

Whose Side Are You On?

Joshua 5:13-6:5; Patriarchs and Prophets, pp. 487-491

Lesson
12

Have you ever had part in a program? I mean a really big program in a church with hundreds of seats? You feel important practicing for the program. You mustn't make any mistakes! But then you worry so much that you nearly forget your part. That is about how Joshua felt after Moses died.

Joshua walked between the rows of tents. He smiled at the families he passed, but he didn't stop to talk. He needed some exercise. He needed time alone to think. So many amazing things had happened in the past few days.

Joshua quickly reached the edge of the camp. His steps got even longer as he headed back across the fields. He walked on until he had a good view of the Jordan River. Then he stopped and just looked. The river was flooded and dangerous. But the Israelites were all safely across and in the Promised Land. Once again their awesome God had seen them through.

The people had just finished celebrating the Passover. Soon it would be time to move on. But moving on was

scary. The Israelites had powerful enemies in this new land.

As Joshua slowly turned in a circle, he studied the great walled city of Jericho. Big, tall walls. Thick walls. How small the

Israelite camp looked with Jericho's walls



The Message

We can worship our awesome God every day.

Memory Verse

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You believe in God; believe also in me”

(John 14:1).

towering above them. Joshua had no idea what to do. How was he going to lead the army of Israel against that mighty city? They had no fancy weapons of war. Joshua shuddered to think of his poorly trained soldiers. They were not ready for battle.

Suddenly someone stood in front of Joshua, holding a sword. Joshua stepped boldly up to him. “Whose side are you on?” Joshua asked, “ours or our enemies?” If he were an Israelite soldier, he had some explaining to do! Joshua had not told any of his soldiers to leave camp. If the stranger were an enemy, Joshua was ready to fight.

“Neither,” the man answered. “I am here as the Commander of the Lord’s army.”

Suddenly Joshua realized that this was no ordinary soldier. This was the Lord Himself! Joshua fell at His feet in worship. “I am Your servant, Sir. What do You want me to do?”

“Take your sandals off. You are standing on holy ground,” the Commander replied.

Joshua removed his sandals and worshipped the Lord. What a relief! Joshua had been thinking about battle plans. He had imagined there was to be a war, and he would be the general in charge. But now he learned that the battle was the Lord’s. The plans were already made, and the Lord was in charge. Joshua did not have to

bear the heavy responsibility of leadership all alone. *The Lord was here!* His awesome God was with him!



S A B B A T H

READ With your family, go to a quiet place, possibly by a river. If you can see a city in the distance (or imagine one)—it can remind you of Jericho, the city that Joshua saw from his quiet place of worship. Read your lesson story together. Read John 14:1. Sing together one of your favorite worship songs.

DO Thank God for a quiet place to worship Him.

M O N D A Y

SHARE With your family, read Joshua 5:14. Who was Joshua's visitor? What did Joshua do? Do you visit with Jesus each morning? What has He told you when He visits? Sing "He Is Lord" (Sing for Joy, no. 87).

DO During this week, write down how much time you watch TV and how much time you spend worshipping God. On Friday, add up the hours. See how much you really spend at each activity. Ask God to help you make Him first in your life.

DO Say or read your memory verse aloud.

T U E S D A Y

READ Read Joshua 5:15 during family worship. Why do you think the ground where the Commander stood was holy? Unscramble these words for the answer:

ODG ASW HTREE.

DO Make a cardboard helmet and sword. Save it for Friday worship.

PRAY Ask God to help you give all your worries to Him.

S U N D A Y

READ During family worship, read Joshua 5:13-15. What can we learn about everyday worship from these verses?

DO Talk with your family about how you can worship God each day this week. Make a poster that will remind your family. Ask each family member to sign the poster, then hang it where all can see.

DO Cut out 16 paper hearts. Write a memory verse word on each. Include the text on one of them. Use these to teach the verse to your family.

W E D N E S D A Y

READ Read Joshua 5:14, 15 again. What reasons did Joshua have to worship God that day? (Choose more than one.) Underline your answers.

1. God had taken good care of Israel.
2. Joshua loved God.
3. Joshua needed help.
4. God is holy.
5. God told Joshua to take off his shoes.
6. Taking Jericho was impossible.

SHARE Ask your family: What reasons do you have to worship God?

DO Say your memory verse together. Then thank God for His love.

T H U R S D A Y

DO For family worship, place a basket and a picture of Jesus on a table nearby. Ask each person to draw a picture of what worries them today. What does John 14:1 say about worry? Place your worry pictures in the basket. Pray together about the worries and trust that God will provide the help you need. Read together Philippians 4:19.

DO Say John 14:1, 3 together.

The walls of Jericho had a base 11 feet high. Then the walls sloped up for 35 more feet. The main wall was on top of that.



F R I D A Y

DO For family worship, act out your lesson story. (Use the sword and helmet you made Tuesday.)

SHARE Tell three things that you learned from this story.

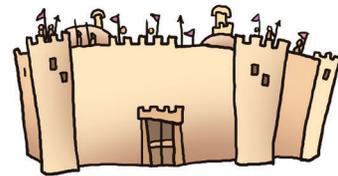
DO Add up the hours on your TV/worshipping God chart. How did you do? What changes will you make?

DO Read Psalm 16:8 together. Then sing "Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus" (Sing for Joy, no. 90) before prayer.

Holy Ground Word Search

PUZZLE

Directions: Joshua was worried about details instead of trusting Jesus. Cross out the words that are misspelled to find out why Joshua was told to remove his sandals.



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