Bible Stories for Adults
Jericho Falls Down
Joshua 1–6

Opening

Gathering: How have you been both anxious and fearful when you have moved to a new place?

Today’s Focus: God promises to always be with us - wherever we go and whoever we are with.

Key Verses: As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Joshua 1:5

Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go. Joshua 1:9

Opening Prayer

Lesson

Passing Through Edom (Numbers 20:14-21)

After wandering in the wilderness for years, how did Israel decide it was time to head north?

Deuteronomy 2:1-3 = God told them to

Why did God protect the Edomites from conquest by the Israelites?

Deuteronomy 2:4-5 = I have given Esau the hill country of Seir

Did Edom grant Israel's request to pass through on the King's Highway?

Numbers 20:17-21 = Wouldn't let them through, They went around

God Protects Moab and Ammon (Deuteronomy 2:4-23)

How long had passed when Israel reached Moab (Zered Brook)? = 40 years since Egypt

Deuteronomy 2:14-15 = 38 years since Kadesh, Entire generation had died

Why did God protect the Moabites from conquest by the Israelites?

Deuteronomy 2:9 = I have given Ar to the descendants of Lot

Why did God protect the Ammonites from conquest by the Israelites?

Deuteronomy 2:19 = I have given it to the descendants of Lot

Israel Defeats Eastern Amorites (Numbers 21:21-35, Deuteronomy 2:24-3:11) = Show on map

How was Israel to capture the land east of the Jordan River? Why?

Deuteronomy 2:24-25 = Given Sihon & country, Other nations will hear of you & tremble

Who was responsible for the victory over Sihon, king of Heshbon? = Arnon to Jabbock

Deuteronomy 2:32-33 = God delivered Sihon to Israel at Jahaz

Who was responsible for the victory over Og, king of Bashan? = North of Jabbock

Deuteronomy 3:3 = God gave Og to Israel at Edrei

Were these minor victories against simple towns and villages?

Deuteronomy 3:4-5 = No, Bashan alone had 60 fortified cities plus many villages

Besides the land, how did God bless the Israelites through these victories?

Deuteronomy 3:6-7 (2:25) = Gave them the livestock & plunder, fear in the hearts of others

What territory did Israel claim after these two victories?

Deuteronomy 3:8 = Territory covers Arnon Gorge to Mount Hermon
Moab's Concern  (Numbers 22:1-20)

How did Moab feel about this huge group of Israelites as neighbors? = Pethor - by the Euphrates River
Numbers 22:2-6 = They were afraid of them, King Balak asked Balaam to curse them
Note: Balaam was an well-known prophet from Pethor, in region of Haran (Abraham's homeland)
How did Balaam respond to the request?
Numbers 22:12-13 = He said God wouldn't let him go, they were blessed, not cursed
Was Balak good at accepting rejection?
Numbers 22:15-17 = He asked Balaam again and said he would be well paid
Did the money help?
Numbers 22:18, 20 = It interested Balaam enough to ask again, God said he could go

Balaam's Donkey  (Numbers 22:21-41)

How did God feel about Balaam's unspoken intention to curse Israel to get the money?
Numbers 22:22 = He was upset with Balaam and sent an angel to oppose him
How was Balaam protected from this angel and how did Balaam react to this protection?
Numbers 22:23-27 = The donkey tried to stay away from the angel, Balaam beat it
How did the donkey feel about this? = Balaam actually conversed back with it
Numbers 22:28-30 = The donkey actually asked Balaam why he was beating her
How did Balaam finally realize what was happening?
Numbers 22:31-33 = He saw the angel, who told how the donkey had saved him
Did Balaam keep going or did he turn back?
Numbers 22:34-35 = He kept going, but with the warning to only say what God wanted

Balaam's Oracles  (Numbers 23-24)

Did Balaam obey and say only what the Lord directed?
Numbers 23:5-10 = Yes, he ended up blessing Israel's numbers & faithfulness
How did Balak react to Balaam giving a blessing instead of a curse?
Numbers 23:11-13 = He didn't like it and decided to try a change of scenery
Did Balaam curse the Israelites this time?
Numbers 23:19-20 (14-24) = No, he blessed them again, said God won't change His mind
How did Balak react this time?
Numbers 23:25-27 = Told Balaam to shut up, Tried another change of scenery
What did Balaam say this third time? = Repeated God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:2-3
Numbers 24:9b (23:28-24:9) = He again blessed them, those who bless Israel be blessed
Where did Balak want Balaam to go after this third blessing?
Numbers 24:10-11 = He told him to go home, wouldn't pay him
Was Balaam finished? = Prophesy of Israel's Conquest & Messiah's conquest over all
Numbers 24:14, 17-19 = No, he had one more oracle - a double prophesy

Reuben, Gad, Manasseh Settle East of Jordan  (Numbers 32, Deuteronomy 3:12-20)

What special request was made by the tribes of Reuben and Gad?
Numbers 32:1-2, 4-5 = Reuben & Gad asked to stay east of Jordan
Did Moses grant their request?
Numbers 32:33 = Moses gave land to Reuben, Gad & half of Manasseh
Were there any stipulations to this agreement?
Deuteronomy 3:18-20 = Reuben, Gad & Manasseh required to fight with brothers
Israel's Instructions  (*Numbers 33:50-35:34*)

What did God command of Israel before they crossed the Jordan River?
*Numbers 33:51-54 = Israel commanded to wipe Canaan clean & distribute land*

What warning did God give?
*Numbers 33:55-56 = If you don’t wipe Canaan clean, those remaining will be a snare to you*

What was significant about the geography described in Numbers 34 & 35?
*Numbers 34:1-2 = God defined the land He was about to give to Israel*
*Numbers 35:2, 6 = God specified Levite towns & cities of refuge*

The Torch is Passed  (*Deuteronomy 3:21-29; Joshua 1*)

Would Moses continue to lead the Israelites to capture this land?  = God chose Joshua as replacement
*Deuteronomy 3:23, 25-28 = No, Moses would see but not enter the Promised Land*

What did God promise to Joshua when faced with this challenging task?
*Joshua 1:1-5 = He would bless and be with him as He had with Moses*

What was Joshua’s part in this?
*Joshua 1:7-9 = Trust God, follow and know His commands; God would be with him*

Did the Israelites accept Joshua as their new leader?  = They encouraged Joshua in his new job
*Joshua 1:16-18 = Yes, they pledged to support Joshua as they had Moses*

Who Was Joshua?

When do we first hear of Joshua?
*Exodus 17:8-9, 13 = Joshua led Israelites over Amalekites when attacked early in exodus*

What was Joshua’s job during Israel’s wilderness wanderings?
*Exodus 24:13 (33:11) = Moses’ aide - Joined Moses on Mount Sinai and in Tent of Meeting*

How did Joshua get his name?  = Joshua (Hebrew) in Greek is Jesus
*Numbers 13:16 = Moses changed name from Hoshea (*salvation*) to Joshua (*the Lord saves*)*

Where do we see Joshua’s faithfulness early on?
*Numbers 14:6-10a = Stood up against other spies saying God would give them victory*

How did God bless Joshua in response to his trust in God to give them the land He promised?
*Numbers 14:30 = Only he and Caleb would enter the Promised Land, others to die in desert*

Israel Crosses the Jordan River  (*Joshua 3-4*)

How would God ensure that Israel looked to Joshua as their leader as they entered the Promised Land?
*Joshua 3:1, 7 = God exalted Joshua to Israel to know God is with him*

How did God immediately show Israel that He was with Joshua as He had been with Moses?
*Joshua 3:15-17 = God parted the Jordan River (like Red Sea), People passed on dry ground*

Why did Joshua build a monument of twelve standing stones from the Jordan River?
*Joshua 4:20-24 = Memorial to all of God's power and what He did for Israel*
Israel in the Promised Land  (Joshua 5)

What had Israel failed to do in the desert that God made them do upon entering the Promised Land?
Joshua 5:3-5  =  Circumcise all males - Circumcision is reminder to be set apart from others
What was significant about the timing that God brought them into the Promised Land?
Joshua 5:10  =  Arrived in time to celebrate the Passover, Not since Mt Sinai (Numbers 9:1-5)
How did God show them that they had really arrived at their promised destination?
Joshua 5:11-12  =  Manna stopped, they ate the produce of the land
What last way did God make sure the Israelites knew they were in His Promised Land?
Joshua 5:13-15  =  Angel met Joshua and told him, Promised Land is holy

Israel Conquers Jericho  (Joshua 2, 6)

What happened to the spies that Joshua sent to scope out Jericho?
Joshua 2:1-3, 6, 14-15  =  Rahab protected them, they promised to protect her and her family
Why did Rahab do this?  =  The Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below
Joshua 2:9-11  =  Everyone had heard what God had done and He was giving them this land
What other important role did Rahab play that even she didn't realize?
Matthew 1:1, 5-6a  =  David's great-great-grandmother, Ancestor of Jesus

What was God's plan for conquering the fortified city of Jericho?
Joshua 6:1-5  =  March around city 6 days, 7 times on 7th, blow trumpets & shout
How successful was God's plan?
Joshua 6:15-16, 20-21, 25  =  Walls came down, Everything killed for God, Rahab spared
How was faith a factor in the conquer of Jericho?
Hebrews 11:30-31  =  By faith the walls fell & Rahab was protected

What curse did Joshua give to the destroyed city of Jericho?
Joshua 6:26  =  Jericho rebuilt - Foundations cost firstborn son, gates cost youngest
Was this curse ever fulfilled?
1 Kings 16:34  =  In Ahab's time, Hiel rebuilt Jericho at cost of sons
How did God use this to further support the leadership of Joshua?  =  Made him a respected leader
Joshua 6:27  =  The Lord was with Joshua, and his fame spread throughout the land

Closing Prayer

Response

1. When I have been in difficult deserts of life, have I recognized God's call and direction to leave?  
   (Deuteronomy 2:1-3; Exodus 40:34-38; Psalm 119:105; Jeremiah 29:10-14; John 14:1-4)
2. Do I ever feel that God loves only us Christians and forget His desire for all people?  
   (Deuteronomy 2:4-23; Exodus 19:5-6; 1 Kings 19:13-18; Isaiah 49:6; Ezekiel 18:4a; Zech 8:20-23)
3. When have I rejected God's will in order to pursue earthly gain?  
   (Numbers 22; Matthew 6:19-24; Acts 8:9-25; 1 Timothy 6:17-19; 2 Peter 2:15-16)
4. How do I look beyond my own needs to help others grow spiritually?  
   (Numbers 32; 1 Corinthians 9; 1 Corinthians 12; 2 Timothy 4:1-5)
5. What visual reminders do I have that keep me focused on God daily?  
   (Genesis 9:8-17; Genesis 17; Joshua 4:4-7; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; 1 Corinthians 11:23-26)