



LESSON 25

1st and 2nd Grade

Principle: Following God, even when others do not.

Bible Character(s): Joshua

Scripture Reference: Joshua 24, Judges 6



PERSONAL PREPARATION: Before this weekend, read Joshua 24 and Judges 6.

Think about the promises of God; remember times in your life when He was faithful. We often forget about how faithful God is when we are faced with new and difficult situations. We try to control these situations rather than trusting our God to work in them. How often do we get caught up in the culture and the way others tell us to handle things, rather than seeking God's will and direction for different situations? Are you constantly in the Word so that your perspective will reflect the gospel, rather than the world around you? Have you been in situations where you knew you were to follow God even when others were not following Him? Be prepared with examples from your life to share with the group. Was it difficult to follow God when others didn't? What gave you the strength to do it? Did you have a verse that encouraged you to do the right thing?

PLUG IN TIME - 5-10 minutes as the kids begin to arrive

Arrive early to check the supplies in the bin and review the lesson. Write today's principle on the whiteboard. Remember to greet all campers upon arrival; meet their parents; welcome and introduce all visitors. Create a welcoming cabin for all campers!

Simon Says

Play "Simon Says" in your cabin, and then play follow the leader on the way to Big Group.



BIG GROUP Time - 35-40 minutes

As you line up, remind campers we are going to have fun as an entire Camp Grace group! We are going to live out GRACE by **Glorifying God** through worship, **Respecting All Leaders**, and **Accepting Responsibility** to listen with attentive ears, minds, and hearts - fully **Celebrating Christ** with passion! We should **Encourage Others** to do the same, by not distracting them from their worship of God.

***Take your cabin flag to Big Group.**

The Bridge to Small Group

Today, we will review God's commands and promises. We will remember God's faithfulness in our lives and look at times when it is hard to choose to follow God, especially when others around us are not choosing obedience.

Small Group Time - 25-30 minutes

Getting Started

If your cabin did well in Big Group, acknowledge it. If not, take a couple of minutes to talk about how they can do better next time.

What did you learn in Big Group today? Why did the staffers want the t-shirt and music? (Because they thought everyone wanted them.) Have you ever been tempted to want something or to listen to music that doesn't honor God? (Allow responses.)

In our last lesson we learned about how sin affects others. We saw how a man named Achan ["ack-in"] disobeyed God, and as a result it affected all of the Israelites. All of the Israelites were held responsible for the sin of one man. They went into battle against the city of Ai, a battle they should have easily won, but instead men were killed and Ai defeated them. God revealed to them that their loss was because of the sin of one of their men. Achan was punished, and then God made a way for the Israelites to be right with Him again. He forgave them, and blessed their obedience by allowing them to defeat Ai the second time.

Today we will finish our study of Joshua and look at what it means to follow God, even when others are not. Joshua gathered all the Israelites together to tell them what God wanted them to know. He began by telling them that their ancestors used to worship other gods or idols. Do you remember the Israelites making the golden calf to worship?

God wanted them to remember that their relatives had chosen to worship idols. But God had always been faithful to His people. God brought terrible plagues on Egypt to make Pharaoh free the Israelites. Then God helped the Israelites defeat the Amorites, Jericho and other cities and people. God took care of the Israelites. He was faithful and followed through on all of His promises to them.

Remembering His Faithfulness



The purpose is to look at ways that God has been faithful to us.

Supplies:

Worksheet – "Remembering His Faithfulness" side (1 per camper)

"Remembering His Faithfulness" teacher's guide (1 per bin)

Have campers look up the verses on the worksheet and read each out loud. Below each verse have each camper write or draw pictures of times when God has been faithful in their lives. Use the teacher's guide to help them think of examples that pertain to the verse. (If this activity is taking too much time, just do two verses, and come back to it at the end if time allows.)

Tie It Together



God was faithful to the Israelites and He is faithful to us. We can all see how God has been faithful in our lives and in other people's lives. It is important to remember that God is faithful. We have to make a choice to follow Him and His commands. We can choose to follow God because we know that God always loves us and cares for us.

Let's begin reading the Bible in Joshua 24.

Joshua 24:14

14 "So fear the LORD and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD alone.

Joshua tells the Israelites not to worship idols like their ancestors did, but to serve the Lord completely. We also have to make the choice that the Israelites made. We can choose to follow what those around us are doing or we can choose to serve God. Let's look at times when this choice could be hard to make.

Hard Choices



The purpose is to recognize the times that we have chosen to follow others and the times when it might be hard to choose to follow God.

Supplies:

Situation guide (1 per bin)

Read through the situations. For each one, ask the campers to stand up if the person is choosing to follow God and stay seated if the person is choosing to follow others.

Tie It Together



Sometimes it can be hard to choose to follow God, especially when those around us are not choosing to follow God. Do you have a hard time choosing to follow God, even when no one else is? What happens when you choose to follow everyone else and do what God does not want you to do? (Allow responses.) When we are faced with situations like these, we can remember God's faithfulness. We know we can trust God! This makes it easier to choose to follow God, even when others do not.

Let's continue reading the Bible and see what Joshua and the Israelites choose to do.

Joshua 24:15-25

15 But if you refuse to serve the Lord, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord."

16 The people replied, "We would never abandon the Lord and serve other gods. 17 For the Lord our God is the one who rescued us and our ancestors from slavery in the land of Egypt. He performed mighty miracles before our very eyes. As we traveled through the wilderness among our enemies, he preserved us. 18 It was the Lord who drove out the Amorites and the

other nations living here in the land. So we, too, will serve the Lord, for he alone is our God."

23 "All right then," Joshua said, "destroy the idols among you, and turn your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel."

25 So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day at Shechem, committing them to follow the decrees and regulations of the Lord.

The Israelites chose to follow the Lord, even though others were worshiping idols. We also have to make this choice. Everyday we are faced with the decision to either follow what God wants us to do or follow those who are not doing what God wants us to do.

Following God



The purpose is for the campers to think of how they can choose to follow God in their lives.

Supplies:

White board

Ask the campers to think of ways they can choose to follow God in their lives. Write these down on the white board.

Tie It Together



We can remember to follow God in every part of our lives. We can follow Him by serving others, such as our family members. When we choose to obey our parents, we are following God. When we are kind to our siblings and share with them, we are following God. When we read our Bible and spend time in prayer, we are following God. Every day, we have many choices to make in how we can follow God or not follow Him. Remember that God knows what is best for you and He blesses us when we choose to follow Him.

Joshua 24 Remembrance



The purpose is to reinforce Joshua 24:15 to remind us of God's promise and that we can choose to follow God, even when others do not.

Supplies:

Worksheet – "Joshua 24 Remembrance" section (1 per camper)

Crayons/markers

Have the campers draw a house on the worksheet. Look up Joshua 24:15 and read and discuss the verse with the class. Then have the campers write "Joshua 24:15" on the house they drew.

Tie It Together



You can take this verse home to remind you that you can choose to obey and follow the Lord, even when others around you do not. Don't forget that God is faithful! He fulfills His promises.

Faithfulness of God



The purpose is to examine how we have seen God's faithfulness.

Supplies:

Worksheet – "Faithfulness of God" section (1 per camper)

Complete the worksheet by matching the correct scripture passage to each statement about God's faithfulness.

Tie It Together



We have seen God be faithful all throughout our study of the Old Testament. God was faithful to His people then, and He is faithful to us now. We can remember that God is faithful, and choose to put our trust in Him and follow Him.

Prayer Time

Spend some time in prayer to close small group time. Ask God to help us follow Him even when no one else is.



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