

**Investigating**

**God's Word...**

**Joshua**

**Year Three**

**Sunday School Curriculum**

*Fall Quarter*

# Lesson Sequence

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## *Fall Quarter*

The **Lesson Sequence** gives the teacher an overview of the entire quarter.

The central goal of the ***Investigating God's Word...*** curriculum is to enable children the opportunity to read and study the entire Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—by the time they “graduate” from 6th grade.

Week One	Joshua 1
Week Two	Joshua 2
Week Three	Joshua 3-4
Week Four	Joshua 5-6
Week Five	Joshua 7
Week Six	Joshua 8
Week Seven	Joshua 9:1-10:15
Week Eight	Joshua 10:16-11:23
Week Nine	Joshua 12-15
Week Ten	Joshua 16-19
Week Eleven	Joshua 20-21
Week Twelve	Joshua 22
Week Thirteen	Joshua 23-24

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Winter Quarter: Judges, Ruth



# Lesson One

## Joshua 1

### Suggested Schedule

<b>Welcome</b> <i>Psalms 1:1-2</i>	<b>2-3 min.</b>
<b>Drill Time</b> <i>Days of Creation</i>	<b>5 min.</b>
<b>W.O.W!</b> <i>Exalt</i>	<b>5 min.</b>
<b>Historical Context</b> <i>Timeline</i>	<b>2-3 min.</b>
<b>Bible Investigation</b> <i>Joshua 1</i>	<b>20-30 min.</b>
<b>Lesson-At-Home</b> <i>Joshua 1:9</i>	<b>2-3 min.</b>

### Overview

As we open up the Book of Joshua, we are struck right away with the clear message that God is in control of the salvation of His people. Even Joshua's name relates the fact that it is God who saves.

Always remember to draw the children's attention first and foremost to **who God is** and what **His plan** is for **His people**. He is the main character of the Book of Joshua—not Joshua or the children of Israel.

In this first lesson, you will read about the leadership of Joshua, as well as the introductory instructions to cross the Jordan and capture the Promised Land. Neither Joshua nor the children of Israel should be thought of as simply examples to follow, but vessels in the hands of a sovereign God. Our faithful and right response to God is only possible because of the work He first does in our hearts.

### Preparation

Read and meditate on the first chapter of Joshua this week. If time, it would be helpful for you to go back and read Deuteronomy 34, and see how Joshua was "full of the spirit of wisdom" (verse 9). You may also want to read ahead in Joshua to see where the story is going!

### Teaching Encouragement

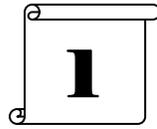
The art of reading the Bible to children is not rocket science. It begins with your own love for God's Word, which should then explode into a **passionate** telling of the stories of Scripture. Teaching the Bible is not about entertaining the children or keeping them from becoming bored; rather, it's all about demonstrating how much *YOU delight* yourself in God's Word (and, how they should, too). Passion is contagious, and it will bring each story alive. Teaching God's Word is not just for those with exciting, outgoing personalities, but for all believers who relish and cherish the lessons of Scripture. Enjoy learning more of the Word of God as you share it with your students!

The **Welcome** serves as both an opportunity to greet the children as well as an effort to help them get focused on God's Word.

Each week, you will begin with a passage out of the Psalms or Proverbs as an exhortation to study God's Word.

**Drill Time** gives the children the opportunity to recall and rehearse what they have been taught in the past—at home, school and/or church.

This element allows the **Investigating God's Word...** curriculum to cover much more Biblical "ground," since time is not expended repeating the same Bible stories over and over again from year to year.



## Welcome

**Greet the students. Welcome visitors. To prepare the students for class today, read Psalm 1:1-2.**

<sup>1</sup> Blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked or stand in the way of sinners or sit in the seat of mockers. <sup>2</sup> But his delight is in the law of the LORD, and on his law he meditates day and night.

**Say:** *As we gather to study God's Word today, think about how it should be our DELIGHT! It should make us happy to be here to meditate on what God tells us in the Bible. This will keep us from following the counsel of the wicked, right?*



## Drill Time

*Now, let's move on to DRILL TIME—our weekly opportunity to review what we have learned in the past. Are you ready?*

**Today's question:** *Name the Days of Creation in order; what God created each day.*

**Call on volunteers or select students to make attempts.**

**Answer:**

Day 1	Day and Night
Day 2	Sky (Firmament)
Day 3	Land and Seas; Plants
Day 4	Sun, Moon, Stars
Day 5	Fish, Birds
Day 6	Animals, Humans
Day 7	God Rested!

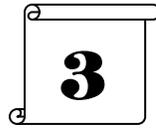
**Say:** *God made the world in six days. Who remembers what He said about His creation? He said that it was good! God created all things—it did not happen by chance, as some would want us to believe. It should make you give praise to God every time you remember that He created all things, out of nothing, by the Word of His Power, and all very good!*

The **W.O.W!** is the **Word of the Week**.

This element is included to help the children build their theological and Biblical vocabularies. These words are vital to the Christian's understanding of God and His World.

Each week, the Bible Lesson will be placed in **historical context** by use of a timeline.

It is essential that the children learn how the story of redemptive history fits together. Bible stories must not be viewed as detached scenes—they are to be shown as a part of a much bigger picture. The timeline is a useful tool toward that end.



## W.O.W!

Our *W.O.W!* (Word of the Week) this week is **EXALT**. Has anyone heard this word before? One place we find this word in the Bible is in Psalm 99:5. **Read it to the children.**

### Psalm 99:5 (NIV)

<sup>5</sup>**Exalt** the LORD our God and worship at his footstool; he is holy.

*Can anyone tell me what the word EXALT means? Allow answers. It literally means to “raise high” or to “lift up high.” Can you raise your hands up high with me? Raise hands in the air. When we talk about EXALTING the Lord, we mean that we “lift Him up” in how we think about Him. We have a HIGH view of our Lord. We think of Him as the HIGHEST being in all the universe.*

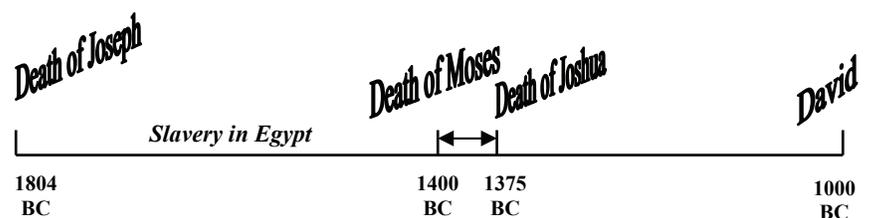
*We can EXALT the Lord in many ways. One of the ways we EXALT Him is by singing praises to Him. The words that we sing say very HIGH things about God. He deserves to be EXALTED by us because He is already EXALTED over all the earth!*



## Historical Context

As you begin your study of Joshua today, draw this timeline on the board. Always remember that the students need to understand God's Word in its historical context.

*When the events of the Book of Joshua occurred*





## Bible Investigation

The **Bible Investigation** time is the heart and soul of the lesson. It plunges the student directly into God's Word, not simply a paraphrase of a Bible story.

All Scripture text included in the curriculum is from the New International Version (NIV).

The Bible reading is taken in short sections, separated by times of **discussion**, **questions**, and **application points**.

This format allows ample opportunities to stop, think about and discuss what is being read.

**Have the students turn in their Bibles to Joshua 1.**

**Introduction:** *The Book of Joshua is the sixth book of the Old Testament. It is considered a “historical” book, since it primarily teaches us the history of God’s people. Have you ever heard of Joshua before?*

*Let’s begin reading together. Read Joshua 1:1-2.*

<sup>1</sup>After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ aide: <sup>2</sup>“Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites.

**Discussion:** *So, we read in these opening verses of the Book of Joshua that the leader of the Israelites (Moses) has died. He died before leading God’s people into the Promised Land. God then chose Moses’ right hand man (Joshua) to take the lead now. Who knows what Joshua’s name means? [Jehovah is Salvation; God saves!] That name is very appropriate, since it is not really Joshua who brings the people into the Promised Land, but it is God Himself who accomplishes it!*

**Application:** *Many of the names of people in the Bible have special meanings. What does the name Joshua mean again? [God saves.] Do you know what your name means? Allow a brief time of sharing.*

*Let’s continue to read. Read verses 3-4.*

<sup>3</sup>I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. <sup>4</sup>Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Great Sea on the west.

**Discussion:** *Who’s going to give the Promised Land to the children of Israel? [God.] And, it sounds like there is plenty of territory for them to enjoy, doesn’t it?*

**Application:** *Do you regularly think about the fact that all that you have has been given to you by God? Your home, your family, your possessions—all are gifts from God. It is easy to forget this, especially as you get older. Many people think that they have gotten all that they have by their own hard work!*

**Application Points** are woven into the fabric of the discussion, rather than being left to the end of the lesson.

*Let's keep investigating. Read verses 5-6.*

<sup>5</sup>No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. <sup>6</sup>“Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them.

**Discussion:** *Did you hear the great promise God gave to Joshua? What was it? [That God will never leave Joshua]. That sounds exactly like the promise Jesus made to His disciples before He died on the cross. The Lord also gave Joshua a command. What was it? [To be strong and courageous.] The only way Joshua could be strong was because God would always be with him.*

**Application:** *Do you ever need to be reminded that God will never leave you or forsake you? Tell me a situation where you needed to hold on to that promise. Allow some short testimonies, or share your own story.*

*Now, back to our reading. Read verses 7-9.*

<sup>7</sup>Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. <sup>8</sup>Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. <sup>9</sup>Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

**Discussion:** *What is Joshua commanded to do now? [To be careful to obey all God's law.] Yes, he is instructed to be very careful to follow God's ways in all that he does. God tells him to not “turn to the right or to the left.” What do you think that means? Allow answers.*

**Application:** *Have the students stand up and try to walk a few steps forward (in a straight line) while having their heads turned to the right or left. Show them how hard it is to do. The only way we can walk forward and be successful in what we do is to stay focused on God's Word—looking straight ahead to God's Way!*

*You'll also notice that the Lord once again told Joshua not to be afraid because He would always be with him. We all need constant reassuring, don't we?*

This grey sidebar found on all pages is for the teacher to write notes as he or she prepares the lesson.

Other teaching tips or important exegetical information may also appear on the sidebar.

*Let's keep up our good investigating. Read verses 10-15.*

<sup>10</sup> So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: <sup>11</sup> "Go through the camp and tell the people, 'Get your supplies ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own.'" <sup>12</sup> But to the Reubenites, the Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joshua said, <sup>13</sup> "Remember the command that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you: 'The LORD your God is giving you rest and has granted you this land.'" <sup>14</sup> Your wives, your children and your livestock may stay in the land that Moses gave you east of the Jordan, but all your fighting men, fully armed, must cross over ahead of your brothers. You are to help your brothers <sup>15</sup> until the LORD gives them rest, as he has done for you, and until they too have taken possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving them. After that, you may go back and occupy your own land, which Moses the servant of the LORD gave you east of the Jordan toward the sunrise."

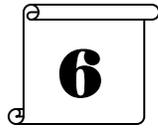
**Discussion:** *Joshua now turns to his officers and gets them ready to enter the Promised Land. God actually gave the people of Reuben, Gad, and half of the people of Manasseh land on the **other** side of the Jordan River. But, the deal was that they help the other tribes of Israel first claim the rest of the land. It was important that ALL of Israel work together to take the Promised Land that God was giving them.*

*Now, let's finish this chapter. Read verses 16-18.*

<sup>16</sup> Then they answered Joshua, "Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go." <sup>17</sup> Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you as he was with Moses. <sup>18</sup> Whoever rebels against your word and does not obey your words, whatever you may command them, will be put to death. Only be strong and courageous!"

**Application:** *Do you find it easy to obey all that your parents or others in authority tell you to do? [No.] Obedience is impossible because of our sinful hearts. Only by Jesus Christ working in our hearts are we able to obey God at all.*

**Conclusion:** *So, are the people going to follow Joshua? [Yes.] They seem to be ready for Joshua's strong leadership. They also claimed to obey all that Moses told them to do. Yet, the Bible tells us that the Israelites often grumbled against and disobeyed Moses! Maybe they will follow Joshua a whole lot better than they followed Moses. Next week we will read more of the story and see what happens!*



## Lesson-At-Home

The **Lesson-At-Home** section is the closing time each week. Bookmarks are given to the students that include the Scripture memory verse and a lesson review. The lesson review contains words and phrases that can spark memories as well as conversation with parents.

Distribute the “Lesson-At-Home” bookmarks. Read the Scripture Memory verse (Joshua 1:9) together.

### Joshua 1:9 (NIV)

<sup>9</sup>“...Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

**Say:** *This verse is in our reading today, isn't it? This was a word from the LORD for Joshua and the Israelites—but also for you and me today! As followers of Jesus, God is always with us!*

**Review the verse a couple of times.**

**Direct the students' attentions to the bottom half of the bookmark. It includes reminder points of today's lesson that can be discussed with their parents and reviewed during the week.**

**Close in prayer and dismiss the students.**