

BEGINNER BIBLE TEACHER +

For Teachers of Children Ages 4 & 5



September
October
November

FALL
2023

Beginner Bible Teacher⁺

FALL QUARTER

September, October, November 2023

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Dear Beginner Teacher,

Welcome to *Beginner Bible Teacher*! As witnesses for Christ in a changing world, we have to think creatively about how we minister, while still holding firmly to the Word of Truth. Our Plus Series contains the same robust Bible lessons and background information that you love, but they have been carefully crafted to help you excite your students to learn God's Word.

Here are a few old favorites reimagined:

- The **Big Idea** is the main point of the lesson (it replaces the Aim in the old *Beginner Bible Teacher*). This helps you focus your lesson on the one thing you want your students to take away about God and His Word.
- **Prepare Your Mind** and **Prepare Your Heart** will ready you to teach with background information and a short devotional (they replace Thoughts for Teachers).
- **Prepare the Room**, **Suggested Song**, and **Supplies** give you all the practical information you need to prepare for class time (they replace Getting Ready).
- The **Conversation Starter** is an interesting question or object lesson that helps you kick off your class and get your students invested in the lesson. It will always tie in with the first part of the Bible Lesson (replaces Beginning Worship).
- **Next Steps** help your students apply the lesson to their lives (replaces Showing How to Live).
- **Activities** get your students' wiggles out while thinking about the lesson (replaces Action Time).

AIM



Big Idea: God wants us to remember His blessings.

THOUGHTS FOR TEACHERS



Prepare Your Mind

Prepare Your Heart

Getting Ready



Prepare the Room



Suggested Song



Supplies

Beginning Worship



Conversation Starter

TELLING A STORY



Story Time

Showing How to Live



Next Steps

ACTION TIME



Activity

Please note: In an effort to provide more flexible material and encourage teachers to model Bible reading for their students, we have chosen to leave the Scripture block out of these lessons.

Here are some new features:

- **Introductory pages** for each unit will connect the units to one another and point toward the quarter's major themes.
- **Teacher Tips** in the lesson will give you quick tips to involve your students or deal with difficult subject matter.
- **Just Curious** prepares you to respond to questions students might ask about the lesson.
- **Prop Prompt** symbols notify you when to use a prop listed in the supply list at the beginning of the lesson. All props and supplies are in bold the first time they appear.
- A **glossary** section keys you in to words in the lesson that may be difficult to understand for young students.
- **Action** symbols help you see opportunities to invite your class to take part in the lesson.
- **Review Questions** will test your students' comprehension of the lesson.
- The **Christ Focus** encourages thought about how the Scripture passage and lesson point to our loving Savior.
- **Bonus activity pages** for your students will be included each quarter as supplements in the back of this book.

KEY:

Teacher Tips



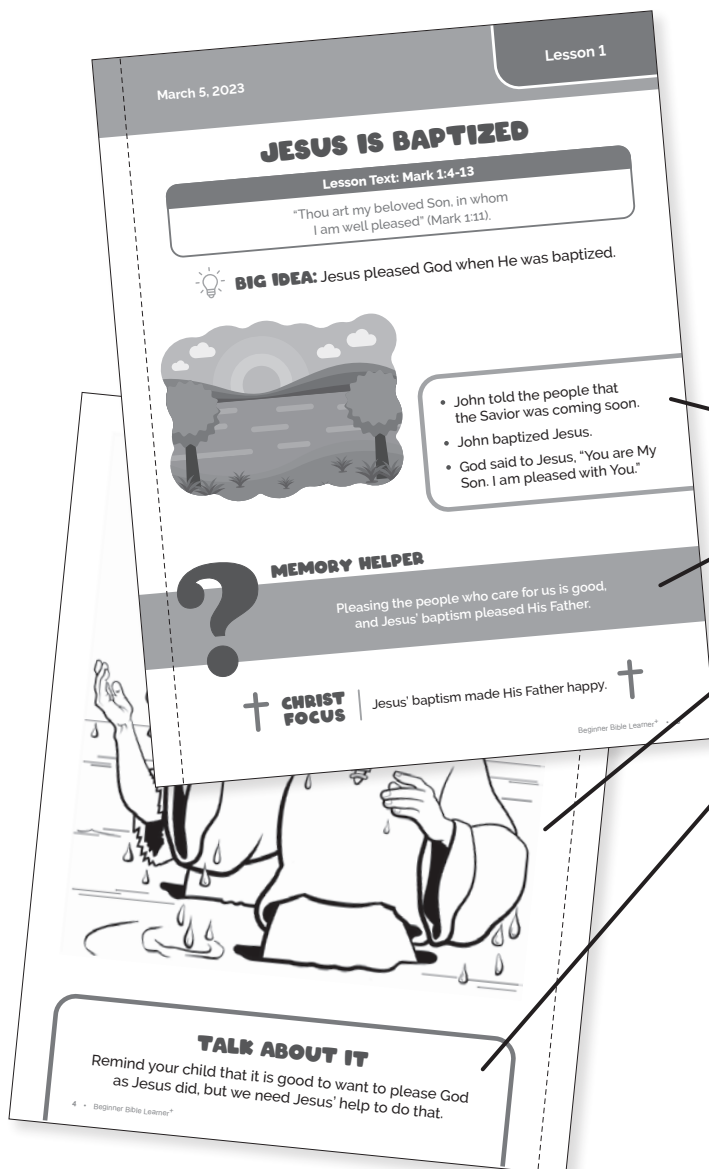
Just Curious



Prop Prompts



Actions



Here's a peek at the new *Beginner Bible Learner+*:

- A **lesson recap** summarizes the lesson in language beginners can easily understand.
- The **Memory Helper** reminds students of something interesting in the Bible lesson that will help them remember the Big Idea.
- The **coloring page** is bigger than ever to make it easier for little hands to color.
- **Talk About It** connects with Next Steps and cues parents/caregivers in on how they can help their children apply the lesson throughout the week.
- Each page is perforated, so it is easy to rip out and take home!

UNIT I:

Obedience and Success

Lesson 1: Joshua 1:1-6; 11:16-19, 21-23

Be Strong and Courageous

Lesson 2: Joshua 2:3-9, 15-16, 22-24

Rahab and the Spies

Lesson 3: Joshua 6:2-4, 12-20a

The Fall of Jericho

Lesson 4: Judges 3:15-25, 29-30

Ehud Frees Israel

Lesson 5: Judges 7:2-4, 13-15; 8:22-25

God Helps Gideon Trust Him

With this unit, you can encourage little ones to obey God. They need adults in their lives who follow the Lord through actions (words are not enough). They will be learning about people in Scripture who obeyed whatever God told them to do. Joshua was God's chosen leader after Moses, but he needed encouragement to carry on the torch. Rahab's reputation made her an unlikely person for God to use, but she obediently protected God's men. With God's help, Ehud and Gideon delivered God's people. Always listen for God's voice!



Be Strong and Courageous

Lesson Text: Joshua 1:1-6; 11:16-19, 21-23



Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord said unto Moses (Joshua 11:23).



Big Idea: God gives us courage when we trust Him.

Prepare Your Mind

After Moses died, Israel needed a new leader. So God charged Joshua, Moses' assistant, with leading His people into the Promised Land. God had freed the Israelites from bondage, and their wilderness wanderings would finally cease. Joshua would guide God's people into a land of peace and rest, where they could worship Him freely. However, Israel must first rid the land of all pagan influences. Joshua led the nation into battle, defeating powerful enemies and giving us a picture of the way Jesus leads believers into battle against the power of sin before we enter into eternal peace and rest. At the book's beginning, Joshua's Heavenly Father repeatedly told him to be strong and have courage because victory was assured.

Prepare Your Heart

Just as Joshua could go into battle courageously, assured of victory, we can approach the Christian life with courage and confidence. Until we are in heaven with Christ, however, we live in a fallen world. We face temptation daily. As Paul explains in Romans 7, we do not do the good that we should do, and we continue doing what we shouldn't do (vs. 19). We must take this battle with sin seriously, not tolerating sin in our lives. Yet we need not live in despair. Because of Christ, victory over sin and death is sure! Like Joshua, Jesus leads in nearness to His people. We have only to yield our hearts to Him, allowing Him to lead us in obedience to the Father's will.



Prepare the Room

Clear a space for the children to move from one end of the room to the other.



Suggested Song ⌚ 5 min

"When I Am Afraid" (Green)



Glossary

courage: being bold; acting without giving in to fear
wilderness: a place that is far from towns or cities



Conversation Starter

Who's the bravest person you know? How do you think that person became so brave? Courage means to act without giving in to fear. When is it hard for you to have courage?

Bible Lesson ⌚ 10-15 min

! All of us are afraid sometimes, especially when we have to do something new or difficult. Today we are going to learn about a man named Joshua. God asked Joshua to do a hard job. For forty long years, God's people had been stuck in the wilderness. Finally, the time had come for the people to enter the special land God had promised them long ago—the Promised Land! But it would not be easy. Enemies lived in the land. Let's find out why Joshua was able to have courage (👊 pump fist) to do the hard job God asked him to do.

Joshua needed to be brave to lead the nation of Israel into battle. Thousands of enemies lived in the Promised Land. Of course, those enemies did not want to move out. But God said they had to go. ?

Israel's enemies did not worship God. God said, "Don't leave one wicked person! You must clear them all out of the land so that you don't follow their wicked ways. Then you will have rest in the special land I am giving you."

Many hard battles lay ahead. God knew the Israelites would need a leader who wouldn't give in to fear (👊 cower). They would need a leader who was strong and courageous (👊 pump fist). God knew just the person—Joshua.

Joshua trusted and obeyed God. God said, "Joshua, I will not fail you." Joshua knew it was true. God had taken care of His people so far. He would keep taking care of them.

God said, "Joshua, remember that I will never leave you." Joshua knew it was true. Even when the people disobeyed God, He never left them all alone. Joshua knew he could trust God.

God promised to give His people victory over their enemies. Joshua may have felt some fear (👊 cower), but he courageously (👊 pump fist) led the people. They went into the Promised Land and won many battles. Joshua had courage (👊 pump fist) because he remembered that God would never fail him. He remembered that God would never leave him. That was all Joshua needed to know! If God was with him, Joshua would not give in to fear! (👊 Cower.) He would have courage! (👊 Pump fist.) God is with us too. We may not always win our battles the way Joshua did. But God will still be with us, even if we lose.



Have the children pump their fists when they hear "courage" or "courageous" in the lesson and pretend to cower in fear when they hear "fear."



Why would God make the people leave? The people did not worship God and did evil things. God wanted to protect His people from becoming evil like them.



Activity: Joshua Says ⌚ 5-10 min

Lead the children in a game of Simon Says, substituting "Joshua" for "Simon." If Joshua says to do the action, the children should do it. If Joshua gives an action without saying "Joshua says," the children should not do it. If a child does an action when Joshua does not say, "Joshua says," he or she is out until the next game. Explain that God gave Joshua the job of leading the people of Israel.

Story Time ⌚ 5 min

Jin was very excited. His mom had said that he could spend the night at his friend David's house! Jin and David were building a big pillow fort. It was going to be so much fun.

"I'll take you home from David's house so that you can pack your things for the night," said Jin's mom.

Jin stuffed pajamas into his backpack. He had never slept away from home before. What if he missed his parents? Jin reminded himself that God was always with him, even if his parents were not. He was still a little afraid, but knowing God would not leave him gave him courage. Jin kept packing.

Jin looked at the fuzzy puppy he'd had since he was a baby. The puppy helped him feel safe. What if he felt afraid at night? Jin reminded himself that he could al-

ways trust God to care for him. Knowing he could trust God gave Jin courage. He kept packing.

Sometimes Jin woke in the middle of the night. His dad always comforted him. What if he would have a bad dream? Jin reminded himself that God loved him and would never leave him. That gave Jin courage. He kept packing.

"All ready?" asked Mom.

"All ready!" said Jin. Knowing he could trust God gave Jin courage for his first sleepover.

Jin reminded himself that he could always trust God. That gave him courage. In the same way, Joshua knew he could trust God to care for him and never leave him. That gave him courage to do the work God gave him to do.



Activity: Joshua, May I? ⌚ 10 min

Designate a leader to be "Joshua." Joshua's job is to get all the children to the "Promised Land" (Joshua's side of the room). Joshua stands on one side of the room, and the other children line up against the wall on the other side, facing Joshua. Each child takes a turn asking Joshua for permission to move a certain number of steps forward or backward (but no more than three steps at a time are permitted). Joshua responds, saying, "Yes, you may," or, "No, you may not, but you can take ___ steps forward/backward." Joshua can specify baby steps, giant steps, forward, or backward. The game ends when Joshua gets all the children to the "Promised Land."

Review Questions

1. Where were the people going? (the Promised Land)
2. What person did God choose to lead the people? (Joshua)
3. Why did Joshua have courage? (God was with him.)

Next Steps

What kinds of things make you feel afraid? Talk to an adult you trust about times when you need to have more courage. Ask that adult to remind you that when you feel afraid, you can trust God because He will never leave you.

Christ Focus

We can have courage even when we are afraid because Jesus is always with us.

Prayer Points

- Ask God to help your students remember that He is always with them. •
- Ask God to help your students have courage when they are afraid. •