

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

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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? = Prophecy of Israel's Conquest & Messiah's conquest over all

Numbers 24:14, 17-19 = No, he had one more oracle - a double prophecy

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

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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? = Hadn't seen yet

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

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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*)