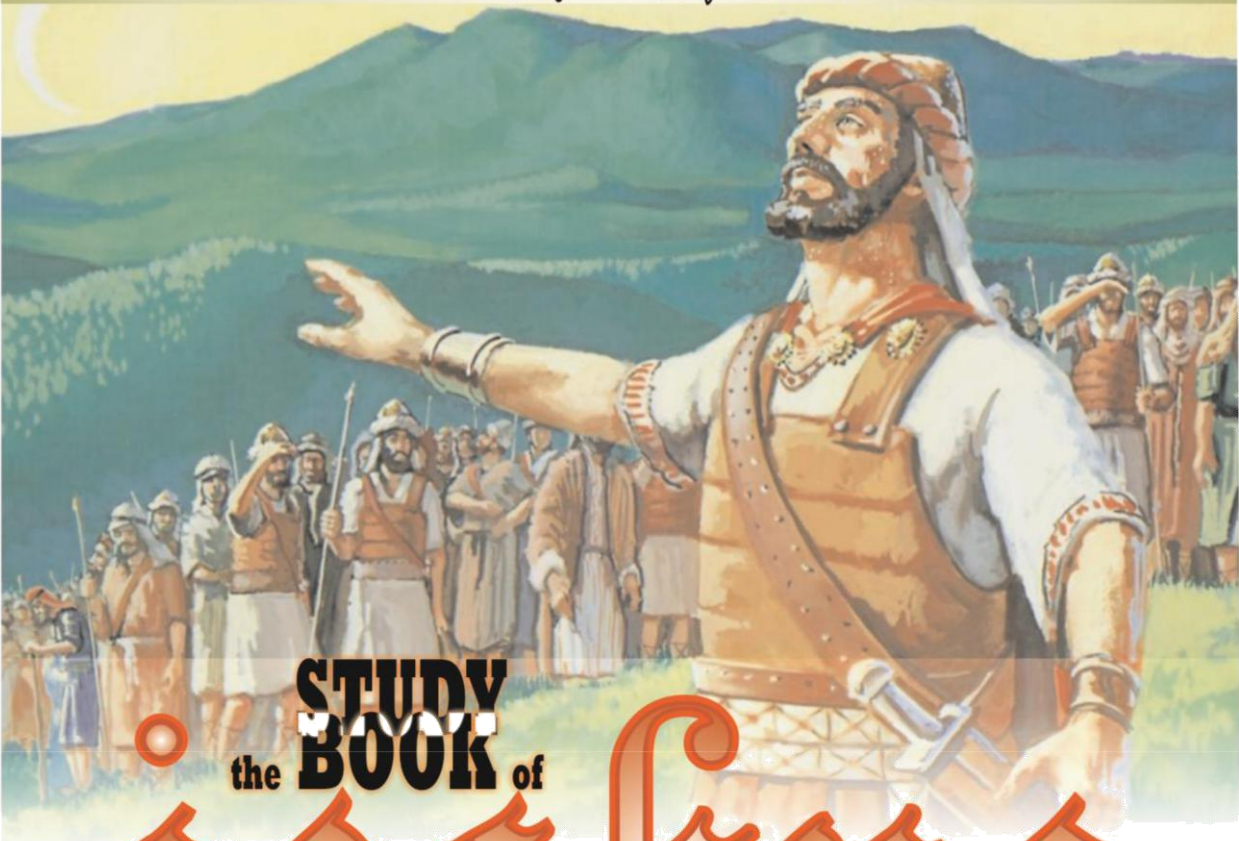


'Expedition Promised Land'

am on the Train to Heaven



STUDY the BOOK of **JOSHUA** 1:11

'Experience the Power of God'

OPEN BIBLE LEAGUE TEACHER'S HANDBOOK



*CHILDREN MINISTRIES CAMP MEETING Materials Produced by the C M Department
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'Experience the Power of God'

GENERAL OVERVIEW

Thank you for accepting to be a caravan leader in the **‘Expedition promised land’ CHILDREN MINISTRIES CAMP MEETING**. It will be a great privilege to work with the children throughout this week as we relive the experience of Joshua and the children of Israel after crossing the Jordan into the Promised Land. It should never escape our minds that we are on our way to the Promised Land (heaven) and just as the Israelites had challenges to conquer, so do we. It is important therefore, to equip ourselves together with our children with all it takes for us to reach there.

You as the teacher will be referred to as the **Crew Leader**. The **CHILDREN MINISTRIES CAMP MEETING** director will be called the **Master Guide**; the volunteers will be referred to as the **Expedition Corps**, while the children will be referred to as **Travelers**. You will be expected to bring out the Bible truths for the themes and Bible chapters being discussed on each day. You will also have an opportunity to make the travelers know how the lessons affect the decisions they make especially in their relationship with Jesus. To achieve this, you will need to spend time in prayer each day for yourself, for the other caravan leaders, for the expedition corps and also for the children.

It is our prayer that indeed this week other than having fun, we shall be prepared for an expedition to our eternal Canaan.

The Bible League Station

This is one of the four rotational stations which kick off after the large group time. You are expected to take a maximum of 40 minutes with each group that visits this station. The groups will be different in terms of age and you should be sensitive to these differences.

This station is meant to make the learners have a clear understanding of each day’s biblical theme. There will be a recap of the day’s pastor’s overview/ devotion where you as the teacher will be expected to find out if the pupils remember or understood what the speaker talked about. There may be children who will arrive late after the devotion, it is therefore important for you to give a brief summary of the main story and any other insights you will find necessary.

In this handbook you will find a manual directing activities for each day tied with that day’s big idea. It explains the activities in which the children will be participating in great detail. It also gives suggestions on what to say at each section to relieve you of as much stress as possible. Your main job is to befriend the kids and help them experience the various biblical themes.

Take time to familiarize yourself with all the material before meeting with your volunteers. Adequate preparation and creativity on your part is necessary so that the lessons do not turn out to be sermons.

DECORATION

Have the station decorated with desert colors e.g. brown, some green to represent some shrubs found in the desert and blue to represent clear sky. This is your time to be creative. There should be enough sitting space for the travelers to sit (either on a carpet on the floor or on seats.)

DAILY LESSON PLAN GUIDE

5 minutes	Welcome, prayer and recap of the pastor's overview
5 minutes	Brief expounding of the story
25 minutes	Children go through the Bible Lessons and learning activities.
5 minutes	Conclusion and Prayer

DAILY BREAKDOWN

DAY ONE: GOD IS OUR STRENGTH

TEACHER'S PREPARATION

Before joining today's caravan, spend some time in individual prayer specifically focusing on the day at hand, the lesson and your children. Come before Jesus as an empty vessel. Read and meditate on **Joshua 1: 1-18 and Philippians 4: 13**. Think about how the Lord can be your strength and the various challenges your children may be experiencing. Go over what you will say with the children and how you will guide them through each lesson activity. Be sure you understand the big idea so you can pass it on to your group. Gather all the necessary materials for today's activities and understand day one's activities specified in this handbook. Meet and pray with other caravan leaders (teachers) and expedition corps (volunteers) before getting started. Have fun!

BIG IDEA

God is our strength: God appoints Joshua as the leader after the death of Moses and instructs him to be strong and courageous as He would be with him as long as he remained faithful. The children should not fear to undertake any challenge because the Lord is with them wherever they go or whatever they do so long as they remain faithful.

MEMORY VERSE

"I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me." (**Philippians 4:13**)

THE DAY'S BIBLE STORY

Paraphrase the Story: After the death of Moses, God chose Joshua the son of Nun as the second leader of Israel. He was to lead them into the Promised Land after 40 years of wandering in the desert. It was a very sad moment for the children of Israel and they mourned for 30 days for their great, patient and godly leader. But they still had the pillar of cloud over the tabernacle during the day and the pillar of fire at night. They were not alone, God was with them.

Say: Our theme today is, '**God is our strength**' and we are studying the book of **Joshua 1:1-18** and our memory verse is **Philippians 4: 13** (*Have the children open their Bibles and read together, making sure they memorize the verse*). In the book of Joshua 1:1-18, God is speaking to Joshua the new leader and there are two words that describe what kind of a person God wants Joshua to be. The words have been mentioned several times in that chapter.

As the new leader Joshua was not to be a coward! God promised to be with him wherever he went. No one would be able to stand against him as long as he obeyed the law that Moses had given to him. The children of Israel were also to follow the commands that Joshua would give them just as they did under Moses.

EXPERIENCING THE STORY

Since you will receive different age groups into this station, this handbook has suggested activities for each age set. Ensure to review the activities suggested for this day and chose the one appropriate for your group of travelers. You may need to work with the administrator in advance to know the composition of each caravan.

Activity 1 – Ages 6-10

Say: Our Bible lesson today is about God choosing another leader for Israel. Who will tell me who a leader is? *(Allow time for answers)*. Tell me some of the leaders you know *(President, Prime minister, Head teacher, prefect etc)*. God chose Joshua to be the new leader for Israel. I want to choose one of you to be our leader. *(The teacher should choose a child who seems to be more influential and outspoken)*

- Whisper to the leader some instruction he/she is supposed to give to the followers. They should be simple like; stand up, sit down, clap your hands, salute etc.
- As the leader gives instructions take note of the children who are obedient, who will obey but do it while complaining, and the disobedient ones.

Debrief:

Say: Some of us were obedient to the leader, while some were disobedient. Let us clap for those who obeyed. God wanted the children of Israel to obey Joshua and wants us to obey our leaders.

Activity 2 – Ages 6-10 Years

Materials needed

1. Pieces of paper
2. pencils

Say: God told Joshua to be strong and also to be brave. He was not to be afraid because the Lord God was with him.

Find out from the children the things they fear and why they fear them and have each child draw the thing he/she fears most. After they have drawn, have them write the following words below the picture,

“I will be strong and brave and will no longer fear you, because the Jesus is with me”.

Activity 1 Ages 10-14

Materials needed

1. Bibles
2. Screen (optional)
3. Printed verses of Joshua 1:1-18 (optional)

Divide the class into 2 groups

Say: In the book of Joshua 1:1-18, God is speaking to Joshua the new leader and there are two words that describe what kind of a person God wants Joshua to be. The words have been mentioned several times in that chapter. In your respective groups read Joshua chapter 1:1-18. (*NIV is preferred*) and identify the two words. Count the number of times the two words appear and note the verses in which they appear. Let us see which group finishes first.

If possible, have the passage projected on the screen and where not possible, have the verses printed on paper in advance or make sure the groups use the same Bible version.

Give children time to finish then check if they have correctly identified the two words. Most of them should be able to have identified the words. (*The two words mentioned are strong and courageous and are mentioned 4 times*). Congratulate the children for participation.

Say: Just like God assured Joshua, we should not fear to undertake any challenge because the Lord is with us wherever we go or whatever we do so long as we remain faithful.

Activity 2 Ages 10-14

Materials needed

1. Manila paper
 2. Marker pens
 3. scissors
- Get tough manila papers and cut out the letters that form the words: ‘Strong and Courageous’.
 - Have several sets of the words and then further cut each letter into 2.

- Give the pieces of each set to each group and let them piece them together to make the important phrase.

Give each group time to finish then congratulate them for participation.

Say: Just like God assured Joshua we should not fear to undertake any challenge because the Lord is with us wherever we go or whatever we do so long as we remain faithful.

CONCLUSION (For both ages)

Close the session by reading the Philippians 4:13. "I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength."

Say: God gives us strength to live as His children by saying no to bad things Satan tempts us to do. He gives us power to overcome the things that seem so hard for us. He gives us power to be courageous even in the things we fear, like failing exams, friends deserting us, the sickness and death of people we love and anything else that we fear. He gives us power to pray for the sick and they get well, to tell other people about the love of Jesus and to obey our parents, teachers and leaders. Just as God promised to be with Joshua, He promises to be with us wherever we go and in whatever we do, all we need is to be **STRONG AND COURAGEOUS**.

Invite Response: As we journey to our heavenly Canaan we have a leader who is Jesus Christ. He is the way, the truth and the life and as long as we will allow Him to lead us as we follow, we are sure of reaching our destination safely. How many of us pray that Jesus helps us to be **Strong and courageous** as we follow Him and face the challenges of life?

Offer Final prayer: Ask God to help the children realized that God can help them through all the challenges they may have. If you know of any specific challenge a child has, you may want to pray privately with the child briefly thereafter.

The expedition continues tomorrow

DAY TWO: WE CAN TRUST IN GOD

TEACHER'S PREPARATION

Before joining today's caravan, spend some time in individual prayer specifically focusing on the day at hand, the lesson and your children. Come before Jesus as an empty vessel. Read and meditate on Joshua 2:1-24 and Hebrews 11: 1. Think about the areas of your life where you have exercised faith and how it benefited you spiritually. Go over what you will say with the children and how you will guide them through each lesson activity. Be sure you understand the big idea so you can pass it on to your group. Gather all necessary materials for today's activities and understand day two's suggested lesson activities specified in this handbook. Meet and pray with other caravan leaders (teachers) and expedition corps (volunteers) before getting started. Have fun!

BIG IDEA

We can trust in God: Joshua sends two spies to a fortified Jericho city. The spies trust on the power of God to deliver them and the city to them in spite of the mighty walls. God validates their faith when they chat with Rahab. The children should learn to trust in God in every situation.

MEMORY VERSE

"Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."
(Hebrew 11:1)

THE DAY'S BIBLE STORY

Paraphrase the story: Today as you were told earlier, we are learning about Rahab and the two spies who were sent by Joshua to go and spy on the city of Jericho. Someone tell me, who is a spy? (Accept *answers*). Thank you. A spy is someone who goes secretly to find out about another person or country.

There is another story in the Bible, besides this one of Rahab, where spies were also sent. Who remembers that story? Who sent the spies? (*Moses*) How many were they? (*12*). Ten of the spies were bad, while two were good. Who remembers the good ones? (*Joshua and Caleb.*)

Yes! In the book of Numbers 13 -14, Moses sent twelve spies to go and find out about the land of Canaan. When the twelve came back two of them brought good news while the other ten brought back very discouraging news. They said it was not possible to conquer Canaan. They were afraid of the people who lived in that land, do you know why? Because they did not trust God!

Joshua, one of the good spies had now become the leader of Israel and he secretly sent two spies to go and find out about the city of Jericho. When the spies got to the city, they went to the house of a prostitute called Rahab which was at the city wall. Some people in the city had seen them come in and sent word to the authorities about the strange men who had come into the city and gone to Rahab's house. The king of Jericho sent word to Rahab to bring out the men that were in her house. She told the king that the men had left for their homes before the city gates were closed and if the soldiers hurried they would catch them. (All this time Rahab had hid the two spies at the roof of her house).

As soon as the soldiers had left her house, Rahab went to the roof where the spies were hiding and told them that the inhabitants of Jericho had heard of the great things the God of Israel had done for His people. She also told them how scared of the Israelites the people of Jericho were and that she knew that God was going to give them victory over the city. She **trusted** in the power of God. She asked the spies to spare her life and of her family members when they would come to destroy Jericho. The spies assured her and later Rahab helped the spies escape by lowering them out of the city through her window.

The spies **trusted** in God's guidance as they entered the city all the way to Rahab's house and she was able to guide them to safety.

We can **trust** in God even when in difficult situations. We can **trust** in God when we are afraid and confused.

EXPERIENCING THE STORY

Since you will receive different age groups into this station, this handbook has suggested activities for each age set. Ensure to review the activities suggested for this day and chose the one appropriate for your group of travelers. You may need to work with the administrator in advance to know the composition of each caravan.

Activity 1 (Ages 6-10 years)

Materials needed

1. Simple gifts e.g. Bible marks
2. Gift wrapper

Prepare or buy enough bookmarks (with beautiful messages) for all the children of this age you expect to have in the CHILDREN MINISTRIES CAMP MEETING. Ensure you have just enough for the caravan you are handling at a time. Wrap them nicely with a gift wrapper or a beautiful piece of paper and hide the wrapped gift somewhere in the room.

Say: Who can remind me who a spy is? We learnt that a spy is a person who is employed to find out secret information about another country or a person. Now I would like us to act as spies for a short time. We have some treasure hidden somewhere. What is treasure? It is something precious. We have something precious hidden in this room and I would like you to find it.

Have the children look for the wrapped gift. After they have found it ask one of them to unwrap the gift and then give each child a Bible mark.

Debrief

Say: How did you feel when I told you that there was something precious hidden in the room? (*Excited*). How did you feel when it was found? (*Accept answers*) What about when you were given the gift? (*Accept Answers*) God had promised to give the city of Jericho to the children of Israel. The spies went to find out about it and they believed that God would deliver it to them even before they got there. Trusting in God is believing that He will give you something even before you receive it, just because He has promised.

Activity 2 (Ages 6-10 years): Bible word search on Joshua 2

Materials needed

- The Bible
- Pen
- Photocopies of the Bible Word Search in the next page

Photocopy the word search in the next page and distribute to each child.

Let them open their Bibles to Joshua chapter 2 and locate words given. They should then circle out the words in the word-search.

The final result should be as shown in the Appendix page:

RAHAB & THE SPIES Word Search



BiblePuzzles.org.uk

CITY
HARLOT
HIDDEN
HOUSE
JERICHO
JOSHUA
LIES
MEN
RAHAB

ROOF
ROPE
SCARLET
SIGN
SPIES
TWO
WALL
WINDOW

Activity 1 (Ages 10-14 Years)

Materials needed

1. Bibles
 2. Sheets of paper
 3. Pens
- Divide the class into two groups and have them read the book of Hebrews 11:1-31.
 - Let them identify and list down the people written in these verses and what they did by faith.
 - Ask the groups to be keen on the order of the names listed.

Say: How many names did you identify (8 people) Who are they in the order of mention? (*Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Joseph, Moses, and Rahab*) All these people trusted in God in their different situations. We should also learn to trust God at all times.

Activity 2 (Ages 10-14)

Materials needed

1. Bean bags/ balls

Make one or more bean bags or a ball in advance.

Have the class form a circle, then:

Say: We have read the book of Hebrews 11:1-31 and seen the names written there. In this game, we are going to mention the names of the characters we have read in the order in which they are listed. For example do not mention Moses before Abraham. I am holding the bean bag/ ball now. I am going to mention the first name which is Abel and I will then throw the bag to someone and the person will tell us what Abel did (*offered a better sacrifice to God*). The person will mention the next character then throw the bag to someone else who will say what that character did. This will go on till Rahab is mentioned.

Whenever a person is not able to mention the next character or say what he/she did as an act of faith, the rest of the class will say “bump” and the bag will be thrown to another person.

Count the number of “bumps” met in the activity.

Debrief

Say: Joshua knew that Israel had challenges/ bumps in conquering Jericho. It was one of the fortresses in Canaan, but Joshua **trusted** God and followed His instructions. In our daily lives, we meet challenges/bumps like sicknesses, death of loved ones, failure, disappointments, and bullsh friends among many. Through all these we can always **trust** in God and He will see us through just as He did with the spies and Rahab.

CONCLUSION (For both ages)

Close the session by reading the Hebrew 11:1. "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see."

Say: The spies trusted on the power of God to deliver them and the city to them in spite of the mighty walls of Jericho. By faith also Rahab welcomed the spies and was not killed with those who refused to obey God. We should therefore learn to trust in God in every situation.

Invite Response: I invite you to put your trust in Jesus from today onwards, casting all your cares upon Him. You do not have to wait until you see what you have asked for from God. Just as the people of old were sure of the things they hoped for even before seeing them, we are called upon to do likewise.

Offer Final prayer: Ask God to help the children trust in Him at all times.

The expedition continues tomorrow

DAY THREE: OBEDIENCE ENABLES GOD TO ACT FOR US

TEACHER PREPARATION

Before joining today's caravan, spend some time in individual prayer specifically focusing on the day at hand, the lesson and your children. Come before Jesus as an empty vessel. Read and meditate on Joshua 6: 1-27 and Hebrew 11: 30. Think about your experiences on obedience. Meditate on experiences when God acted on your behalf in some way because you obeyed Him even though it did not make sense. Go over what you will say with the children and how you will guide them through each lesson activity. Be sure you understand the big idea so you can pass it on to your group. Gather all necessary materials for today's lesson activities and understand day three's activities specified in this handbook. Meet and pray with other caravan leaders (teachers) and expedition corps (volunteers) before getting started. Have fun!

BIG IDEA

Obedience enables God to act for us: Joshua as instructed by God commands soldiers and the priests to March around Jericho with trumpets and the Ark of the Covenant for seven days so as to bring down the walls of Jericho. The soldiers and the priest obeyed even though it did not make much sense, and the Lord indeed brought down the walls of Jericho. The children should learn to obey God's word all the time.

MEMORY VERSE

By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the army had marched around them for seven days (Hebrews 11:30)

THE DAY'S BIBLE STORY

Paraphrase the Bible Story: I wonder how many of us are enjoying the expedition this far? Who will remind us what we learnt yesterday? (*Accept answers*). Yes we learnt about how spies who were sent by Joshua to spy on the city of Jericho trusted in God. They trusted in God enough to go to the house of Rahab, a person they did not know upon the leading of the Holy Spirit. Rahab also trusted in God after hearing what God had done for the children of Israel and welcomed and hid the spies in her house.

Today, we are going to look at the fall of Jericho. The city of Jericho was situated a short distance from Gilgal, where the children of Israel had settled after crossing the river Jordan into the Promised Land. The inhabitants of the city were powerful and the city was known for its palaces and big temples. It was also known for armies that were well trained in war who were ready to fight off any intruders who would dare try to enter their city. Moreover it was one of the strongest fortresses in Canaan and its walls too high for anyone to climb over. Its gates

were heavily guarded both day and night. Nobody would be courageous enough to try and venture into the city, so they believed.

However, things had changed with the drawing near of the Israelites. The inhabitants of Jericho were no longer confident of their security. They had heard of how mighty kings and armies had been destroyed by the Israelites. With fear, the king ordered that the gates be closed so that nobody could get in or out of the city. Soldiers were stationed at the watch tower and on the roofs of the city to ensure all was well.

Joshua knew the conquering of Jericho was not going to be easy. He saw the conquest of Jericho as the first step in the conquest of Canaan. He knew for him to accomplish such a big task, he needed divine guidance. He therefore went apart to pray that the God of Israel would go before them. As he was praying he beheld a tall armed warrior with a commanding presence. The warrior introduced himself as the captain of the host of the Lord. Just as Moses had been commanded many years earlier, the warrior commanded Joshua to remove his shoes because where he was standing was holy ground. Do you know who the mighty warrior was? It was Christ Himself. He had come to give Joshua instructions on how he was to conquer Jericho. Joshua fell upon his face and worshipped Him. Jesus gave him the assurance that He had given to him Jericho, its king and its mighty army.

No attack was to be made. Joshua was to assemble chosen warriors, followed by priests carrying trumpets then the priests bearing the Ark of the Covenant and finally the army of Israel each tribe bearing its flag. They were to go round the walls of Jericho once every day for six days. On the seventh day they were to go round for six times and on the seventh they were to blow the trumpets and on Joshua's command the people were to shout and the walls would come down and the people would get into the city.

Joshua did as the Lord commanded him. For six days the armies of Jericho watched in horror as the great parade marched in silence round their fortified city. The seventh day was more horrifying as the children of Israel marched not only once or twice but seven times. On the seventh round the trumpets were sounded and at the shout of the great commander, came a loud shout! Then the tumbling of the walls! Jericho was conquered not by the expertise of the army of Israel but **because they obeyed God**, He won the victory for them. The people ran into the city and plundered it, killing human beings and destroying property. The two spies went to look for Rahab just as they had promised and saved her together with her household.

The marching around for sure did not make sense especially to the people of Jericho. Marching around would not break the walls for sure. Joshua saw it differently, they were not just marching, but they were doing it in obedience to the word of God. It may not have made sense also to some Israelites either, but they obeyed God anyhow thus giving God a chance to do a great thing that would make the whole world marvel to this day.

God wants to do great things in our lives and all He needs is our obedience. Supposing Joshua refused to march around Jericho and decided instead to break into the city gate? The results

would have been different. When God tells us to do something, He knows it is for our own good and when He tells us not to do it is also for our own good also.

EXPERIENCING THE STORY

Since you will receive different age groups into this station, this handbook has suggested activities for each age set. Ensure to review the activities suggested for this day and chose the one appropriate for your group of travelers. You may need to work with the administrator in advance to know the composition of each caravan.

Activity 1 (Ages 6-10 years)

Materials needed

1. Manila paper
 2. Marker pens
- Have the children say some of the rules they have in their homes and write them down on the Manila paper.
 - Find out if there are any consequences when they disobey the rules.
 - What happens when they make mistakes and tell their parents before their parents discover (*mostly forgiven*)
 - What happens if they do not tell them (*punished severely*)
 - What are the benefits of those rules?
 - Supposing these rules were removed what would happen? (*there would be no order at home*)

Say: When we follow rules at home, our parents are happy and the whole family enjoys harmony and sometimes our parents reward us for obedience. The same way, God promised Israel victory and success as long as they obeyed Him. He promises to do the same for us if we continually obey Him.

Activity 1 (Ages 10-14 years)

Materials needed

1. pens
2. notebook

- Let the travelers pair up and then have them share with each other a point in their lives when God did something great for them just because they obeyed (encourage them to be honest)
- If they find their neighbor's story interesting or inspiring let them put it down and share with the class so long as the neighbor does not mind sharing widely.
- Are there times they suffered for obeying authority?
- Let them share about it too (e.g. being bullied for telling the teacher the truth)

Debrief

Say: There are times when we are rewarded in this life for obeying the set rules. Think of a time you or a classmate of yours was given a present for being the most disciplined? Some people were happy about it while others became jealous. There are times, however, our obedience will not be rewarded. Does it mean that it is all in vain? No God is faithful and He will do what He has promised.

CONCLUSION (For both ages)

Say: God had promised and assured Joshua that the land of Canaan was theirs for taking. But they had a part to play and theirs was obedience. As we have seen above the Israelites walked about Jericho just as they had been instructed and God on the other hand kept His promise. God never changes and whatever He promises in His word to do for us He will surely do it. All He needs from us is obedience because **Obedience enables God to act for us.**

Invite Response: My desire is to obey God in all situations and I wonder if there is any of you who would want to join me in prayer and ask God to give us strength to obey Him and that His Holy Spirit will enable us to be faithful always. If you have that desire lift up your hand as we pray.

Offer Final prayer: Ask God to help the children to be obedient to His word at all times

The expedition continues tomorrow

DAY FOUR: GOD HATES SIN

TEACHER PREPARATION

Before joining today's caravan, spend some time in individual prayer specifically focusing on the day at hand, the lesson and your children. Come before Jesus as an empty vessel. Read and meditate on Joshua chapters 7 and 8 and also Romans 1: 18. Think of ways you have experienced God's displeasure of sin in your own life and in the life of others close to you. Go over what you will say with the children and how you will guide them through each lesson activity. Be sure you understand the big idea so you can pass it on to your group. Gather all necessary materials for today's lesson activities and understand day four's activities specified in this handbook. Meet and pray with other caravan leaders (teachers) and expedition corps (volunteers) before getting started. Have fun!

BIG IDEA

God hates sin: Achan openly disobeys God's instruction to completely destroy the city of Jericho and everything therein. God clears the sin of Achan by ordering his death and of his whole family. The children should learn that if we continually rebel against God, He will eventually destroy the world with us.

MEMORY VERSE

"God's anger is shown from heaven against all the evil and wrong things people do. By their own evil lives they hide the truth." Romans 1:18 (NCV)

THE DAY'S BIBLE STORY

Paraphrase the Bible Story: Yesterday we looked at the success God gave the children of Israel against the great city of Jericho and how God is always ready to do great things for us if only remain faithful. Today we are going to study the book of Joshua chapters 7 and 8 and we shall see a very sad story that happened among the children of Israel.

God had been so gracious to the Israelites by giving them victory one after another. Before they crossed the Jordan River God had given them specific instructions that whenever they attacked a city they were to destroy everything except gold, silver and things made from bronze which were to be saved for God because they belonged to Him. The city and everything else were to be destroyed as an offering unto God.

During the raid on Jericho, once God had brought down the walls, the children of Israel disobeyed Him by not destroy everything as He had instructed. A man called Achan son of Carmi kept some of the things that were to be given to the Lord. He took the silver and gold to himself and also took a costly robe of Shinar which he fondly called "a goodly Babylonian

garment”. He had coveted these things so much that he could not resist the temptation to keep them. Remember Exodus 20:17 says, “Thou shall not covet or desire what is not yours”.

When Achan took these things from Jericho, he secretly took them straight to his tent and nobody got to know about it except God. God was so annoyed with Achan that he had to teach the whole of Israel a lesson that He meant every word He spoke.

Next Joshua and Israel were to conquer a small town called Ai with only a few people. Joshua sent out spies who came back and said that destroying Ai was obvious since the inhabitants were few. They even told Joshua that he needed only a small army of three thousand men. Since victory was obvious, Joshua did not seek God’s guidance and when the three thousand men went to Ai, they were beaten up, chased and some killed. What an embarrassment!

Joshua turned to God and cried. That is when God told him that there was a problem in the camp. Someone was keeping things that did not belong to him in his tent. He also told Joshua how he was to find the person. He was to call a tribe to stand before him. After the tribe, he was to choose a family, then family group and person by person. The person who will be found guilty was to be killed with his children and all he owned. Early the next morning, Joshua called all the children of Israel and did what God had commanded. Achan the son of Carmi was found guilty, he was destroyed with his family and all his property as God had commanded.

What a sad ending! Achan died because he was not willing to confess his sin. He did not tell God sorry in time before it was too late. God really hates sin but loves the sinner. Achan knew the instructions God had given but still disobeyed. Had he confessed the sin in time God would have forgiven him.

God hates sin so much that He had to clear it first among His people before He could give them victory. How many times do we miss out on God’s blessings and victories because we have hidden sin in our hearts? After the sin of Achan had been cleared, the Israelites defeated Ai, captured the king and brought him to Joshua. He also burned down the city of Ai.

EXPERIENCING THE STORY

Since you will receive different age groups into this station, this handbook has suggested activities for each age set. Ensure to review the activities suggested for this day and chose the one appropriate for your group of travelers. You may need to work with the administrator in advance to know the composition of each caravan.

Activity 1 (For all ages)

Materials needed

1. Sweet smelling goodies e.g. cookies, *mandazi*, or a fruit with a good aroma

2. Rotten, smelly fruit or food (e.g. rotten kales /*sukuma Wiki*, eggs)
 3. Plates
 4. Cling foil
- Put some sweet smelling goodies in a plate and cover with cling foil
 - Keep the rotten food or fruit hidden somewhere so that no one smells it before the right time.
 - After the lesson tell the travelers that it is time to eat.
 - Bring out both the sweet smelling cookies and the rotten food. (*The smell of the rotten food is expected to be stronger than that of the cookies.*)
 - Distribute the cookies to the children and encourage them to eat in the room and tell them that taking the snack outside is not allowed (*Expect disgust and complaints*)

Say: What came to your mind when you first smelt the rotten food? (*Disgusted, confused*) Was it comfortable eating your sweet snack with such a foul smell around you? (*No*) What do you think should have been done to the rotten food? (*Thrown away*) Just as the rotten food spoilt the party for us, so does sin destroy our lives. The Israelites were beaten by a small army from Ai because one of them had a hidden sin. Imagine one sin causing disaster to a whole nation! How sad!

CONCLUSION (For both ages)

Say: The sin of Achan brought disaster not only to his whole family but indeed the whole nation of Israel. God was very displeased with one man's sin to an extent He was ready to teach the whole nation a lesson on their need to take His commands seriously. Boys and girls, God is not happy when we sin and if we do not stop doing it, we will go to hell at the end of the world. He loves us too much to let us go to hell and that is why Jesus came to die for us so that we can get forgiveness.

Invite Response: Achan did not ask for forgiveness at the right time but waited until it was too late. We do not need to wait till Jesus comes to confess our sins since it will be too late. Let us do it today and Jesus is ready to forgive us and give us power not to sin again. How many would like to ask Jesus to forgive their sins and to help them overcome temptations?

Offer Final prayer: Ask God to help the children understand how much God hates sin and to invite Jesus in their lives to help them with the sin problem.

The expedition continues tomorrow

DAY FIVE: GOD ALONE CAN DELIVER US!

TEACHER PREPARATION

Before joining today's caravan, spend some time in individual prayer specifically focusing on the day at hand, the lesson and your children. Come before Jesus as an empty vessel. Read and meditate on Joshua chapters 11: 4-23 and Psalm 124:2,3. Meditate on the many instances and ways God has come through for you. Go over what you will say with the children and how you will guide them through each lesson activity. Be sure you understand the big idea so you can pass it on to your group. Gather all necessary materials for today's activities and understand day five's lesson activities specified in this handbook. Meet and pray with other caravan leaders (teachers) and expedition corps (volunteers) before getting started. Have fun!

BIG IDEA

God alone can deliver us: All the kings in Northern Canaan ganged up against Israel, a very small army. However, God gave all of them into the hands of Joshua who completely destroyed them. The children should learn that it is only God who can deliver them from their enemies or dangerous situations. Not money or power or other people.

MEMORY VERSE

"If the Lord had not been on our side when people attacked us, they would have swallowed us alive when their anger flared against us," Psalm 124:2, 3 (NIV)

THE DAY'S BIBLE STORY

Paraphrase the Bible Story: This week we have been looking at the story of Joshua and how he led the children of Israel into the Promised Land after the death of Moses. We started with God choosing Joshua, as the new leader of the Israelites, the miraculous crossing of the river Jordan, the two spies and their trust in God and the conquering of the city of Jericho. We also studied about Achan and the punishment that befell him and his family when he disobeyed God.

Today we are going to see how God handed over the whole land of Canaan to the children of Israel. After crossing the Jordan River, all the people settled at Gilgal where the Ark of the Covenant was also situated. Led by Joshua the mighty warrior, they had conquered all the country of the hills, and of the South, and of the valley because the Lord God of Israel fought for them.

The tribes that were living in the Northern side of Palestine got so terrified that they decided to join forces against Israel. They were led by Jabin, the king of Hazor. The combined army of the

allied forces was much larger than any other that the Israelites had encountered in Canaan. It was a big multitude with chariots and horses. They gathered together and pitched tent at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel. God was there to encourage Joshua and said to him “Do not be afraid because of them, because by this time tomorrow I will hand over all of them to Israel” Joshua 11: 6.

The following day, Joshua and his army attacked the allied forces and the Lord handed the children of Israel victory. They killed all the enemies, burned their chariots and maimed their horses so that they would never go to war again, as the Lord had commanded. The Israelites were not to put their trust in chariots or horses, but in the name of the Lord their God. The Lord God indeed delivered them

They took the cities, one by one and the war continued for several years. By the time the war ended, Joshua was the master of Canaan and the land had rest from war. Joshua then divided the land of Canaan among the twelve tribes of Israel just as God had directed Moses.

EXPERIENCING THE STORY

Since you will receive different age groups into this station, this handbook has suggested activities for each age set. Ensure to review the activities suggested for this day and chose the one appropriate for your group of travelers. You may need to work with the administrator in advance to know the composition of each caravan.

Activity 1 (For all ages)

Materials needed

1. Molding clay or normal clay
 2. Card board sheet or iron sheet or any other hard material
- Place the card board sheet at a corner of the room to create a hidden space.
 - Invite one of the children to hide behind the board in the hidden space.
 - Give each of the remaining children small pieces of clay and ask them to mold into small round pieces (like stones)
 - Ask each of them to imagine where the hidden child is and aim the clay balls at him/her. The hidden child will be protected from the balls by the card-board but may be scared by the sound of the balls.

Debrief:

Ask the child who was hidden: How did you feel when the other children were throwing all those things at you? (*Scared, Protected, nothing, etc.*) What do you think would have happened had the board been removed? (*Badly hurt*)

Say: The same way the board saved you from the balls, is the same way God puts His protection around us. The Bible tells us in Proverbs 18:10 (*open the bible to Proverbs 18:10 and paraphrase*) that the name of the Lord is a fortified tower; the righteous run to it and are safe. We therefore need to depend on God at all times. Without Him, we would be badly hurt by the devil.

CONCLUSION (For both ages)

Say: All the kings in Northern Canaan ganged up against Israel, a very small army. However, God gave all of them into the hands of Joshua who completely destroyed them. The same way, we should learn that it is only God who can deliver us from our enemies or dangerous situations. Not money or power or other people.

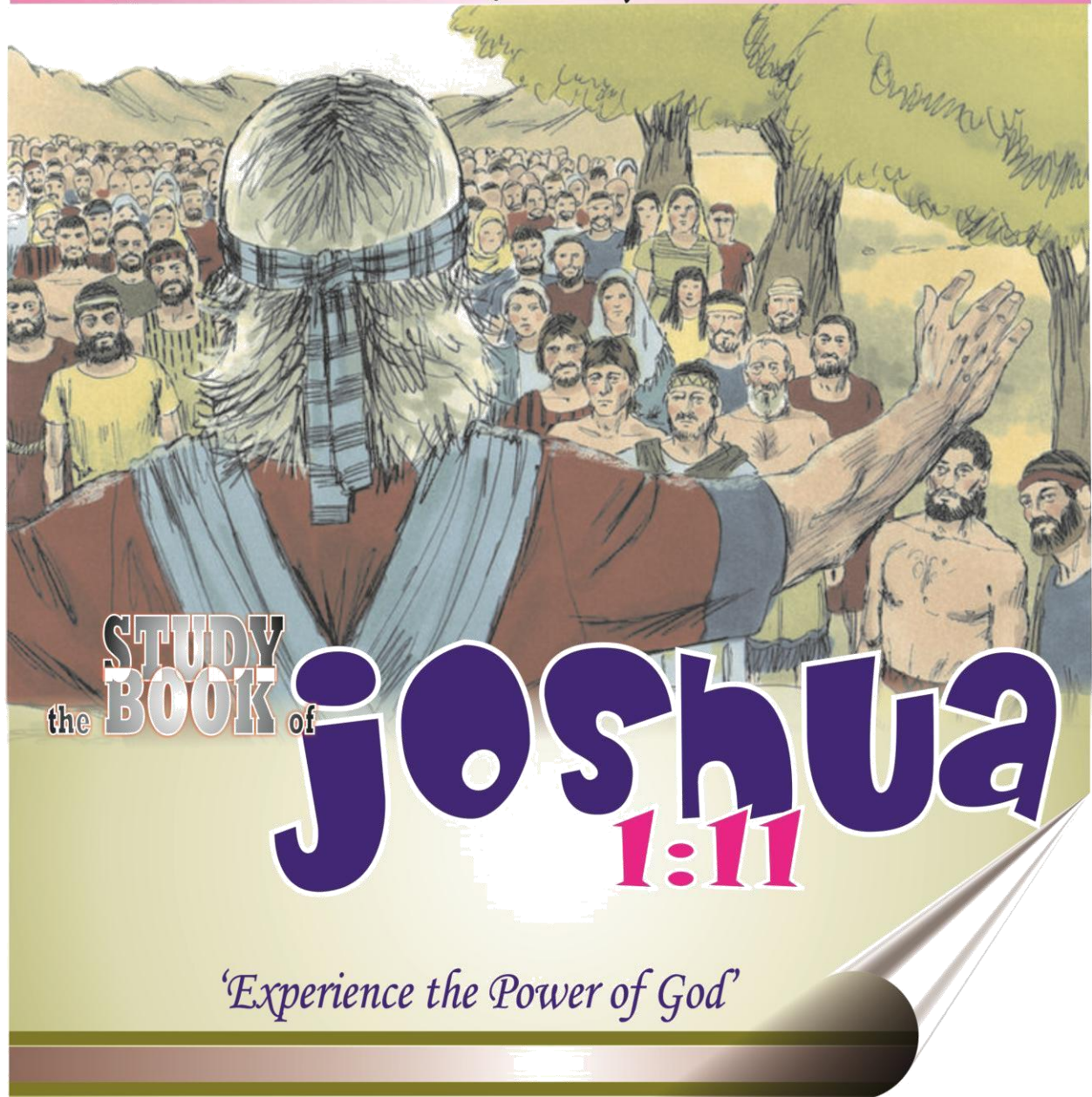
Invite Response: As we come to the end of our expedition, I trust you have experienced the power God. We have learnt many things about God but in all this, we learn that we can only depend on God for our deliverance. How many of us, would like to accept Jesus in Their lives to protect them and deliver them from all their challenges?

Offer Final prayer: Ask God to help the children understand His love for them and to accept Him as their personal savior.

The expedition Ends today

'Expedition Promised Land'

am on the Train to Heaven



STUDY
the BOOK of

joshua

1:11

'Experience the Power of God'

