



Lesson
20

2s & 3s

JOSHUA BECOMES LEADER

January 11 & 12
**GOD GIVES
US COURAGE**



LESSON GOAL:

Background: After Moses died, God appointed Joshua to be the new leader to guide the Israelites to the promised land. God reminded Joshua that He would give the Israelites all that He had promised. God gave Joshua courage to lead the Israelites to the promised land.

Lesson Goal: For kids to understand that God can give us the courage to do what He calls us to do, even if it feels hard or scary.

Joshua 1:1-7

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Parent & Leader Equipping: Dr. Jeff Meyers
Jan 24 @ Rockrimmon • 6-8 PM

Faith Foundations Class
Saturdays, Jan 25 - Feb 8 • RR & MO
Sundays, Jan 26 - Feb 9 • WH



KEY VERSE:

Be strong and brave...I am the Lord your God. I will be with you everywhere you go.

Joshua 1:9, NIRV

MISSION FOCUS:

Serving by Praying
(New SW Campus Building)

We're excited to share an incredible opportunity with you! As we prepare for the transition of our Southwest campus into their permanent building, we invite you to partner with us through prayer.

This new building is more than just a space—it's a tool for reaching those within our city by sharing God's love. Together, let's pray that this new campus building will be a place where lives are changed and people can come to know the hope of Jesus!

THEME FOR THIS SERIES:
Basketball



25
min

CHECK-IN

The goal of check-in time is to greet parents/guardians and children by name and help them feel known and welcome by creating a welcoming environment.



WELCOME FAMILIES

As kids arrive to check-in, greet them and help them feel safe, seen and secure.

SAY:

I'm so glad to see you today, **(insert child/parent name)**! Do you have any offering to put in our offering bin? *(Direct child to offering station)*. You can play with the classroom activities until we begin Explore time.

(Insert parent name), do you have a diaper bag or any other specific instructions for today? *(Respond accordingly)* Enjoy service!

DO:

Help kids feel **SAFE** (physically & emotionally), **SEEN** (known & understood) and **SOOTHED** (calmed & supported) so they can become **SECURE** in your classroom.



FREE PLAY

The goal of free play is to create space for toddlers to get adapted to the classroom so they can connect with the Ministry Partners and other kids.

DO:

As kids play with the classroom toys and games, take time to connect on their level. Initiate conversation by relating to something the child is doing, something you notice about him/her or an overview of what they can expect during class. The goal is to help them feel safe and connected.

Examples:

- That's a nice red shirt you're wearing! Is red your favorite color?
- I see you're holding a yellow lego. What are you building?
- I see that you're sad. Your grown ups went to church but they'll be back soon.
- We're going to learn about Jesus here. When we clean up our toys, we're going to do a craft.

15
min

EXPLORE

The goal of Explore is to help kids connect relationally and think about the Bible story. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



MAKE: Courage Cross

Help kids think about the lesson further and have fun by doing this activity!

Supplies: Wooden cross, foam stickers, crayons/markers, God statement sticker



SAY:

Today we are learning how God gives us courage. Even when things feel scary, we can trust God always. Let's make a craft to remind us of this truth!



DO:

Pass out one cross per child. Help them decorate their cross using foam stickers, crayons, and markers. When they are done, place the "God statement sticker" on the cross.



CONNECT: Why Does It Matter?

Help kids prepare for the lesson by answering the Big 3 questions.



SAY:

Answer THE BIG 3 questions to help kids prepare for the lesson

1. Who is our story about today?

God, Joshua, & the Israelites

2. What is the problem?

Moses died and the Israelites needed a new leader

3. What will God do?

God chose Joshua to be the new leader of the Israelites. He told him to be strong and brave because God would be with him



CLEAN UP: Transition to Large Group

Ask kids to clean up the activity or save it to finish for the end of class. Then, ask kids to transition to Large Group by sitting quietly in the designated story area.



SAY:

Let's all work together to clean up so we can hear our Bible story for the day. We can sing a song as we clean!

Sing: "Clean up, clean up, everybody do your share. Clean up, clean up, everybody everywhere."



Craft Example



15
min

LARGE GROUP

The goal of Large Group is to help kids grow in their relationship with God by participating in Worship and hearing an engaging Bible story.



EXPECTATIONS

As you begin Large Group, play the Church Today Expectations video ([Plex > Videos > EC > 2s & 3s](#))

SAY:

We're glad to be at church today.
We will listen, we will pray.
We'll sit quietly in our spot.
We'll tell Jesus we love Him a lot!

DO:

PRAY before transitioning to worship.



WORSHIP

Use the Little Kids music videos on Plex to sing some simple songs with your class. To access these videos, go to [Plex > Videos > EC > 2s/3s](#) folder.

SONG 1: Joshua Fought the Battle

SONG 2: God Is With Me

SONG 3: Peace like a river



BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story (see script on page 4). Use the flipbook provided.



WORSHIP RESPONSE

Help kids reflect on the lesson by providing a quiet space for the Holy Spirit to work in their hearts as they think about how it applies to them personally.

Supplies: none

Today we learned that **God gives us courage!** Courage means doing something, even though we might feel scared or nervous. Have you ever had to try something new that you were a little nervous about? **Let kids share - give ideas (i.e. sleeping in big kid bed, going to new place, etc).** We can ask God to give us courage in those times. Let's practice now by praying together. **Have kids repeat after you as you pray:** Dear God, please give me courage when I'm nervous or scared. Thank you for loving me! Amen.



BLESSING

As Large Group ends, speak this blessing over the kids.

May you receive courage from God to do hard things because God loves you and is with you!

BIBLE STORY

Hamilton's Prop: army man



INTRODUCTION - HAMILTON

Use the Hamilton puppet to introduce the lesson topic and get the kids engaged.

SAY:

Hi Hamilton! **Hamilton distracted playing with army man.** Hamilton! Can you hear me? **Hamilton looks over, startled.** You seem a little busy today... What are you playing with, Hamilton? **Hamilton whispers in your ear.** Oh, you're pretending to be a really strong and brave soldier? You know what, that reminds me of our Bible story for today. Hamilton, do you think you and your soldier could help us tell the story? **Hamilton nods excitedly.** Are you all ready?



BIBLE STORY

Use the Hamilton puppet to help read the Bible story. Use the story cards in your curriculum folder as you read the story.

SAY:

Remember how God's people had to wander through the wilderness? Well, one of God's people was a man named Joshua. **Hamilton holds up army man.** Joshua had followed and learned from Moses, the leader of God's people. Shortly before Moses died, he told the Israelites, God's people, that Joshua would be the next leader.

Once Moses died, God told Joshua to trust that He would be with Joshua, just like He was with Moses. God said he would never leave or desert Joshua, so Joshua must be strong and brave. **Hamilton waves army man around. Show me how strong you are! Show me your brave face!** God reminded Joshua to think about all Moses had told him and follow all the laws Moses had given.

God told Joshua it was time to finally lead the Israelites across the Jordan river and into the promised land. But, Joshua couldn't lead the Israelites on his own, he had to trust that God would give him the courage and bravery because God was with him wherever he went. So, Joshua told his officers to let every Israelite know that they were preparing to cross the Jordan river in three days and take over the land God had promised them. **Hamilton making soldier talk.** It wasn't going to be easy, but Joshua believed God's word to be strong and courageous for the Lord God was with him! God gives us courage, just like He gave Joshua courage! We can be strong and brave because God is with us!

15
min

RESPOND

The goal of Respond is for kids to think about the lesson and how it applies to them. It should be completed in small groups of 5-7 kids per one Ministry Partner.



SAY IT OUT LOUD!

Help the kids remember the God Statement for the day by repeating it aloud and doing the hand motions.



SAY:

Today our God statement is **God Gives Us Courage!**

Let's say it together in a fun way to help us remember it.

Say it loudly, softly and in a fun voice. Then do the hand motions.



DO:

God (hand vertical in front of face)

Gives Us Courage (strong arms)



ACTIVITY- Title Here

If you have extra time at the end of your lesson and small group time, the kids can participate in this activity that reinforces the daily lesson.

Supplies: Long wooden dowel (staff)



SAY:

Today we learned about God choosing Joshua to be the next leader of the Israelites. We're going to play "follow the leader." I'll go first and then I will choose a leader by giving them the "staff" to lead with. Remember to follow your leader and do what they do!



DO:

Take the wooden dowel or "staff" and pick a child to be the leader. Let them lead for a few moments and then choose someone else to be the leader. Choose an LIT or leader to be the first leader and demonstrate various actions they can do. Repeat as many times as you would like.

15
min

EAT & PLAY

The goal of this time is to provide a snack, introduce kids to structured classroom games, have free play and to encourage interaction and participation with others.



SNACK

Check your classroom roster to ensure none of your kids have allergies, then offer each child a snack and water (provided in your classroom).



GAME IDEAS

While your class can participate in free play for most of the remaining classroom time, please try to lead at least one structured activity with your class.



DO:

- Play “I Spy” focusing on color, shape, and letter recognition
- Freeze Dance
- Duck, Duck, Goose
- Hot Potato
- Charades
- Odd One Out Game
- Hokey, Pokey
- Popcorn Parachute Game
- Read a book or a story out of picture Bible
- Gather paper and crayons and practice drawing

5
min

CHECK-OUT

The goal of check-out is to re-connect kids with their parent and communicate any upcoming events or announcements as families leave.



DO:

Encourage kids to finish their Explore craft, utilize the prayer station or play classroom games until their parent comes to pick them up.

As kids get picked up, mention any upcoming events or announcements while handing their parent the announcement card or flyer.