



**BIBLE READING FOR
REASONING LESSON PLANS**

Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet

And a light unto my path.

~ PSALM 119:105 ~

JOSHUA 2

Time: 45 minutes

Student Reading: Joshua 1:6-18

Review: A commission from God is accompanied by His presence, anointing, and authority.

Principle: God prospers those who obey His Word.

TEACHER



Vocabulary:

courageous (adj.) The state of mental and physical alertness which is rooted in one's faith.

meditate (v.) 1) To dwell on anything in thought; to study. 2) To mutter; half-aloud reading or self-talk with God's Word.

promise (n.) A binding verbal or written agreement made by one person to another to do or forbear a specified act.

prosper (v.) 1) To gain or increase; to flourish. 2) To accomplish God's full intention.

rest (n.) Inner peace; trust in God's never-failing providence and care.

strong (adj.) 1) Having great, active, physical power. 2) Fastening onto; getting a grip. 3) Full of spirit.

success (n.) The favorable or prosperous completion of anything attempted.



Preparation and Lesson Background:

1. For this lesson, read and reflect upon the assigned Bible reading. Make certain that you understand the historical setting and details provided in the context of the Scripture and this lesson.
2. Study the teacher vocabulary words, the principle, and teacher background information.

Principle: God prospers those who obey His Word.

The word *obey* comes from the Latin word *oboedire*: *ob* means "in the direction of" and *audire* means "to hear." The He-

STUDENT



Key Word:

obey (v.) To submit to the authority of or to comply with the commands or instructions of the one in authority or a law.



Read the Bible Passage:

Read the Bible passage as assigned by your teacher.



Reason Questions:

1. What is the biblical understanding of the word "obey" which is found in the root of the word?
2. List the instructions God gave Joshua for successful leadership.
3. How does the Bible define prosperous? How does this definition differ from what your culture has taught you about being prosperous?
4. Relate the first two steps to obeying God's will.
5. What is the result when we are obedient to God's will? Give two examples from your life.

brew word for obey is *shema*, which describes hearing and its effects: taking heed, being obedient, doing what is asked. The Shema is the title of the Jewish prayer that serves as the centerpiece of Judaism's morning and evening services. It is basically the Jews' confession of faith. It begins with the command to hear:

Hear [Shema], O Israel! The LORD is our God, the LORD is one! (Deuteronomy 6:4)

When you are in distress and all these things have come upon you, in the latter days you will return to the LORD your God and listen to His voice. (Deuteronomy 4:30)

Oh that they had such a heart in them, that they would fear Me and keep all My commandments always, that it may be well with them and with their sons forever! (Deuteronomy 5:29)

Therefore everyone who hears these words of Mine and acts on them, may be compared to a wise man who built his house on the rock. (Matthew 7:24)

In the first chapter of Joshua, this principle is clearly proclaimed. God spoke to Joshua: "Be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law . . . so that you may have success" (Joshua 1:7). God instructed Joshua that in order for him to be successful as the new leader of the Israelites, he would have to meditate on God's law day and night and do according to all that is written in it. The psalmist has also expressed this principle and used a simile to describe what success looks like:

*How blessed is the man who does not walk in the counsel of the wicked,
Nor stand in the path of sinners,
Nor sit in the seat of scoffers!
But his delight is in the law of the LORD,
And in His law he meditates day and night.
He will be like a tree firmly planted by streams of water,
Which yields its fruit in its season
And its leaf does not wither;
And in whatever he does, he prospers. (Psalm 1:1-3)*

The Lord used the word *strong* twice in His exhortation to Joshua: "Be strong and courageous . . . Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law" (1:6-7). The word *strong* means "to get a grip" or "to fasten onto." What God was saying to Joshua was, "You will have success if you meditate on My Word and get a grip on it and do not let go of it." Joshua's strength and courage would be determined by his knowledge of God's law and his application of God's commandments to all his decisions.

The biblical meaning of success and prosperity begins with being in the center of God's will and accomplishing His full intention. Modern Christians tend to think of prosperity and success only in terms of money and material wealth.

6. What is the result when we are disobedient to God's will? Give two examples from your life.



Notebook Record:

1. Copy these phrases onto your Profile of Joshua graphic organizer:

Providential Preparation and Influences:

- Born a Hebrew into slavery in Egypt
- Was the son of Nun from the tribe of Ephraim
- His name means "Yahweh is salvation."

Internal Character:

- A man in whom God's Spirit dwelled (Numbers 27:18)
2. File your Profile of Joshua graphic organizer in your binder.



Memory Verse:

I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. (Joshua 1:5)

God blesses us with success when we seek His will, meditate on His Word, and obey what He has commanded. He opens doors, provides wisdom, discernment, and resources, grants us favor that prospers us in EVERY way, and gives us success and peace. This is the key to transformed lives, families, communities, and nations.

God was preparing the Israelites to enter a land filled with pagan tribes and evil practices. He did not want Joshua to be led astray by false ideologies and the worship of pagan gods. He did not want pagan beliefs and practices to be assimilated into their thinking and decision-making. His instruction was clear: “Meditate on this book of the law day and night and be careful to do according to all that is written in it.”

Meditation for the ancient Jew involved his mouth. The Hebrew concept of “meditating” on the Scriptures literally means, “muttering.” When the Jew meditated, he repeated the Scriptures out loud in a soft voice over and over again. The Bible teaches us that there is a deep connection between the heart and the mouth. Jesus taught that a man’s “mouth speaks from that which fills his heart” (Luke 6:45). The apostle Paul taught that salvation comes when “you confess with your mouth Jesus as Lord, and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead” (Romans 10:9-10). God desires that His Word not just be filed away in our brains like books in a library, but also be on the tip of our tongues. In this way it changes the way we speak to ourselves and to others and helps us take our thoughts captive and make them obedient to Christ (2 Corinthians 10:5). Meditating on God’s Word is the key to a renewed mind and a transformed life.

3. Gather resources: Bible, wall map of ancient Bible lands, Profile of Joshua graphic organizers, and student vocabulary card.



Teaching Plan:

1. Pray: *Dear Heavenly Father, as Creator and Sovereign over the universe, all power and authority are Yours. You alone are worthy of our praise and adoration. Illumine our eyes today that we may see wondrous things from Your Word. Teach us Your way that we may walk in Your truth. Inspire our hearts to serve You that we may become leaders among our generation for Your glory and Your story. Amen.*
2. Distribute student binders.
3. Review the background of the book of Joshua and his commissioning for leadership. Review the principle that a commission from God is accompanied by His presence, anointing, and authority.
4. Pin the student vocabulary card onto your bulletin board and define the key word *obey*.

Profile of Joshua

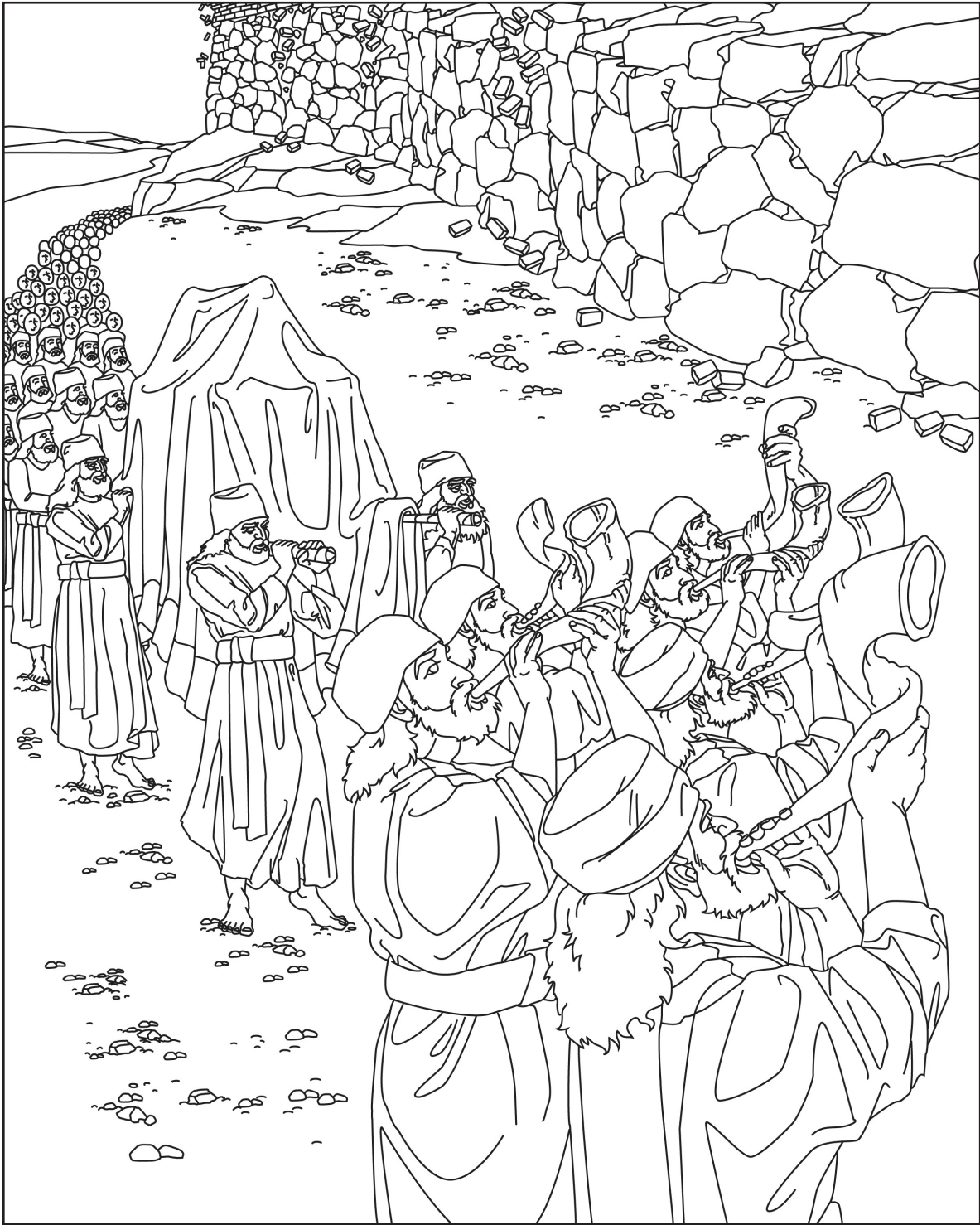
Warrior-Leader of the Israelites into the Promised Land

"A man in whom is the Spirit." (Numbers 27:18)

Providential Preparation and Influences

Internal Character

The Book of Joshua



*"Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed,
for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)*