

## Session 20

# JOSHUA

## A LEADER FROM A YOUNG AGE

**Text:** Numbers 11:28, Joshua 1 – 6, Joshua 3:14-17 and Joshua 24:15

### Supplies:

- ✍ Sand box, figures, river (foil), Ark of the Covenant
- ✍ Clothes for the drama
- ✍ Copies of the colouring picture
- ✍ Copies of the house with Joshua 24:15 printed on it
- ✍ Copies of the door handle hanger
- ✍ Colouring pencils or crayons, thick marker pens, ribbon, wool or string, scissors, old ice cream lolly sticks, glue



### WELCOME

**Rock, paper, scissors:** (This game works well with a large group and doesn't need any preparation.) Play a variation on this game: Let the children pair up and play against each other. After every round, let them find someone new to play against. However, there is a twist: The first round, everyone is an adult. The next round you play, you move to level 2 (if you win) and are a teenager. If you lose, you stay an adult. The next time you play against someone (if you are a teenager) and you win, you are on the third and final level, and you are a child. Once everyone is on level 3, the game is over.



### WORSHIP

Sing: "Every move I make"

"This is amazing grace" - Bethel Kidz

### Theme song:

The children sit with eyes closed and sing "Trust in the Lord". (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XPZJtZzQBB0>).

### Settle down ritual:

Pass the sensory bottle around while the children say Psalms 23:1-3: "The Lord is my Shepherd, I lack nothing. He makes me lie down in green pastures, he leads me beside quiet waters, he refreshes my soul. He guides me along the right paths for his name's sake."



### WORD

This term, we will be speaking about crazy and brave children's stories. I wonder if anyone has a crazy or brave story.

Today, though, we will listen to the brave story of Joshua.

After the Israelites had passed through the Red Sea, led by Moses, they spent 40 years in the desert. At the end of those years, at last, the time drew near for them to enter the land

of Canaan, as the Lord had promised. After Moses died, a young man by the name of Joshua became the new leader of the Israelites.

Joshua had been Moses' assistant from a young age. Read Numbers 11:28: "Joshua son of Nun, who had been Moses' aide since youth..." was chosen from a young age to be the new leader of the Israelites. *(Tell the story from Joshua 1:1-6 and 3:14-17. Use a sand box to illustrate the story, or dramatize it, or let the children dramatize the story.*

Joshua 1:1-6: "After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant: 'Moses my servant is dead. You and all the Israelites have to get ready to cross the River Jordan into the land I am about to give to them. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates – all the Hittite country – to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. No-one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. **Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.**"

(To swear = to promise)

### **Joshua 3: 14-17**

*"So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant went ahead of them. Now the Jordan is in flood all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the Lord stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground."*

This amazing miracle was a sign for Joshua and the Israelites that God was with them. They could have been scared of the water of the Jordan River, but they trusted God when He told them to be strong and brave.

Because Joshua trusted the Lord, he could say in Joshua 24:15b: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

### **The children now get a chance to reflect on the story:**

1. I wonder why God chose Joshua.
2. I wonder how Joshua felt when God chose him as leader over the Israelites.
3. I wonder how I would feel if God would give me a very important task, even though I am young.
4. I wonder if I can also be faithful to the task that God has given me to do.



## WORKING AND PLAYING TIME

- ◆ “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” - Joshua 24:15: Copy the image of the house onto cardboard. Let the children cut them out and stick ice cream lolly sticks onto it.
- ◆ Door handle hanger: Let the children cut out the door handle hangers and draw what their homes and families look like.
- ◆ Colouring picture
- ◆ Use the pictures from the internet as inspiration to make the Ark of the Covenant (or download a pattern from <http://kix.bybelmedia.org.za/wp-content/uploads/sites/65/2015/09/Ontmoeting-22-Intog-in-Kanaan.pdf>)

### **BENEDICTION:**

#### **Close the session with the blessing:**

Let the children sit or stand in a circle. Let them stand with their arms stretched out to the sides, with the palms of their hands facing upwards. The palm of each person's right hand is on top of the left hand of the person to their right. Let them practice to forward a blessing: Any person can start by moving their right hand over and lightly tapping the right hand of the person to their left. Move that hand back. Then the person to his left does the same movement and lightly taps the right hand of the person to his left. Go around in the circle: in this manner the blessing is sent around. As soon as everyone gets it right, continue with the movement while they say the blessing:

May the Lord go before you to show you the right path;

May the Lord be behind you to protect you;

May the Lord be beside you to comfort and embrace you;

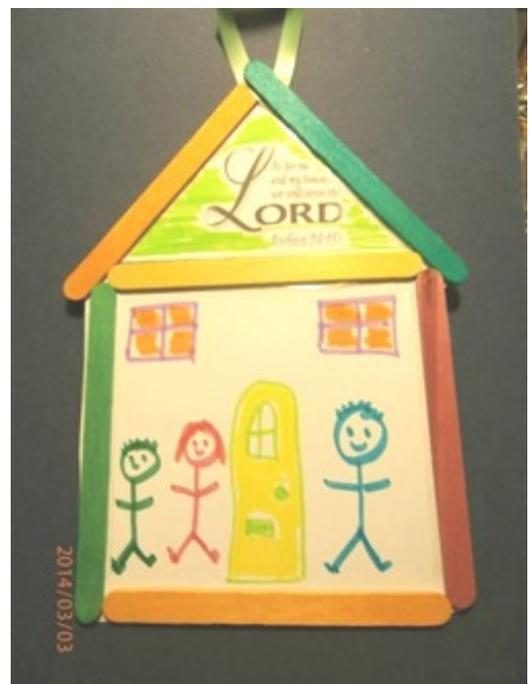
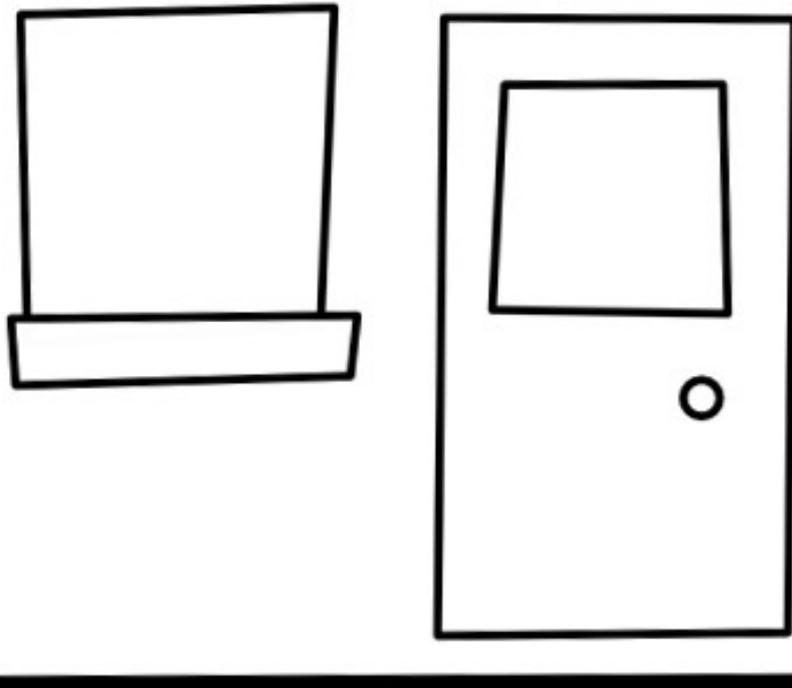
May the Lord be below you to catch you when you fall;

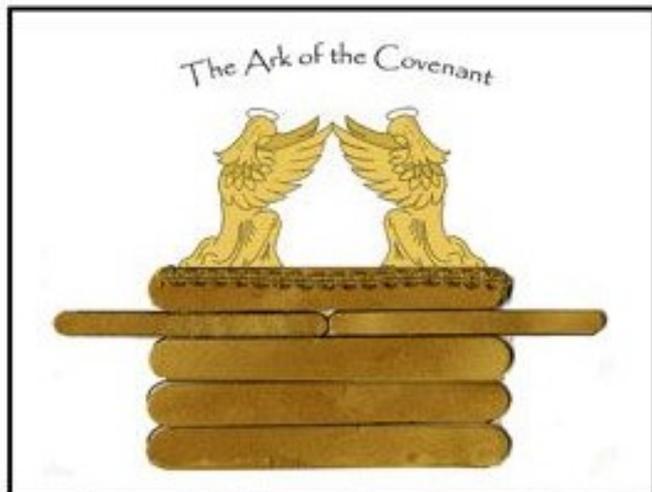
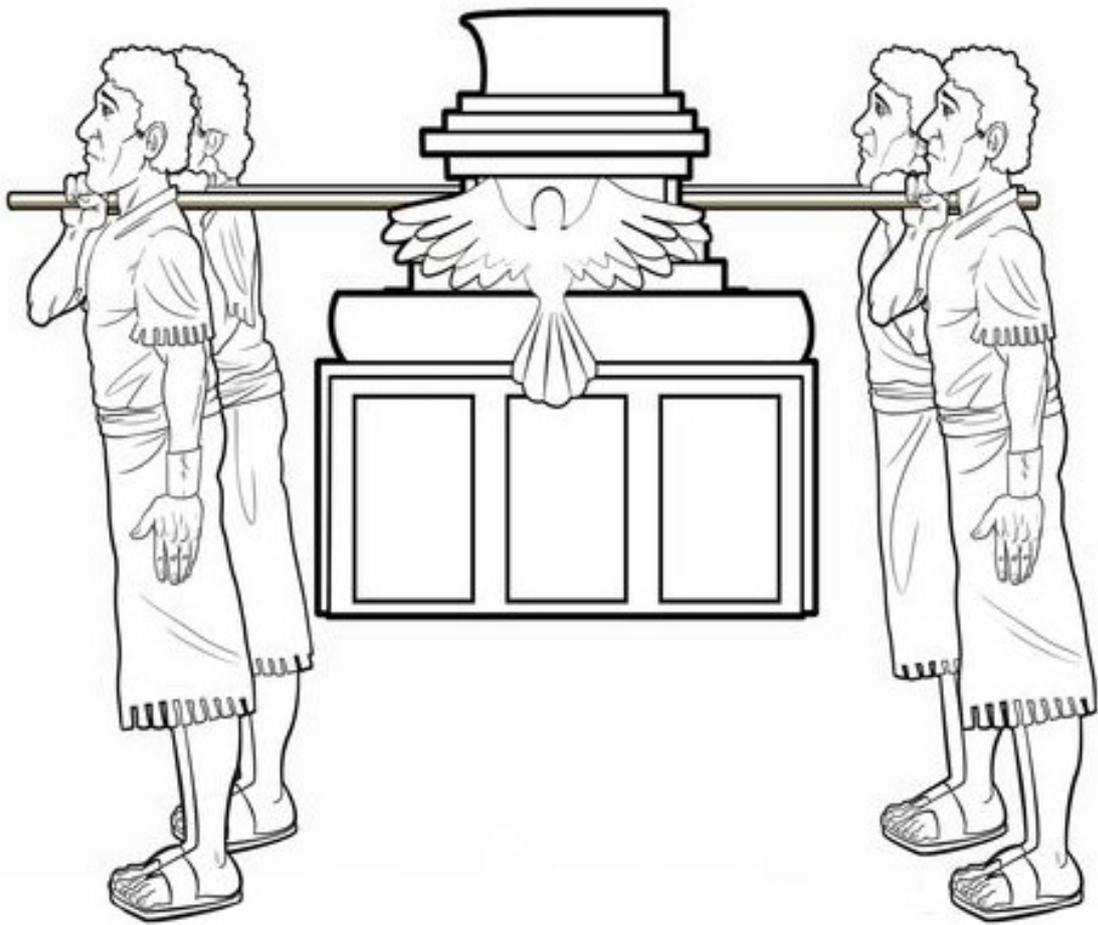
May the Lord be above you to bless you;

May the Lord be in you to guide you with His Holy Spirit. Amen.

Joshua 24:15b:

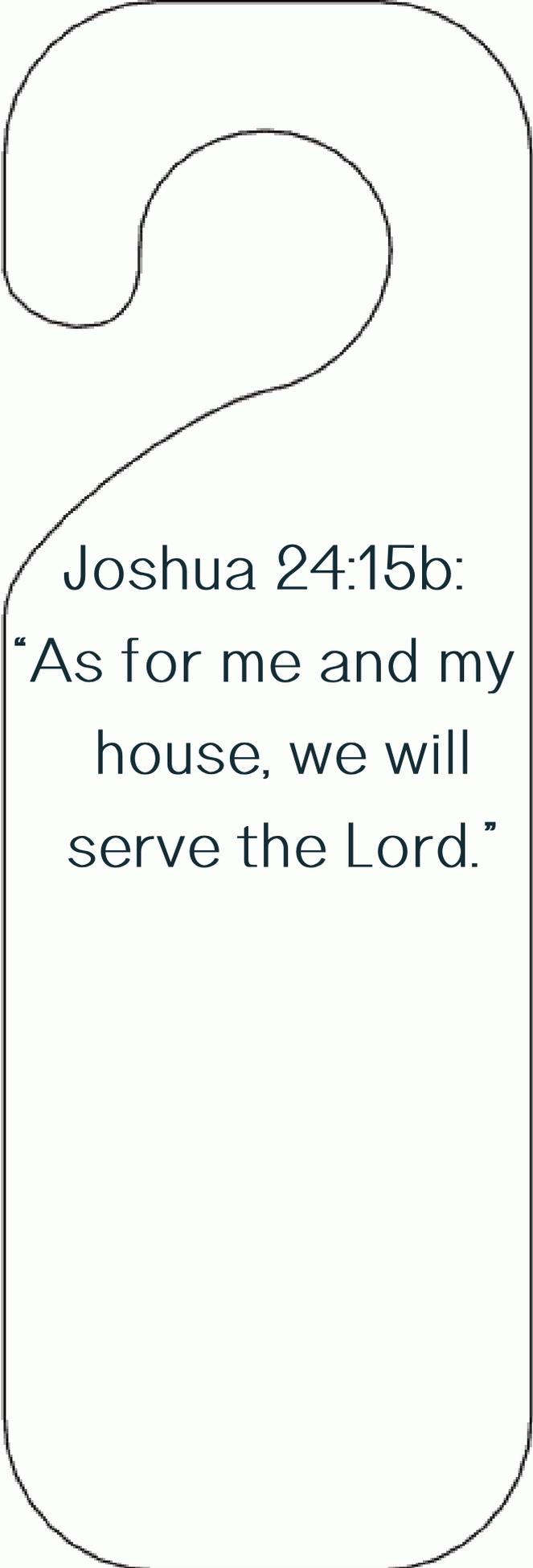
“As for me and my house,  
we will serve the Lord.”





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Joshua 24:15b:

“As for me and my  
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