

Joshua Challenged the People (Joshua 23–24)



Dear families,

Joshua was getting along in years, so he gathered the people at the place where God had made a promise to Abraham. (See Gen. 12:6-7.) Joshua wanted the people to remember and to live based on what they knew to be true about God: God can be trusted. He is good, and He is faithful.

Joshua issued a challenge: “Be very strong and continue obeying all that is written in the book of the law of Moses.” Reading, studying, and obeying God’s Word is a mark of belief in God. Joshua reminded the people that they were successful over their enemies because of their obedience to God. Joshua also gave the Israelites a warning. Just as all the good things God promised had been fulfilled, so would all the bad things He promised if the Israelites disobeyed Him.

Further, Joshua reminded the leaders of their nations’ history—from the birth of Isaac to Israel’s escape from Egypt. Over and over, God had demonstrated His power and goodness to the Israelites. Their ancestors had repeatedly turned from God to worship the false gods of other nations. Joshua said, “Choose for yourselves today: Which will you worship ... As for me and my family, we will worship the LORD” (Josh. 24:15).

The Israelites had a choice: Continue to worship God or choose to serve other gods. In response to God’s faithfulness to His promises, the Israelites renewed their covenant to be

faithful to the Lord.

As you share the story of Joshua's legacy with kids, point them to a greater legacy found in Jesus Christ. Jesus gave a similar type of farewell speech at the Last Supper, exhorting His disciples to not only love God but love one another. After His resurrection, Jesus sent His disciples out to tell the nations about Him. Jesus calls all people who trust in Him to tell others about Him.

Check out *The Gospel Project At Home* for resources designed to help you lead a family worship experience as well as suggestions for morning and evening prayer times and family activities.

FAMILY TALKING POINTS

CHRIST CONNECTION

This is the big idea of how this week's Bible story points to Jesus.

- **Babies & Toddlers:** Jesus told the disciples to obey Him by telling others about Him.
- **Younger Preschool:** Joshua told the Israelites to obey God. Jesus told the disciples to obey Him by telling others about Him.
- **Older Preschool:** Before Joshua died, he left the Israelites with a task: obey God. After Jesus' death and resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples and left them with a task: obey Him by telling others about Him.
- **Kids:** As Joshua prepared for his own death, he left behind a legacy of obedience to God. After Jesus' death and resurrection, He appeared to the disciples and left them with a legacy: to obey Him by making disciples of all nations.

BIG PICTURE QUESTION & ANSWER

This is an important biblical truth that your child will encounter each week of this unit.

- **Younger Preschool:** What is a miracle? A miracle is something that shows God's power.
- **Older Preschool:** What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done.
- **Kids:** What is a miracle? A miracle is something God does that usually cannot be done so that we can know He is all-powerful.

KEY PASSAGE

This is a Bible verse that relates to what your child will encounter each week of this unit.

- **Babies & Toddlers:** God shows His strength to people. Psalm 77:14
- **Younger Preschool:** God shows His strength to people. Psalm 77:14
- **Older Preschool:** You are the God who works wonders; you revealed your strength among the peoples. Psalm 77:14

- **Kids:** You are the God who works wonders; you revealed your strength among the peoples. Psalm 77:14

**** Next week:** God's Miracles Prove Who He Is (Mark 16)