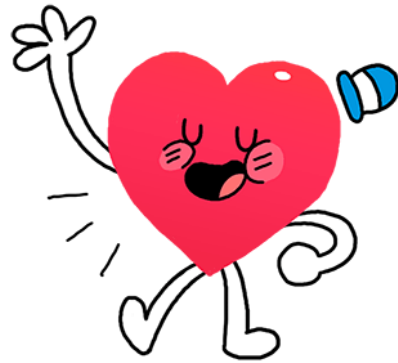


Under God's Rule In God's Land

Joshua 23-24

Memory Verse

Be strong and brave. Don't ever be afraid or discouraged! I am the Lord your God, and I will be there to help wherever you go.
Joshua 1v9 (CEV)



Start up!

Lighthouse game

- Choose one person to be a ship and blindfold them.
- Choose a different person to be a lighthouse, they need stand at the opposite side of the room to the 'ship' and shout directions to guide the ship towards the lighthouse using just five words: stop, left, right, forward, back.
- Anybody else can stand as an obstacle in the room pretending to be a rock.

Alternatively, draw the light house, a ship and rocks and draw different lines with one of them connecting the ship to the lighthouse, see if you can get someone to pick the correct line to lead them to the lighthouse.



Chat time...

If you played the lighthouse game, it was important to listen to and obey the instructions of the 'lighthouse'. We must also listen to and obey God. He can give us direction in our lives and He wants us to follow that direction.

Today we are also going to think about who or what is the most important part of our lives... can you draw pictures or symbols of the most important things in your life.

Bible Focus!

There are many times in the Bible when God says that He wants his people to have no other gods but Him.

- What does it mean to have no other God's but Him?
God didn't want his people worshipping the false god's of other nations. This was a common problem and he needed to tell His people that they should worship and pray to Him only.
- What does it mean for us to make God the Lord of our lives?
For God to be the most important person in our lives and to live in obedience to His word.

Last session we learned how the Israelite people had a very important victory in battle.

- What victory did the Israelites have?
Victory over the city of Jericho.
- What did this battle show the people?
God gave them victory and He was in control of the situation.

The Israelites had entered the Promised Land. Today we are going to jump ahead again and see what happened to the rest of the land.

Joshua 21:43-45

International Children's Bible

⁴³ So the Lord kept the promise he had made to the Israelites. He gave the people all the land he had promised. The people took the land and lived there. ⁴⁴ The Lord allowed them to have peace on all sides of their land. This is what he had promised to their people who lived long ago. None of their enemies defeated them. The Lord allowed the Israelites to defeat every enemy. ⁴⁵ He kept every promise he had made to the Israelites. No promises failed. Each one came true

- What do we learn about God in this passage?
God always keeps His promises.

When Joshua was close to dying, he gave a farewell speech. He told the Israelite people what he thought was the most important thing for them to remember.

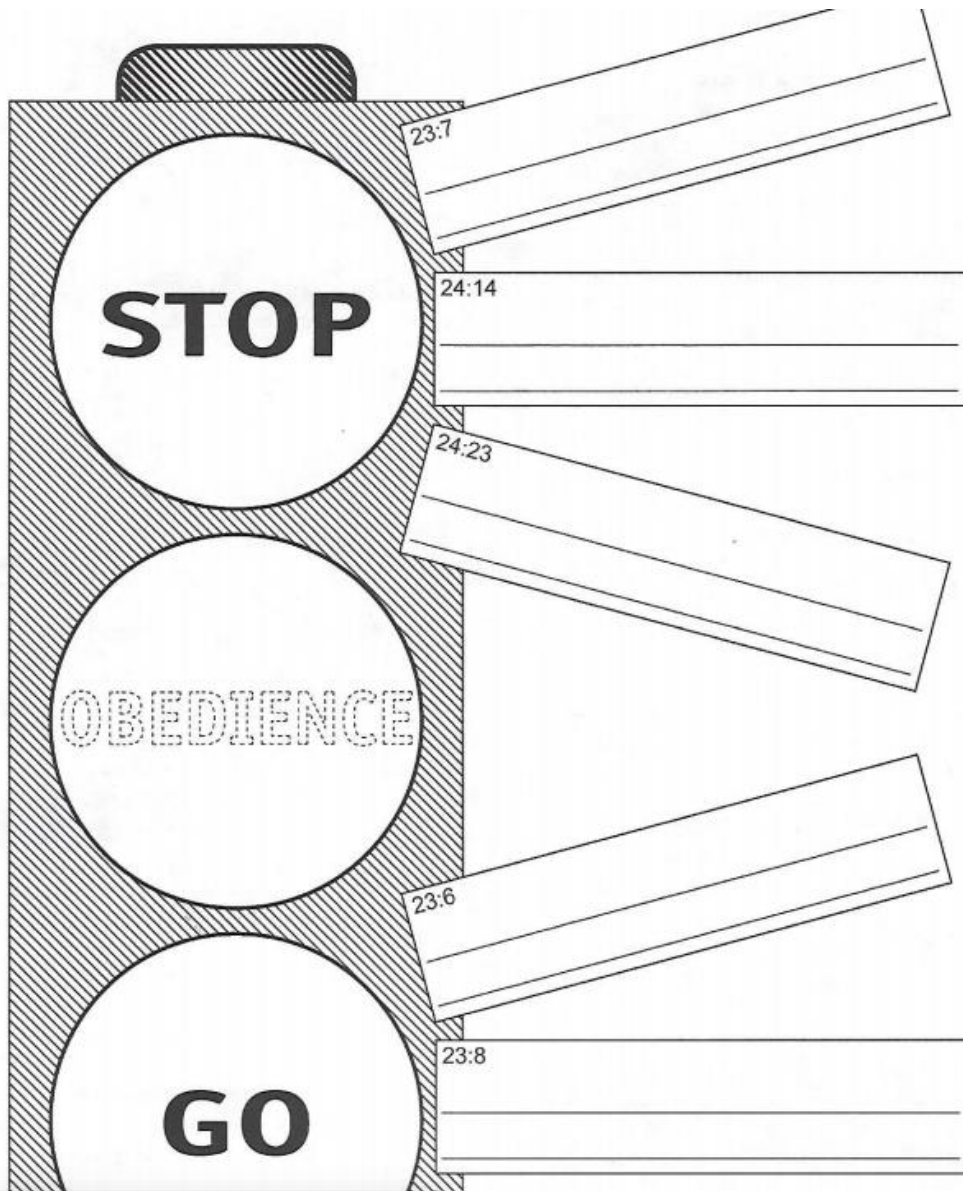
When we drive in our cars and we come to a busy junction, what do we find? (Accept responses. Traffic lights.)

What is the reason for the traffic lights? (Accept responses. They are there for the safety and well-being of all the people on the road. Sometimes there is a red signal to tell us to stop and at other times there is a green signal to tell us to go. The key is that both are there for our good, even though we prefer the green signal!)

Joshua's farewell speech was a bit like a set of traffic lights. He told the people some things they shouldn't do—red lights, along with some things they should do—green lights. It was very important that they obey God as they lived their lives as His people.



Have a look in your bible at Joshua 23 and 24 at some of the things Joshua said in his farewell speech and fill them in on the traffic light on the next page, hints are given where to look! You could colour your traffic lights in when you're done.



The key to Joshua's message to his people was that they should make sure that God was the most important part of their lives. Nothing else was to get in the way of this. God's people should live their lives obeying Him.

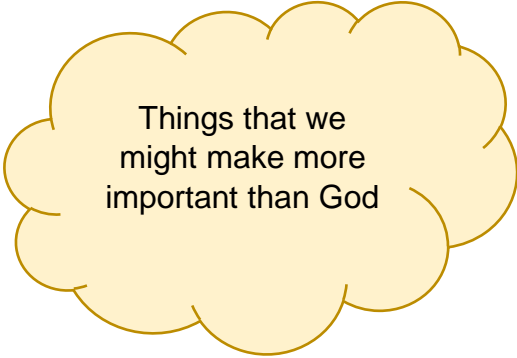
BRAINSTORMING: (Brainstorming means saying the first thing that comes into our brain.) On the whiteboard or sugar paper, brainstorm the things in our lives that we can make more important than God. Help the children to think of things such as self, money, friendships, popularity, fame, pleasure, fun, material things like houses and cars, hobbies, sports and so on.

On another part of the board or paper, write a list of the things in our lives that we could serve God with, such as our gifts, talents, money, time, loyalty, friendships, attitude to other people, family and so on.

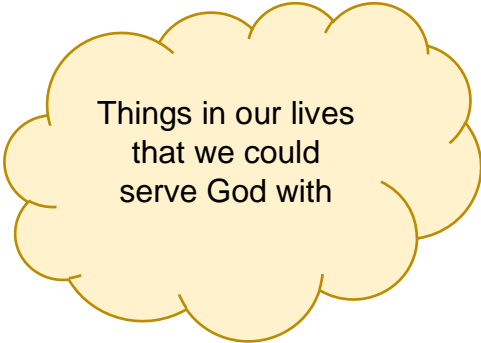
Be sure to point out that many of these things could appear on both lists but it is our attitude toward them that decides which list they are a part of ultimately.

NOTE: It is important not to say that we need to choose between God and things like a career, hobbies, money and sport. The concern is that we place all of these things under the rule of God (ie: they can be important to us, but not more important than God.)





Things that we
might make more
important than God



Things in our lives
that we could
serve God with



Bringing it together

Joshua said farewell to his people and left them with the message that obeying God should be the most important part of their lives. The message is the same for us today!

Joshua knew that once he died his people would have trouble obeying God completely and there were times when they didn't obey Him. We too have trouble doing what we know God wants us to do.

What are some of the hard things about obeying God? (Accept responses.)

What can we do when we have failed God? (Accept responses. Ask Him for forgiveness.)

The good news for us is that Jesus has lived the perfect life for us. Because of Him we can still be friends with God even when we let Him down.

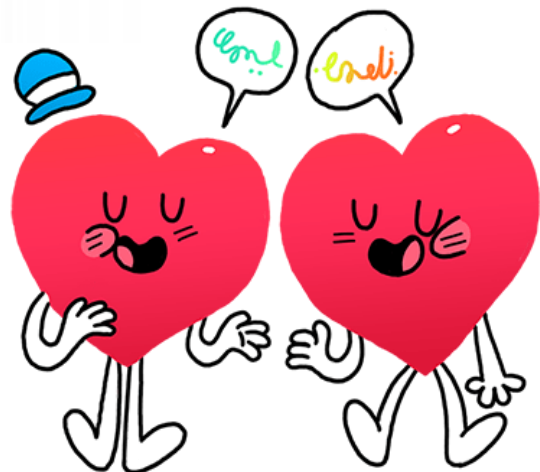
But we can't take that for granted. We need to show that we are thankful to Jesus by trusting in Him and obeying His commands. We can do this with the help of God's Spirit. We can obey and trust God in all areas of our lives.



Prayer

Invite the children to join you in the following prayer.

Thank You, God, that Your promises may be trusted. Thank You that Your rescue plan for us through Jesus has been a success. Please give us the strength to obey and trust You with all areas of our lives.
Amen.



Activities!

Use lolly sticks or sticks you collect on a walk to make a house and write Joshua 24:15 on it: "As for me and my house we will serve the Lord!"



R	L	Z	W	O	F	H	N	Z	G	S	Z	T	L	P
E	T	D	N	D	V	I	C	S	J	J	K	G	W	T
S	Q	L	R	J	W	I	N	F	S	G	L	S	X	X
C	Z	T	A	G	H	C	C	M	K	I	V	B	V	X
U	N	P	L	V	B	M	O	T	D	F	D	R	X	V
E	R	X	A	E	V	R	E	S	O	H	T	A	A	M
V	D	P	R	O	M	I	S	E	S	R	S	N	O	O
Y	O	L	D	T	W	S	B	C	U	U	Y	J	C	D
D	A	G	S	V	G	Y	T	S	T	V	F	Y	D	W
N	Z	Q	Y	R	N	F	T	C	G	I	O	T	H	K
Y	D	U	G	U	S	D	W	P	X	Z	S	K	R	K
K	Y	T	U	U	B	O	K	A	T	M	L	F	M	S
C	T	E	R	X	Y	G	Z	B	W	F	E	P	B	N
P	J	S	B	T	T	T	M	C	Z	K	U	P	J	Z
H	R	R	U	O	O	Z	X	Y	X	S	P	M	U	V
GOD					OBEY					PROMISES				
RESCUE					SERVE					TRUST				
VICTORY														