

Faithfulness in the Land

Sunday Plan

SCRIPTURE

Joshua–1 Kings (Quarter Review)

MEMORY VERSE

Joshua 1:9

God keeps his promises, even when his people don't.

For the Teacher

Read this before you teach. This is the last week of the quarter. For twelve weeks the kids have walked from the bank of the Jordan River all the way to Mount Carmel — through Joshua, Judges, Ruth, 1 Samuel, 2 Samuel, and 1 Kings. They have met more named people in three months than in any quarter we've taught. Today is not new material. Today is the chance to put the whole story back together so the kids can carry it with them.

KEY TRUTH

God keeps his promises, even when his people don't.

One sentence holds the whole quarter. Every week we said the same thing in a different shape. *God goes with you, so be brave. Obey God when it doesn't make sense. Sin keeps showing up; God keeps rescuing. God uses unexpected people. God wins with little so the glory is his. The battle belongs to the LORD. God's plans are bigger than ours. Wisdom starts with God. The LORD, he is God — there is no other.* Each one was a piece of the same story. Today's bottom line is the whole shape: God keeps his promises, even when his people don't. That's Joshua to 1 Kings in one sentence — and it's the same shape of the gospel. We fail; God doesn't.

The covenant is the thread. Track it across the quarter. God promised Abraham land, descendants, and blessing. By Joshua 1, he is finally giving the land — promise kept. The judges break covenant; God keeps rescuing. David trusts God against Goliath; God promises David a throne that won't end — promise kept again, and pointing forward to Jesus. Solomon's wisdom, then his idolatry. The kingdom splits. By Mount Carmel the people are worshiping Baal — but God shows up with fire. *Every time the people fail, God stays God.* The kids should leave today seeing that pattern.

This is a tour, not a sprint. The source material walks through five named figures (Joshua, the judges as a group, David, the divided kingdom, Elijah). Don't try to re-teach all of them. Pick the six landmark moments below and skim through them as a tour. The list shows which six this lesson hits hardest. If a kid wasn't there for one of them, that's fine — the point isn't to test them, it's to remind them.

What we're skipping and why. The source material includes a "Character Match" small-group exercise (groups assigned Joshua, Deborah, Gideon, Ruth, David, Elijah and asked what they'd imitate) and a "Two Paths" board diagram contrasting obedience and disobedience. Both are good but they pull the lesson into a moralism the kids have already heard twelve times. Today the spotlight stays on *God's* faithfulness across the quarter, not on whether the kids will be more like Joshua or Gideon. The take-home commitment lands at the end through prayer, not through a journal prompt.

Repeat the bottom line all morning. Say it at least six times. Have the kids say it back. Write it on the board. End with it.

MATERIALS

- Bibles for every student
- Whiteboard or large paper, markers
- Pencils, crayons or colored pencils
- Six index cards or sticky notes, prepared with one word each: **JORDAN, JUDGES, GOLIATH, THRONE, DIVIDED, CARMEL**
- A long strip of painter's tape or a length of string for the timeline
- Activity sheets (printed in advance from this week's activities — pick what you'll use)

1. Gather

Welcome the kids back. Tell them today is the last week of the quarter. For three months they have walked with God’s people across the Jordan, around Jericho, through the judges, into a kingdom, and out to Mount Carmel — and today they get to see the whole story at once.

ASK

What’s one thing from this whole quarter that you remember best — a person, a story, a verse, anything?

Let four or five kids answer. You’ll get a mix — Joshua, Jericho, Gideon, David and Goliath, Solomon, fire on the mountain. Don’t correct anyone. Just collect the answers and tell them: those are all part of the same story, and today we’ll see what holds them together.

Write the bottom line on the board:

SAY

God keeps his promises, even when his people don’t.

2. The Story

Setting the Stage

Tell them, in your own words: at the beginning of this quarter, God’s people were standing on the wrong side of the Jordan River, about to enter the land God promised them four hundred years before. By the end of the quarter, they had broken that covenant so many times the kingdom split in half and most of them were worshipping a fake god named Baal. And yet God kept showing up. We’re going to walk through the story one stop at a time.

A Walk Through the Story

Lay the painter’s tape (or string) across the floor — left to right — as a timeline. Hand the six prepared cards to the kids you trust to hold them. Tell the class: in the Bible, God’s people remembered who he was by telling the story over and over again. Today we’re going to do the same thing — six stops on the timeline. At each stop, one student will read a verse, we’ll ask one question, and we’ll lay the card down on the line.

Walk through these six stops. At each one: name the story in a sentence, have a student read the verse, ask the question, and place the card on the timeline. Don’t linger — this is a tour.

Stop 1 — Joshua at the river. *The wilderness is over. Joshua has to lead two million people into the land.*

Joshua 1:9

What does God promise Joshua? *“The LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”* Place **JORDAN** on the timeline.

Stop 2 — The judges. *In the land at last. But the people forget God almost as soon as they get there.*

Judges 2:16

When the people kept turning away from God, what did God keep doing? *He kept raising up judges to rescue them. The people broke covenant; God kept rescuing them anyway.* Place **JUDGES** on the timeline.

Stop 3 — David and Goliath. *A nine-foot giant. A boy with five stones. And a sentence the kids should remember.*

1 Samuel 17:45

Why isn't David scared? *Because the battle is the LORD's, not his. God fights for his people.* Place **GOLIATH** on the timeline.

Stop 4 — God's promise to David. *Years later. David is king now. And God makes him a promise that goes way past David himself.*

2 Samuel 7:12-13

What does God promise about David's throne? *That it will last forever. This promise points all the way forward to Jesus.* Place **THRONE** on the timeline.

Stop 5 — The divided kingdom. *Solomon's son becomes king. He makes a foolish choice. The kingdom splits in two.*

1 Kings 12:19

What happens to Israel? *Ten tribes break away. The covenant people are now two kingdoms — and most of them stop following God.* Place **DIVIDED** on the timeline.

Stop 6 — Elijah on Mount Carmel. *By now most of Israel is worshiping Baal. One prophet stands up.*

1 Kings 18:21

What does Elijah ask the people? *"How long will you go limping between two opinions? If the LORD is God, follow him."* Place **CARMEL** on the timeline.

Stand back so the kids can see all six cards laid out left to right.

What the Whole Timeline Says

DISCUSSION

1. Look at the timeline. Where on this line did God's people obey him?

→ *A few times — Joshua at the start, David against Goliath, Elijah at the end. Most of the timeline is the people failing. They broke the covenant over and over.*

2. Now look again. Where on this line did God show up?

→ *Every single stop. He gave Joshua the land. He raised up judges. He fought through David. He promised David a forever-throne. He stayed God when the kingdom split. He sent fire on Mount Carmel. The people kept failing — and God never did.*

3. So if you put all six cards together, what's the one big thing the whole quarter tells you about God?

→ *He keeps his promises, even when his people don't. Every time they failed, he stayed. Every time they broke covenant, he kept his side of it. That's Joshua to 1 Kings in one sentence — and it's why we can trust him with our lives.*

3. The Point

Say the bottom line again, with the kids:

SAY

God keeps his promises, even when his people don't.

The Memory Verse

Have everyone turn to Joshua 1:9. Tell them this was the very first verse of the quarter, way back in week one. They're going to recite it as the quarter's anchor verse — the sentence that God said to Joshua, and that he says to them too.

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 three ways: all together normally, all together standing tall, then once with each kid pointing to themselves on the words “with you wherever you go.”

Tell them: the same God who promised Joshua “I am with you wherever you go” is the same God who fought for David, kept his promise to put a forever-king on the throne, and sent fire on Mount Carmel. He kept that promise across the whole quarter. He keeps it for you too.

What This Means For Us

DISCUSSION

1. We saw all quarter that God's people kept failing — and God kept keeping his promises anyway. Where do we see that same pattern in the gospel — in what Jesus does for us?

→ *Jesus keeps his promises even when we fail. We sin. We forget him. We worship things that aren't him. And he stays the same God who saved us. The covenant doesn't depend on us being good enough — it depends on him being faithful enough. That's the same shape as Joshua to 1 Kings.*

2. Of all six stops on the timeline — Jordan, Judges, Goliath, Throne, Divided, Carmel — which one do you most need to remember about God this week, and why?

→ *Listen for honest answers. A kid who picks Jordan might be facing a hard new thing. A kid who picks Judges might be tired of messing up. A kid who picks Goliath might be facing a giant. A kid who picks Carmel might be the only one in their group not worshiping Baal. Whatever they pick is right — let them say why.*

Closing Prayer

PRAY

God, this whole quarter you have shown us who you are. You took Joshua across the Jordan. You raised up judges when your people forgot you. You fought through David against Goliath. You promised him a throne that would last forever, and you kept that promise in Jesus. You stayed our God when the kingdom split. You sent fire on Mount Carmel. Thank you for being a God who keeps his promises, even when your people don't. Help us this week trust that you are the same God for us. Amen.

4. The Work

Pick one or more activities from this week's menu. Print enough copies for each kid in advance. The kids don't have to do all of them — pick what fits the group's energy and what time you have left.

The menu for this week:

- **The Whole Timeline** — coloring page of the six landmark moments laid out across the quarter, with the memory verse.
- **Names of the Quarter** — word search built from people and places spanning all thirteen weeks.

- **My Best Story** — drawing prompt where the kids draw one moment from the quarter that meant the most to them.
- **Remember the Whole Quarter** — fill-in-the-blanks recall using the kids' Bibles, with one verse from each major story.

The full production specs for each activity are in this week's activities file.

NOTE

While the kids work, sit with them. Ask one or two what they're working on. Reinforce the bottom line one more time before class ends. Today is the last Sunday of the quarter — leave them with the sense that the whole story is theirs to remember.

What Comes Next Quarter

A new story begins next week. The same God who kept his promises to Joshua, David, and Elijah keeps them through the prophets and into Babylon — even when his people lose the land they fought for. The kids will see what it looks like when God stays faithful through the hardest part of the story.