

# Adventure Number 36

## Joshua 1:1-7 and 2:8-11

**Story Line: With God's help, the people entered the Promised Land.**



### 1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- Yahweh first made the promise of land to Abraham when he was about 75 years old. Now, 700 years later, the Lord directed Joshua to lead the Israelites into this land.
- In Joshua 2, we are told that the inhabitants of Jericho were terrified of the people of Israel. The people of Jericho knew that Yahweh had given Israel this land.
- Yahweh urged Joshua to be courageous, not for the battles that lie ahead, but for Joshua to be careful to obey the Lord. The success of the battles was up to God. Joshua was to trust and obey.
- Joshua sent two scouts to spy out the land. These scouts encountered Rahab who converted from polytheism to the worship of Yahweh. Her speech to the spies reveals the errors of the ten scouts 38 years ago. If the Canaanites still feared Yahweh 40 years after Israel's deliverance from Egypt, then surely they had feared Him 2 years after their exodus.
- The first five chapters of Joshua detail the entering of the land of Canaan by the Israelites. Yahweh was with them and would give them the land. Chapters 6-12 tell how Israel conquered the land. God was with them when they fought for the land. That is why they conquered the land.
- The book of Joshua ends with two speeches by Joshua. To encourage the Israelites to be faithful to Yahweh, Joshua told of their history and its most notable leader, Abraham, who had been an idolater. In His grace, creator God revealed Himself to Abraham. Joshua told of the plagues, the Israelites deliverance from slavery, the Red Sea and other acts. Yahweh expected the people to be loyal and obedient to Himself.

### Teacher Helps

The teacher's guide is divided into five key segments. Each part of the teaching process is important and all five should be followed for effective teaching. Chronological Bible teaching is a great way to evangelize and disciple children. As children come to know the stories of the Bible, they will understand the God of the Bible and how to respond to Him by faith.

Each of the five steps to teaching these lessons is a vital part of the lesson. Preparation before the lesson is extremely important and takes place in the days leading up to class. Then when class time starts, introduce the lesson with ideas or methods that will encourage students to become involved in the learning process. Teaching the story will take on several forms: through telling, through singing, through Scripture memory, and through activity. Be sure to review the lesson as well as previous lessons. Last, and probably most important, give your class something to apply or live out as a result of the lesson.



## 2) Begin the Lesson

Let's think back over the all of our lessons that we have studied and see if we can put the lessons in order. Here are the story lines for some of the first 35 lessons:

1) God is very strong.

3) God made everything.

5) Life in the garden was full of pleasure.

7) Satan tempted Adam and Eve. Adam and Eve disobeyed God.

9) God promised to send a special Person who would crush Satan.

11) God killed an innocent animal to give clothes to Adam and Eve.

13) Cain and Abel responded to God in two very different ways.

15) The people were evil. God sent a flood. Noah trusted and obeyed God.

17) God called Abraham to be a great nation and a blessing to all.

19) Sarah did not respond in faith to the promise of God. Abraham did.

21) Jacob won a new name in a wrestling match with an angel.

23) In spite of great opposition, God blessed the Israelites greatly.

25) God sent plagues in Egypt to free the Israelites.

27) God is mighty to save. God parted the Red Sea. God drowned His enemies.

29) The Israelites rebelled against God.

31) A substitutionary sacrifice was needed to worship a holy God.

33) God's people chose to believe that God could not give them the land.

35) People who followed God were to be completely loyal and obedient to Him.

### Teacher Helps

#### Begin the Lesson Activity: Story Line Review

The teacher should write these statements on pieces of paper and then mix them up. Do not put the number of the lesson on the piece of paper. Divide the children into 2 or 3 teams, depending on the size of the class. Time how long it takes each team to put the statements in the correct order. Do not number the slips of paper.



## 3) Teach the Lesson

Describe something new that you have tried in the last year. What was it like? Who helped you? Were you afraid? Did you know that you could do it? Today's lesson is about a brand new experience, with new marching orders, and a new leader. How would they do?



## Tell the Story

### Teacher Helps

It was a new day for a new leader with new marching orders for a new nation entering a new land. It was a thrilling day for the nation to enter the land that had been promised 700 years earlier to their highly respected leader, Abraham. This would be the group that would realize the great promise made by Yahweh so many generations ago.

Moses, the previous leader, was dead now. Everyone assumed that Moses would lead the nation into the promised land. But, because of his anger, God allowed Moses to see the land but not enter the land. The nation mourned the death of Moses.

Yahweh had specific instructions for the new leader, Joshua. Joshua would need to be careful to obey the Lord and lead the nation in obedience. In fact, God would give them the land, that was His responsibility. The responsibility of the leader and the people was obedience ... specifically, obedience to the Word of God. So, when the nation entered the land, they would see tall walls and tall people, but they should not be afraid. Yahweh repeated several times that they should be very courageous. It was a reminder that was remembered by Joshua at the end of his life when he spoke to the nation. It made a lasting impact on him and many other people.

The new leader sent in 2 scouts and they quickly found a new convert. Her name was Rahab. She had a rough life but now she found faith in Yahweh and was a big help to the 2 scouts. In fact, when the Israelites attacked her city, Jericho, her life was spared. Later in the Bible, she is named as one of the heroes of the nation. She was courageous and God rewarded her for her faith.

The 10 scouts of 38 years ago were wrong. These Canaanites were afraid of the Israelites. The Israelites could have been here 38 years ago had the 10 scouts not brought back a negative report. Now, Joshua and Caleb were rewarded for their faith and they not only got to see the Promised Land, they got to enter it. What the Lord had promised 700 years earlier to Abraham was now fulfilled. As He always does, God kept His Word.

God was faithful to His people and He expected the same loyalty from them. That is why Joshua, at the end of his life, talked to the people about Whom they should serve. It was a clear choice for Joshua: he and his family would not serve the gods of the surrounding nations, they would serve Yahweh.

### Tell the Story

#### Activity: The First and Last Words of Joshua

Joshua gives a glimpse of us as he begins his tenure as leader of the great nation of Israel. These are his first words. What does he say in this first address to the nation that is most significant to you? Write it down and share it with a friend in class at the end of the lesson.



## Memory Verse

Joshua 1:8 (ESV) - This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it.



## Praise and Worship

Praise and Worship styles vary greatly around the world. It is the intent of this curriculum that praise and worship songs be selected that best fit the content of this lesson.

“Salvation Belongs to Our God” by Eric Quiram is recommended for this lesson.



## Bible Activity

The children of Israel were told to follow God closely by following the leaders He had given to them. Joshua told them EXACTLY what they were to do as they entered the promised land. At the very end of his life, many years later, he gave them the same instructions to keep on following God all their lives. We should follow that wise advice today. Start by reading Joshua 3:3-4 (the instructions going into the land) and Joshua 23:1-16 (the end of Joshua's life) Line up and let's follow the leader wherever the path may go. Let's remember the instructions:

Joshua 3:3-4 – “When you see the Levitical priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant of The Lord your God, move out from your positions and follow them. Since you have never traveled this way before, they will guide you.” As you walk along, following your leader, some bad voices will call out to you, to try to get you off the path that God has shown you. Don't listen to them! Listen only to the voice of TRUTH. Whenever someone tries to get your attention, you will all say this together: “We will follow The Lord our God!” As you walk along, remind them of what the Bible said: don't turn to the right or the left! Then the children should “act out” your words – everyone would lean to the right, then lean to the left. Point to each of the distractions when you want them to read the card, and lead the group that is following the Ark of the Covenant to say together: “We will follow The Lord our God!”

### Teacher Helps

#### Memory Verse Activity: Pray

Encourage children to pray this verse. Pray something like: “Lord, help me to meditate on Your Word day and night so that I may be careful to do all it says.”

#### Bible Activity: Stay On the Right Path!

Choose one child to be the “Leader” who will carry the Ark of the Covenant. Choose 4 children to be “distractors,” 2 on the right and 2 on the left. Give each distractor a card to read. Some suggested temptations:

1. Come watch this bad movie with me, everyone else is going.
2. Don't listen to your mom and dad, they are old-fashioned.
3. Skip church today, we are all going to the park for a picnic and games.
4. Don't waste your time reading your Bible, you should sleep a little longer.



## 4) Review the Lesson

The teacher should have the class think of the main ideas of the lesson that they want them to take home. Then they should number off 1 through 5. Child number 1 should tell the main thing that he or she learned from the lesson. All five groups should get an opportunity to share the main thing they learned from this lesson.

Ideas might include:

- Obedience to God's Word
- Memorize God's Word
- Faithful to obey God
- Serve God with my family



## 5) Apply the Lesson

We prepare for spiritual warfare by making sure of our personal relationship with God.

God's Word promotes faith and obedience to God's Word is expected. In which of the following areas do you need to obey God's Word?

- Kindness to other kids who are mean to you.
- Saying the truth when you are thinking about lying.
- Meditating on God's Word so that you can obey it.
- Something else

**Story Line: With God's help, the people entered the Promised Land.**

### Teacher Helps

#### Review the Lesson Activity: Repetition

The teacher should allow about 5 minutes for children to share the main thing that they learned. If more than 5 children are in the class, allow for each of the groups to share with each other.



# Adventure Number 37

## Judges 2:1-23

**Story Line: Israel failed to be loyal to God. God punished them for this.**



### 1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- Near the end of Joshua's life, he was not convinced that the Israelites would remain faithful to Yahweh. Instead of expelling the Canaanites, Amorites, and others, they mingled with them and even intermarried with them.
- The lifestyle of these nations was quite immoral. The more the Israelites intermarried with them, the more the Israelites withdrew their loyalty from Yahweh.
- Yahweh directed people groups in the area to oppress the Israelites so that they would call on Him for help. Repeatedly, in these situations, God raised up a military leader which was called a judge. Only one judge was not a military leader, that was Deborah who settled disputes.
- When the Israelites fell away from God, they adopted the gods of the Canaanites. Since this land was the land "*flowing with milk and honey*," it was generally assumed that the gods of the Canaanites caused the land to be so productive. Even the Israelites believed this.
- When the Israelites went away from Yahweh, a messenger from God confronted them regarding their apostasy. Then he announced their judgment. Israel entered sinful periods of time, they would cry out to God, He would send a deliverer or judge, they would have rest or peace until that judge died, and then they would turn away from Yahweh.
- There were 9 judges, 7 of which were primary and 2 of which were secondary. Gideon is the best known, despite his objections. Samson was also well known; however, Samson was never serious about his loyalty to Yahweh and he is the first judge to not lead anyone.

### Teacher Helps

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*Timeline:  
Possessing the Land*



## 2) Begin the Lesson

Let's name the eras or periods of time that we have learned and some of the special people and events that happened in each era.

1. Creation. God created the heavens and the earth. He created Adam and Eve to be His special friends.
2. Fall. Lucifer decided he wanted to be like the Most High God and led a rebellion of angels against God. He was expelled from heaven. After that, he tempted Adam and Eve to disobey God and they sinned. Adam and Eve were expelled from the Garden of Eden. God gave them special clothes.
3. Flood. Because there was so much violence on the earth, God decided to flood the entire earth. But Noah found grace in God's sight. God spared Noah and his family as well as two of all the different kinds of animals.
4. Babel. The people wanted to build a tower to God so that they could have a gateway to the gods. Because of this, God confused their languages and the building of this tower stopped.
5. Patriarchs. Abraham is the best known patriarch. Great promises were made to Abraham by Yahweh. God's promises gave Abraham's descendants a certain land and anyone who was a blessing to Abraham's descendants would receive a blessing.
6. Moses. Moses received a special call from God to do a special work. Moses was given the task of leading the Israelites out of slavery. He also received the Ten Commandments on Mount Sinai and led the Israelites for 40 years in the wilderness. Because of his anger, he was not able to enter the Promised Land.



## 3) Teach the Lesson

Did you ever do the wrong thing over and over again? You wish you could stop but you just don't. Israel had the same problem. Over and over again, they kept doing the wrong thing; they kept turning away from God. Today, we will learn about a dark period in the history of the Israelites.

### Teacher Helps

#### Begin the Lesson Activity: Mix and Match Time Line Review

The teacher should put one era on a piece of paper.

Then the teacher should put names on another piece of paper for each period of time. For example, Adam and Eve could be listed twice; once for creation and once for fall.

Then, on separate sheets of paper, the teacher should put events that happened in each time period.

Mix up all the sheets of paper and have teams of students (3-4 on each team) match the era with the people and events of that time period.



## Tell the Story

### Teacher Helps

God had given the nation so many wonderful leaders. Moses was followed by Joshua. Perhaps, everyone in Israel just assumed that Joshua would have a successor to lead Israel just like Moses had a successor. That did not happen. After the death of Joshua, something mysterious happened. There were no leaders in Israel that knew God or what He had done.

In Moses' day, the parents died in the wilderness because of their complaining. No one taught their children about God. So, at the end of Moses' life, he taught the nation mighty lessons about God. Joshua picked up on that. His first and last words encouraged the people to listen to God and to serve Him. God Almighty was worthy of their worship and service. Joshua told the nation that his whole family would serve the Lord. But, now Joshua was gone and there was nobody to take his place.

The nation of Israel now occupied the land that God had promised to Abraham. The nation of Israel had their marching orders that God had given to Moses. The nation of Israel had the courageous leadership that God had given to Joshua. They had everything to look forward to; it was all theirs. But, something went wrong.

After Joshua, there was a lack of leadership that followed Yahweh, a lack of leadership that worshipped Yahweh, and a lack of leadership that served Yahweh. Everyone did what was right in his or her own eyes. It was a time of great spiritual darkness. The Israelites began to accept the gods of the Canaanites. Because the Israelites did not drive out the other nations from the land, they lived with each other. Eventually, they married with each other. They weren't supposed to do this. The Israelites lost their love for God and gave it to the gods of the Canaanites. Over and over again, God punished them for this and then God provided miraculous deliverers. These deliverers were called judges. There were 9 judges that delivered Israel from their oppressors. Most of them were military leaders and most of them had a deep personal commitment to Yahweh. When God provided a judge, the people followed God and the land had rest. When the judge died, the nation went back to their old ways. They adopted the gods of the nations around them. This happened every time!

This was a very troubling time for the nation of Israel because they had it all. God was with them and the other nations were afraid of them. But, they gave it all away and did that which was right in their own eyes, not the eyes of Yahweh.

### Tell the Story Activity: Skits

There are 9 judges in the book of Judges. Pick out one or two of the judges and have some of the children in your class perform a skit or two. Let the other kids guess which judge they are trying to demonstrate.

Perhaps the teacher could assign Gideon or Samson as skits to perform. These are probably the most well known and easiest to reenact in a skit.





## Memory Verse

Judges 21:25 (ESV) - Everyone did what was right in his own eyes.



## Praise and Worship

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## Bible Activity

Let's think about one of God's rules:

- “*Thou shalt not lie.*” Where is this found? (In the Bible, Ten Commandments) We know that God is truth, He can never lie. When we lie, we might get ourselves out of a sticky situation, but we have gone against God's rule. What are some bad consequences of lying? (We will be disciplined by God, we will start a habit of lying, we could lose the respect of the person we lied to, etc.).
- What about another one of God's rules: “*Thou shalt not steal.*” What do we hope to gain by stealing? (we get what we want without working for it, we get rich by stealing money, etc.) What are some bad consequences of stealing? (someone will come after us that we stole from, get a bad reputation, have a guilty conscience, etc.)
- You see, we need to remember that God puts rules in the Bible for our good, to protect us from bad things, just like this umbrella. Don't be like the people of Israel long ago! If you worship and obey the one true God, you will NEVER be sorry!

## Teacher Helps

### Memory Verse Activity: Scripture Card Battle

Divide your class up into groups of 2 or 3. Give each group a set of cards. On each card is one word from the memory verse. Groups should try to put the words of the memory verse in the right order.

### Bible Activity: The Umbrella

Hold up the umbrella. Ask: Who knows what this is? (of course, an umbrella!) What is the purpose of an umbrella? (To keep you dry in the rain, or to keep the sun off your head on a really hot day). That's right, it is to protect you from something. Do you HAVE to carry an umbrella in the rain? (No, but you will get wet). God's rules are something like an umbrella. They are not forced on us, but when we use them as our guide to live by, we are protected from many bad consequences.



## 4) Review the Lesson

### “Who” Questions:

1. Who were the Canaanites?
2. Who was one of the judges?

### “What” Questions:

1. What did the Israelites do wrong?
2. What happened when Joshua died?

### “When” Questions:

1. When did God send a judge?
2. When did the people cry out to God?

### “Where” Questions:

1. Where did the Israelites live now?
2. Where did the Canaanites live?

### “Why” Questions:

1. Why did the Israelites adopt the gods of other nations?
2. Why did the Israelites do that which was right in their own eyes?

## Teacher Helps

### Review Activity: The Investigative Cube

Divide the class up into two teams. Make a cube with these labels on each side of the cube: who, what, when, where, why. When the cube is rolled to one team, they will answer the type of question that is face up on the cube. For instance, if the “why” is face up on the cube, then that team will answer a “why” question. Teachers can make up their own questions from the lesson, only they must pertain to this lesson.



## 5) Apply the Lesson

What is one sin that you should turn your back on (repent)? Make a confession to God and tell Him that you want to have a change of mind about this sin. Don't continue in darkness like the Israelites did.

**Story Line: Israel failed to be loyal to God. God punished them for this.**

# Adventure Number 38

## 1 Samuel 3:19 - 4:1 and Ruth 1-2

**Story Line: The darker the night, the brighter the stars.**



### 1) Study the Lesson (before class)

- Ruth and Samuel were two amazing people who lived in the period of the judges.
- Ruth, from the country of Moab, was not an Israelite but had married an Israelite. When Ruth's husband died at an early age, Ruth chose to live with her mother-in-law, Naomi. Ruth could have gone back to her own people and remarried as a young widow. However, she chose to stay with Naomi.
- Ruth converted to the worship of Yahweh and became a committed believer. Ruth renounced her homeland gods in Moab.
- Ruth married again, this time to Boaz. Ruth was known for her faithfulness, her kindness, her integrity, and her protection of her mother-in-law. God blessed Ruth and she became the great grandmother of King David.
- We know very little about the childhood of most of the Bible's heroes. One exception to that is Samuel. Samuel was given to Hannah and Elkanah as a result of fervent prayer.
- God shaped the heart of young Samuel. Hannah delivered her son to be given to the Lord which meant Samuel would live with Eli, the priest. Eli, however, was not a good parenting example. Eli's sons, Hophni and Phineas, were quite wicked. Yet, Samuel grew up in the fear of the Lord and became a shining light in a very dark time.
- All of Israel recognized Samuel as their leader, something which was not true of most judges during this same time period.

### Teacher Helps

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*Timeline:  
Possessing the Land*



## 2) Begin the Lesson

The teacher should gather all the songs that have been used in the Adventures in the Bible's Big Story and play several of them.

The class should be able to sing along with the teacher the songs that they have previously learned in this curriculum.

After the teacher has played several songs and the class and sung them, play the game, "Name That Tune." "Name That Tune" is a game in which the students will attempt to match the song with the Bible adventure that best matches the song. The teacher should use extreme graciousness to encourage the class when an answer is given.

The purpose of this activity is for kids to associate music they have learned with events in the Bible. The teacher should stay focused on this primary purpose.

### Teacher Helps

#### Review Activity: Name That Tune

The teacher should play songs that the class has learned for the previous Bible adventures. Children should guess which adventures in the Bible's big story best match the song that is being played or sung.

If time permits, the teacher could also ask if there are phrases or words in any of the songs that the children do not understand.



## 3) Teach the Lesson

One Russian proverb says, "The darker the night, the brighter the stars." Have children tell you national or international heroes who have stood out in your nation's history or international history.

- 1.
- 2.



## Tell the Story

Samuel was a judge for the nation of Israel. He did not write a diary, but we do know a lot about his life. If he did keep a diary, this is what it might have said:

- Today, my mom and dad took me to live with Mr. Eli, the priest. A long time ago, my mom could not have children and she begged the Lord for a child. As a result of her fervent prayers, I was born. Mom promised the Lord that if He gave her a child, then she would give that child back to the Lord. I will certainly miss my mom and dad. They gave me a firm foundation for a godly life.
- When I went to bed tonight, I heard this voice calling me by name. I thought it must have been Mr. Eli. When I asked him about it, Mr. Eli said it wasn't. The same thing happened again and then again. The third time that it happened, Mr. Eli told me that it was the voice of the Lord and that I should tell Him that I was listening. So, that is what I did. I made a decision to listen to the voice of God and obey it. The words of God have been so precious to me. I want to spend the rest of my life obeying God.
- I have been assisting Mr. Eli in the work of the Tabernacle. I really like it and I think this is what God wants me to do for the rest of my life. The whole nation of Israel is recognizing me as a prophet of God.
- Mr. Eli has two sons, Hophni and Phineas. They are also priests like Mr. Eli. However, they are wicked. They take the Lord's offering and use it for themselves. They also have some bad relationships with women. I don't know how they can talk about God and live the way that they do.
- The people of Israel want a king to be over them. I talked to the Lord about it. The Lord told me that it wasn't me they were rejecting; it was Him they were rejecting. He told me to anoint Saul as king over Israel and Saul would be the leader of Israel now.
- God wanted me to find the sons of Jesse and establish one of them as the second king. Saul had messed up as king so bad that God wanted a new king to lead the Israelites. I went through all the sons of Jesse until there were none left and the Lord didn't pick any of them. Finally, I asked Jesse if there were any other sons and he told me that the youngest was still out in the field. It was David, and that is who God wanted to be king.

### Teacher Helps

#### **Tell the Story Activity: Samuel's Diary**

Six different scenes or posts from Samuel's diary are given here. The teacher should have the children listen to the posts on Samuel's diary, pick one of those posts, then explain to the class why this post from Samuel's diary stood out to them.





## Memory Verse

1 Samuel 3:19 (ESV) - And Samuel grew, and the Lord was with him and let none of his words fall to the ground.



## Praise and Worship

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## Bible Activity

Ruth's Journal – We have learned about Samuel, a person who stood for God in a dark time. There was another person who was a light in the darkness. It was a young woman named Ruth. (Set up the story by reading and explaining Ruth 1:1-5). Our job today is to work together to make a journal of what Ruth might have written down as she left her homeland of Moab. Each passage listed will be one journal entry by Ruth. If your children are old enough to read independently, they can be assigned a passage each, or in small groups. If they are too young for this method, read or summarize the passages together, and let them help decide what should be written, and the teacher will write it down. After the entries are complete, read

them together as a class.

1. Ruth 1:6-18
2. Ruth 1:19-22
3. Ruth 2:1-23
4. Ruth 3:1-18
5. Ruth 4:1-12
6. Ruth 4:13-22

When Ruth heard about the one true God, she decided to follow Him, not to go back to the gods of Moab. God honored her faith, and she became the great-grandmother of king David, who was in the genealogy of Christ!

## Teacher Helps

### Memory Verse Activity: Scripture Scrambler

Write the words to this verse on the top of a paper. Then number down the paper, one number for each word in the verse. Beside the numbers, write a scrambled word to the verse. Challenge your children to unscramble each word to the verse in its correct order.

#### Example:

1 dna	and
2 maules	Samuel
3 werg	grew
4 dan	and
5 het	the
6 drol	Lord
7 asw	was
8 thiw	with
9 mih	him



## 4) Review the Lesson

Based on the lives of Samuel and Ruth, rate yourself on this grid:

• Listening to God skills	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Obedient to parents	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Fervent in prayer	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Serving God	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Speak out for God	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Stay away from bad relationships	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Respond to God's leading	1	2	3	4	5	6
• Overall commitment to God	1	2	3	4	5	6

## Teacher Helps

### Review Activity: Grid for Growth

The teacher should teach the class of children that the examples of Samuel and Ruth should help us evaluate our own lives.

Children should fill out this chart (1= low; 6 = high).



## 5) Apply the Lesson

Pick one of the eight skills above and determine in prayer and accountability to improve only one of these skills. Make it a matter of daily work and daily prayer to improve one of these “shining lights” skills.

**Story Line: The darker the night, the brighter the stars.**