

Joshua Obeys God at Jericho

Lesson 3



Scripture: Joshua 5:13–6:20













Bible Memory: Joshua 24:15

Focus: ♥ We should choose to obey God.

Heart to Heart Teacher Devotion

When Joshua and the people obeyed God’s strange instructions at Jericho, God rewarded their obedience. Worship only God. Love God. Love your neighbors. Don’t steal. Don’t lie. Don’t misuse God’s name. Don’t covet. Don’t gossip. Take care of widows and orphans. Set your mind on things above. Pray without ceasing. Be holy. The instructions God gives us aren’t so strange, but they can be hard to do at times. Remember, God will help you, and He will reward your obedience.

Lesson 3 at a Glance

<p>1 FOCUS IN Use one of these activities to help children explore what it means to obey.</p>	<p> Quick Step Teacher, May I?</p> <p> Option Who Do You Obey?</p> <p> Bible Memory Introduce the Bible Memory verse.</p>	<p>HeartShaper Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • none • none 	<p>Other Materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whiteboard, dry-erase marker • none • construction paper in various colors, Bible
<p>2 EXPLORE HIS WORD Use all of these activities to help children tell how Joshua and the people obeyed God.</p>	<p> Bible Exploration Joshua 5:13–6:20</p> <p> Bible Review Activity</p> <p> Bible Memory Joshua 24:15</p> <p> Optional Bible Skill Builder</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Resources</i> sheet 1 Joshua Bible Story Name Card and sheet 3 large trumpet and 6 small trumpets, <i>Teaching Picture 3</i> • <i>Activities</i> p. 7, <i>Resources</i> sheet 2 Race to the Promised Land Game Cards for lessons 1–3, <i>Resources</i> CD Unit 1 Review Game printable file • <i>Resources</i> sheet 1 Unit 1 Bible Memory Poster 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, 1 empty paper towel tube, 6 empty toilet paper tubes, tape • pencils, masking tape • whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, reusable adhesive
<p>3 MAKE IT REAL Use one of these activities to help children discover ways they can obey God.</p>	<p> Quick Step Final Frame</p> <p> Option Stand Up!</p> <p> Option Story from <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Activities</i> p. 8 • <i>Resources</i> CD track 1 • <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • colored pencils • slips of paper, pen, paper lunch bag, CD player • none
<p>4 LIVE IT OUT Use one of these activities to help children choose ways they will obey God.</p>	<p> Quick Step I Will Obey God</p> <p> Option Prayer Partners</p> <p>Saying Good-bye</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • none • none • <i>Weekly Bible Reader</i> issue 3 and Special Issue 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • whiteboard, dry-erase marker, 8½" x 11" paper, pencils, tape • Bible • none

Focus In (10–15 minutes)

- 1 Use one of these activities to help children **explore what it means to obey**. Use the Bible Memory activity to introduce the memory verse.

Welcome

- Welcome each child by name.
- Engage early arrivers by offering one or more of the activities described on the Additional Activities for Unit 1 page.

Quick Step Teacher, May I?

Have children gather in a circle. Write “obey” on the board. SAY: **To obey means you do what someone asks you to do. You follow instructions. Let’s play a game in which you have to obey some instructions.** Have the children stand in a line across the room from you. You will give instructions of things they are to do in order to reach where you are standing. (Example: Take two giant steps forward.) After each instruction, children must ask, “Teacher, may I?” If you say “Yes, you may,” they should move as instructed. If you say “No, but you may _____,” they must try to do what you said to do. Include both funny actions and difficult tasks. (Examples: Act like cats. Stand on one foot for 10 seconds.) Play as time allows.

ASK: **Was it hard or easy to obey when I asked you to do something strange or difficult?** Let several children respond.

SAY: **Today we’re going to learn that ♥ we should choose to obey God—even when it doesn’t seem to make sense.**

Option Who Do You Obey?

Have children gather in a circle. Ask the children if they know what the word *obey* means. Allow time for a few responses. SAY: **To obey means you do what someone asks you to do. You follow instructions.**

Tell the children that you will read some commands. If kids know who might give the commands, they should show a thumbs-up. Then you will ask someone to name whom they would be obeying. SAY: **1. No running in the hallway. 2. Practice, practice, practice. 3. Eat your vegetables. 4. Stop at the crosswalk. 5. Love God. 6. Love your enemies.**

SAY: **It’s not always easy to obey the people who are in charge of us. It’s not always easy to obey God’s rules either. But ♥ we should choose to obey God—even when it doesn’t seem to make sense.**

Bible Memory Joshua 24:15

Have children gather in a circle. Hold up several sheets of construction paper. Tell kids that you will come to each person. They will have two seconds to choose which sheet they want. If a child can’t decide in two seconds, move on to the next child. Come back to the children who could not choose, and give them two more seconds to choose. SAY: **Sometimes it’s easy to choose and sometimes it’s hard to choose.** Read Joshua 24:15. **Joshua told the people they needed to choose whom they would serve. We’re learning that ♥ we should choose to obey and serve God.**

Focus

♥ We should choose to obey God.

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker



Something More!

Let kids be the “teacher” and give instructions.

Materials

(optional: pictures—see below)



Consider providing pictures that represent various commands and people who might give the commands. (Examples: hallway/teacher, vegetables/parent, crosswalk/crossing guard) See whether children can match each command with a person who would give the command.

Materials

construction paper in various colors, Bible



Transition to Explore His Word

See the *Resources* CD Transition Tips printable file. As children gather, make sure you have all the materials you need.

Focus

♥ We should choose to obey God.

Explore His Word (20 minutes)

2 Use all of these activities to help children **tell how Joshua and the people obeyed God.**

Bible Background for the Teacher

Only a few miles west of the Jordan River, the city of Jericho was situated in a strategic area. It was located on a trade route that forded a river and then went up the hill directly to Jerusalem. A fortified city, the walls surrounding Jericho were wide enough for houses to be built on (see Joshua 2:15). Soldiers would have been posted on the walls to watch for enemies.

The ark of the covenant was a large chest containing the 10 Commandments, a jar of manna, and Aaron's rod that had budded. The ark was a symbol of God's covenant with Israel. God's mighty power brought down the walls of Jericho, not the shouting done by God's people. Because the people, under Joshua's leadership, obeyed the instructions from God, God gave them the victory.

Worship Time

If you want to have a time of worship, see the *Resources* CD Unit 1 Worship Time Ideas printable file.

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, prepared Joshua name card from *Resources* sheet 1, *Resources* sheet 3 large trumpet and 6 small trumpets, 1 empty paper towel tube, 6 empty toilet paper tubes, tape, *Teaching Picture 3* (optional: boxes)



Before Class

If you have not prepared the Joshua name card, do so now. See the instructions in Bible Exploration for lesson 1. Tape a paper towel tube to the back of the large trumpet; tape a toilet paper tube to the back of each small trumpet.

Bible Exploration Joshua 5:13–6:20

SAY: **Today's Bible story once again comes from the book of Joshua.** Write "Joshua 5:13" on the board. Have the children open their Bibles to the table of contents and find the book of Joshua. Help kids turn to Joshua 5:13. Ask for a volunteer to read the first part of the verse.

Ask a volunteer to play the part of Joshua; give that child the name card to wear. Distribute the trumpets to volunteers who will be the priests. Note: If you have a small class, ask one or two kids to represent the group of priests. The rest of the class will be the armed guard of Israel. SAY: **Priests, when I say "trumpet," hold up your trumpets and say "ta-ta-ta-dah!" Guards, when I say "march," "marched," or "marching," stomp your feet six times; then stop. Everyone, when I say "shout" or "shouting," be ready to give the loudest silent shout you have ever given! That means that you only look like you're shouting, but you don't say anything.** Demonstrate the silent shout, and have each group practice its part. **Everyone should listen for how Joshua and the people obeyed God.**

Have Joshua stand before the class. SAY: **Joshua was now the leader of God's people. God had promised He would always be with the people. They only needed to trust and obey Him. Joshua had led the people across the Jordan River and into the promised land. Now God's people were camped near the city of Jericho. The city gates were closed so no one could go in or come out.**

Then Joshua received some very strange instructions from the Lord. "Tell the armed men to march (stomp feet) around Jericho, and I will give the city to you. For six days, march (stomp feet) one time around and then go back to your tents. Have seven priests carry trumpets (ta-ta-ta-dah!) in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march (stomp feet) seven times around while the priests blow their trumpets (ta-ta-ta-dah!). When you hear the priests sound a long blast, have the whole army give a loud shout (silent shout). The walls of Jericho will fall."

The ark God referred to was a special box that helped God's people remember God was with them. Joshua and God's people trusted and

obeyed God. For six days, the soldiers **marched** (stomp feet) in front of and behind the ark. The priests blew loudly on their **trumpets** (ta-ta-ta-dah!) as they **marched**. Stomp feet. Show *Teaching Picture 3*.

Each day, after **marching** (stomp feet) once around the city, the armed men returned to their tents. Joshua had told them, “Don’t say a word until I tell you to **shout**” (silent shout). The people in Jericho must have wondered, *What are these people doing?* Some probably made fun of the priests and armed men. Some were probably afraid.

On the seventh day the priests and the armed men got up at daybreak. They **marched** (stomp feet) around the city walls just as they had on the other days. They **marched** (stomp feet) without making a sound. The priests blew loudly on their **trumpets** (ta-ta-ta-dah!). But when they had gone around the city one time, they did not stop. On the seventh day, God’s army **marched** (stomp feet) around Jericho seven times. After the seventh time, they stopped. The priests made one long blast on their trumpets (ta-ta-ta-dah!).

Then Joshua commanded, “**Shout!** (silent shout) For the Lord has given you the city!” The armed men put their hands to their mouths and **shouted** (silent shout) as loudly as they could. When the men **shouted** (silent shout), the thick walls of Jericho collapsed right before their eyes. The armed men rushed in and took the city. God’s people had obeyed God, and God gave the city to His people.

Bible Review Activity

ASK: **How did Joshua and the people obey God?** (They followed His instructions about marching around the city.)

SAY: **Let’s do a puzzle and remember what Joshua said to the armed men.** Distribute the activity pages and pencils. Do the puzzle together.

Lead in another round of the Race to the Promised Land game. Show the picture and question cards for lesson 3. Shuffle together the cards for lessons 1-3 and place them facedown in a stack. Use masking tape to mark off a finish line. Form teams. Let the kids play until one team has reached the finish line, or determine which team is closest to the line when it is time to end the game. SAY: **Joshua and the people obeyed God. ♥ We should choose to obey God too.**

Bible Memory Joshua 24:15

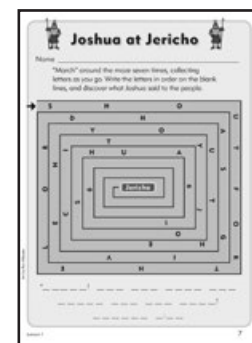
“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve. . . . But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

Write “Joshua 24:15” on the board. Have the children find the table of contents in their Bibles and locate the book of Joshua. Then have them turn to Joshua 24:15 in their Bibles. Ask a volunteer to read the verse.

Display the Bible Memory poster. Read the words while pointing to them. Pause whenever you come to an empty space, and let kids attach the correct word. When all the spaces have been filled, lead the kids in saying the Bible verse together. SAY: **We should choose to serve God. And ♥ we should choose to obey God too!**

Something More!

Collect boxes and build a wall that kids can march around. When Joshua’s command to shout is given, pull a box out from the bottom, and let the wall collapse!



Materials

Activities p. 7, pencils, *Resources* sheet 2 Race to the Promised Land Game Cards for lessons 1-3, *Resources* CD Unit 1 Review Game printable file (includes game instructions and questions with answers), masking tape



Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker, Bibles, *Resources* sheet 1 Unit 1 Bible Memory Poster, reusable adhesive



Optional Bible Skill Builder

Display the books of the Old Testament and New Testament posters provided with the *Resources* CD Classroom Tools. Ask children to find the book of Joshua on the posters. Explain that the books of the Old Testament tell how God created the world and how He helped and prepared His people for the Savior who was to come.



Focus

♥ We should choose to obey God.

Make It Real (10–15 minutes)

3 Use one of these activities to help children **discover ways they can obey God.**

Materials

Activities p. 8, colored pencils (or markers)



Teaching Tip

Children work at different paces. You may want to discuss the entire page at one time, rather than one row at a time, and let children work at their own pace.

Materials

slips of paper, pen, paper lunch bag, Resources CD track 1, CD player (optional: balloons)



Remember that some children do not feel comfortable reading aloud. Consider having kids work in pairs for this game.

Something More!

Place the prepared slips of paper inside balloons. As the music plays, pass one or more balloons around the circle. When the music stops, whoever is holding a balloon can pop the balloon and retrieve the message inside.

Materials

Weekly Bible Reader issue 3



Quick Step Final Frame

SAY: Joshua and the people obeyed God by following the instructions He had given them. Let's discover some of God's instructions to us and then talk about ways we can obey God. Distribute the activity pages and colored pencils. Read the directions aloud. Ask for a volunteer to tell what is happening in the first frame of the first row. Read the Bible verse in the middle of that row.

ASK: What can the boy do to obey God's rule? (spend more time reading God's Word and less time playing video games)

Encourage kids to draw a picture in their final frames, showing how the boy might obey God. Continue in the same manner with the other two rows. **SAY: The more we read God's Word, the more we learn about God and what He wants us to do. ♥ We should choose to obey God.**

Option Stand Up!

Before class, write the following on slips of paper and place the papers in a bag: 1. "Love one another" (John 13:34). 2. "Accept one another" (Romans 15:7). 3. "Serve one another humbly in love" (Galatians 5:13). 4. "Forgive as the Lord forgave you" (Colossians 3:13). 5. "Build each other up" (1 Thessalonians 5:11). 6. "Don't grumble against one another" (James 5:9). 7. "Strive to do what is good for each other" (1 Thessalonians 5:15).

Ask children to sit in a circle. **SAY: Joshua and the people obeyed God by following the instructions He had given them. Let's play a game and discover ways we can obey God.** Have the children pass the bag of prepared papers as you play music from the Resources CD. When the music stops, whoever is holding the bag can reach inside, pull out one slip of paper, and read the Bible verse. Anyone who knows a way to obey that verse should stand up. Call on a couple of kids to share their ideas. Then continue the game. When the game has ended, **SAY: You have named some good ways to obey God's rules. There are many ways we can obey God. ♥ We should choose to obey God.**

Option Story from Weekly Bible Reader

SAY: Joshua and the people obeyed God by following the instructions He had given them. Let's read a story about someone who obeyed one of God's rules. Read "Tessa Chooses to Obey."

ASK: What are some ways you can obey God? (obey parents, love others, be kind, share, worship God, do not steal, and so forth)

SAY: There are many ways we can obey God. ♥ We should choose to obey God.

Live It Out (10 minutes)

- 4** Use one of these activities to help children **choose ways they will obey God.**

Focus

♥ We should choose to obey God.

Quick Step I Will Obey God

Write at the top of the board, "I will obey God. I will . . ." SAY: **We have learned that ♥ we should choose to obey God. Let's list some ways we can obey Him.** As children name ways to obey God, write them on the board.

When the list is ready, give each child a sheet of paper and a pencil. SAY: **Choose and write across the top of your paper one way you plan to obey God.** Allow the children to do this. Show how to roll a paper from the bottom up, forming a tube. The rule written at the top of the paper should be seen on the outside of the tube. Tape the open edge to secure the tube. SAY: **Let's pretend these tubes are trumpets. I'm going to read the list of ways to obey God. If I name a way to obey God that you have chosen to do, hold your trumpet to your mouth and say "ta-ta-ta-dah!"** Read the list from the board and let kids respond.

Close with a time of prayer. Encourage the children to pray and ask for God's help as they obey Him. Kids can take their trumpets home as reminders of their commitment to obey God.

Option Prayer Partners

SAY: **We have learned that ♥ we should choose to obey God. And we have talked about different ways to obey God. It's not always easy to obey God's rules—especially if we are the only ones trying to obey Him. One instruction from God is to encourage each other.** Read 1 Thessalonians 5:11 to the class. **Let's obey that rule now.** Have the children find partners, or use a fun method to create partners. Partners should share with each other ways they will try to obey God. Then the partners can pray for each other, asking God to help the other person as he or she tries to obey God. Remind children to pray for their partners throughout the week. Read Ephesians 6:18. SAY: **Praying for each other is another way to obey God. Have a good week obeying God!**

Saying Good-bye

- Distribute issue 3 and the Special Issue of *Weekly Bible Reader*.
- Make sure children have projects and activity sheets they have done.
- If you have time before parents arrive, use some of the activities on the Additional Activities for Unit 1 page.

Materials

whiteboard, dry-erase marker, 8½" x 11" paper, pencils (or markers), tape



Be sure to model how the children are allowed to use the "trumpets" once they have been made. Give assistance as needed with writing on the paper and rolling it up to form a tube.

Materials

Bible



Teaching Tip

Get creative in the way you help children find partners. One idea is to line up children in order of birthdays. Then have children form pairs, starting with the youngest and the oldest being partners and continuing in this manner until everyone has a partner.

Weekly Bible Reader

Give each student a *Weekly Bible Reader* to take home.

Be sure parents know about the *Faith & Family* pages available online to print and use with their children at home. Go to www.heartshaper.com.

