

Joshua Leads

Wednesday Plan

SCRIPTURE

Joshua 1

MEMORY VERSE

Joshua 1:9

God goes with you, so be brave.

For the Teacher

Wednesday night reinforces what the kids learned on Sunday. Don't re-teach the whole lesson — they heard it. Your job tonight is to make it stick through review, movement, and prayer.

KEY TRUTH

God goes with you, so be brave.

Same bottom line as Sunday, by design. Wednesday uses the exact same sentence the kids heard on Sunday. Repeat it. Have them say it back. Don't paraphrase or soften it — the repetition is the point. A kid who hears the same sentence twice in three days will remember it.

Tonight is kinetic. Sunday was reading and discussion. Wednesday is feet. The whole back half of class is a courage game where the kids physically step into hard situations and name the bottom line out loud. Don't try to make this quiet.

What to skip. Don't re-read the whole chapter. The kids did that Sunday. Tonight you'll only re-read Joshua 1:9 — the memory verse. If a kid wasn't there Sunday, give them a one-sentence catch-up (“Moses died. Joshua took over. God told him three times to be strong and courageous because God was going with him”), then move on.

Energy management. Wednesday is shorter than Sunday and built around a kinetic game. Kids will get loud during the courage walk. That's fine — the game requires it. Bring them back down for the closing prayer and take-home card.

MATERIALS

- Bibles for every student
- Whiteboard or large paper, markers
- Masking tape (one long line on the floor)
- A small flashlight or lamp (optional, for the dark side of the line)
- **Strong and Courageous** prayer cards (printed in advance from this week's activities)
- Pencils

1. Gather

Welcome the kids back. Tell them:

SAY

On Sunday we learned one big idea, and we're going to learn it again tonight. I want you to say it with me: God goes with you, so be brave.

Have them say it back. Then again, louder. Then in a whisper.

Write it on the board.

Tell them tonight is going to be different from Sunday — they're going to use their feet, not just their mouths. But first, a quick review.

2. The Story

Quick Review

ASK

Who can tell me what was happening to God's people at the start of today's chapter?

Let two or three kids answer. Steer toward: Moses had died, they were standing at the edge of the promised land, Joshua was now in charge.

ASK

How many times did God tell Joshua to be strong and courageous?

Three times. Joshua 1:6, 1:7, 1:9.

ASK

And why could Joshua be brave?

You're looking for: *because God was going with him.* If a kid says "because he was strong" or "because he had a big army," push back gently — *that's not what God said. Look at verse 5 and verse 9.*

Re-Read Joshua 1:9

Have them open to Joshua 1:9. Pick a confident reader and have them read the verse aloud, slowly.

Joshua 1:9

ASK

What three things does God tell Joshua?

Write the answers on the board as the kids find them:

1. **Be strong and courageous.**
2. **Do not be frightened. Do not be dismayed.**
3. **The LORD your God is with you wherever you go.**

ASK

Which one is the reason for the other two?

The third one. God is with you — that's why you can be strong and courageous. The promise comes first. The bravery comes after.

Say the bottom line again, with them: *God goes with you, so be brave.*

3. The Work

The Courage Walk

Run a long line of masking tape across the middle of the floor — from one side of the room to the other. Tell the kids: this line is the edge of something hard. On one side is "I'm safe and nothing's asked of me." On the other side is "I have to be brave."

The game: you're going to read situations. After each one, the kids have to physically step over the line — and as they step, say out loud: *"God goes with me."*

If they don't want to step, they don't have to. But they have to be honest about why. The question after each situation is: *"Was this hard or easy to step into?"*

Round 1 — Joshua's situation.

Tell the kids to stand on the safe side. Read each situation. After each, the kids who would step (be brave) physically cross the line saying *"God goes with me."*

1. You have to lead two million people into a country full of cities you've never seen. (*Most won't step. That's fine. Then ask: what would help you step?*)
2. You're standing at a river that's flooded over its banks, and God says to walk through it. (*Same. Hard.*)
3. You're sad because someone you loved just died, and now you have the biggest job of your life. (*Hard.*)

Then say: *Joshua had to step into all three of those. And he did — because God was with him.*

Round 2 — Your situation.

Now read situations from their lives. Same rule: step across saying “*God goes with me*”; ask after each whether it was hard or easy.

1. There's a kid at school nobody is sitting with at lunch. You go sit with them.
2. You did something wrong and your parents don't know. You tell them.
3. Somebody is making fun of a friend in front of you. You speak up.
4. You're scared to pray out loud. The teacher asks who wants to pray. You raise your hand.

After each: “*Hard or easy?*” Let kids be honest. *Most of these are hard. That's the point. Joshua's was hard too.*

Round 3 — The verse.

One more time across. Read Joshua 1:9 aloud, then have everyone — *everyone* — step across the line together saying:

“Be strong and courageous. The LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”

Bringing It Back

Gather the kids back to the safe side of the line. Ask:

ASK

Which round was the hardest? Which crossing was the hardest one for you?

Let a few kids answer. Then say:

SAY

The line on the floor is fake. We can step over it. But the lines in your real life — the brave thing you have to do at school, at home, with a friend — those are real. And the same God who told Joshua “I will be with you wherever you go” says that to you. The line is hard. But you don't cross it alone.

4. The Point

Strong and Courageous Prayer Card

Hand out the **Strong and Courageous** prayer cards. Have each student fill in the prompt:

God, help me be strong and courageous when I _____.

Tell them they can write or draw. They'll take it home and put it somewhere they'll see it during the week — by their bed, on the fridge, on a desk.

NOTE

While they fill out the cards, walk around. If a kid is stuck, ask them: “What's a hard thing this week?” Help them turn it into a sentence.

Memory Verse and Closing

When they're done, have everyone come back together and turn to Joshua 1:9:

SCRIPTURE*Joshua 1:9**Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.*

Read it together once. Then say the bottom line one final time, with the kids:

SAY*God goes with you, so be brave.*

Close in prayer:

PRAY*God, you went with Joshua into the promised land. You go with us into every hard thing this week — every brave step we have to take. When we look at our prayer cards, help us remember that you are with us wherever we go. Make us strong and courageous because we trust you. Amen.*