

# Trusting God

## LOWER ELEMENTARY LESSON PLAN

**Theme:** Fully Relying on God: Loyalty Counts!

**Scripture:** Joshua 24:1-3, 14-25

**Memory Verse:** Joshua 24:2 - 'This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Long ago, your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods.'

## The Children's Sermon

Hey kids, today we're going to talk about a really cool story from the Bible. It's about a man named Joshua and something very important called the covenant renewal.

So, who was Joshua? Joshua was a leader, chosen by God to help the Israelites, God's special people, go into a land that God promised them. Joshua was strong and brave, but he knew that all his strength and courage came from God.

Now, let's dive into the covenant renewal. This happened when Joshua was very old. He gathered all the people together and reminded them of everything God had done for them. He talked about how God helped them escape from Egypt, where they were slaves, and how God did amazing things to keep them safe.

Joshua told the people that it was time to make a big choice. They could choose to follow God, who had done so much for them, or they could choose to follow other gods, which wouldn't be a good choice at all. This was a very important moment, called the

covenant renewal. It was like making a promise or a deal with God to follow Him and only Him.

Joshua said to the people, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." That means Joshua and his family decided to follow God, and he was asking the people to make the same choice.

Why is this story important for us? Well, just like Joshua and the Israelites, we have choices to make every day. We can choose to be kind, to listen to our parents, to help our friends, or to share our toys. When we make good choices, it's like we're choosing to follow God, just like Joshua did.

The covenant renewal teaches us that following God is the best choice we can make. It's not always easy, but God promises to be with us, just like He was with Joshua and the Israelites. God helps us to be brave and strong, even when things are hard.

Now, let's think about how we can make good choices like Joshua. Maybe we can help our parents without being asked, or we can share our favorite snack with a friend. Every good choice we make is a way to show God that we want to follow Him.

And remember, when we make mistakes, it's okay. God still loves us and forgives us. We can always ask God to help us make better choices next time.

So, kids, let's try to be like Joshua and choose to follow God every day. Let's be kind, brave, and make good choices, knowing that God is always with us, helping us along the way.

PRAY: God, help us to remember that all of our power comes from you and you alone are all we ever need. Amen.

## Bible Memory Verse

**Joshua 24:2 - 'This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Long ago, your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods.'**

You Will Need:

- Colored paper
- Scissors
- Markers or crayons
- Glue
- Stickers (optional)

Get Ready:

- Cut the colored paper into large, river-shaped pieces and small, boat-shaped pieces.
- Write the memory verse on a large poster board or piece of paper.

Do This:

1. Have each child choose a piece of colored paper for their boat. Ask them to write their name on one side of the boat and the memory verse on the other side using markers or crayons.

2. While they work, talk to them about how Joshua reminded the people about their ancestors and the importance of worshiping only God. Explain how our faith journey can be like crossing a big river, where we need to leave behind things that distract us from God.
3. Once everyone has finished their boats, let them glue their boats onto the river-shaped paper. Encourage them to decorate around their boats with stickers or drawings to represent leaving behind old ways and moving towards worshiping God alone.
4. Display the completed river with boats in your classroom as a reminder of the lesson and the importance of loyalty to God.

## Bible Interactive Experience

You'll Need:

- A large piece of poster board or a whiteboard
- Markers or chalk
- Sticky notes
- Bible or printed excerpt of Joshua 24:1-3
- Small toy figures or paper cutouts of people

Get Ready:

1. Write "Fully Relying on God: Loyalty Counts!" at the top of your poster board or whiteboard.
2. Read Joshua 24:1-3 and summarize it in simple terms for the children, focusing on how Joshua and the people decided to serve God.
3. Place the toy figures or paper cutouts at a starting line on one side of the room.

Do this:

1. **Introduction**: Start by telling the children that today we're going to learn about being loyal to God, just like Joshua and the people in the Bible. Explain that being loyal means sticking with God, even when it's hard or when there are other things trying to pull us away.

2. **Story Time**: Read the summarized version of Joshua 24:1-3 to the children. Discuss how Joshua and the people had to decide who they would serve. Emphasize that they chose to fully rely on God because they trusted Him and remembered all the great things He had done for them.

3. **Activity - "Loyalty Path"**:

- Place the toy figures or paper cutouts at the starting line.
- Ask the children to think of ways we can show loyalty to God (e.g., praying, reading the Bible, helping others). Write each idea on a sticky note.
- Create a path on the floor with the sticky notes, leading to a designated "Promised Land" area on the other side of the room.
- Divide the children into small groups and give each group a figure or cutout. Explain that they will move their figure along the path, but they must discuss and say out loud how each sticky note (step) helps us rely on God before moving to the next one.
- Once a group reaches the "Promised Land," celebrate their journey of loyalty and reliance on God.

4. **Wrap-Up**: Gather the children and discuss how the activity relates to our lives. Emphasize that just like Joshua and the people, we can choose to serve and rely on God every day. Encourage them to think of one way they can show loyalty to God this week.

5. **Prayer**: Close with a short prayer, asking God to help us be loyal and fully rely on Him, just like Joshua and the people did.

## Snack Activity: Promised Land Milk & Honey Cups

You'll Need:

- Vanilla yogurt
- Honey
- Granola
- Clear plastic cups
- Spoons

Get Ready: Gather all your materials and set them out on a table where the children can easily reach everything.

Do this:

1. Tell the children about how God promised the Israelites a land flowing with milk and honey, representing a land of abundance and fulfillment of God's promises, similar to how we can fully rely on God. Read or summarize Joshua 24:1-3, focusing on how Joshua reminded the people of God's faithfulness.
2. Have each child take a clear plastic cup. They will first fill it halfway with vanilla yogurt to represent the 'milk'.
3. Drizzle honey over the yogurt to symbolize the 'honey' of the Promised Land. Then, let them sprinkle granola on top to add a bit of the 'earth' and texture, reminding them of the realness of God's promises. As they eat their snack, remind them that just as God was loyal and faithful to the Israelites, He is the same to us today, and we can fully rely on Him.

# Game Activity: Joshua's Journey Hopscotch

You'll Need:

- Sidewalk chalk
- A small stone or beanbag
- A large, open sidewalk or driveway

Get Ready: Draw a hopscotch grid on the sidewalk or driveway, but instead of numbers, write the following in each square in order: 'Joshua', 'God's Call', 'Cross River', 'Fight', 'Peace', 'Choose God'. At the start, draw a big heart and label it 'Start with God'. At the end, draw a big crown and label it 'God's Promise'.

Do this:

1. Gather the kids and explain that just like Joshua and the Israelites had to make choices to follow God, we will hop through choices on our journey. Each square represents a part of Joshua's journey, where he had to rely on God.
2. The first player tosses the stone or beanbag onto 'Joshua'. They must hop over 'Joshua' to 'God's Call' and continue hopping on one foot (or two feet for side-by-side squares) to follow Joshua's journey. If they step on a line, miss a square, or lose their balance, their turn ends.
3. After reaching 'God's Promise', the player picks up the stone while standing on one foot, hops back to the start, and passes the stone to the next player. If they complete the course without errors, they share a way they can rely on God in their own life.
4. Play continues until all children have had a turn. Emphasize that just like in the game, in life, we need to make choices that show our loyalty and trust in God.

# Craft Activity: Loyalty Shields: Standing Strong with God

You'll Need:

- Cardboard or heavy paper
- Aluminum foil
- Markers or paint
- Glue
- Scissors
- Ribbon or string

Get Ready: Cut the cardboard or heavy paper into shield shapes. Each child will need one shield.

Do this:

1. Cover the front of the cardboard shield with aluminum foil using glue to stick it on. This will make your shield shiny and strong, just like our faith in God should be.
2. Once the glue has dried, use markers or paint to decorate the shield. Encourage the children to draw symbols or write words that remind them of God's loyalty and how we can rely on Him. They can use ideas from Joshua 24:1-3, like drawing a big heart for love, a cross for faith, or even writing 'Loyalty Counts!' or 'God is with us'.
3. Punch two holes on either side of the shield and thread ribbon or string through them, so the child can wear the shield on their arm. Explain that just like the shield protects them, God's love and loyalty protect us when we choose to follow and rely on Him.



# Prayer Activity: God's Loyalty Chain

You'll Need:

- A ball of yarn or string
- Small pieces of paper
- Pens or markers

Get Ready: Write down key phrases from Joshua 24:1-3 on the small pieces of paper. These phrases should highlight God's faithfulness and our response to fully rely on Him. For example, 'God led us', 'God protected us', and 'Choose to serve the Lord'.

Do this:

1. Sit in a circle with the children. Start by holding the end of the yarn and read one of the phrases from the pieces of paper. Share a brief thought on how this shows God's loyalty or how we can show loyalty to God.
2. Hold onto the end of the yarn and throw the ball to a child across the circle. That child picks a piece of paper, reads the phrase, and shares a simple thought or prayer related to fully relying on God or showing loyalty. They hold their part of the yarn and throw the ball to another child.
3. Continue until everyone has had a turn and a web of yarn has formed in the center of the circle. Explain that just like the web of yarn, our lives are interconnected with God's loyalty and love at the center. Close with a prayer, asking God to help us fully rely on Him and to remember that loyalty counts.