



Psalm 27:1

Based on "Heroes" VBS:
BE BRAVE, JESUS IS WITH ME!

Helping kids
SAY
YES
TO JESUS!



Children's Sabbath 2020 will remind your children and congregation that Jesus gives us the strength to be brave ... even during troubling times! We can go to Him for our strength and hope.

ISV and NKJV Bible used

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A lesson on God's presence and protection can help us be brave!

Based on "Heroes" VBS Day 1 Program:

BE BRAVE, JESUS IS WITH ME!

Psalm 27:1

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VOLUNTEERS NEEDED



- Greeters
- Ushers
- Praise Leaders
- Prayer Leader
- Skit Participants

*Other
Volunteers
will also be needed
depending on the Activities
chosen to include.*

RESOURCES

*Heroes VBS music CD/DVD/USB audio tracks and music videos featuring kids performing the actions to each song is available from AdventSource at adventsource.org and 402.486.8800. Catalog #039663

- Invitations
- Poster
- Letter to the Pastor
- Songs
- Invitation Flyer
- Decision Cards
- Optional Pastor Sermon Outline

Downloads available at Childmin.org

SUPPLY LIST &

SET-UP INSTRUCTIONS



Heroes VBS Music DVD/
CD/USB: adventsource.org
PRODUCT #039663

Heroes VBS Program
DVD: adventsource.org
PRODUCT #039650

Opening Skit: The Great Big Box

Large box (big enough for a person to hide inside the box)

Set-up: Have adult climb inside the box and hide. Have helpers push the box onstage so that nobody sees the person inside the box until the end of the skit.

Bible Promise Reading

Two Note Cards: 1 card with the verse Psalms 27:1 typed on it, 1 card with the verse Joshua 1:9 typed on it.

Offering: ADRA - Every Child. Everywhere. In School

Download ADRA Heroes Film Clip Day one:
heroeshomeedition.org

Prayer Activity: Prayer Flags

Thick twine, Post-it notes, wooden cross, or picture of a cross

- Cut the twine into 8 inch pieces. Be sure you have enough for each member (or demonstrate from up front).
- Give 1 piece of twine to each church member or family and to the presenter and 2 post-it notes to each member for family.

Group Activity 1: How Would You Feel?

How would you Feel Emoji printouts (1 set for each member in the church): childmin.org/childrenssabbath, Sandwich size baggie.

Sermon Part 1: God's Wandering in the Wilderness

12 chairs and 12 children to sit in the chairs

Note: you can dress your children in Bible costumes as they will be acting out parts of the story while it is told.

Set-up: 12 children sit in the chairs. "Joshua" and "Caleb" sit on the far right side

Sermon Part 2: Remembering God's Presence

12 large flat rocks, easy to stack on top of one another

Set-up: Give one large flat rock to each child in costume for part 2 of the sermon

Group Activity 2: Building Your Altars

Smooth decorative river stones. Large enough to hold in one hand. 1 stone for each family.

Sermon Part 3: Be Strong and Courageous!

2 child volunteers: 1 "Joshua", 1 with sword, Plastic sword

Group Activity 3: Did you Know: Bricks and Feathers

Brick, 2 large paper bags, bag of colorful craft feathers, a small table, 2 children volunteers

- Place the brick in one paper bag and the feathers in the other paper bag
- Put the bags on the table
- Choose 2 children ahead of time for the presentation

Sermon Part 4: Tumbling Walls

Recording of a trumpet sound (if you have a child who has a trumpet they can play it!), cardboard boxes of different sizes

- Pile the boxes up like a wall
- Choose 5 children to be the Israelites

Closing Activity

Brick wall printout (1 for each person), crayons

Set-up: Give each person a brick wall printout:
childmin.org/childrenssabbath

OPTIONAL EXTRA ACTIVITIES

- Child Focused Potluck. Invite the church family to the Let's Eat Potluck with child-friendly activities at each table. (See "Let's Eat" on page 9 for ideas)
- Outreach at the park or another public place. Provide music for children, story time and games. Children can color and deliver the flyer invitations the week before.
- Visit a retirement center and maybe even begin an Adopt a Grandparent program with regular visits.
- Children's Sabbath can also include plans for additional service projects on Sunday, giving children something more to look forward to doing together for others, such as helping someone with yard work or baking cookies and delivering them with a handmade note. Children involved in these activities not only is fun for them and instills in them a passion to serve, but also brings joy to the hearts of those they are serving.
- Invite the whole church to work together on a Pathfinder Nature or Outreach Honor or Adventurer Nature Award.

**SCAN ME:
PATHFINDER
HONORS**



For Pathfinder Honors go to
en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Adventist_Youth_Honors_Answer_Book

**SCAN ME:
ADVENTURER
AWARDS**



For Adventurer Awards go to
en.wikibooks.org/wiki/Adventist_Adventurer_Awards



The following ideas that can promote children's ministries within your church, and also be used to involve the children, families and congregation to participate together.

LET'S EAT

Activities to involve the children and families during or after the Children's Sabbath potluck meal.

God is with You...Always! Easy Craft

GOD IS WITH YOU . . . ALWAYS! CARDS

- Place a table at each corner of the Fellowship Hall or room.
- Invite children, their parents, and church members to participate in this activity.
- Make a display of large cards. One for each child, Cardstock folded in half to make a greeting card.
- Use your computer or pattern included to print a frame that says "God is with You!" to stick on the front of each card.
- Provide all kinds of fun stickers, pom-poms, ribbons, and shiny things for the children to use to decorate their card.
- Instruct participants to draw a picture of themselves inside the card.
- Help each child write their name inside their card. Put the cards on the wall at a height where the children can open their own card and see their message and drawing.

Kids Decoration

Decorate the potluck room with balloons. Play music with children's songs during potluck.

Line tables with rolls of Kraft paper. Provide cups with crayons on tables for guests to draw and doodle.



PLANNING TIMELINE



PLAN THIS SERVICE

- To make the most of Children's Sabbath, make sure your pastor is on board and is filled in with all the details of this special Sabbath.
- Plan ahead to advertise in your church and community.
- Present the program during the worship service.
- Prepare a special potluck to honor the children.
- Plan an outreach using Real Magazine.
- Visit adventsource.com to purchase witnessing tools children can use to share their faith.

as an opportunity to reach out to the community to showcase children and their ministry. To get the ball rolling for your Children's Sabbath program, work with your pastor to develop a vision for Children's Sabbath and assemble a team to follow through on the organization and planning. Meet together as often as necessary; this lowers confusion among your leaders and keeps misunderstandings at a minimum. To get the children involved in the preparation and outreach, share with them the logo and the theme; talk about its meaning; encourage children to pray every day and to investigate how God is calling them to work for Him. Guide them in seeking God through the verses in the Bible. Normally the children's coordinator organizes Children's Sabbath. If your church has not appointed a children's coordinator, ask the pastor to appoint someone to act as coordinator for this important day.



Right Away

- Download materials from *childmin.com*
- Establish a Children's Sabbath prayer support group.
- Form a planning team, involving the Pathfinder and Adventurer Club directors as well as the children's Sabbath School division and VBS leaders.
- Determine the specifics of your afternoon outreach activity—the venue you choose, the sponsors and adults who will accompany the children, etc.
- If your church has children who are preparing for baptism, work with their families and the pastor to plan a baptism as part of the Children's Sabbath service.

Six Weeks Before

- Ask the church communications leader to advertise your program in the church bulletin, in local newspapers, and on local radio stations— ample inserts and announcements available for download: childmin.org
- Send "God is with you! ... Always!" postcards as invitations to inactive (or former) members. Hand out postcards in church, encouraging members to invite their neighbors, friends, and relatives.
- Ask the church's hospitality team to plan a potluck or special meal for guests after the Children's Sabbath service. (see Potluck ideas on page 9)
- Plan for someone to take pictures at your Children's Sabbath program.

Three Weeks Before

- Post "God is with You! ... Always!" posters around your church and school.
- Put a bulletin announcement in your church bulletin each remaining week.
- Enlist several children to help with a creative announcement during church.
- Start practicing the entire program in the church. (Avoid keeping kids out late on Friday night.)
- Firm up final details about your outreach event.

Children's Sabbath Day

- Pray with your team and with your children before the program.
- Present the program during the worship hour.
- Provide a potluck to honor the children and their families and guests.
- Organize and implement the Children's Sabbath afternoon outreach.
- Thank your team and the children for a great Children's Sabbath!





GOD
IS WITH YOU...

always!

2020

CHILDREN'S SABBATH
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

OCT
05

**Dear Pastor &
Partner in Ministry,**

WHAT IS CHILDREN'S SABBATH?

Children's Sabbath is a day set aside by churches all over the world for the purpose of highlighting and affirming the gift and gifts of children in our midst. It is a day set aside to celebrate children as active participants in the life of the church. Children can serve as worship leaders throughout the service, including preaching, singing, reading Scripture, etc. This special day provides a great opportunity to invite friends and neighbors to bring their children. The more you put into planning and promoting this special day, the more impact it will have on your church and community.

The NAD Children's Ministry Department is excited and is looking forward to celebrating this very special Sabbath. This year, October 3, 2020 is Children's Sabbath throughout the North American Division. We have been celebrating this special day for over ten years. This is a Sabbath when the children of our church will have the opportunity to share the gospel in their own words. Perhaps this may be the day when a future teacher, a church leader, and yes, even a preacher may be introduced to their calling for the very first time. This is also the perfect opportunity for your children's ministry leaders to partner with you and guide the children as they share from the pulpit the depth of their love for Jesus!

As an additional resource we have included a sermon outline (see page 30) that has been prepared especially for this occasion. You can add your content or use as it is. This can be presented by a child, teen or young person with your mentoring. The NAD Children's Ministries supports and prays for you in your ministry with the children of your church!

Children's Sabbath 2020 will reinforce to your children we are all part of God's great big family! This day will be an encouraging reminder that because Jesus loves us, we are able to love one another freely and unconditionally!

Thank you for your partnership with Children's Ministries!
NORTH AMERICAN DIVISION CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES



ORDER *of* SERVICE

1. WELCOME

This is a wonderful opportunity for the pastor to introduce the children's ministries leaders in your church; public recognition and support are a positive acknowledgement of the dedication of your team.

2. PRAISE IN SONG

Let the children lead if possible; see the list of suggested songs and theme song. The songs included are suggestions—choose music that fits your church's culture.

3. OPENING SKIT

The skit provided is appropriate for the sanctuary; however, it is just an added option. Keep in mind that whatever you do, the important thing is to have the children in the forefront the entire Sabbath.

4. BIBLE PROMISE READING

Assign several children to read and teach the hand motions to the scripture verse.

5. OFFERING

This is a great time to include the Deacons in mentoring the children to take up the offering.

6. PRAYER ACTIVITY

This is written to be led by the children. Practicing this section will help your children feel comfortable and confident up front.

7. GROUP ACTIVITY

This activity gets the whole church engaged and participating.

8. SERMON

Work with your pastor ahead of time. There are four sections to the 'God is with You! ... Always!' Children's Sabbath sermon. Each section has options for engaging the congregation.

9. CALL TO COMMITMENT

Pastors are encouraged to give the church opportunity to respond with either a general call to a commitment to be faithful to God's call or a more specific call to baptism as a greater sign of commitment. No script is provided for this section for each pastor will know, as lead by the Holy Spirit, what to say.

10. PRAISE IN SONG

Let the children lead if possible

11. CLOSING PRAYER

A closing prayer is included. Make a copy and assign one or several children to pray.

12. INVITATION TO LUNCH

Assign several children to extend the invitation.



DETAILED OUTLINE

Welcome

Praise Song Heroes (adventsource.org)
Heroes VBS Music DVD/CD PRODUCT #039663

Opening Skit

Bible Promise Reading

"The Lord is my light (*holding up two fists and quickly opening and closing their hands in a flashing motion.*)
and my salvation." (*Crossing their wrists over their chests*)
Whom shall I fear?" (*Put hands on cheeks and look scared*)

The Lord is the strength of my life." (*Hold arms up like they're flexing*)

Of whom shall I be afraid?" (*Put hands on cheeks and look scared*)

Psalms 27:1

"Be Strong and Courageous (*Hold arms up like they're flexing and then cross arms for 'courageous'*)

"Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed (*Put hands on cheeks and look scared*)

"for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go"
(*Hold right arm up and point to the sky*)

Joshua 1:9

OPTION:

a. Film several children from your church reciting the verse and then telling what the verse means to them.

b. Kid Panel choose 4 or 5 children to sit up front and ask them the question "what does it mean to be brave? Have you seen someone being brave? How can God help you be brave? (this is a live version of the film from above.

Offering Show the ADRA DVD day 1 film clip from the Heroes VBS Kit. The ADRA mission project provides resources and supplies for all children in third-world countries to be able to go to school. Please instruct your treasurer to use: TRS code 3752 or AASI code 50120.

Child: The ADRA mission project provides resources and supplies for all children in third-world countries to be able to go to school. Please watch this film clip and give as you can. The children thank you!

Prayer Activity

Group Activity

Sermon Part 1

Song 1: My Promise (Heroes music DVD/CD)

Skit: The Great Big Box

Bible Promise Reading

Prayer Activity Knots

Group Activity 1: How Would You Feel?

Song 2: Today I will Go (Heroes music DVD/CD)

Sermon part 1 – Wandering in the Wilderness

Sermon Part 2

Song 3: I Have Decided to Follow Jesus (Heroes music DVD/CD)

Sermon part 2 – Remembering God's Presence

Group Activity 2: Building Your Altars

Soft instrumental music (your choice)

Sermon Part 3

Sermon part 3 – Be Strong and Courageous!

Group Activity 3: Bricks and Feathers

Sermon Part 4

Sermon Part 4 – Tumbling Walls

Closing Activity

Call to Commitment

Song 4: Listen to Your Voice

Closing Prayer

Invitation to Lunch

INTRODUCTION



No matter what happens in this life, we can always know that God is with us! The story of Joshua helps us remember how mighty the presence of God is! “Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed” God tells Joshua, “for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go. (Josh 1:9 ESV)”

God’s call to Joshua, and His reassurance of his presence is the same for us. We need to be strong and courageous because this world can sometimes be a scary place. There are things that we might personally be afraid of. There are events that happen which may make us feel unsteady. There are challenges we face which may be very difficult. No matter what comes our way, the power of God’s presence and protection can help us to be brave!

This children’s sabbath was written especially to address how families can turn to God as a source of courage and hope. Jesus tells us that in this world we will have trouble. But that we can Take heart because He has overcome the world! (John 16:33) This program is an encouraging reminder that when we know God, and when we trust in him, our fears won’t overcome us. Being brave is not a lack of being afraid. Instead, it is resting in the calm assurance of God’s powerful presence in our lives

- Allow the children to lead as much as possible.
- Find “behind the scenes” things the quieter children can do.
- Ask the Pathfinders and Adventurers to collect the offering—encourage them to come to church in their uniforms.
- Have the children make a thank-you card for the pastor and his or her family and present it to them during the praise and worship time.
- Try to have the kids memorize their parts—the program will flow much easier if they do.
- After your event post pictures to the Children’s Ministry Facebook page: Children’s Ministries NAD

Leader Tips



GOD

IS WITH YOU...

always!

OCT
05

Praise Time:

HEROES
Theme Song

SERVICE

WELCOME

Good morning everyone! Welcome to our Children's Sabbath program! We are so thankful that you are here. We pray that today you will experience God's presence, and that you will be filled with hope! Our key Bible text is from Joshua 1:9. It says **Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.**

What amazing encouragement! Let's take some time to greet one another, and share the promise in this verse. Please turn around and greet your neighbor and say, "God is with you my friend!" (play some music and give some time for greeting)

Today we will focus on what it means to be brave. No matter what we go through, God has promised to be with us. Because of his promise, we can face any challenge! Let's sing together as we remember God's presence.

Scripture Joshua 1:9 and Psalms 27:1

Offering: ADRA Project

Child: Your support and prayers can make a big difference in the lives of children all around the world.

Song #1: "My Promise"

SKIT

The Great Big Box

Props: Large box, big enough for a person to hide inside the box.

Setup: Have adult climb inside the box and hide. Have helpers push the box onstage so that nobody sees the person inside the box until the end of the skit.

Note: when we tested this skit out, we hid the church pastor in the box. The children loved seeing the pastor come out at the end of the skit. Use a familiar leader such as a children's ministry person, an elder, or pastor for a bigger surprise at the end!

Child 1: (walks onstage and notices box) Hey... what's that?! (thinking) I've never seen this box here before... what could it be? Hmmm... maybe it's a present? Or maybe someone dropped it... should I open it? Hmmm...

Box: Rattles and thumps

Child 1: WHAT was that?!!!

Box: Thumps again

Child 1: Aaaaaaaahhhh!!! (Runs to the other side of stage and hides shivering)

Child 2: (starts to walk onstage Child 1 stops child 2)

Child 1: WAIT!!!!

Child 2: Huh? Why'd you stop me from walking?

Child 1: Watch out for the box!!!

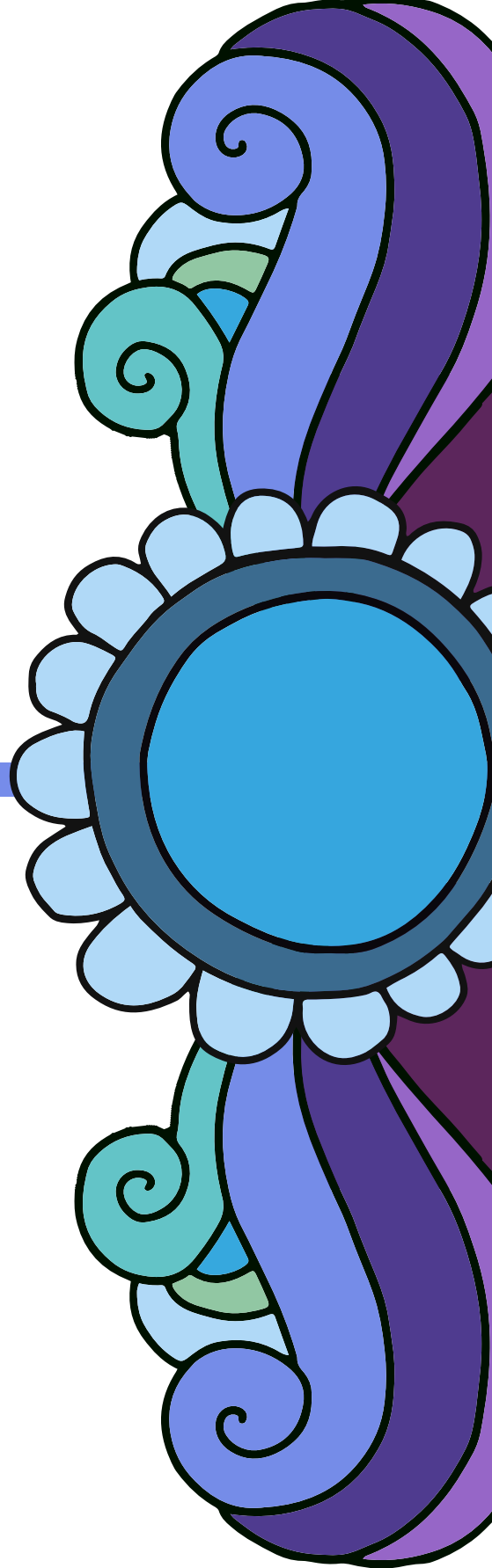
Child 2: What box?

Child 1: THAT Box!!!! (points to box)

Child 2: What's so bad about it?

Child 1: I think there might be something inside!!! Like a giant fuzzy bear! And what if he's hungry?

Box: Thumps and rattles



Child 1: You see?! I told you! He's hungry!

Child 2: A bear? Bears don't live in the church... Bears live in the forest. We should probably be brave, and check if something is in there...

Child 1: WAIT!!! Don't open the box! Its too scary. What if its a... a Lion?! With a huge mane and big sharp teeth!

Child 2: A lion? Didn't you just say it was a bear?

Box: Thumps and rattles

Child 1: No I changed my mind... that was definitely the sound of a lion in there!

Child 2: I don't think so... lions don't live in the church either... We should be brave, and open the box (starts to walk towards box, child 1 stops child 2)

Child 1: WAIT!!! Don't open it! It's too scary... What if it's a... a big huge GORILLA... And its ready to gobble us up?

Child 2: I don't think it is a gorilla... Gorillas don't go to church either....

Box: Thumps and rattles

Child 2: But there is definitely SOMETHING in the box.... I'm going to check... (walks toward the box... Tries to open box... pulls on the sides, moves it around, but can't open the box. Stops walks back to child 1) Hey! It's too hard for me to open... could you help me?

Child 1: Uh... I don't know... its too scary! I don't want to see a lion, tiger or gorilla

Child 2: But you're so much stronger! I know you could open it!

Child 1: maybe....

Box: thumps and rattles

Child 1: YIKES! I can't do it! (hides)... I don't get it... how come you are so brave?

Child 2: Me? I'm brave because I know that God is always with me.

Child 1: But... aren't you afraid of the noise coming from the box?

Child 2: Well... I know we don't know what's inside the box... that is a little scary. But being brave doesn't mean I'm not scared. It means I can still trust God, even when I'm afraid. Besides, what if whatever is inside the box is stuck? We could help.

Child 1: You're sure?

Child 2: Yes, absolutely positively sure!

Child 1: Alright...

(child 1 and 2 approach the box)

Child 2: alright, on the count of 3, you pull on the lid and try to open it up. 1... 2... 3!

(Child 1 pulls the lid of the box... Choose a leader ahead of time to play the person in the box. They will come out of the box as soon as the lid pops off)

Person 3: PHEW!!!! Thank goodness! I thought I would be stuck inside that box FOREVER!!!! I'm so glad you guys came along to help!!!!

Child 1: (say person's name in surprise) _____? How did you end up in there?

Person 3: Well... to make a long story short, I was trying to get some supplies from this box, but the box was too big... so I fell in, and the lid shut tight! I've been rattling around in there for a while. But it scared everyone who came by! I'm so glad you were brave enough to help! (Climbs out of box and Shakes child 1's hand) Thank you! That lid was on tight. You had to have been pretty strong to get it open!

Child 1: you're welcome... but. I didn't do it alone.

Person 3: really?

Child 1: (names child 2) _____ helped! I may have been strong enough to open the lid, but He/she was the really brave one! _____ reminded me to trust in God, and he/she came along with me so I didn't have to open the box alone.

Person 3: So you were able to be strong and courageous!

Child 2: That's right! With God's help of course!

Person 3: Well I'm certainly glad you relied on God to help you be brave.

Child 1 and 2: Us too

Person 3: Now what do you say we get this giant box put away. (tries to pick box up and strains) Hmm... it seems heavier than I remember. I'm afraid I won't be able to move it!

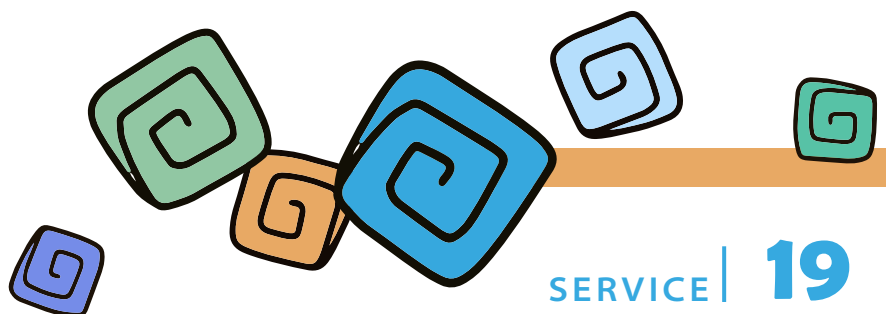
Child 1: Don't be afraid. We can help!

Child 2: Yeah we're strong!

Child 2: And courageous too!

Child 1 and 2: Because God is with us!

(all 3 move the box offstage)



Bible Promise Reading

(or *two Scripture verses with motions):

Adult: Our skit about the big box illustrated something important. Our two children saw the box but did not know what was inside! That is what made the box so scary. Many times, in life there are things that we encounter that feel big and scary. We may not know what to do when we feel afraid. But there are so many Scripture promises of why we can be brave because of God's presence. Our children are going to share a few of those verses for you!

Child 1: Deuteronomy 31:8 The lord himself goes before you and will be with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged.

Child 2: Psalm 23:4 Even though I walk through the darkest valley, I will fear no evil, for you are with me; your rod and your staff they comfort me.

Child 3: Psalm 27:1 The Lord is my light and my salvation- whom shall I fear? The lord is the stronghold in my life- of whom shall I be afraid?

Child 4: Psalm 56:3-4 When I am afraid I put my trust in you. In God whose word I praise- in God I trust and am not afraid.

Child 5: John 14:27 Peace I leave with you. My peace I give you. I do not give as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

Adult: What a blessing these verses are. Each one says in its own way, that God will never leave us. When we know that God is with us, we do not need to be afraid! He is present, he is active, and he is listening to us.

Offering

ADRA: Every Child. Everywhere. In School!

Child: The ADRA mission project provides resources and supplies for *all* children in third-world countries to be able to go to school. Please watch this film clip and give as you can. The children thank you!

Prayer Activity: Knots

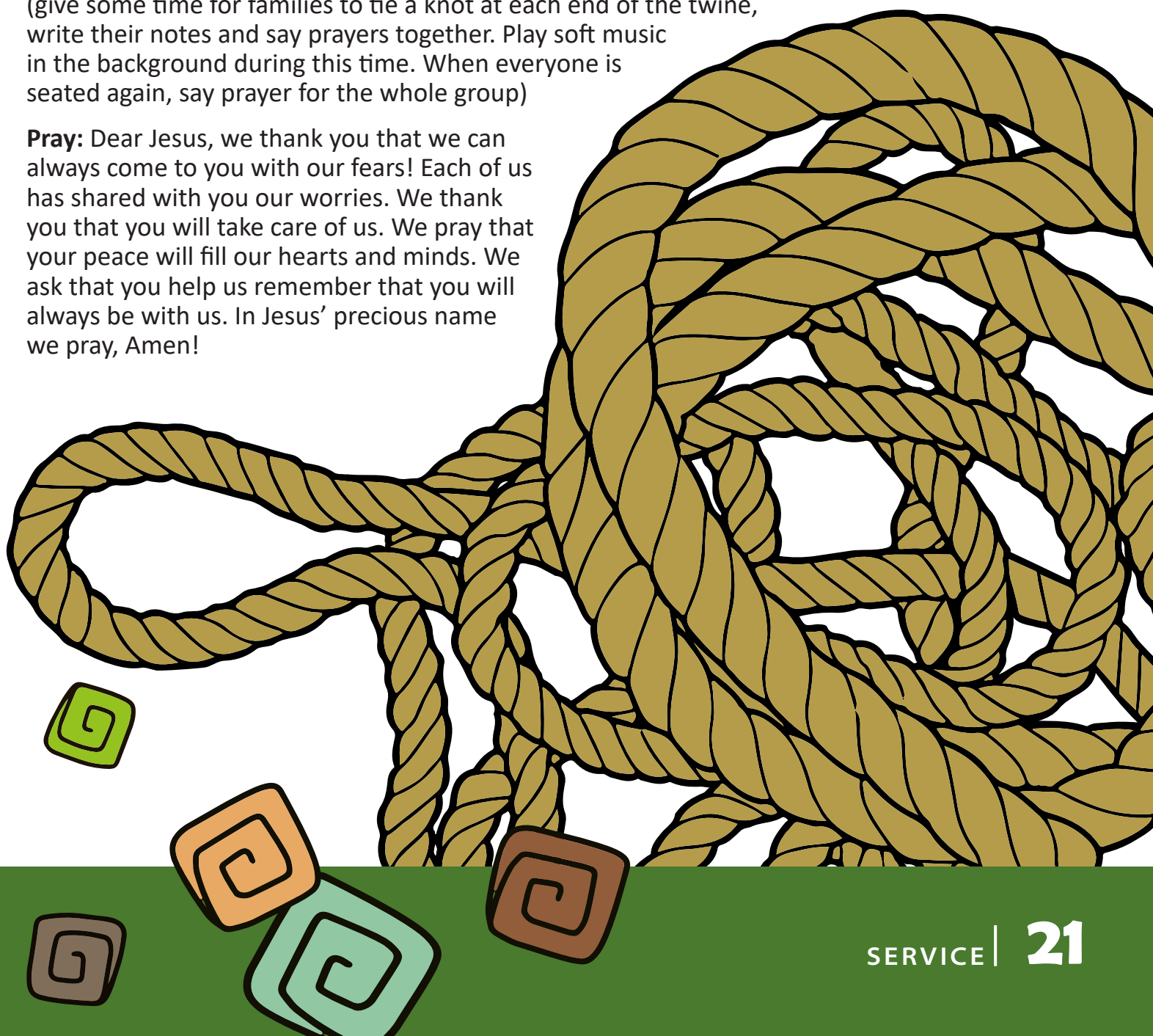
Have you ever felt worried before? It doesn't feel very good. When we are anxious, we feel all tied up in knots! (tie a knot on each end of your twine) We may be nervous, or afraid. But talking to God about our fears is a big part of being brave!

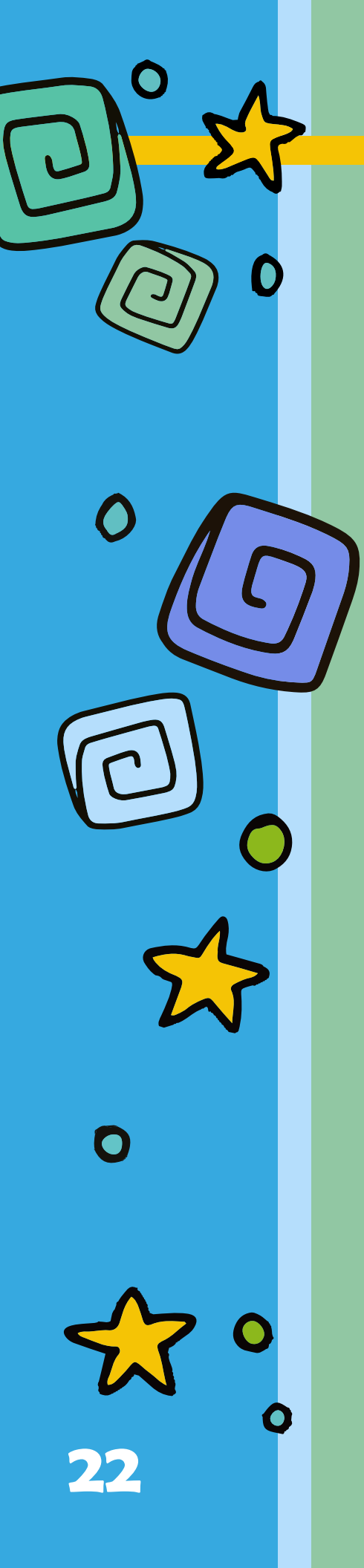
Philippians 3:6-7 tells us Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God and the peace of God which transcends all understanding will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Each of you has a piece of twine just like mine! Take some time to think of what causes worry in your life. Write or draw a picture on each post-it note your fear that you may have. Fold the post-it note over the twine. Be honest with God about your fears. When you are done, pray about each fear that you folded over your twine. Then bring it to the cross and leave it there. Talk to God about how you are leaving your fears with him and ask him to give you his peace.

(give some time for families to tie a knot at each end of the twine, write their notes and say prayers together. Play soft music in the background during this time. When everyone is seated again, say prayer for the whole group)

Pray: Dear Jesus, we thank you that we can always come to you with our fears! Each of us has shared with you our worries. We thank you that you will take care of us. We pray that your peace will fill our hearts and minds. We ask that you help us remember that you will always be with us. In Jesus' precious name we pray, Amen!



A decorative sidebar on the left side of the page. It features a blue background with several yellow stars of different sizes and orientations. There are also several squares with spiral patterns inside them, in shades of green and blue. The squares and stars are scattered across the sidebar, with some appearing to be floating or falling.

Group Activity 1: How Would You Feel?

Feelings are very important! We have many different kinds of feelings. (open bag and go through emoji emotions hold each emotion up as you share what they represent) We can feel sad... we can feel happy... we can feel angry.... We can feel nervous... we can feel excited...

The heroes in the Bible had feelings too. How do you think they felt when they faced their challenges? How would you feel if you were in their place? Lets go through some of their stories together! When you hear a question, hold up one of your feelings cards to answer.

1. How would you feel if you were face to face with a hungry lion? (Daniel)
2. How would you feel if you had to choose between God and a fiery furnace? (Shadrach Meshach and Abednego)
3. How would you feel if you were asked to rule a whole country at a young age? (Joash)
4. How would you feel if you had to speak to a king or queen? (Esther)
5. How would you feel if you moved to a new place with a new family? (Ruth)
6. How would you feel if you met an angel? (Mary)
7. How would you feel if God asked you to build a giant boat where there was no water and people made fun of you for it? (Noah)
8. How would you feel if you (insert your own question)
9. How would you feel if you (insert your own question)
10. How would you feel if...

Each of these Bible stories is of different people in different situations. But they all have one thing in common. They had to be brave. Their source of courage was the same. They trusted God to give them strength. No matter how we feel in any situation, we can do the same as all of the people in these Bible examples! We can trust God with all of our hearts.

Song #2: "Today I Will Go"

SERMON 1

Wandering the Wilderness

Presenter 1: Our story of bravery today follows Joshua and the Israelite people. Joshua had been chosen as the new leader. But when he was much younger, the first leader Moses, sent him on a mission. He called one man from each of the 12 tribes to go out as spies into Canaan. Joshua was one of the twelve men that were appointed to bring news of the land and its people.

(ten children stand and act afraid. “Joshua” and “Caleb” remain seated) Ten of the spies reported that it was impossible to enter Canaan because the people who lived there were much bigger and stronger than the children of Israel. (the 10 children walk offstage giving a thumbs down)

Only two, Joshua and Caleb, believed that God would protect them and that he would keep his promises. (Joshua and Caleb smile and give thumbs up and walk off the opposite side of the stage)

Presenter 2: Sadly, the children of Israel did not believe Joshua and Caleb. They were too afraid, so they had to wander 40 more years in the wilderness. During this time, they learned to turn to God every day for their food and water, until they trusted Him enough to enter the Promised Land.

It took courage for Joshua and Caleb to speak up, when the other spies were spreading doubt. They were brave. They decided to follow God without turning back in fear. That is one reason Joshua was chosen as a leader. His faith in God’s protection would be the greatest weapon in the battle to come. When we decide to follow God He will help us battle any fear, and stand strong in his presence.

Song #3: “I Have Decided to Follow Jesus”



SERMON 2

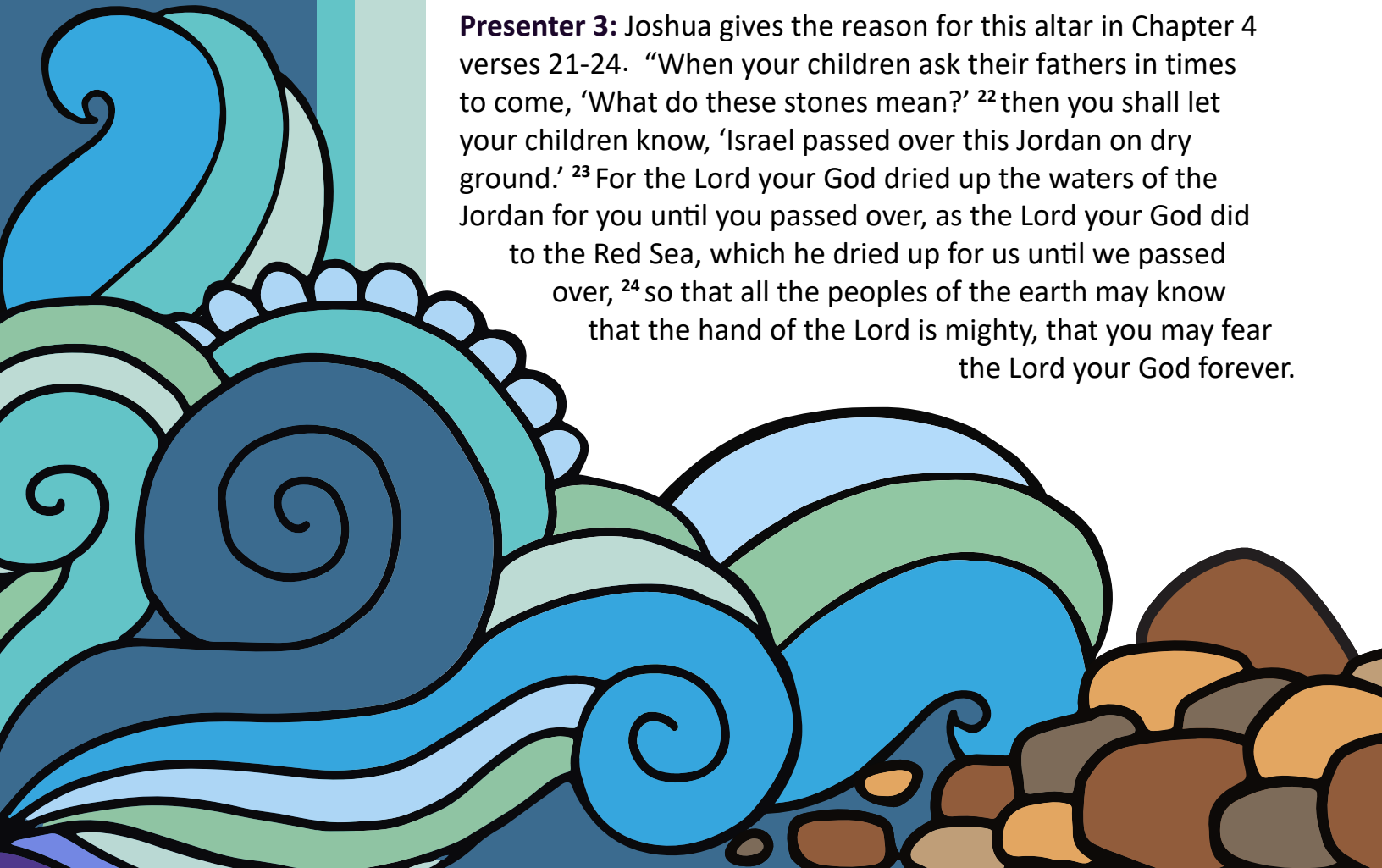
Remembering God's Presence

Presenter 1: By the time they were ready to cross the Jordan River and enter the Promised Land, the children of Israel were trusting God with every step. In fact, they walked right into the Jordan River, knowing that God would part the waters. And, sure enough, God did!

Presenter 2: The Bible tells us that the water rose up on either side miles apart, during flood season. Then they walked across on dry land. But instead of going into Canaan right away, God asks his people to stop and build an altar. Just as before, twelve men from the 12 tribes were chosen to represent their tribes. This time instead of being spies, they were each asked to pick up a stone from the river and place them in the middle of the camp.

(12 children return to the stage with rocks and stack them on one another)

Presenter 3: Joshua gives the reason for this altar in Chapter 4 verses 21-24. "When your children ask their fathers in times to come, 'What do these stones mean?' ²² then you shall let your children know, 'Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.' ²³ For the Lord your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as the Lord your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we passed over, ²⁴ so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty, that you may fear the Lord your God forever.



Presenter 4: God wanted the people, and all the generations that came after, to remember just how mighty he was. This altar was a memorial to help them remember what he had done to save them, and how his presence would always be with them in the future.

Group Activity 2: Building Your Altars

Presenter 1: There are altars in our lives too! It is important for us to remember what God has done to take care of us in the past! When we talk about these memories of how God has been with us, we can be more confident of God's presence in the future.

(give a stone to each family)

Each of you have been given an altar stone. Take some time in your family to share stories of how God has helped you! The person who is holding the stone is the one that shares. Once you are done sharing, pass that stone to another person in your family so that they can share. When you are finished talking about how God has been with you, bring your stone up to the big altar and stack it with the other rocks.

(play some soft music and give families times to share and place their rocks on the altar)



S E R M O N 3

Be Strong and Courageous!

Presenter 1: Our story doesn't stop at the altar. The Israelites first big battle in Canaan was coming! But the walls of Jericho were tall and very strong! Joshua knew that his people needed God's help. He encouraged them to turn to God and demonstrate their trust in Him. Before the battle ever began, the Israelite people rededicated themselves to the Lord. Then they celebrated the Passover, which was a celebration of how God delivered them from slavery in Egypt. They ate food that came from the land. They remembered what God had done and put their trust fully in Him.

(child playing Joshua and child with sword come onstage) When Joshua was nearing Jericho, a mighty man, with a sword drawn stood in front of him! (Child draws sword, Joshua acts surprised) Joshua asked "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

"Neither" the man replied, but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Joshua fell face down to the ground in reverence. (Joshua kneels and looks down) The man told him to take off his shoes, because he stood on Holy ground! (Child points to shoes, Joshua removes shoes) God was in Joshua's presence, and he was ready to listen! The commander of the Lord's army gave Joshua encouragement. He ensured that God would be with them in the battle, and that the Israelites would have the victory!

Presenter 2: God gave Joshua and his people some very strange instructions for the battle. But there was a big difference between the first time the Israelites came to the land of Canaan and now. When Moses sent out the spies 40 years before, all but Joshua and Caleb were filled with fear. Now the Israelite people trusted in God. They knew what He had done for them in Egypt. They knew what He had done for them while wandering in the Wilderness. They knew what He had done for them when they crossed the Jordan river. They knew God was with them, and they knew they could be brave!

Group Activity 3: Did You Know: Bricks and Feathers

Say: I have two bags here with two very different items! (rattle the bags) What do you all think is inside the bags? Lets see! (call up 2 volunteers, have them touch the bags and guess what is inside) That's right! We have some feathers, and a brick! Let's put them on the table here. (put the feathers in a pile on the table and put the brick on the table next to the feathers)

(to volunteer 1) let's see if you can move these feathers without touching them! Try blowing on the feathers! (volunteer 1 blows and feathers scatter)

Why did the feathers move? (let volunteer 1 answer) That's right! Feathers are light! Thank you for your help! (volunteer 1 sits down)

(to volunteer 2) Now, what about this brick? Lets see if you can move the brick without touching it! (volunteer 2 blows on brick) Did it move? Why not? (let volunteer 2 answer) that's right! Bricks are solid and heavy! (volunteer 2 sits down)

Now imagine what it would have been like for Joshua and the Israelites! Archaeologists have estimated that the walls going around Jerhico were almost 46 feet high! The city was very protected by 3 solid layers of stone! God was asking his people not to touch the walls at all! The walls seemed immovable! But God was with his people. Because they trusted him, He moved the walls just like a light pile of feathers.



SERMON 4

Tumbling Walls

Presenter 1: God told Joshua, “March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days.” The armed guard went first, then the priests with the ark of the covenant, and then the army was to follow. But they were not to raise their voices when they marched.

Presenter 2: The first day, the men marched around the walls with the sound of the trumpets (play trumpet - volunteers march around the walls once)

The second day, the men marched around the walls with the sound of trumpets (play trumpet- volunteer marched around the walls once)

The third day, the men marched around the walls with the sound of trumpets (play trumpet- volunteers march around the walls once)

And this went on and on for six whole days! They would march around the walls and go back to the camp without raising their voices.

Presenter 1: But the seventh day was different! On the seventh day, Joshua commanded the army to March 7 times. (play trumpet- volunteers march around the walls 7 times) Then Joshua tells the people, “Shout! For the Lord has given you the city!” everyone who was marching shouted as loud as they could! And the mighty city of Jericho’s walls came tumbling down. (volunteers knock down wall)

The city fell, and God’s people had the victory that day. But they did not have to get through the walls themselves. It was God who did the fighting for them. The bravest of warriors in Joshua’s army would not have had the victory without God going before them. They would not have won this battle without trusting in God’s instruction and believing in his presence.

Closing Activity

Say: Being brave is trusting in the presence of God. Our key text reminded Joshua to **“Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”** God’s presence, and the Israelites great big faith, allowed them to face many battles together. When they trusted God, He won each of those battles for them.

We may not be a part of the Israelite army, and we may not be fighting a literal battle like they were. But we are a family in this church. Many of us face difficult situations where we need to be brave, and where we need to fully trust in God. We don’t have to do that alone!

Joshua encouraged his people with the promises of the presence of God. They rededicated their lives to God as a people. They marched in the army together. We can do the same first by remembering how God has promised to be with us, then by sharing that promise with one another! We can learn to listen to God’s voice together.

Each of you has a printout with a wall, which is a reminder of our story today. Color the wall, and write a note of encouragement for someone here. Share that note with them and pray for one another! As you pray, ask that God be with them, and that you both can trust in God’s mighty presence.

Call to Commitment

Closing Song: “Listen to Your Voice”

(can be played during closing activity or just after)

Closing Prayer

Invitation to Lunch



OPTIONAL PASTOR'S SERMON OUTLINE

Hi Pastor! Thank you for showing your church family the importance of involving children in the church service. The following sermon is just an option. Please work with your Children's Ministry Coordinator to see where you can fit the different pieces of the Children's Sabbath material into your sermon.

CANAAN LAND IS JUST IN SIGHT

Joshua 1:1-9

INTRO STATEMENT

It is not always easy to live for Jesus. The Gospel of Jesus Christ will never be acceptable to the world. We are not out for a day in the park! We are not on a playground; we are on a battleground!

OPENING TEXTS

If possible have children prepared to read or memorize and quote many if not all of the texts.

We are engaged in warfare with a spiritual enemy who is far more powerful than we are, but . . .

- Ephesians 6:12 (NKJV) For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
- In our own strength, we cannot defeat our enemies! The good news is this: our enemies are nowhere near as powerful as our God.
- 1 John 4:4b, (KJV) "greater is he that is in you, than he that is in the world."
- Even in the midst of our battles, there is always hope for victory.
- Romans 8:31 (NKJV) What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us?
- Romans 8:37 (NKJV) Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.
- The Bible straight out says us God gives us victory.
- 1 Corinthians 15:57 (NKJV) But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.

LESSONS FROM THE FIRST NINE VERSES OF THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

After 40 years of wandering in the wilderness, Israel is about to take possession of the land God promised them hundreds of years earlier.

This book is about the battles Israel faced in order to claim that promise from God.

It is a book that has much to teach us about spiritual victory in our lives today.

When we get to Heaven, there will be no more wars, there will be no more enemies, there will be no more suffering or death, there will be no more sin. Joshua is about gaining victory here and now.

In the first nine verses listen carefully to what God has to say to Joshua concerning the land of Canaan and about how to claim it. These verses will help us to understand what it takes to go from wandering around in a wilderness of defeat to living in a land of victory.

Joshua 1:1-4 God's command to go and claim what He had promised them.

In Gen. 12:7 God had promised the land to Abrahams descendants. The land was indeed their land! There was no need for them to continue wandering around in the wilderness. All they had to do was claim it! God promised victory.

God has given us promises of victory too. Victory over sin.

That's what these Bible verses are about. (Have children prepared to read or quote)

2 Corinthians 2:14 (NKJV) Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place.

Romans 8:37 (NKJV) Yet in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us.

God promises us that we can win the battle against sin. All sin!

By the way, the land God gave to Israel was about 300,000 square miles. They only claimed about 30,000 square miles of that. They were given as much as they were willing to claim. The extent of their victory was only limited by their faith! The same is true with us!

Matthew 7:7 (NKJV) "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you.

1 John 5:14-15 (NKJV) Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

A CALL TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN THE LORD

Joshua 1:5-6

1. v. 5 *The promise of victory over every enemy.*
2. v. 5 *The promise of the presence and power of God.*
3. v. 6 *The promise of absolute victory.*
4. v. 6 *The promise of God to keep His promises.*

What did Joshua have to do to make these things happen? Just one thing: Trust God! For Joshua to be a part of it, all he had to do was have faith in God!

the same promises God made to Joshua are in still valid for us today? You can still count on the Lord to do everything He promised Joshua He would do!



SCAN ME:
SERMON
MANUSCRIPT



For a manuscript of
this sermon go to
[www.sermonnotebook.org/
joshua/Joshua%201%20-%20
Joshua%201_1-9.htm](http://www.sermonnotebook.org/joshua/Joshua%201%20-%20Joshua%201_1-9.htm)

1. **He still gives victory over all our enemies: 1 John 5:4 (NKJV)** For whatever is born of God overcomes the world. And this is the victory that has overcome the world--our faith.
2. **He is still ever-present: Hebrews 13:5 B (NKJV)** He Himself has said, "*I will never leave you nor forsake you.*" **Matthew 28:20 B (NKJV)** "I am with you always, even to the end of the age." **and all-powerful Matthew 28:18 (NKJV)** "And Jesus came and spoke to them, saying, "All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth."
3. **He still gives absolute victory: 1 Corinthians 15:57 (NKJV)** But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ.
4. **He still keeps His promises: Romans 4:21 B (NKJV)** "what He had promised He was also able to perform."

What do we have to do to see these things come to pass in our lives? Just one thing: Trust God! When we can learn to place our faith in God at all times in every situation, we will walk in victory.

**WHEN
WE KEEP
GOD IN OUR
HEARTS, GOD IS
WITH US WHEREVER
WE GO. Joshua 1:9**

Joshua 1:9 (NKJV) Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Victory is yours. Believe it.
Believe God.

IMPORTANT INSTRUCTIONS ABOUT VICTORY

Joshua 1:7-8

If Joshua was to lead the people of God to victory in Canaan, then he must take heed to the Law of God. What God told Joshua about the Law applies to our lives today.

He was to do everything the Law said to do, not turning from it the least little bit.

God's Law was to be in his thoughts 24/7.

If he kept God's law he prosper in everything he did.

Like Joshua, we are to honor God and keep His Law.
John 14:15 (NKJV)

15 "If you love Me, keep My commandments.
Psalm 119:11 (NKJV)

11 Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!

Psalm 119:105 (NKJV)

105 Your word is a lamp to my feet And a light to my path.



Helping kids

**SAY
YES
TO JESUS!**



BROUGHT TO YOU BY
Children's Ministries
North American Division
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