (Mark 9:24).

Parent Question: How has God proven himself faithful to you?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Joshua 1 by David Guzik

GOD'S COMMISSION TO JOSHUA

A. Introduction: A survey of the history of Israel from Egypt to Canaan.

1. Israel was delivered from Egypt's degrading bondage.

a. These were historical events, but they were not *only* historical. God speaks through history to give an example of our deliverance from the degrading bondage of sin (as Paul makes clear in [1 Corinthians 10:6](#) and [10:11](#)).

b. The central act of redemption in the New Testament is the work of Jesus on the cross. The central act of redemption in the Old Testament is the deliverance of Israel from Egypt.

2. Israel, led by Moses, wandered in the Sinai wilderness.

a. During that time, Israel experienced supernatural providence such as the supply of manna, water from rocks, the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night, and so forth.

b. During that time, they also received Divine revelation - the Mosaic Law. God communicated to them His holy standard.

3. The land of Canaan represents the *destination* of God's people after they have been set free from degrading bondage.

a. Not our *ultimate* destination, as the famous hymns would have it. Those hymns suggest that Canaan represents *heaven*.

i. As the lines to *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* go:

*I looked over Jordan, and what did I see
Comin' for to carry me home?
A band of angels, comin' after me
Comin' for to carry me home.*

b. Biblically, the land over the Jordan - the Promised Land - does not speak of heaven. [Hebrews 3-4](#) shows Canaan as a picture of the rest and victory that can be enjoyed by every believer.

i. In this sense, F. B. Meyer connects the Book of Joshua with the Book of Ephesians. Both describe a spiritual walk of promise, wealth, and victory that are ours with Jesus.

c. This also shows that the deliverance from Egypt was only in preparation for the enjoyment of Canaan. In

our Christian life, we are *brought out* of sin so that we might be *brought in* to abundant life. The wilderness is never God's permanent destination for us.

d. Even as an entire generation of Israel died in the wilderness, so many Christians die in the desert dryness of spiritual experience, never walking in the fullness of what God has for them.

4. The leader: Joshua as a type of Jesus.

a. Remember that the Greek name *Jesus* simply translates the Hebrew name *Joshua*. Their names are identical. Whatever Israel received in the Promised Land, they received through the hand of Joshua; whatever we receive from God we receive through Jesus Christ, our Joshua.

B. God commissions Joshua's work.

1. ([Jos 1:1](#)) Moses is dead, and God speaks to Joshua.

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying:

a. **After the death of Moses:** Moses (who exemplified the law of God) could not lead Israel into the land of promise and rest. This all happens **after the death of Moses**.

b. **The LORD spoke to Joshua:** Joshua - who was not a young man at this time - had spent his entire career previously as the **assistant** of Moses, now finds that it is his own time to lead, but only after God prepared him.

c. **Moses' assistant:** Joshua was prepared by faithful service in small things, in being Moses' assistant. Red-path tells of a motto over a kitchen sink: "Divine service is conducted here three times daily." The motto is true, and great men and women are prepared by faithfulness to the small things.

2. ([Jos 1:2-3](#)) **Am giving and have given.**

"Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them; the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses."

a. **Your foot ... I have given you:** Entrance into the land of Canaan was entrusted to a representative. Joshua was the trustee of the land for the people. In the same way, our representative Jesus goes before us and what we have in God we possess in Him.

b. **I have given you:** The whole land was given, but they could only possess that which they claimed (**every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you**). What they took must be fought for against a determined opposition.

i. God certainly could have simply eliminated all their enemies with a mere thought; but He calls Israel into partnership with Himself to see His will done.

ii. Because taking the land took *effort*, the challenge ahead was not for those content with Egypt, but for those who would press ahead for what God had called them to.

3. ([Jos 1:4-5](#)) The promise: victory is assured because Joshua is called by God.

From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites,

and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. No man shall *be able to stand* before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

a. **From the wilderness ... As far as the great river:** The precise territory of the land is described. This was no "pie in the sky" promise. It described real land with real boundaries.

b. **I will be with you:** Victory is assured not because Joshua is a great leader, or because Israel is a great nation, but because God is a great God, and He says to Joshua, **I will be with you**. This is enough for any man seeking to do God's will.

4. ([Jos 1:6-9](#)) The conditions of the promise of victory.

Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go.

a. **Be strong and very courageous:** Joshua is called to boldness in God. This exposes Joshua's weakness; there was a *need* for such a command, because even a great leader like Joshua needed such encouragement.

i. This bold courage would not be in Joshua himself, but in God. We can be full of self-confidence that will take us to ruin, but we should instead be full of a genuine God-confidence.

b. **That you may observe to do according to all the law:** Joshua must take great care to observe the law. God's word and Joshua's commitment to it would be the pillars supporting his success.

c. Joshua did not only need to read God's word. It had to be on his *lips* (**shall not depart from your mouth**), in his *mind* (**meditate in it day and night**), and he had to *do* it (**observe to do according to all that is written**).

d. **For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success:** God's Word so lived is a guarantee of Christian success. Not that it promises a life without problems, but it does insure a life able to deal with anything, because it takes full advantage of God's presence and promises.

i. And *Christian* success is not measured by the same standards as the world's success. Even if the world accounts us as *sheep for the slaughter*, we are actually *more than conquerors through Him who loved us* ([Romans 8:36-37](#)).

e. **For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go:** The final encouragement, repeated from [Joshua 1:5](#), reminds us that Joshua's success did not depend solely on his ability to keep God's Word. It depended even more on God's presence with him.

C. Preparations to cross the Jordan.

1. ([Jos 1:10-11](#)) Command to the officers.

Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, saying, "Pass through the camp and command the people, saying, 'Prepare provisions for yourselves, for within three days you will cross over this Jordan, to go in to possess the land which the LORD your God is giving you to possess.'"

a. **For within three days:** The waiting for God is often the most difficult part for us, but days of waiting are always days of preparation in God's work. There is no *wasted* time with God.

2. ([Jos 1:12-15](#)) Reminder to the eastern tribes.

And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh Joshua spoke, saying, "Remember the word which Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying, 'The LORD your God is giving you rest and is giving you this land.' Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land which Moses gave you on this side of the Jordan. But you shall pass before your brethren armed, all your mighty men of valor, and help them, until the LORD has given your brethren rest, as He *gave* you, and they also have taken possession of the land which the LORD your God is giving them. Then you shall return to the land of your possession and enjoy it, which Moses the Lord's servant gave you on this side of the Jordan toward the sunrise."

a. **And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and half the tribe of Manasseh Joshua spoke:** These tribes which decided to settle on the east side of the Jordan river (land that Israel had already conquered) had promised to cross over and help the rest of the nation take the land on the west side of the Jordan river ([Numbers 32:16-32](#)).

b. **But you shall pass before your brethren armed, all your mighty men of valor, and help them:** This same principle operates in the Body of Christ. When one member has a need, it is the common need of the body ([1 Corinthians 12:25-26](#)). We should never refuse to help a brother in need because *our* own state is settled.

3. ([Jos 1:16-18](#)) The eastern tribes promise their allegiance to Joshua.

So they answered Joshua, saying, "All that you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you. Only the LORD your God be with you, as He was with Moses. Whoever rebels against your command and does not heed your words, in all that you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and of good courage."

a. **All you command us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go:** Here we see Israel in the kind of unity as a nation that was essential to fulfill God's calling and promise for them. They overcame the temptation to see the eastern tribes as separate from the rest of Israel.

b. **Just as we heeded Moses in all things, so we will heed you:** The willingness of the people to receive Joshua as their leader, replacing Moses, was a confirmation of the LORD's words to Joshua previously in the chapter.

c. **Only be strong and of good courage:** The representatives from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh say the same thing to Joshua that he heard from the Lord in [Joshua 1:6](#). This must have been a confirmation of God's word to Joshua when they said it. God loves to *confirm* His word to us.