

COURAGEOUS

JOSHUA BRAVELY FOLLOWS GOD



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UNIT 10 - JOSHUA BRAVELY FOLLOWS GOD

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MONTHLY PREPARATION GUIDE

UNIT 10-PRE-K

It's hard to follow the Lord in a culture that increasingly opposes Christ. But do not be discouraged; **God is with us**. He has given the Holy Spirit to help us be courageous disciples. You have the opportunity to share this encouraging truth with your families trusting that they will bravely follow the Lord.

WEEK 1

LESSON MATERIALS: Puzzle Piece (1 per class), Plastic Grocery Bags (1 per team), Fruit (Real or Fake), Basket, Toilet Paper Rolls (1 per child), Tape or Stapler, Yarn (2-foot strips - 1 per child), Hole Punch, Stickers, Crayons or Markers

WEEK 2

LESSON MATERIALS: Puzzle Piece (1 per class), Disposable Plastic Cups (2-3 per person), Cotton Balls, Construction Paper, *Paper Horn* Activity Page (1 per child), Crayons, Other Craft Items (optional), Tape

WEEK 3

LESSON MATERIALS: Puzzle Piece (1 per class), Upbeat Music, Phone with Bluetooth Speaker or CD Player, *Memory Verse* Activity Page (1 per child), Glue Sticks, Crayons, Strips of Colored Paper, Paper Plates (1 per child), Scissors, Confetti, Ribbon, Colored Popsicle Sticks (optional)

WEEK 4

LESSON MATERIALS: Puzzle Piece (1 per class), Empty Tissue Box, *Choices* Activity Page, *Memory Verse* Activity Page, Cardstock, Crayons, Self-Adhesive Magnetic Strips, Scissors

THE TWELVE SPIES

BIBLE PASSAGE

Numbers 13-14 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

God is with us.

FOCUS VERSE

“... be strong and brave...don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go.”
Joshua 1:9 (ICB)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Plastic Grocery Bags | Fruit (real or fake) | Basket | Toilet Paper Rolls |
Tape or Stapler | Yarn | Hole Punch | Stickers | Crayons or Markers |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- What was your biggest feeling on the first day back to school this year? Were you happy? Nervous? Excited?
- Tell me about a place you visited with your family that made you excited or nervous?



REMEMBER TO GREET EACH CHILD BY NAME AS THEY ARRIVE.

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, “In the New Testament, the Apostle Peter tells us to ‘give all your worries to him [God], because he cares for you.’ [1 Peter 5:7] When we worship God with singing, it helps us give our worries, fears, even our anger to God, and He replaces it with joy, peace, and love.”

We recommend “Be Strong and Courageous” by *Jamie Owens Collins* as a theme song to play throughout this unit. Other suggestions for songs with motions include “My God is So Big” by *Cedarmont Kids* or “I’ve Got the Joy, Joy, Joy” by *KidzTown Kids*.

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Pray that the Holy Spirit would give the children eyes to see and ears to hear the message that **God is with us**.

SAMPLE PRAYER: “God, thank You for today and for each child who is here. Help us listen to Your Word and learn more about Your great love for us. We love You, Jesus. Amen.”



AS CHILDREN HEAR YOU PRAY, SOME MAY VOLUNTEER IN TIME. WE ARE THEIR EXAMPLES AND WANT THEM TO FEEL COMFORTABLE PRAYING ALOUD. BE ENCOURAGING WHEN THEY PRAY.

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, “This month we are starting some new lessons called *Courageous*. Courageous means brave. Over the next four weeks, we will learn about a man named Joshua. God used Joshua to bring His people into the Promised Land, and God helped him be strong and brave. God tells us in His Word not to be afraid and that He will be with us wherever we go, just like He was with Joshua.

Now, before we go any further, who would like to post the first puzzle piece for our *Courageous* lessons?” (Remind the children that all of the stories in the Bible fit together perfectly into one big story about God.)

TRANSITION: Say, “Ok! Let’s play a game to get ready for our story.”

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Fruit, real or fake (at least 1 piece per child) | Plastic Grocery Bags (1 per child) | Plastic Grocery Bags (1 per team) | Basket |

Say, “Today, you will be spies! Do you know what a spy does? A spy secretly watches other people, and sometimes they collect things. Before the people of God could go into the Promised Land, they needed to spy out the land. You are going to spy out our classroom and find hidden pieces of fruit. When you find one, please place it in your bag and return to your seat. Then you will show and tell what you found. Now, let’s get ready to be spies!”



BEFORE THE KIDS ENTER THE ROOM, HIDE THE FRUIT AROUND THE ROOM IN EASY-TO-FIND LOCATIONS. MAKE SURE YOU HAVE ENOUGH FOR EACH CHILD TO FIND ONE.

GAME GOAL: To find a piece of fruit, place it in their bag, and return to their seat.

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Give each child a grocery bag.
2. Explain that you will say “Go!” and each child will get up and walk around the room looking for a piece of fruit. Say, “When you find a piece of fruit, return to your seat with your bag.” (Walk around the room assisting anyone who has a difficult time finding a piece of fruit.)
4. Once everyone is back in their seats, ask each child to show and tell what they found.
5. Finally, have each child return their fruit in the basket next to you.

TRANSITION: Say, “You did a great job being spies! Now, let’s learn about twelve spies in the Bible!”

LEARN — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Real or Fake Fruit |

IF YOU OFFER A SNACK, CONSIDER SERVING SLICED FRUIT. ADDITIONALLY, USE THE BASKET OF COLORFUL FRUIT AS A HELPFUL VISUALIZATION AS YOU TEACH.

Say, "Today, we are going to hear the story of how God told Moses to send Joshua, a man named Caleb, and ten other men to spy out the Promised Land. Just like you brought back pieces of fruit from your hunt, God told these men to bring back things from their search. Let's see what these spies said when they came back." Read the following verses from Numbers 13.



SOMETIMES IT IS EASIER TO TELL THE STORY IN YOUR OWN WORDS, ESPECIALLY IF THE PASSAGE IS LONG. HOWEVER, IT'S ALSO GOOD FOR THE CHILDREN TO HEAR STRAIGHT FROM GOD'S WORD. IF YOU CHOOSE TO READ, DO SO WITH EXPRESSION TO MAKE THE STORY INTERESTING AND EXCITING.

¹ The Lord said to Moses, ² "Send men to explore the land of Canaan. I will give that land to the Israelites..."

¹⁷ Moses sent them to explore Canaan. He said... ¹⁸ "See what the land looks like. Are the people who live there strong or weak? Are there a few or many? ¹⁹ What kind of land do they live in? Is it good or bad? What about the towns they live in—do they have walls, or are they open like camps? ²⁰ What about the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees there? Try to bring back some of the fruit from that land." (It was the season for the first grapes.) ²¹ So they went up and explored the land...

²⁶ They came back to Moses... ²⁷ They told Moses, "We went to the land where you sent us. It is a land where much food grows! Here is some of its fruit. ²⁸ But the people who live there are strong. Their cities are walled and large..."

³⁰ Then Caleb told the people near Moses to be quiet. Caleb said, "We should go up and take the land for ourselves. We can do it." ³¹ But the men who had gone with him said, "We can't attack those people. They are stronger than we are." ³² And those men gave the Israelites a bad report about the land they explored. They said, "The land would eat us up. All the people we saw are very tall... ³³ We felt like grasshoppers. And we looked like grasshoppers to them."

Read the following verses from Numbers 14.

⁶ Joshua... and Caleb... ⁷said to all of the Israelites, "The land we went to explore is very good. ⁸ If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land. He will

Say, "What an amazing story! God can help us not be afraid, just like He did for Joshua!"

Ask, "Who can tell me what you learned from this story? [Wait for responses.] Great! God is with us wherever we go, and we don't have to be afraid."

Ask, "What happened when the people said they were too afraid to go into the Promised Land? [Wait for responses.] Moses and Aaron fell on their faces in front of the people, and Caleb and Joshua tore their clothes. They did that because they were really upset. After God had taken such good care of His people, they still didn't trust Him. Joshua and Caleb told the Israelites, 'The land we went to explore is very good. If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land. He will give that land...' (Numbers 14:7-8) Joshua was courageous because he knew that God was with them.

But the people wanted to get rid of Joshua and Caleb. They did not believe God was with them. And that made God angry. He decided that for the next 40 years, His people would remain in the desert. Instead of living in a beautiful land with milk and honey and eating juicy grapes and sweet figs, they had to keep eating manna and quail.

JOINING TO JESUS

"Being courageous means facing difficult or painful things. We can do that because Jesus faced the most difficult and painful thing by dying on the Cross for our sins."

TRANSITION: Say, "God was with His people, even when they didn't believe it, and He is with us too. He is our constant friend. We can be courageous because **God is with us.**"

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES



ASKING QUESTIONS DEEPENS CHILDREN'S UNDERSTANDING OF THE STORY. MAKING TIME FOR QUESTIONS AND DISCUSSION CAN HELP LAY A FOUNDATION OF GOD'S WORD IN THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF CHILDREN.

Say, "Isn't it amazing to know that **God is with us**? Let's talk more about what we have learned."

1. What did God tell Joshua and the other men to do?

Response: They were supposed to spy out the land.

2. What did Joshua and Caleb say about the land?

Response: They said they could take the land! God would give it to them!

3. What did the other spies say?

Response: They were afraid. They said they could not take the land.

4. Why did Joshua and Caleb think they could do it?

Response: They knew that God was with them.

5. Can you think of a time when you were afraid? What can we do when we are afraid?

Response: Answers will vary.

6. What does this story tell us about God?

Response: **God is with us.** God takes care of us. God loves us.

TRANSITION: Say, "Great job answering the questions. You were good listeners. Aren't you glad that **God is with us?**"

RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Toilet Paper Rolls (1 per child) | Tape or Stapler | Yarn cut in 2-foot strips (1 per child) | Hole Punch | Stickers | Crayons or Markers |

Say, "Just like the spies, we see things that make us fearful or afraid. But when we ask God to give us His eyes [hold the toilet paper binoculars to your eyes], He helps us have courage."

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Give each child two toilet paper rolls and a piece of yarn. Make the remaining supplies available to the class.
2. Walk around and staple or tape the two rolls side by side to make binoculars.
3. Allow each child to color and decorate their toilet paper binoculars.
4. Hole punch the outer side of each roll about an inch from the top. This is where you string the yarn so it can be worn around the neck.
5. String the yarn through each hole and tie a knot to secure the string onto the binoculars.

TRANSITION: Say, "Just like binoculars help us see things we can't see on our own, God can help us see things the way He does. Remember that **God is with you.**"

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "This month, our memory verse comes from Joshua 1:9. We can be strong and courageous because **God is with us** wherever we go. I'm going to read the verse and show you the motions, and then we will do it together."

... be strong [bring your right arm up, flexing your muscle] and brave [bring your left arm up, flexing your muscle] ... don't be afraid [bring arms down, shake your head "no"]. The Lord your God [point upward] will be with you everywhere you go [bring your arms up like you are making a path with your arms]. Joshua 1:9 (hold your hands out like a book)

CHALLENGE: Have half of the children say (with motions) "be strong" and the other half say (with motions) "be brave." Then, they should finish the verse together. Before you conclude, ask for volunteers to say the verse by themselves.

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "We have a lot to thank God for today. In His Word, the Bible, God tells us that He will always be with us, so we do not have to be afraid. Have you ever asked God to help you when you are afraid? If you haven't, you can start today!"

SAMPLE PRAYER: "God, thank You for being with us wherever we go. Please bless [say each child's name] and help them know how much You love them. Thank You for helping us be strong and courageous. In Jesus' name, Amen."

RELEASE —

If there is extra time, have the children use their binoculars to find things they think are interesting or beautiful. Remind them that just as the spies found good land and yummy food, God wants us to see the amazing things around us. When parents arrive, hand them a copy of the monthly Parent Guide (downloadable).



COURAGEOUS

JOSHUA BRAVELY FOLLOWS GOD



JOSHUA AND THE FALL OF JERICHO

BIBLE PASSAGE

Joshua 6 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

God is with us.

FOCUS VERSE

"... be strong and brave... don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go."
Joshua 1:9 (ICB)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Disposable Plastic Cups | Cotton Balls | Construction Paper | Paper Horn Activity Page | Crayons | Other Craft Items (optional) | Tape |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- Have you ever seen a very tall building? Tell me about it.
- Are you going to any special place this week?



GREET EACH CHILD BY NAME. IT COMMUNICATES THAT THEY ARE IMPORTANT TO YOU. ALSO, ASK THE CHILDREN IF THEY ARE READY TO WORSHIP AS THEY ARRIVE. THIS SIMPLE REMINDER MODELS WHY WE COME TO CHURCH.

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Play the song "Be Strong and Courageous" as the children enter. Say, "One way we worship God is by singing! Will you join me?" You may use the songs suggested in last week's lesson or other songs your little ones enjoy. YouTube is an excellent resource for finding Bible songs (with motions) for Pre-K children.

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Another way we worship is by praying. This is our time to talk with God. We know He is always listening, and we can talk with Him about anything because He loves us. Let's tell Him how much we love Him."

SAMPLE PRAYER: *"Heavenly Father, we love You, and we know You love us. Thank you for always listening. Please help us be strong and brave. In Jesus' name, Amen."*

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, "This month, we are learning what it means to be courageous for God. Does anyone remember what courageous means? It means to be brave, and God tells us that He will help us be brave and strong. Last week, we learned about twelve spies who searched out the Promised Land. Ten of them were afraid and didn't trust God to help them. Only Joshua and Caleb believed that God was with them. We learned that we can always trust God to help us when we are afraid. Today, we will learn another story about how Joshua trusted God. Now, who would like to put our second puzzle piece on the wall?"

TRANSITION: Say, "Before we start our lesson, I want us to play a game to help us get ready for our story."

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Disposable Cups (2-3 per child) | Cotton Balls (5-6 per child) |

Say, "I am going to build the walls of Jericho! Then, you are going to do your best to knock down the wall with cotton balls."

GAME GOAL: To attempt to knock down the "wall" with cotton balls.

HOW TO PLAY:

1. The teacher will build a pretend wall with disposable cups.
2. Give each child an equal amount of cotton balls.
3. When everyone is ready, the children will take turns throwing their cotton balls at the wall, trying to knock it down.
4. If the wall is knocked down before everyone has a turn, the teacher will build it back so that everyone has a turn to throw their cotton balls.
5. Finally, have the children place their cotton balls in a cup to take home if they desire.

TRANSITION: Ask, "That was a lot of work trying to knock down a wall, wasn't it? Well, our story today is about a wall that God made fall. Are you ready to find out what I mean?"

LEARN — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Construction Paper |



KEEP SIMPLE BIBLE COSTUMES IN YOUR CLASSROOM SO THE CHILDREN CAN PUT THEM ON WHENEVER THEY ACT OUT THE STORIES. HAVING THE KIDS ACTIVELY PARTICIPATE IN YOUR WEEKLY LESSONS INCREASES THEIR INTEREST AND RETENTION.

Say, "The people of God had to wait forty years to enter the Promised Land. But then, God chose Joshua to lead His people. God told Joshua to be strong and brave and not to be afraid because He, the Lord, would always be with him.

"Now we will read a story about Joshua and a great big wall. Have you ever seen a high wall? Walls are usually very strong and hard to knock down, but God shows His power to the people in our story. Let's see what great thing God did."

Tell the story in your own words or use the passage below from Joshua 6.

¹ Now the people of Jericho were afraid because the Israelites were near. So they closed the city gates and guarded them. No one went into the city. And no one came out. ² Then the Lord spoke to Joshua. He said, "Look, I have given you Jericho, its king and all its fighting men. ³ March around the city with your army one time every day. Do this for six days. ⁴ Have seven priests carry trumpets... On the seventh day march around the city seven times. On that day tell the priests to blow the trumpets as they march. ⁵ They will make one long blast on the trumpets. When you hear that sound, have all the people give a loud shout. Then the walls of the city will fall. And the people will go straight into the city."

⁷ Joshua ordered the people, "Now go! March around the city..."

¹⁰ But Joshua had told the people not to give a war cry. He said, "Don't shout. Don't say a word until the day I tell you. Then shout!"

¹⁴ So on the second day they marched around the city one time. Then they went back to camp. They did this every day for six days. ¹⁵ On the seventh day they got up at dawn. They marched around the city seven times. They marched just as they had on the days before. But on that day they marched around the city seven times. ¹⁶ The seventh time around the priests blew their trumpets. Then Joshua gave the command: "Now, shout! The Lord has given you this city!."

²⁰ When the priests blew the trumpets, the people shouted. At the sound of the trumpets and the people's shout, the walls fell...

Say, "Would you like to act out that story?" Give the children a piece of construction paper they will roll to make simple horns. Then, have all of the children tiptoe around the room six times. Finally, instruct them to walk around the room one more time. When they have circled, have everyone blow their trumpets and shout. Lastly, have them collapse to the floor to show how the walls of Jericho fell.

Ask, "Who can tell me one thing that is amazing about that story from God's Word? [Wait for responses.] Right! God made the walls of the city fall down! The Lord has the power to do mighty things when we trust Him."

JOINING TO JESUS

We don't mention her in the Pre-K story, but Joshua 6 also covers the story of Rahab. Even though she wasn't an Israelite, she trusted the true God, and because of that, she was saved from destruction. As a result, God grafted her into His family. In fact did you know that Rahab was related to Jesus? In the Gospel of Matthew (Matthew 1:5), Rahab is mentioned as the mother of Boaz, who married Ruth, who was the great grandmother of King David. Because of Rahab's faith, God used her to bring us into an even greater Promise Land – eternal life with Jesus!

TRANSITION: Say, "Joshua knew that God was with them. He was courageous and brave even when things seemed impossible. Now, let's see what we remember about our story."

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Say, "Let's talk about how God helped Joshua and His people."

1. What did God tell Joshua to do?

Response: God told Joshua and His people to march around the city.

2. How were they to march?

Response: They were to march quietly for six days. On the seventh day, they were supposed to blow their horns and shout.

3. Who made the walls fall?

Response: God.

4. What does this story tell us about God?

Response: **God is with us.** God is powerful. God loves us.

TRANSITION: Say, "The Bible is full of stories to help us remember that **God is with us.** Now, would you like to make your own horns to take home with you?"

RESPOND — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Paper Horn* Cutouts (1 per child) | Tape | Crayons | Other Craft Items (optional) |

Say, "When the Israelites walked around the walls of Jericho, the priests blew their horns on the seventh day, and the people shouted. Let's make our own horns to remind us that no matter where we are, **God is with us.**"



BEFORE CLASS, CUT OUT THE HORNS FROM THE PAPER HORNS ACTIVITY PAGE. THIS AGE GROUP MIGHT HAVE A LITTLE TROUBLE CUTTING.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Give each child a *Paper Horn* cutout.
2. Have the kids color and use craft items to decorate (optional) the horn cutout.
3. Help the children roll their horns and tape to secure.
4. Each child should have their own trumpet.

TRANSITION: Say, "Wow, your horns look great! Let's hear how the sound! [Allow everyone to blow their horns.] Boy, that was loud!"

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Let's practice our memory verse so that we can say it whenever we need to remember that we can be courageous because **God is with us.**"

... **be strong** [*bring your right arm up, flexing your muscle*] **and brave** [*bring your left arm up, flexing your muscle*] ... **don't be afraid** [*bring arms down, shake your head "no"*]. **The Lord your God** [*point upward*] **will be with you everywhere you go** [*bring your arms up like you are making a path with your arms*]. **Joshua 1:9** (*hold your hands out like a book*)

CHALLENGE: Practice saying the verse with the children by leaving out words for them to fill in. Ask, "What is this verse telling us?"

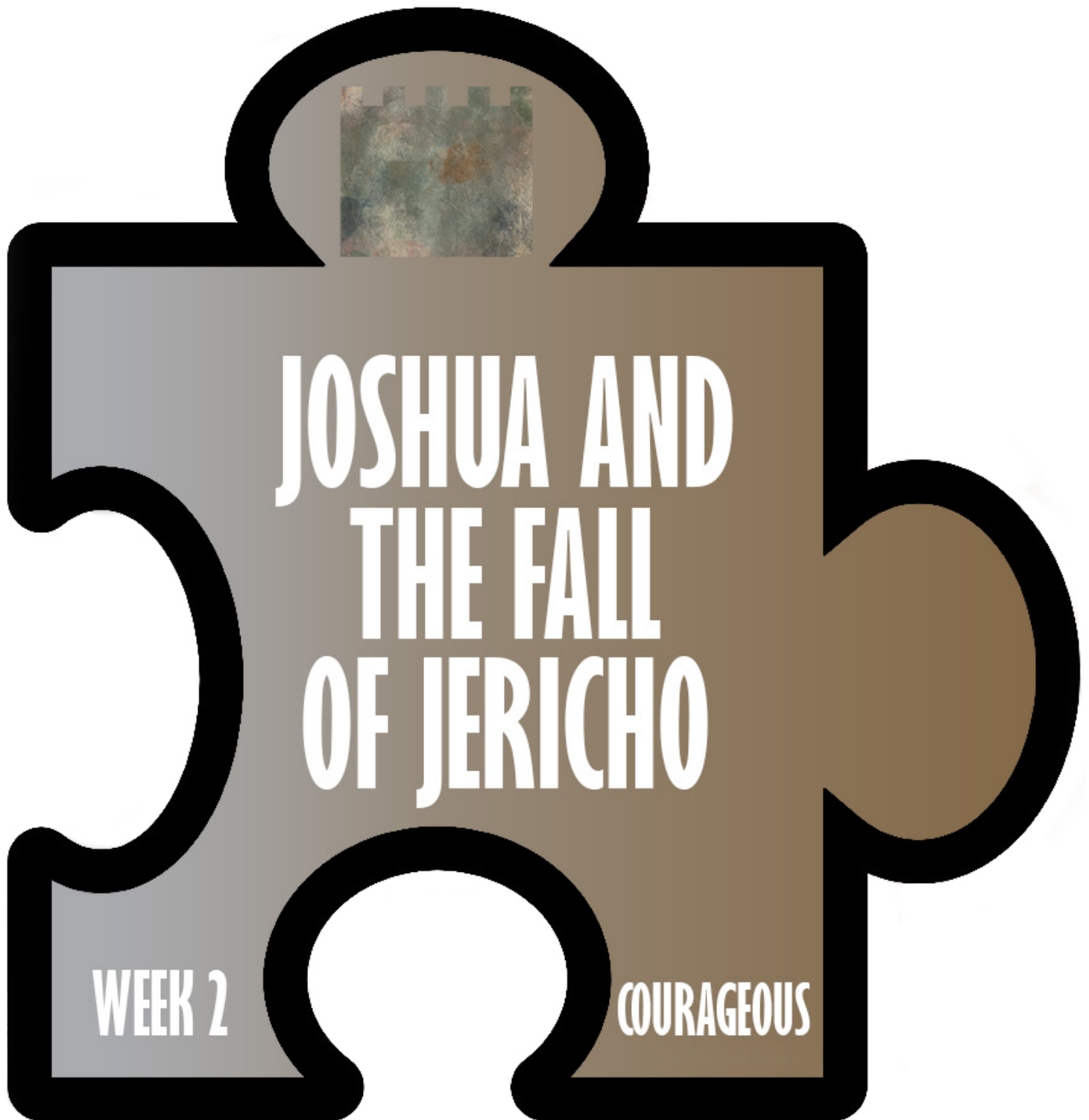
REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

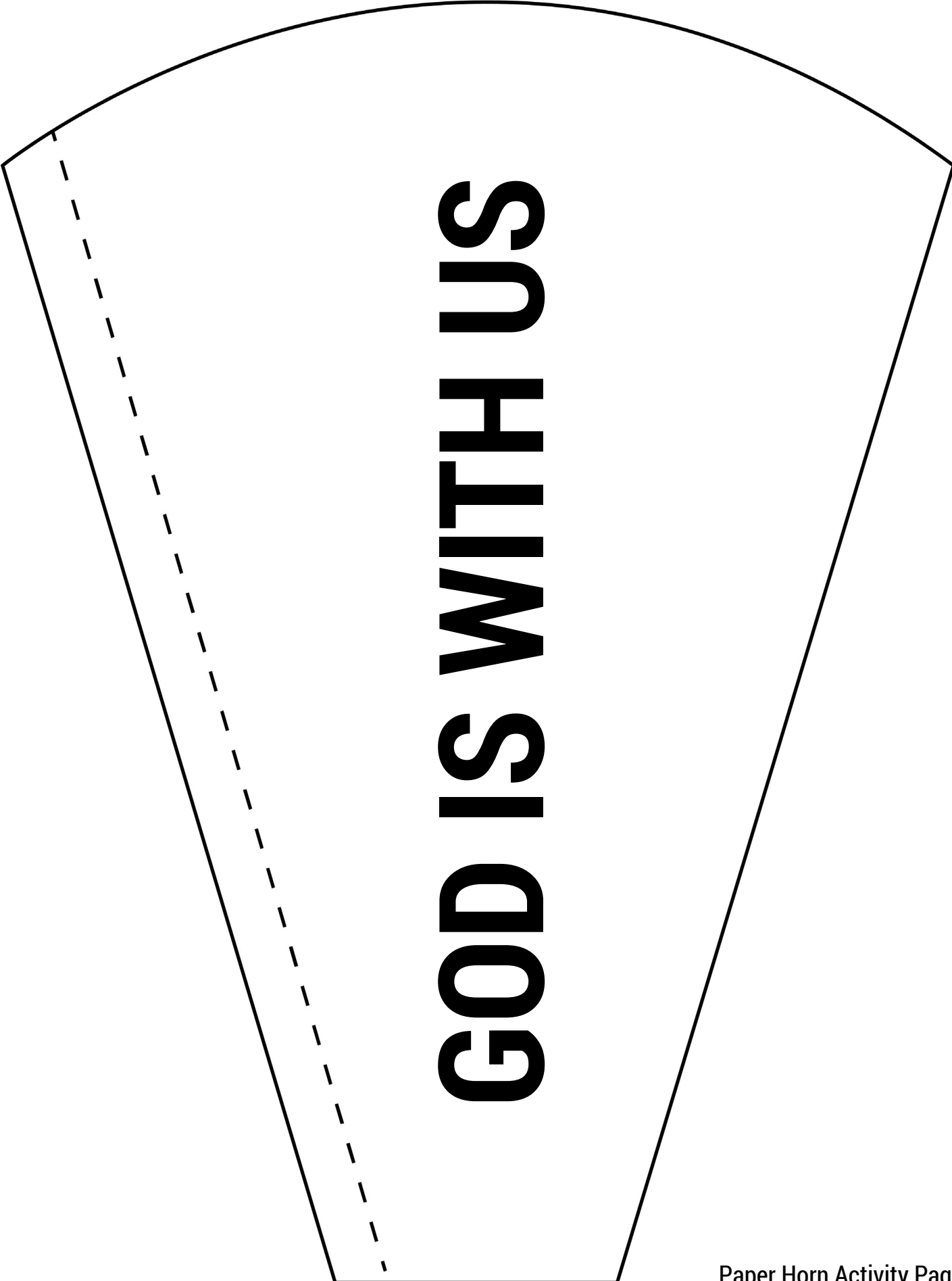
Say, "We have a lot to thank God for today. We have learned that being courageous is doing what God tells us to do even if it sounds strange, like marching around a city for seven days and seeing it fall. No matter what, we can be courageous because we know that **God is with us**. Does anyone have a special prayer request?"

SAMPLE PRAYER: "God, thank You for being stronger and bigger than anything in this world. We can be brave and courageous because You are with us. Would you please help us remember this every day? In Jesus' name, Amen."

RELEASE —

If there is extra time, have the children take turns recreating a wall with the cups. The other children can use the cotton balls to knock down the cups. Remind them that God is with them wherever they go.





COURAGEOUS

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THE DAY THE SUN STOOD STILL

BIBLE PASSAGE

Joshua 10:6-14 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

God is with us.

FOCUS VERSE

"... be strong and brave... don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go."
Joshua 1:9 (ICB)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Upbeat Music | Bluetooth Speaker and Phone or CD Player | *Memory Verse* Activity Page | Glue Sticks | Crayons | Strips of Colored Paper | Paper Plates | Scissors | Confetti, Ribbon, Colored Popsicle Sticks (optional) |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- Name one thing you like about summer days. Now, what is something you like about winter?
- What would you do if you had extra time each day?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, "Worship is a beautiful way of showing God how much we love Him. Let's sing to Jesus." Lead the children in "My God is So Big." You can also use this month's theme song, "Be Strong and Courageous" (found on YouTube).



CLARIFY THAT WHILE GOD INTENDS FOR US TO ENJOY WORSHIP, IT IS COMPLETELY FOR AND ABOUT HIM.

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Gather the children for prayer. Ask if there is someone who would like to lead.

SAMPLE PRAYER: "Dear Jesus, You are powerful and strong. There is nothing You cannot do. Thank You for loving us and always being with us. We love You. In Jesus' name. Amen."

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, “We have been talking about being courageous. Who remembers what ‘courageous’ means? It means to be brave. A few weeks ago, we learned about a man named Joshua, who God used to lead His people into the Promised Land. Last week, we heard how God made the giant walls of Jericho fall to the ground. God was with the people of Israel, and **God is with us!** Today, we will hear how God helped Joshua and his men win another battle by making the sun stand still, but first, who would like to put the next puzzle piece on our wall?”

TRANSITION: Say, “Would you all like to play a little *Freeze Dance?*”

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Upbeat Music | Phone, Bluetooth Speaker or CD Player |

Say, “We are going to play *Freeze Dance!* When the music starts, you need to move, dance, or jump around. Just be careful of those around you. When the music stops, you have to freeze still. Are you ready?”

GAME GOAL: To move around when the music is playing and freeze in place when it stops.

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Press play on the music.
2. Wait for some time and then pause the music. See who stops right away. Acknowledge how great the children are following instructions.
3. Repeat steps one and two until the allotted time is up. Allow the timing of each round to be sporadic.

TRANSITION: Say, “I love seeing all your amazing moves! And boy, do you all know how to freeze! Now, let’s come together and hear about the time when the sun stood still.”

LEARN — 15 MINUTES

Say, “After God made the walls of Jericho fall, He helped Joshua and the people of Israel fight a great army. Let’s listen to our story and find out what happened.” Read or tell the story from Joshua 10.



TELLING THIS STORY IN YOUR OWN WORDS MAY KEEP THE CHILDREN MORE ENGAGED. REMEMBER TO USE A LOT OF EXPRESSION TO KEEP THEIR ATTENTION.

⁶ The Gibeonites sent a message to Joshua... The message said: “We are your servants. Don’t let us be destroyed. Come quickly and help us! Save us!” ...

⁷ So Joshua marched out of Gilgal with his whole army. His best fighting men were with him. ⁸ The Lord said to Joshua, “Don’t be afraid of those armies. I will allow you to defeat them. None of them will be able to defeat you.”

⁹ Joshua and his army marched all night to Gibeon. So Joshua surprised them when he attacked.¹⁰ ...So Israel defeated them in a great victory.

12 That day the Lord allowed the Israelites to defeat the Amorites. And that day Joshua stood before all the people of Israel and said to the Lord:

“Sun, stand still over Gibeon. Moon, stand still over the Valley of Aijalon.”

13 So the sun stood still. And the moon stopped until the people defeated their enemies...The sun stopped in the middle of the sky. It waited to go down for a full day. 14 That has never happened at any time before that day or since. That was the day the Lord listened to a man. Truly the Lord was fighting for Israel!

Ask, “Who defeated the evil armies? [Wait for responses.] God defeated the armies! [Reread verse 6.] Do you see that Joshua was brave because he knew God was with him? This is a great story to remember whenever you are afraid to do what is right. We can move forward with courage because **God is with us.**”

JOINING TO JESUS

Say, “Joshua’s name means “Yahweh saves.” Joshua led his people into battle, but it is God who fought for them. The people had victory when they obeyed God. The meaning of Joshua and Jesus are the same: Yahweh saves. Jesus has already won the battle over sin and death. In return, He asks us to trust him and obey His commands.” (See John 15:7.)

TRANSITION: Say, “The Bible says that there has never been a day like that before or since. Can we all say, ‘God is STRONG and MIGHTY?’”

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Let’s talk about how God was with the Israelites and how **God is with us.**”

1. What happened when Joshua prayed?

Response: When Joshua prayed, the sun stood still.

2. Why did Joshua and his men need the sun to stay still?

Response: They needed more time to fight their enemies.

3. If you had been a warrior with Joshua, what would you have told your family about the battle?

Response: Answers will vary.

4. How do you think God responds when we pray?

Response: Answers will vary.

5. What does this story tell us about God?

Response: **God is with us.** God listens to our prayers. God loves us. God is strong and mighty.

TRANSITION: Say, “Great job! Our God loves us and listens when we pray. Let’s create something that will help us remember that God listens when we pray.”

RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Memory Verse* Activity Page (1 per child) | Glue Sticks | Crayons | Strips of Colored Paper | Paper Plates (1 per child) | Scissors | Confetti, Ribbon, Colored Popsicle Sticks (optional) |

Say, "We are going to create a craft that you can use to retell the story of when the sun stood still."



IF YOU THINK YOUR KIDS MIGHT HAVE TROUBLE CUTTING OUT THE *MEMORY VERSE* FROM THE ACTIVITY PAGE, BE SURE TO CUT THEM OUT BEFORE CLASS BEGINS. BE SURE TO HAVE ENOUGH YELLOW CRAYONS FOR EACH CHILD TO COLOR THE SUN (PLATE) DURING THE FIRST STEP.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Have the children color their plates yellow.
2. Next, provide strips of colored paper to make sun rays. Glue the paper rays to the edges of the plate.
3. Have each child paste their *Memory Verse* circle to the center of the plate.
4. Finally, continue decorating the plates with confetti, ribbon, popsicle sticks, etc.

TRANSITION: Say, "Why do you think we made a sun after hearing our story today? Right! To help us remember that our God is all-powerful and can even make the sun stand still. Let's practice this month's memory verse."

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Our memory verse reminds us that we can be brave because **God is with us**. Listen as I say the verse. Then, you say it with me."

... **be strong** [*bring your right arm up, flexing your muscle*] and **brave** [*bring your left arm up, flexing your muscle*] ... **don't be afraid** [*bring arms down, shake your head "no"*]. **The Lord your God** [*point upward*] **will be with you everywhere you go** [*bring your arms up like you are making a path with your arms*]. **Joshua 1:9** (*hold your hands out like a book*)

CHALLENGE: Practice the verse by singing it. You can make up your own little song and have the children sing it with you.

REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "The Bible tells us that God does great things to show His power. He can even make the sun stand still! Remember that **God is with us** and that He loves us so much."

SAMPLE PRAYER: "Jesus, thank You for all the amazing things You have done to help us remember that You are a big God. Help us talk to You every day. We believe You are always with us. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen!"

RELEASE —

If there is extra time, pair the children. Have them use their craft to retell the lesson. You can also replay the ENGAGE game.



“

...

**be strong and
brave... don't be
afraid. The Lord your
God will be with you
everywhere you go.”**

Joshua 1:9

(ICB)

COURAGEOUS

JOSHUA BRAVELY FOLLOWS GOD



CHOOSE WHOM YOU WILL SERVE

BIBLE PASSAGE

Joshua 24:14-18 (ICB)

BIG IDEA

God is with us.

FOCUS VERSE

"... be strong and brave... don't be afraid. The Lord your God will be with you everywhere you go."
Joshua 1:9 (ICB)

LESSON MATERIALS

| Puzzle Piece | Empty Tissue Box | *Choices Activity Page* | *Memory Verse Activity Page* |
Cardstock | Crayons | Self-Adhesive Magnetic Strips | Scissors |

GREET — 15 MINUTES

Connection questions to ask as the children arrive:

- Would you rather read a story with your mom (or dad, grandparent, etc.) or play a game with a friend?
- Would you rather live in a big house in the city or on a farm with lots of animals?

WORSHIP — 10 MINUTES

Say, "It was neat to hear all of your choices. We get to make so many choices every day, and one good choice we can always make is to worship God. Worship is not just singing, but singing helps us think about how great God is!" Check out *Lifetree Kids'* song "I Have Decided" or continue to sing this month's theme song, "Be Strong and Courageous."



YOU CAN SIMPLIFY THE SONG "I HAVE DECIDED TO FOLLOW JESUS" FOR PRE-K CHILDREN. YOUTUBE HAS VERSIONS THAT ARE SUITABLE FOR THIS AGE GROUP.

PRAY — 5 MINUTES

Gather the children for prayer. Say, "We worship God when we pray, and sometimes we do this by kneeling. Would you kneel with me now?"

SAMPLE PRAYER: "God, thank You for being with us and loving us. Thank you for our friends. Please help us listen to Your story today and learn about Your great power. We love You. In Jesus' name, Amen!"

REVIEW — 5 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Puzzle Piece |

BACKGROUND: Say, "Okay! Today is our last lesson of the month. Do you remember the word 'courageous?' What does it mean? Right! It means to be brave. In the first week, we learned that Joshua and Caleb brought back a good report of the Promised Land, but the other spies were afraid. The next week, we talked about God making the walls of Jericho fall. Last week we learned that God answered Joshua's prayer for the sun to stand still. Wow! God is so great and mighty! Nothing is too hard for Him. We have one more story about Joshua, but first, let's post our puzzle piece. It looks like this."

TRANSITION: Say, "Let's play a game about making choices."

ENGAGE — 10 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | Empty Tissue Box | *Choices* Activity Page |

Say, "Inside this box are pieces of paper. Each of you will get a turn to choose what the class will do. Are you ready?"

GAME GOAL: To have the children decide between two actions for the class to complete.



BEFORE CLASS, CUT THE *CHOICES* ACTIVITY PAGE INTO STRIPS AND ADD THEM TO THE EMPTY TISSUE BOX. IF YOUR GROUP IS LARGER THAN TEN CHILDREN, DIVIDE YOUR CLASS INTO TEAMS. CREATE A *CHOICES* TISSUE BOX FOR EACH TEAM.

HOW TO PLAY:

1. Begin the game by selecting the first child to draw a slip of paper from the box and then choose one of the two movements listed.
2. The child can read their selection aloud or have the teacher read it. Then, the class will perform that movement until the teacher calls "Stop."
4. Continue the game until you are ready to move to the next lesson segment.

TRANSITION: Say, "I love the choices you all made! Now that we have all our wiggles out, let's sit down to hear about the choice Joshua gave the Israelites."

LEARN — 15 MINUTES

Say, "In today's Bible story, Joshua and the Israelites were finally in the land God had promised them. Joshua called a meeting of all the people. He reminded them of the ways God had helped them. He told them that God would be with them, but they needed to trust Him [believe God would help them]. The people had to make a choice. Let's listen to hear about this choice." Tell the story in your own words or read the passage from Joshua 24:14-18.



HAVING THE BIBLE IN YOUR HANDS SHOWS THE CHILDREN THAT THESE STORIES ARE FROM GOD'S WORD.

¹⁴ Then Joshua spoke to the people. He said, “Now you have heard the Lord’s words... Throw away the false gods that your people worshiped... Now you must serve the Lord. ¹⁵ But maybe you don’t want to serve the Lord. You must choose for yourselves today. You must decide whom you will serve. You may serve the gods that your people worshiped when they lived on the other side of the Euphrates River. Or you may serve the gods of the Amorites who lived in this land. As for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.”

¹⁶ Then the people answered, “No! We will never stop following the Lord. We will never serve other gods! ¹⁷ We know it was the Lord our God who brought our people out of Egypt... the Lord did great things for us there... He protected us while we traveled through other lands. ¹⁸ Then he helped us defeat the people living in these lands... So we will continue to serve the Lord because he is our God.”

Ask, “What choice did Joshua give the people? [Wait for responses.] Right! He told them they needed to choose between obeying or disobeying the Lord. And what did they choose? Right again! The people promised they would serve God only, and they did!”

JOINING TO JESUS

Say, “Everyone must make a choice of whether or not they will serve God. Jesus said, ‘I am the way. And I am the truth and the life. The only way to the Father is through me.’”
(Matthew 16:24)

TRANSITION: Say, “Deciding to follow Jesus takes courage, but we know **God is with us**. Isn’t that awesome? He is with us wherever we go!”

DISCUSS — 10 MINUTES

Say, “Let’s talk about our story.”

1. What choice did Joshua tell the Israelites they had to make?

Response: To choose to serve God.

2. What choice did they make?

Response: They chose to serve God.

3. Does God want us to make a choice?

Response: Yes. He wants us to serve and follow Jesus because He loves us and takes care of us.

4. Why do you think Joshua reminded the people to be strong?

Response: Sometimes, serving God is hard, but He will help us obey.

5. What are some ways God is helping you be brave?

Response: Answers vary.

6. Who wants to follow Jesus?

Response: Have the children raise their hands if they want to follow Jesus.

7. What have you learned about God in this lesson?

Response: **God is with us.** God wants us to follow Him. God loves us and takes care of us.

TRANSITION: Say, "Great job answering the questions! Let's make a craft to help us remember that **God is with us.**"

RESPOND — 15 MINUTES

MATERIALS: | *Memory Verse Activity Page* | Cardstock | Crayons | Self-Adhesive Magnetic Strips | Scissors |

Say, "Let's create something that we can put on our refrigerator or in our room to help us remember that **God is with us** wherever we go."



BEFORE CLASS, PRINT THE MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY PAGE ON CARDSTOCK AND CUT OUT THE MEMORY VERSE FOR THE KIDS. CUT THE MAGNETIC STRIP INTO 2-INCH PIECES, ENOUGH FOR EACH CHILD TO HAVE ONE PIECE.

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Give each person a *Memory Verse Activity page* and one piece of a magnetic strip.
3. Have the children color the *Memory Verse*.
4. Finally, place the self-adhesive magnetic strips on the top back of the *Memory Verse*.

TRANSITION: Say, "Your magnetic pictures look great! I know they will help you remember that **God is with you**, and He gives you courage."

MEMORIZE — 5 MINUTES

Say, "Who enjoyed learning about God's mighty and awesome power? I know I did! Let's practice our memory verse as a class!"

... **be strong** [*bring your right arm up, flexing your muscle*] **and brave** [*bring your left arm up, flexing your muscle*] ... **don't be afraid** [*bring arms down, shake your head "no"*]. **The Lord your God** [*point upward*] **will be with you everywhere you go** [*bring your arms up like you are making a path with your arms*]. **Joshua 1:9** (*hold your hands out like a book*)

CHALLENGE: Ask for volunteers to say the verse by themselves.

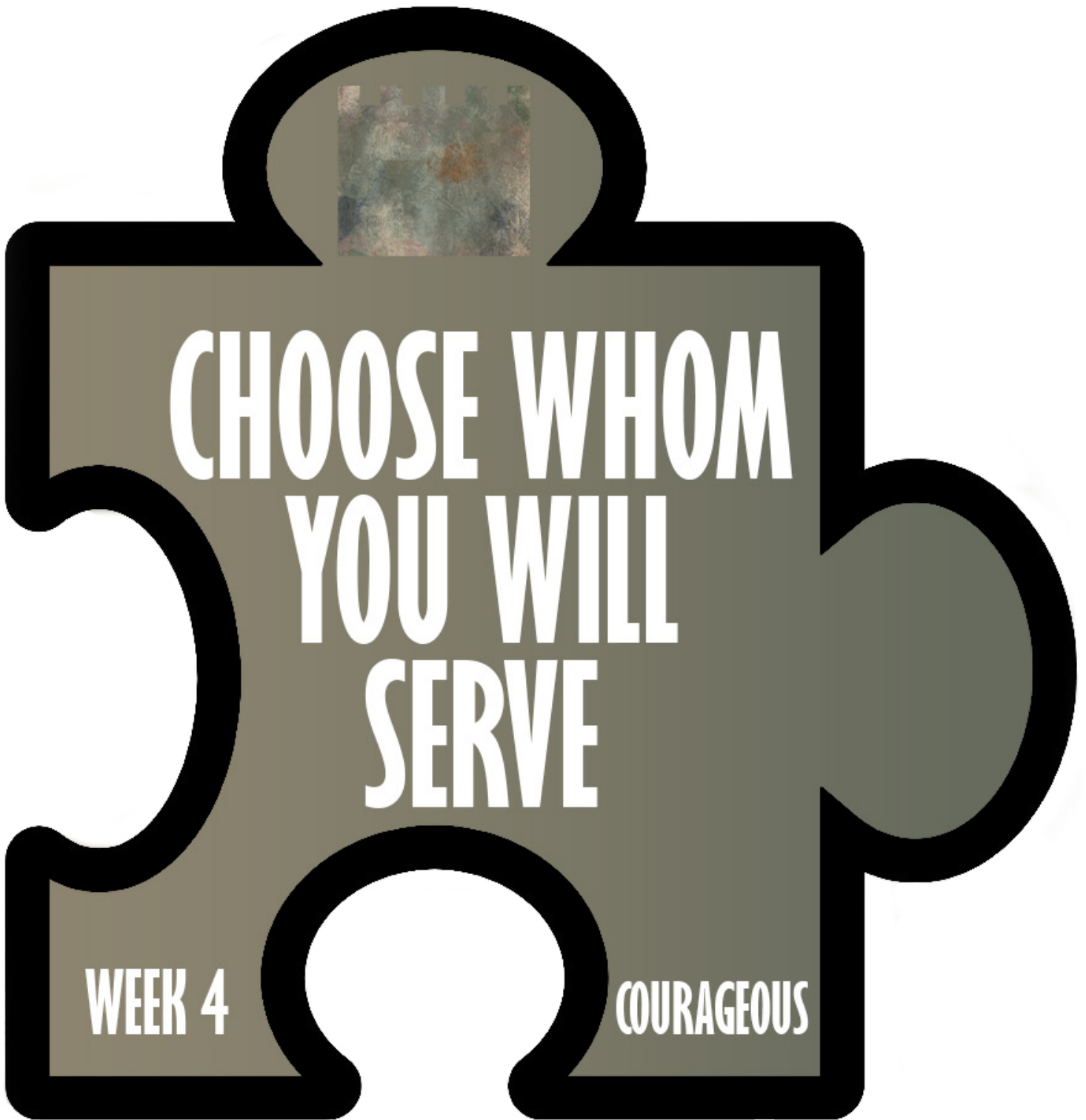
REFLECT — 5 MINUTES

Say, "We have a lot to praise God for. We can praise Him because He is powerful and can do anything. And we can thank Him for being with us and helping us be strong and brave. Remember, He helped Joshua take the Promised Land. He made the walls of Jericho fall down, and He even made the sun stand still. Do you think He can make you courageous? Yes, He can! Does anyone need God's help to be brave? We can pray for each other right now."

SAMPLE PRAYER: *“God, thank You for giving us Your Word to show us how much you love us. You are always with us. Thank You for making us brave. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”*

RELEASE —

As you wait for children to be dismissed, use this time to ask “would you rather questions.” You can also download free Conversation Cards from IPHC Kids at <https://iphc.org/discipleship/printable-resources/>.



| | |
|---|--|
| Jump OR Crawl | Bunny Hop OR Skip |
| Roll OR Walk Very Slowly | Jog in Place OR Crab Walk |
| Twirl OR Gallop | Freeze OR Walk Around the Room |
| High Knees OR Twirl | Pretend Tight-Rope Walk OR March in Place |
| Gallop OR Crab Walk | Penguin Walk OR Bunny Hop |
| Play Air Guitar OR Play Air Piano | Clap Your Hands OR Walk Very Slowly |
| Stomp Your Feet OR Walk Backwards | Make Arm Circles OR Hop Like a Frog |
| Silly Dance OR High Knees | Give High-Fives OR Stomp Your Feet |
| Pretend Tight-Rope Walk OR Give Yourself a Hug | Twirl OR Flap Your Arms Like a Bird |
| Sing as Loud as You Can OR Whisper to a Friend | Act Like a Monkey OR Meow Like a Cat |

REMEMBER

I COMMANDED YOU TO BE

STRONG

& BRAVE.

THE LORD YOUR

GOD WILL BE WITH

YOU EVERYWHERE

YOU GO.

JOSHUA 1:9, ICB

SO DON'T BE AFRAID