



Primary Bible Teacher +

For Teachers of Children
Ages 6 Through 8

September
October
November

FALL
2023

Primary Bible Teacher +

FALL QUARTER

September, October, November 2023

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Dear Primary Teacher,

Welcome to our new *Primary 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 Object in View in the old *Primary Bible Teacher*). It 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 Notes on the Lesson).
 - **Prepare the Room**, **Suggested Song**, and **Supplies** give you all the practical information you need to prepare for class time (they replace Planning Visual Aids).
 - **Truths to Stress** are underlined in the Bible Lesson so that you can see the main points at a glance.
 - 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 the Lesson).
 - **Next Steps** help your students apply the lesson to their lives (replaces Telling How to Live).
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THE OBJECT IN VIEW



Big Idea: God wants us to remember His blessings.

NOTES ON THE LESSON



Prepare Your Mind

Prepare Your Heart

PLANNING VISUAL AIDS



Prepare the Room



Suggested Song



Supplies

BEGINNING THE LESSON



Conversation Starter

TELLING HOW TO LIVE



Next Steps

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.
- **Activities** help your students get their wiggles out while thinking about the lesson.
- **Action** symbols help you see opportunities to invite your class to take part in 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



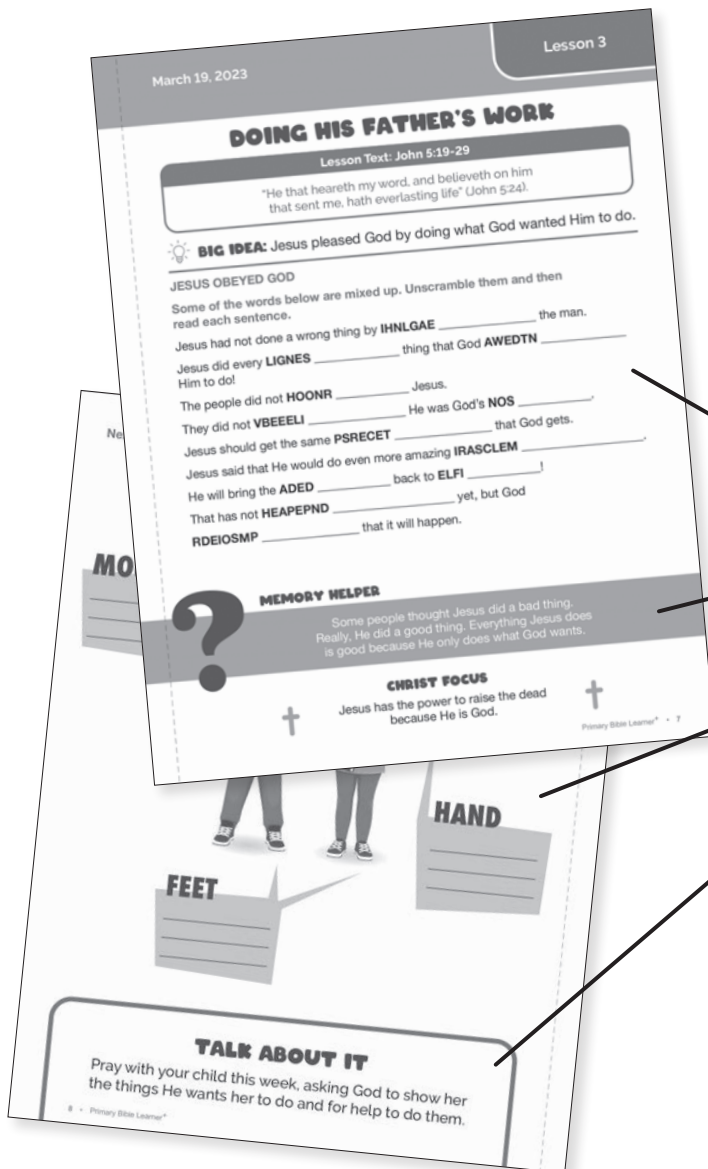
Just Curious



Prop Prompts



Actions



Here’s a peek at the new *Primary Bible Learner*®:

- A **lesson recap** includes true and false questions, fill-in-the-blank puzzles, and much more to help ensure your students understood the lesson.
- The **Memory Helper** reminds students of something interesting in the Bible lesson that will help them remember the Big Idea.
- The **activity page** is bigger than ever and full color to get your students excited to solve puzzles and review the lesson.
- **Talk About It** connects with Next Steps and cues 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

Teaching primaries about obeying God is your privilege this unit! Remember that they are watching your obedient example. If they learn obedience at their young age, they can grow to faithfully listen to God's voice. People in this unit's lessons who were blessed for their obedience are Joshua (who followed Moses in leadership even though he had to learn to be strong), Rahab (a woman with a sinful past who hid the two spies sent by Joshua), and Ehud and Gideon (who both were used to deliver God's people from their enemies). God honors and rewards obedience to Him!



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

Soon after God had freed the Israelites from bondage in Egypt, their hearts wandered from God. After forty years of wandering in the wilderness and Moses' death, God charged Joshua, Moses' assistant, with leading His people into the Promised Land. Finally, their wilderness wanderings would cease. Joshua would guide God's people into a land of peace and rest, where they could worship Him freely. However, Israel first had to 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 told him to be strong and have courage because victory was assured.



Supplies

- index cards
- markers
- clear plastic cup
- water
- paper plate

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 explained in Romans 7, we do not do the good that we should do, and we continue doing what we shouldn't do (vs. 19). This battle with sin is serious, yet we needn't 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. We need not fear. Our hope is in Him!



Suggested Song ⌚ 5 min

"Strong and Courageous" (Graves & Graves)



Glossary

courage: being bold; acting without giving in to fear
enemy: one who is against another; not a friend



Conversation Starter

When was a time you needed to be brave?
What about it was scary to you?

Bible Lesson ⌚ 15–20 min

Maybe you need to be brave when you go to the dentist or when you meet the neighbor's big dog. Maybe you need to be brave when you tell the truth or when you choose to do the right thing when everyone else is doing the wrong thing. Today we are going to learn about a group of people who needed to be brave. We are going to learn about what God said to their leader. We will also learn why they could be brave. They could be brave because they trusted God. We can be brave by trusting God too!

A man named Moses had led God's people for a long time. But his time to lead God's people was over. After he died, God's people needed a new leader. Who would lead them? God knew just the right man for the job. He was Moses' helper, Joshua! God said to Joshua, "Moses is dead. Now it is time for you to take My people into the land I promised to them." [🗨️] God had a plan for His people.

How exciting! Long ago, God had promised to give His people—a nation called Israel—a special land to call home. That is why it was called the Promised Land! It had been a long time since that promise was made, but it was finally time for Israel to move into the Promised Land. But there was one big problem. Enemies were already living there! Oh, no!

Would you move into a house that had no room for you because it was full of mean people? Probably not. But God's people were still going to move into the Promised Land even though it was full of their enemies. Joshua and all the people of Israel were going to have to fight those enemies. [?] What a big, scary job! How could Joshua know that they would win?

Joshua did not have to worry about winning. He did not have to be afraid. Do you know why? Because God had a plan for Israel. Joshua knew he could trust God. God made a huge promise to Joshua. God said, "Everywhere you step, I will give that land to you. No one will be able to stop you. I will be with you just as I was with Moses. I will never leave you. So be strong and have courage! I am giving you the land I promised you!"

That was big news! Joshua and Israel were going to have some big battles to fight. But they did not have to be afraid. They could be strong and have courage! They were going to win those battles for sure! It was not because they were big and strong. It was not because they were very good with swords. It was because God was with them. God was bigger and stronger than all their enemies. He was going to give them the Promised Land.

God's people won those battles because God was with them. He helped Israel and Joshua in everything they did. They could be brave because He was with them! It took a while to get the enemies out of the Promised Land. But when it was done, Israel finally rested. God's people were home, just as He promised.



Have the children raise their right hands every time you say "promise" or "promised."



Why did the enemies need to go? They didn't worship God, and they did sinful things. God didn't want His people to follow their enemies' example.

Review Questions

1. Where did God tell Joshua to take His people? (the Promised Land)
2. What was the big problem with the Promised Land? (It was full of enemies.)
3. Why did Israel win its battles? (God was with them. They trusted Him.)

Explaining the Memory Verse

Joshua was able to lead Israel in taking the Promised Land from their enemies. It happened just as God said it would. Joshua did not win the battles because he was strong. He just trusted God. God is the one who won those battles!



Activity: Joshua Took the Land ⌚ 5–10 min

Tell the class that you have hidden cards around the room and that they are decorated to look like the Promised Land. Have the students look for the cards to “take” them just as Joshua and Israel took the Promised Land. When all the cards have been located, have the class work together to put the words of the memory verse in order.

SUPPLIES:

- index cards
- markers

PREP: Before class, **print** each word of the memory verse on an **index card**. Then draw a simple landscape on each card too. Hide the cards around the classroom.

Next Steps

When you need to be brave this week, remember that you can trust God to help you. He will always be with you and will never leave you. You might not win all the time, but He will still be with you whether you win or lose.

Christ Focus

Jesus promised that He will always be with us.

Prayer Points

- Thank God that He is always with us. •
- Ask God to help your students trust in Him. •



Activity: Water Trap ⌚ 10 min

Fill the **cup** with **water**. Tell the students that you are going to turn that cup upside down without dumping the water out. Ask them if they think it is possible. Ask them if they trust you. Place the **plate** over the top of the cup and hold it there tightly. Flip both the plate and the cup upside down and set them on the table. Ask the students what happened. The water stayed in the cup!

Sometimes it is hard for us to understand that God is always with us. But when He gives us a promise, we can trust that He will do it! We can have courage when we trust in Him.

SUPPLIES:

- clear plastic cup
- water
- paper plate