

Fall Quarter • September, October, November 2026

# EXPLORERS



Bible Studies

Upper  
Elementary

Grades 4–6



SUNDAY SCHOOL  
PUBLISHING BOARD



Fall Quarter

September / October / November 2026

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The Fall quarter looks at ancient Israel's entry into the Promised Land.

**Unit I, "Israel Finds a New Home,"** includes five lessons from Joshua 1, 2, 4, 6, 11, and 24 that present the renewal of God's covenant with Moses' successor, Joshua, and a new generation of Israelites as they sought to courageously follow God's instructions in possessing the Promised Land.

**Unit II, "A Country without a Ruler,"** presents three lessons from Judges 2, 3, and 17. The lessons present the unfaithfulness of the Israelites after Joshua's death and the consequences of their turning from God to idolatry and to doing what they thought was right. However, God's love was demonstrated in His appointment of judges to lead the people.

**Unit III, "Samuel Does It All,"** presents five lessons from 1 Samuel 3, 4, 7, and 16, and 2 Samuel 5. First Samuel 3 introduces Samuel's calling and his faithful response in leading the people. Although Israel continued to struggle for control of Canaan (1 Samuel 4), Samuel faithfully led the people as judge and prophet (1 Samuel 7). In 1 Samuel 16, Samuel anointed David as God's chosen king—and in 2 Samuel 5, David led the Israelites to stability.

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Bible Studies for Upper Elementary

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Grades 4–6

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The **ABCs of Salvation** are found below. Do not hesitate to discuss this important decision of your life with your parent(s) or guardian(s) for guidance.

**A—Admit**  
you have sinned or done  
wrong (see Psalm 32:5).  
Romans 3:23 says that  
everyone has sinned.

**B—Believe**  
Jesus is God's Son.  
He took the punishment  
for our sins by dying on the  
cross (see Romans 5:8).  
Believe that God raised Him  
from the dead.

**C—Call**  
on God to forgive you (see Acts 2:21) when you  
are sorry for your sins and want to stop doing  
wrong (see Acts 16:31).

September 6, 2026

BIBLE LESSON

1



**KEY VERSE:** [The Lord said to Joshua,] “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)



# Strength in Obedience

Lesson Scripture: **Joshua 1:1-11**

## God's Word

**1** After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: **2** “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. **3** I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. **4** 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. **5** 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. **6** Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. **7** Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. **8** Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. **9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” **10** So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: **11** “Go through the camp and tell the people, ‘Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own.’”

# Bible Story

## Strength in Obedience

### Joshua 1:1-11

After Moses' death, the Lord spoke to Moses' assistant, Joshua. The Lord told Joshua to prepare the people to cross the Jordan River. The Lord made the same promise that He had made to Moses: Their promised territory would extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the Euphrates River to the Mediterranean Sea. No one would be able to stand against them. The Lord promised to be with them just as He had been with Moses. He promised not to leave or turn away from them. He encouraged Joshua to be strong and have courage because he would lead the people to the land that had been promised to their ancestors.

The Lord told Joshua to obey all the laws that Moses gave him. He told Joshua not to turn from the Law, and he would be successful. The Lord told Joshua to study the Law constantly so that he would always do what was written in it. By doing this, he would be successful. The Lord commanded Joshua to be strong and courageous and not to be afraid or discouraged because the Lord would always be with him.

Joshua told the officers of the people, "Go and tell the people to get ready. In three days, they will cross the Jordan River and take possession of the land that the Lord is giving them."

## Chosen and Challenged

### (Part 1)

Steven was asked to represent his Sunday school class at the annual meeting. But Steven had a big problem: He was afraid that he would have to stand before the assembly and speak—and Steven was very afraid of public speaking!

"I don't know if I can do this!" Steven told his Sunday school teacher, Ms. Parker. "What if I become so nervous that I do something embarrassing?"

"I really don't think that will happen," Ms. Parker replied. "I spoke with the pastor, and we both agree that you would represent us well at the conference."

"Can I think about it?" Steven asked.

"By all means . . . and perhaps you can also speak with your parents about it," Ms. Parker suggested.

## Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius



Hello! Nicholas and Cornelius here! In today's lesson, we learned that God did not leave the Israelite people alone after Moses' death. God remembered His promise to bring the Israelites into the land of Canaan. He did not leave them without a capable, faithful, and obedient leader. What qualities are needed in leadership? How can we rely on God to lead us and encourage us, no matter what we face?

## Chosen and Challenged

### (Part 2)

When Steven got home, he talked with his parents about the opportunity the church was giving him.

"Well," his father said, "I know of one way to guarantee that you will be able to face this challenge: talk with God about it."

"You know, Steven, this is a wonderful opportunity for you to face your fears," his mother explained. "It's also an opportunity for you to learn to rely on God to give you the courage to face any situation."

Steven took his parents' advice. When he met with Ms. Parker, he was confident that he would represent his class well at the conference.

## Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

Whom can you turn to when you need advice or guidance? We can always turn to our parents, spiritual leaders, and, most importantly, God. How do we reach out to God when we need Him? We reach out with our prayers and hearts. Then spirits open and are ready to receive. God led the people through various challenges, and He will guide us through our challenges as well.



## Word Jumble

Unscramble the scrambled-up words beside each sentence and fill in the unscrambled word to complete the sentence. Check your answers by reading the story in today's lesson.

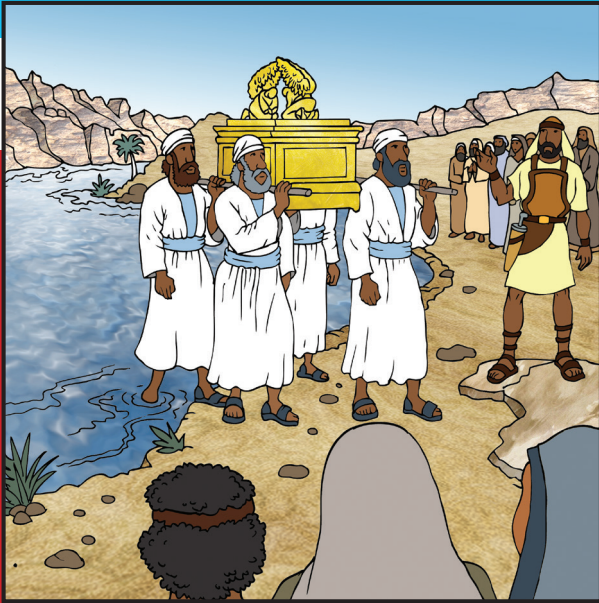


|    |                                                                                                 |         |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------|
| 1. | The Lord told Joshua not to turn away from the _____.                                           | ALW     |
| 2. | The Lord told Joshua that if he _____ the Law, he would be prosperous and successful.           | TUDISED |
| 3. | The Lord told Joshua not to be _____ or discouraged because the Lord would always be with him.  | FAAIDR  |
| 4. | The Lord told Joshua to study the Law constantly so that he would _____ what was written in it. | NOKW    |
| 5. | The Lord told Joshua to be _____ and courageous.                                                | TNORSG  |
| 6. | The Lord told Joshua to obey all the laws that _____ had given him.                             | SMOES   |

September 13, 2026

BIBLE LESSON

2



**KEY VERSES:** [Joshua] said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.'" (Joshua 4:21-22)

# Stones and Zones

**Lesson Scripture:** Joshua 4:14-18, 21-22

## God's Word

**14** That day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they stood in awe of him all the days of his life, just as they had stood in awe of Moses. **15** Then the LORD said to Joshua, **16** "Command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant law to come up out of the Jordan." **17** So Joshua commanded the priests, "Come up out of the Jordan." **18** And the priests came up out of the river carrying the ark of the covenant of the LORD. No sooner had they set their feet on the dry ground than the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and ran at flood stage as before.

.....

**21** He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?' **22** tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.'"



# Bible Story

## Stones and Zones

Joshua 4:14-18, 20-22

The Israelite people had successfully crossed the Jordan River and set up camp. It was at this point that the Lord reaffirmed Joshua as the one who would lead the people following the death of Moses. The Lord did this in front of all the people. The people honored Joshua throughout his life, just as they had honored Moses.

The Lord spoke to Joshua and told him to order the priests who were carrying the Ark of the Covenant (which contained the Ten Commandments) to come out of the Jordan River. Joshua ordered the priests to come out of the Jordan, just as the Lord had told him to do. The priests obeyed Joshua's command, and they carried the Ark of the Covenant out of the Jordan River. As soon as they stepped onto dry land, the waters of the Jordan River returned to their natural course, and the flood waters ran just as they had before. This confirmed the miraculous nature of God's power.

Then Joshua spoke to the people and told them, "In the future, when your children ask you what the twelve stones mean, tell them Israel crossed the Jordan River on dry ground." The stones would serve as a memorial to the twelve tribes of Israel.

## Working to Remember

(Part 1)

Dana seemed to have a problem following directions. It seemed that as soon as someone started telling her what to do, she drifted off. When she came back from wandering mentally, the person had moved on or was waiting for a response from her. Many times, she had to ask them to repeat their instructions.

"I don't know what's wrong with me," Dana told her best friend, Nicole. "I can't seem to remember important things."

"I have trouble remembering sometimes, too," Nicole said. "But my mom helped me."

"Okay. I'll talk with my mom about it," Dana said.

## Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius

Hello, all! Nicholas and Cornelius here! In today's lesson, God told the people of Israel to gather twelve stones from the Jordan River and set up a memorial so that they could never forget God's faithfulness. Memorials are an excellent way for us to remember significant events and people who have made a lasting impact on our lives. Is there an item in your home that reminds you of God's blessings? Let's discuss it.



## Working to Remember

### (Part 2)

Later that evening, Dana talked to her mother about what was happening to her.

"Nicole suggested that I ask questions or repeat what the person is saying to me," Dana explained. "She also said that I should write lists to help me remember things."

"Those are good suggestions. I have some ideas that may help you, too," her mother replied. "I know how much you like to draw. Maybe you could draw pictures as a reminder. You can draw a present on the calendar for someone's birthday. Drawing a book to note the date that we take our trips to the library might also be helpful."

"Oh! I can do that!" Dana said excitedly. She then felt more confident about her ability to remember.

## Exploring the Story with Nicholas and Cornelius



Have you ever had trouble remembering important things? How did you handle it? Did you remove distractions or discover other ways to help you remember? What are some other tools we can use to help us remember important things? While we may sometimes struggle, we must not forget that God always keeps His promises. It may take some time, but God's promises never fail to come to pass.

## Searching for Words

Find and circle the listed words from today's lesson in the word search below.

ARK

DRY

HONORED

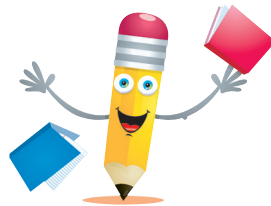
JORDAN

LEAD

PRIESTS

STONES

WATERS



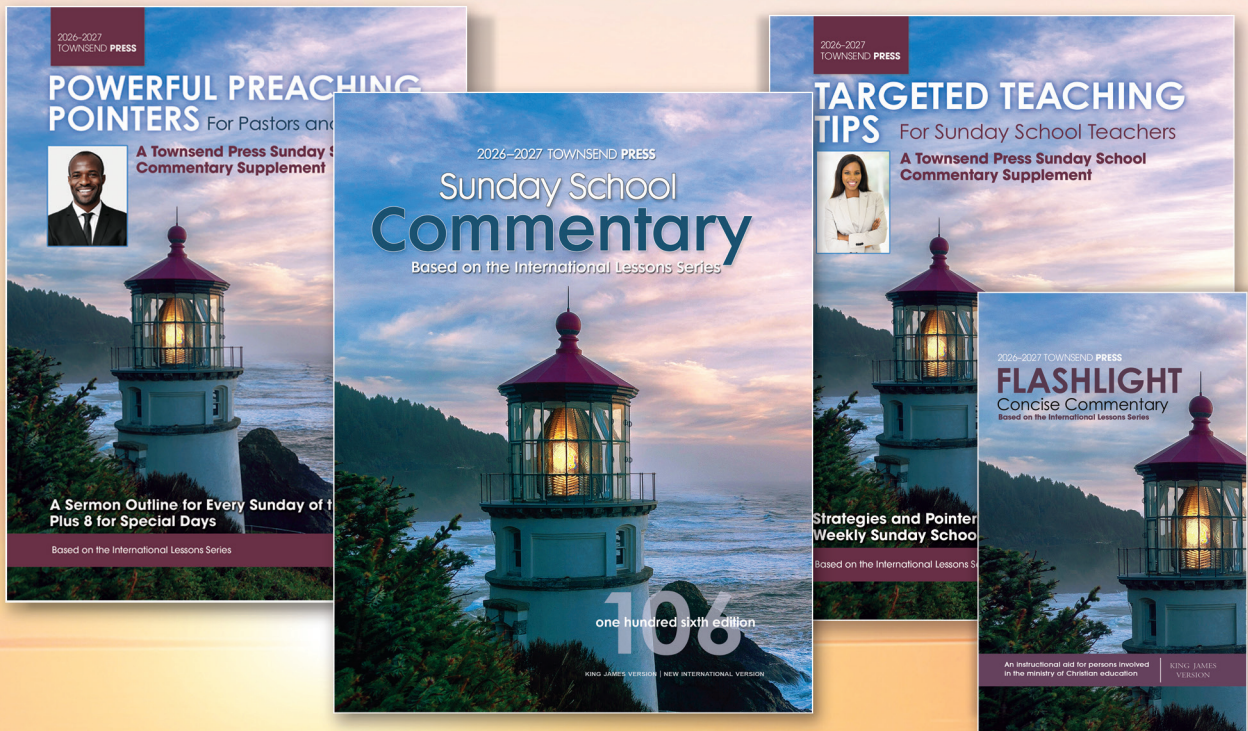
|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
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| W | A | T | E | R | S | B | Y | A | R | K |
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| K | P | Q | D | S | O | F | T | H | J | A |
| G | B | J | Y | D | N | Z | G | N | J | H |
| H | H | J | F | V | E | V | B | N | O | N |
| J | P | R | I | E | S | T | S | P | R | W |
| S | D | G | N | J | P | S | D | W | D | U |
| W | C | G | T | H | N | J | S | W | A | K |
| F | Z | W | T | H | P | N | J | D | N | O |
| H | O | N | O | R | E | D | G | K | P | P |

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