

Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia



CHILDREN'S MINISTRY TEACHER'S PACKET

4 Year Olds

Sunday Morning

Study 14

N is for Near

N is for Near

The Objective is the key concept for this week's lesson. It should be the main focus of the study.

These are the key verses that you will find helpful in teaching your study this week. The "Main passage" is the basis of the study, where the other verses support the objective of the lesson.

There is a memory verse for the students that relates to every study. If a student can memorize the verse for the following week you may give them a prize from the "reward box" found on your cart.

An introductory activity or question that will settle the class, draw their attention to the study and prepare their hearts for God's Word.

Objective To teach the students that God is omnipresent (all places at all times) and that He promises specifically to always be with us.

Key Verses

Joshua 1:1-9—Main Teaching Passage

Psalms 139:7-10

Jonah 1-2

Hebrews 13:5

Memory Verse Psalm 145:18 (April Memory Verse)

The Lord is near to all who call upon Him,
To all who call upon Him in truth.

Hook

Place the magnet on your cart under a piece of paper. Place a paper clip on the other side of the paper and hold the paper up so that the paper clip is showing toward the students. Now move the paperclip around the piece of paper from behind. Give the students an opportunity to move the paperclip around the paper.

Tell the students that even though the magnet is hidden, it still has the power to move the paper clip. Even though we couldn't see it, it was there, and it was powerful. In the same way, even though we can't see God, He is there, and He is powerful.

What does the Bible say? This is where we will read a passage or series of passages that teach on the subject of the day.

BOOK

In Joshua 1, Joshua had a difficult job in front of him. Moses, the previous leader of Israel, had died, and it was now Joshua's responsibility to take Israel into the Promised Land. The land was full of dangerous enemies, and Joshua was supposed to lead the armies of Israel in battle to conquer them. In the face of this enormous task, the Lord came near to Joshua and offered him words of comfort. He promised to be with him, just like He was with Moses, and never to leave or forsake him (verse 5). Again in verse 9, He promised to be with Joshua wherever he went. Because he knew the Lord was with him, Joshua took courage and was able to lead God's people into the Promised Land.

Joshua's story is not the only one where we see God near His people. The Bible is full of stories like this. For example, God was near to Jonah too. Jonah decided that he did not want to do what God had asked him to do, so he ran away to the furthest place he could think of, but he couldn't outrun God. God was with Jonah in the middle of the sea, in the belly of a whale, and also while he was preaching in Nineveh.

The Bible teaches that God is everywhere at all times. In Psalm 139:7-10, David declares that there is not a single place in the world, or even outside of the world, that he could go to run away from God. But God especially promises to be near to His people. When we trust in Him, He is with us whether we are on a high mountain, out at sea, or in a dark room all by ourselves.

LOOK

Do you ever feel all alone? Sometimes this can be a good thing, but at other times it can make us lonely. The Bible verses that we read today show us something wonderful. God is everywhere, and that means that even if we feel like there is no one else around, God is. God is with you when you are alone in your room. God is with you on the playground. God is with you on your first day of school, and He is with you on the bus ride home. God is everywhere. Another way to say this is that He is always near.

But there's more to it than that. God isn't just everywhere in the same way that air is everywhere. God is with you in all places because He wants to be with you. In Joshua 1:9, God said to Joshua, "Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." God looked down at Joshua and told him that no matter where he went, no matter how far he walked, God would be walking right beside him the whole way.

The interpretation/exegesis of the passage. What does this passage mean? How does this passage apply to my life?

LOOK (Continued)

The fact that God was with Joshua all the time, wherever he went, helped Joshua in amazing ways. First, it helped him not to be afraid. Joshua was going to be doing some pretty dangerous things, but because God was always with him, he was able to overcome his fear and lead God's people to victory. It also helped Joshua to do the right thing. Joshua knew that God was always with him, and saw everything that Joshua did, so when God asked Joshua to do things for him, or sometimes not to do things, Joshua always did what he was asked to do. He knew that he couldn't lie to God because God was always near.

This is true for you and me as well. Knowing that God is always with us should give us an incredible encouragement. Because He is always with us, we never have to be afraid. He promises never to leave us or forsake us (Hebrews 13:5). Second, knowing that He is near us should help us to do all the things He asks us to do. Lastly, because God is always with us, it means we can always talk to Him about anything that is going on in our lives. We never have to be embarrassed with God, or scared about what we want to talk about, because He already knows, and He wants to comfort us and help us through it.

What is my response to this passage of Scripture? How should my life change according to what this passage teaches me? What are the practical things I can do throughout the week to make this true in my life?

TOOK

Ask the class: "Is there anywhere you can go and God will not be there? Is there anything you can do to make God run away from you?"

Pray: Thank the Lord that He is always with us. Ask Him to help us to live for Him in a way that always honors Him. Praise Him for His nearness to us.

Parent Question: Was there ever a time that you were all alone, but you knew that God was with you?

FURTHER STUDY

Commentary on Joshua 1:1-9 by David Guzik

GOD'S COMMISSION TO JOSHUA

A. Introduction: A survey of the history of Israel from Egypt to Canaan.

1. Israel was delivered from Egypt's degrading bondage.

a. These were historical events, but they were not *only* historical. God speaks through history to give an example of our deliverance from the degrading bondage of sin (as Paul makes clear in [1 Corinthians 10:6](#) and [10:11](#)).

b. The central act of redemption in the New Testament is the work of Jesus on the cross. The central act of redemption in the Old Testament is the deliverance of Israel from Egypt.

2. Israel, led by Moses, wandered in the Sinai wilderness.

a. During that time, Israel experienced supernatural providence such as the supply of manna, water from rocks, the pillar of cloud by day and fire by night, and so forth.

b. During that time, they also received Divine revelation - the Mosaic Law. God communicated to them His holy standard.

3. The land of Canaan represents the *destination* of God's people after they have been set free from degrading bondage.

a. Not our *ultimate* destination, as the famous hymns would have it. Those hymns suggest that Canaan represents *heaven*.

i. As the lines to *Swing Low, Sweet Chariot* go:

*I looked over Jordan, and what did I see
Comin' for to carry me home?
A band of angels, comin' after me
Comin' for to carry me home.*

b. Biblically, the land over the Jordan - the Promised Land - does not speak of heaven. [Hebrews 3-4](#) shows Canaan as a picture of the rest and victory that can be enjoyed by every believer.

i. In this sense, F. B. Meyer connects the Book of Joshua with the Book of Ephesians. Both describe a spiritual walk of promise, wealth, and victory that are ours with Jesus.

c. This also shows that the deliverance from Egypt was only in preparation for the enjoyment of Canaan. In our Christian life, we are *brought out* of sin so that we might be *brought in* to abundant life. The wilderness is never God's permanent destination for us.

d. Even as an entire generation of Israel died in the wilderness, so many Christians die in the desert dryness

of spiritual experience, never walking in the fullness of what God has for them.

4. The leader: Joshua as a type of Jesus.

a. Remember that the Greek name *Jesus* simply translates the Hebrew name *Joshua*. Their names are identical. Whatever Israel received in the Promised Land, they received through the hand of Joshua; whatever we receive from God we receive through Jesus Christ, our Joshua.

B. God commissions Joshua's work.

1. ([Jos 1:1](#)) Moses is dead, and God speaks to Joshua.

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying:

a. **After the death of Moses:** Moses (who exemplified the law of God) could not lead Israel into the land of promise and rest. This all happens **after the death of Moses**.

b. **The LORD spoke to Joshua:** Joshua - who was not a young man at this time - had spent his entire career previously as the **assistant** of Moses, now finds that it is his own time to lead, but only after God prepared him.

c. **Moses' assistant:** Joshua was prepared by faithful service in small things, in being Moses' assistant. Red-path tells of a motto over a kitchen sink: "Divine service is conducted here three times daily." The motto is true, and great men and women are prepared by faithfulness to the small things.

2. ([Jos 1:2-3](#)) **Am giving and have given.**

"Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them; the children of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses."

a. **Your foot ... I have given you:** Entrance into the land of Canaan was entrusted to a representative. Joshua was the trustee of the land for the people. In the same way, our representative Jesus goes before us and what we have in God we possess in Him.

b. **I have given you:** The whole land was given, but they could only possess that which they claimed (**every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you**). What they took must be fought for against a determined opposition.

i. God certainly could have simply eliminated all their enemies with a mere thought; but He calls Israel into partnership with Himself to see His will done.

ii. Because taking the land took *effort*, the challenge ahead was not for those content with Egypt, but for those who would press ahead for what God had called them to.

3. ([Jos 1:4-5](#)) The promise: victory is assured because Joshua is called by God.

From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. No man shall *be able to stand* before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you.

a. **From the wilderness ... As far as the great river:** The precise territory of the land is described. This was no "pie in the sky" promise. It described real land with real boundaries.

b. **I will be with you:** Victory is assured not because Joshua is a great leader, or because Israel is a great nation, but because God is a great God, and He says to Joshua, **I will be with you**. This is enough for any man seeking to do God's will.

4. ([Jos 1:6-9](#)) The conditions of the promise of victory.

Be strong and of good courage, for to this people you shall divide as an inheritance the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, that you may observe to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may prosper wherever you go. This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the LORD your God *is* with you wherever you go.

a. **Be strong and very courageous:** Joshua is called to boldness in God. This exposes Joshua's weakness; there was a *need* for such a command, because even a great leader like Joshua needed such encouragement.

i. This bold courage would not be in Joshua himself, but in God. We can be full of self-confidence that will take us to ruin, but we should instead be full of a genuine God-confidence.

b. **That you may observe to do according to all the law:** Joshua must take great care to observe the law. God's word and Joshua's commitment to it would be the pillars supporting his success.

c. Joshua did not only need to read God's word. It had to be on his *lips* (**shall not depart from your mouth**), in his *mind* (**meditate in it day and night**), and he had to *do* it (**observe to do according to all that is written**).

d. **For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success:** God's Word so lived is a guarantee of Christian success. Not that it promises a life without problems, but it does insure a life able to deal with anything, because it takes full advantage of God's presence and promises.

i. And *Christian* success is not measured by the same standards as the world's success. Even if the world accounts us as *sheep for the slaughter*, we are actually *more than conquerors through Him who loved us* ([Romans 8:36-37](#)).

e. **For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go:** The final encouragement, repeated from [Joshua 1:5](#), reminds us that Joshua's success did not depend solely on his ability to keep God's Word. It depended even more on God's presence with him.