

** To effectively teach this lesson you should read the first six chapters of Joshua.*

LESSON AIM:

To illustrate from the life of Joshua how to defeat fear and how to have good success in the things God has told us to do.

KEY SCRIPTURES: Joshua 1:1-9, Joshua 6:6-20

REVIEW QUESTIONS:

- 1) Who can say all 10 of the commandments?
- 2) What do the first 4 commandments have to do with? (*Our relationship to God*)
- 3) What about the last 6? (*Our relationship with others*)

INTRODUCTION:

- Two important commands from God:
 - 1) Be strong and do not be afraid.
 - 2) Meditate in the Word day and night.
- “*Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the word of God*”. (Romans 10:17)
- A strong faith will defeat and cure fear.

LESSON:

At last, after forty long years in the wilderness, the children of Israel are camped at the Jordan River ready to go into the Promised Land. Moses, their leader in the wilderness, has died and their new leader is Joshua. In Joshua chapter one, verses 1-9, God has important instructions for Joshua. (Read with students Joshua 1:1-9) Notice that God tells Joshua to be courageous (vs. 6, 7,9) to be strong (6,7,9) and to not be afraid.

As the new leader Joshua had a very important job: to bring the people safely into the Promised Land. It would not be easy because there were fierce enemies living in the Promised Land that would try to keep the children of Israel out. As soon as they crossed the Jordan River they would have to get by the city of Jericho which had high walls around it and well armed warriors inside of it. It would be a very hard city to defeat. Joshua may have been fearful and not feeling very courageous and strong.

God's cure for fear is His presence. In verses 5 and 9, God reminds Joshua that He will be with him wherever he goes. Jesus makes that same promise to us as well: "I will never leave you or forsake you" (Heb. 13:5b). Wherever we go, Jesus will go with us; He will go with us and He will help us. With the help of Jesus, we can be strong and courageous! We are also strong when we obey the Word of God and speak it over and over again to ourselves (v. 8). Knowing the Word of God, thinking about it and obeying it will bring us good success!

In chapter 6 the attack against Jericho begins, but what an unusual attack it is! (Read Joshua 6:6-20). Notice that priests blowing their trumpets and the soldiers marched around the city one time for each of six days. Each day the marchers would look at the high walls and probably wonder how they would ever successfully defeat mighty Jericho. They sure couldn't do it without help. They would have to depend on God. But what exactly was God going to do? They would have to obey Him, wait on Him and believe in Him.

On the seventh day they marched around the city seven times then the priests blew their trumpets and all the people shouted. When they shouted the huge walls came tumbling down and the city was destroyed and defeated! They didn't have to do anything but stand there in faith and shout, God did all the work for them! As the children of Israel obeyed God, God caused the walls to fall down.

Obeying God and believing that He is with us and will help us is called **FAITH**. Faith says, "God loves me, is with me, and has promised to help me".

Knowing by Faith that God is with us will drive fear away. Joshua discovered that God was with Him and that as he believed in God's word, God would help him in bigger ways than Joshua ever thought possible. Who would ever have thought that those huge walls would just collapse? Even as Joshua was reminded that God was with him so too do we need to remind ourselves that Jesus is with us and will never leave us or forsake us!

MEMORY VERSE:

(Every year)

“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.” Joshua 1:9