



Fall Quarter • September, October, November 2026

CONNECTION

Bible Studies for High School Students

► Featured Articles

**Walking
the Walk**

**The Blind
Leading
the Blind**

**God's Calling . . .
Are You Listening?**



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CONNECTION

Fall 2026 • September, October, November • Volume 15, Number 1

Bible Studies for High School Students

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EDITOR'S NOTES

The Soul of a Nation

The lessons of this Fall quarter emphasize the impact of disobedience to God and the influence of God's anointed transforming the believer's landscape.

Unit I, "From Nomadic Tribes to Settled People," explores Israel's transformation from a nomadic people to a nation-state. To begin, God renewed His covenant with Joshua and a new generation of Israelites (lesson 1) in Joshua 1. In moving into the land (Joshua 4), Joshua led Israel to remember all the ways and times that God had provided for them, including crossing the Jordan (lesson 2). The book's core (chapters 6–12) outlines Israel's systematic defeat and destruction of other nations. This issue was problematic—as it had been used throughout the church's history to support imperialism and slavery. Lesson 3 offers an opportunity to unpack this violent narrative—the battles were not about Israel's destroying other nations but about God's fulfilling His promise of land (Joshua 11). While there is a thread of nationalism within the Bible, there is also a thread of universal love and acceptance, as represented by Rahab in Joshua 2–6 (see lesson 4). Lesson 5 concludes the unit with the end of Joshua's life in Joshua 24, where he urged the people to remember their identity and remain faithful as the people of God.

Unit II, "Lacking Leadership and a Moral Compass," explores the theological and moral complexity of the book of Judges. Despite Joshua's warnings to remain faithful and remember their covenant identity, the Israelites fell into apostasy soon after his death. They recognized their sinful ways, repented, and called on God when trouble ensued. As soon as God intervened to save them, they turned away. Lesson 6 addresses the cyclical pattern of apostasy, repentance, and divine rescue that repeats throughout the book of Judges and is exemplified in chapter 2. Lesson 7 shows God's faithfulness in raising leaders despite Israel's unfaithfulness (Judges 3). Lesson 8 demonstrates the book's theme, "everyone did what was right in his own eyes," as depicted in chapter 17. Despite God's faithfulness, the people consistently fell back into religious impurity and lawlessness. The pattern of leadership in Judges highlights the fact that "Israel had no king," which ultimately formed the rationale for Israel's petition for a king in 1 and 2 Samuel.

Unit III, "Samuel: Prophet, Priest, Judge, and King Maker," centers on Samuel as a model of faithful leadership. Throughout Israel's history and into the New Testament, Samuel exemplifies one who walked faithfully with God (Jeremiah 15:1; Hebrews 11:32). Lesson 9 introduces Samuel (1 Samuel 3) as one who responded to God's call at an early age. Lesson 10 (1 Samuel 4) reflects Israel's continued struggle for control of Canaan. There is both spiritual and political significance to the Philistines' capture of Israel's sacred ark of the covenant. In the events of lesson 11 (1 Samuel 7), the Ark was recovered, which marked an occasion in which Samuel showed his capacity to serve as God's prophet and judge by calling Israel to spiritual renewal and military readiness. Lesson 12 brings the study to a pivotal moment in Israel's history (1 Samuel 16) as Samuel clandestinely anointed David as God's chosen king. The unit concludes by leaping forward to David's coronation and his capture of Jerusalem in 2 Samuel 5, establishing the city as Israel's enduring center of worship and governance.

A preview of the layout of each lesson is as follows:

Reflect: The contemporary story that expresses youth concerns and offers a thought-provoking question that should highlight a Christian response.

Inspect: The lesson's Scripture passage.

Intersect: Explanation of the lesson Scripture.

Inside Out: Offers questions that relate to the biblical text.

There's an App for That!: Applies the Scripture to the lives of youth today.

Connect: Links the biblical text to youth personally.

Stepping Out!: Challenges youth to put action to their faith.

Media Mission: Provides youth with an outline link to help enhance the main theme of the lesson.

ABOUT THE WRITER

Ms. Corean Strong is a native of Vicksburg, Mississippi, and now resides in Douglasville, Georgia, where she is a member of Elizabeth Baptist Church. Ms. Strong has a Bachelor's degree in Computer Science from Jackson State University. She is the founder and president of NaeRoc Productions LLC, a faith-based theater company where she writes, directs, and produces Christian plays. Ms. Strong is the author of two published youth development books: *All God's Children Got Shoes*; and *Use David's Plan for Your Purpose*. Her involvement with children and youth includes teaching and directing children and youth choirs as well as teaching them to perform in theatrical presentations. Ms. Strong's spiritual request falls in line with Jabez's: "Lord, bless me and enlarge my territory."

THE ABCs OF SALVATION

Receiving Christ is as simple as ABC . . .

A Admit that you have sinned.

“For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God” (Romans 3:23, NIV). “Since none of us are perfect, all of us are sinners” (see Romans 3:10-18).

The result of sin is spiritual death (see Romans 6:23). Spiritual death means eternal separation from God. By God’s perfect standard we are guilty of sin, and therefore subject to the punishment for sin, which is separation from God. Admitting that you are a sinner and separated from God is the first step of repentance, which is turning from sin and self and turning toward God.

B Believe that Jesus Christ died for you.

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life.” (John 3:16, KJV)

Believe in Jesus Christ as God’s Son and receive Jesus’ gift of forgiveness from sin. God offers us salvation. Although we have done nothing to deserve His love and salvation, God provided salvation for all who would repent of their sins and believe in Jesus.

C Confess your sins to God, and then confess that Jesus Christ is Lord of your life.

“If thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved. For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.” (Romans 10:9-10, KJV)

Confess your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord to others.

Here is a sample prayer, if you do not have the words.
Just admit, believe, and confess.

Salvation Prayer

Dear God, I know that I am a sinner. I believe that Jesus died for my sins and arose from the grave. I now turn from my sins and invite Jesus to come into my heart and life. I receive Jesus as my personal Savior, and will follow You as my Lord. In Jesus’ name I pray. Amen.

If you have just accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior, please let someone know. Tell your pastor or a Christian friend about your decision. If you do not have a church home, we will be more than happy to welcome and strengthen you.

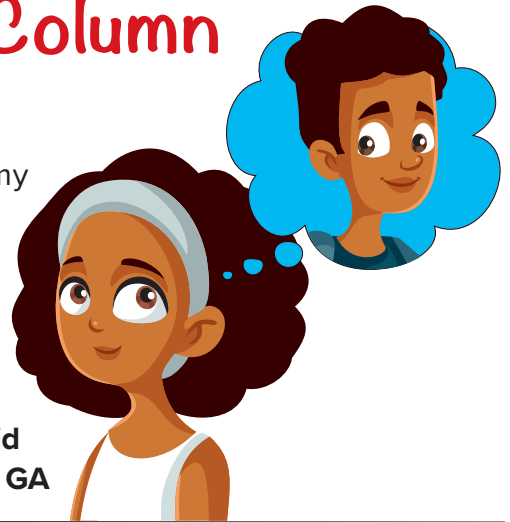
YOUTH QUEST

Advice Column

Dear YOUTH QUEST:

There was recently a shooting at the school where one of my best friends attends. I am thankful that she is okay, but some of the other students were not so fortunate. My friend is really shaken up, and now I am nervous about whether this will happen at my school. I believe and trust in God, but at the same time, I am afraid. What can I do?

—Feeling Afraid
Macon, GA



Dear FEELING AFRAID,

Thank you for writing to us. I am sure that many students in schools all over are feeling quite concerned about their safety and the safety of their schools and friends due to incidents such as this—and rightfully so. One thing we have to remember as believers is to keep God’s Word close to our hearts. Although God said that we would go through various troubles on the earth, “I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). He wants us to have peace and rest in Him. He said that He would never leave us or forsake us. “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you” (Deuteronomy 31:6). Although scary things sometimes happen, we must stand firm in our faith and on God’s promises in His Word.

This is also a time when it’s good to lean on those around us. Our family, friends, and other trusted individuals can be a great source of strength and encouragement. God placed people in our lives so that we can lean on one another. God didn’t intend for us to do life alone. Sometimes simply talking through things or getting feelings off your chest can do a world of good.

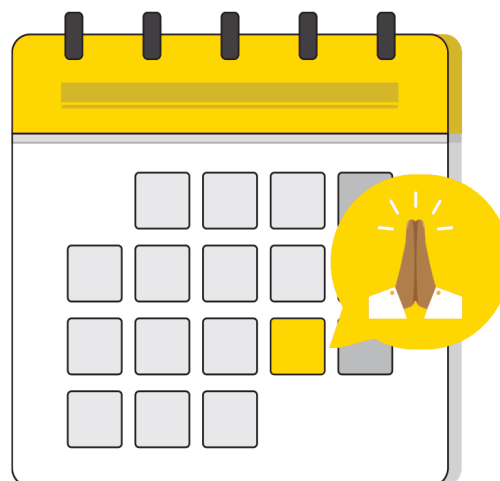
God has also blessed this world with talented professionals—such as counselors, therapists, ministers, and social workers—who are trained to assist individuals in processing trauma such as this. We may feel shy about talking to them, especially if they are strangers, but there are times when it really can help more than you think. If you would like to talk to them, you can also reach out to a parent, guardian, trusted adult, or teacher to help facilitate a meeting (if that’s more comfortable).

If you have a Quest question that you would like answered, send it to: Attn: Editorial Department/Teen Quest, P.O. Box 70990, Nashville, TN 37207-0990; or Joe Tribble at jtribble@sspnbc.com.

Due to the number of inquiries we receive, it may not be possible to publish all the inquiries.

Devotional Calendar

SEPTEMBER 2026



Unit I. From Nomadic Tribes to Settled People

6th

Meditate: Daniel 10:18-21

Listen: “Take Courage” by Bethel Music and Kristene DiMarco

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LJoABwNMzvM&list=RD LJoABwNMzvM&start_radio=1

Pray: Ask God to give you courage and hope in all situations.



20th

Meditate: Psalm 108

Listen: “You Are Good” by Israel & New Breed

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ul6i6Kz2p2k&list=RDul6i6Kz2p2k&start_radio=1

Pray: Ask God to help you recognize the importance of worshipping him just because of who He is.



13th

Meditate: Luke 8:35-39

Listen: “I’m Free” by Rev. Milton Brunson & The Thompson Community Singers

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=72ZzLwAuXKw&list=RD72ZzLwAuXKw&start_radio=1

Pray: Thank God for His power to change, transform, deliver, and set free.



27th

Meditate: Matthew 25:31-46

Listen: “I Give Myself Away” by William McDowell

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-AtqEBYVMIs&list=RD-AtqEBYVMIs&start_radio=1

Pray: Ask God for His will to be done in your life and to use you as He sees fit.



How to Do a Devotional

Daily devotionals are important to help you grow in your relationship with God. Pray, meditate, and read the Word of God, and you will grow spiritually. Devote ten minutes at the beginning of your day to clear your mind and heart and prepare to receive God. Daily devotions will prepare you for any obstacles that may come your way. Take time each morning to hear from God. Even Jesus used time in the morning to be with God. “Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed” (Mark 1:35).



Romans 12:3-6a

For by the grace given me I say to every one of you: Do not think of yourself more highly than you ought, but rather think of yourself with sober judgment, in accordance with the faith God has distributed to each of you. For just as each of us has one body with many members, and these members do not all have the same function, so in Christ we, though many, form one body, and each member belongs to all the others. We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us.

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Joshua 1

PRINT PASSAGE: Joshua 1:1-11



L1 Renewing Our Commitments

REFLECT



Khari was sixteen years old. She was excited because her parents were planning a twenty-fifth wedding anniversary celebration. Khari was honored to be part of the planning process. Shari, Khari's best friend, was helping her. "So, what do you actually do at a wedding anniversary celebration?" Shari asked. "I don't exactly know," Khari replied. "I guess they just party and dance? I'm in charge of the decorations. I stay out of the other stuff." "It's gotta be more to it than just dancing, Khari. You should ask your mom what it's all about" Shari suggested. "I guess so. I'll let you know when I know," Khari noted.

The next afternoon, after school, Khari sat with her mom at the dining table; she said, "So, Mom, I know you're having a twenty-fifth wedding anniversary celebration, but what exactly is it all about besides dancing, eating, and having a good time?" "Oh, it's a lot more than dancing and eating, Khari," Mom said. "It's about love and long-term commitment." "Yeah, okay, but why do you need to celebrate that? Isn't that the way it's meant to be? You fall in love, marry, have kids, and stay together until you die," Khari blurted out. "Yes, but let me ask you something. How many of your friends' parents are divorced, living in a single-parent home, or never married?" Mom asked. Khari thought about that for a minute. "Hmmm . . . most of them," she responded. "You see, Khari, sometimes we need a little nudge or poke to remind each other of our commitment—our vow to each other and to God. Your father and I vowed to love each other for better, worse, richer, poorer, in sickness and in health, to love and to cherish one another till death do us part. This anniversary is a reminder of those vows. We didn't exactly forget them; we simply want to renew them. Maybe it will help another couple who needs to see and hear what we are doing," Mom explained. "I get it now," Khari replied. "Thanks, Mom."



[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)



Joshua 1:1-11

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.'"



INTERSECT

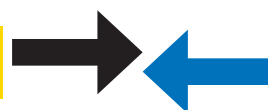
JOSHUA WAS A YOUNG MAN OF STRONG FAITH; HE WAS A MILITARY AND SPIRITUAL LEADER, FULL OF GOD'S WISDOM. Joshua was Moses' aide and assistant since his youth. Moses was his mentor. Joshua was a loyal and obedient servant. He accompanied Moses to Mount Sinai (see Exodus 24:13), and he was present at the Tent of Meeting when God spoke with Moses (see Exodus 33:11). Like Moses, Joshua was directly chosen and appointed by God to lead the Israelites to the Promised Land (Canaan). When Moses died, God told Joshua the following: *"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. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses (verses 2-3).

In this passage, God appointed Joshua as the new leader of the Israelites and renewed the covenant that He made with Moses. (Refer to the covenant in Exodus 19–24.) This is a conditional covenant that basically states that those who obey

God's laws shall be His people, and He would take care of them. God would allow other nations to conquer the land of those who did not obey His rules, capture them, and put them in exile.

Inside Out



Read each statement and determine whether it is true or false. Write your answer on the line.

1. Joshua was an aide and assistant to Moses since his youth. _____
2. Joshua was chosen by the Israelites to be the next leader when Moses died. _____
3. Joshua's mission was to get the Israelites, God's people, to Canaan. _____
4. The Mosaic covenant has no conditions. God only wanted to get the Israelites to Canaan. _____
5. The generation of Israelites who left Egypt was all dead. It was their children who entered the Promised Land. _____



THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

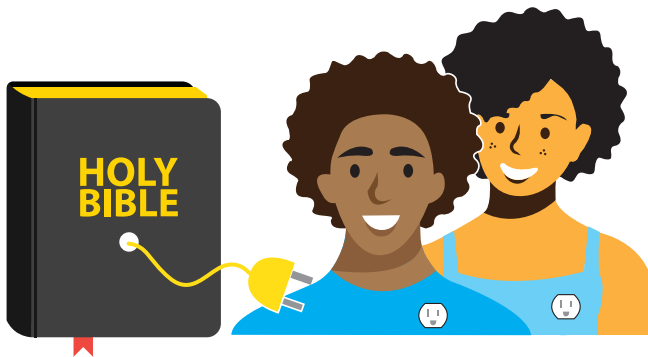
How can we apply today's lesson to our lives? Joshua was obedient. He was obedient and loyal to Moses and to God. Appointing Joshua as leader when Moses died was the obvious choice. The people had no problem with Joshua as leader because of his status with Moses and God, as well as his proven leadership.

Can you be loyal and obedient to your mentor or superior? Joshua served as Moses' assistant for forty years. Can you endure that long as a faithful assistant? Pray to God and do not miss your blessing.



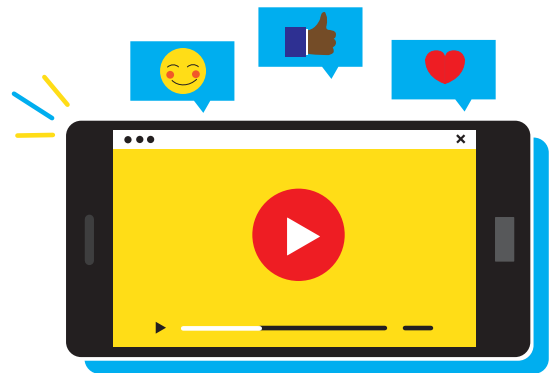
STEPPING OUT!

- The Israelites were nomads before they reached the Promised Land, or Canaan. What is a *nomad*? Explain the way for which the Israelites were provided.
- God also made a covenant with Abraham. How does it differ from the covenant that He made with Moses?



CONNECT

Are you part of any team or organization where you are not the leader? You may be the vice president or the second-in-command on a team. Do you have the patience and loyalty to be faithful and committed to your leader? Sometimes it is not easy to be second in command, but our job is to be loyal, committed, and obedient to the leader. People will observe and respect you as an assistant to the leader if you are respectful of the leader and of them, demonstrating Christian character. Your opportunity to be a leader, if it is God's will, will happen. God will appoint you.

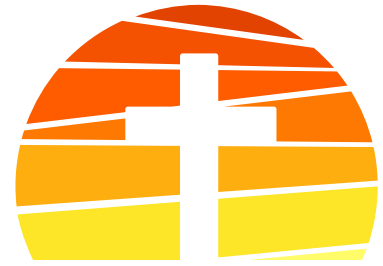


MEDIA MISSION

Find a person or a song that demonstrates the kind of love and commitment that Joshua showed to God. Visit the link below to hear the song "For the Rest of My Life" by The Victorious Army—ATL (featuring Vincent Bohanan).

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ITCFIRb8IDY&list=RDITCFIRb8IDY>



BACKGROUND SCRIPTURE: Joshua 4**PRINT PASSAGE:** Joshua 4:14-24

L2 Family Legacies

REFLECT

“So, what do you have planned for decorations?” Shari asked. “I don’t know, and the celebration is only a few days away. My cousins are helping me with the color scheme and setup. The banquet hall also offers setup packages. I want to do something special—something they will cherish for a long time—but I am stuck,” Khari explained. “Set a wedding picture on each table so everyone can remember how they looked the day they got married. Get them matching shirts with their wedding picture on the front and a current picture on the back,” Shari suggested. “Hmmm, those are cool ideas, but I was thinking . . . well, I



don’t know what I was thinking. But I need to hurry up!” Khari exclaimed. “Well, at least you can start looking at pictures you can use, just in case you need them,” Shari noted.

Khari took Shari’s advice and discreetly looked at the family albums and her parents’ wedding album. While looking, she found something she had never seen nor that her parents had told her about. It was a small chest with letters and cards. They were dated sequentially. Khari felt uncomfortable about reading them. She did not want to invade their privacy. They were old, and some of the writing was beginning to fade. She felt these letters would be a true family legacy if they could be preserved. Someone suggested she take the small box, have the letters and cards laminated, and put them in a twenty-fifth-wedding-anniversary album. That sounded like a plan!

The celebration was fabulous! Khari’s parents renewed their vows of love and commitment. The parents opened their gifts at home. Khari was nervous, but her mother was ecstatic because she thought she had lost the small chest. Mom said, “These memories will last forever now. Please read them; they are letters your dad sent me before our marriage. I will cherish them forever. You may read them. They are a testament to our love. Thank you, Khari.”

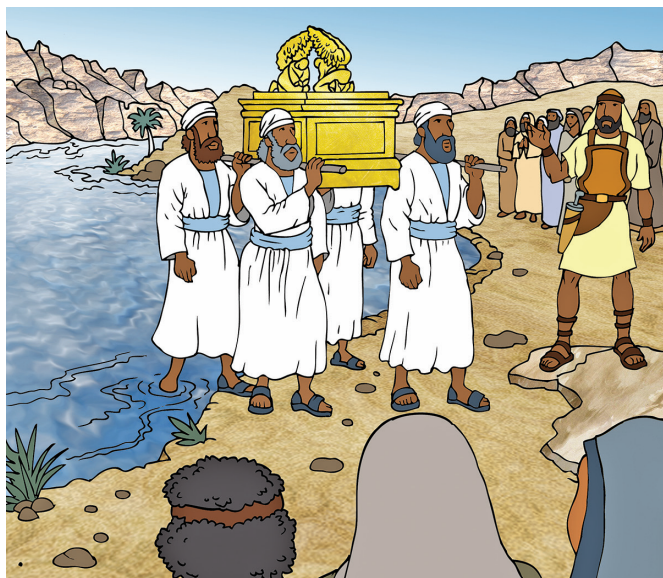


[Joshua said to the Israelites], “‘What do these stones mean?’ tell them, ‘Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.’” (Joshua 4:21b-22)



Joshua 4:14-24

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. **19** On the tenth day of the first month the people went up from the Jordan and camped at Gilgal on the eastern border of Jericho. **20** And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. **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.’ **23** For the LORD your God dried up the Jordan before you until you had crossed over. The LORD your God did to the Jordan what he had done to the Red Sea when he dried it up before us until we had crossed over. **24** He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful and so that you might always fear the LORD your God.”



INTERSECT

TODAY'S PASSAGE IS ABOUT BUILDING A LEGACY THAT CAN BE PASSED DOWN FROM GENERATION TO GENERATION. Joshua wanted to ensure that generations after him would know, love, obey, and fear God. People can “talk” about what happened, but the message becomes more real when there is something concrete and symbolic to reinforce the story.

Thirty-nine years before the Israelites crossed the Jordan River on dry land, their parents had crossed the Red Sea on dry ground. God chose the Israelites to be His people, and He promised them the land of Canaan. When the Israelites fled slavery in Egypt, God directed Moses to part the Red Sea so that they could cross on dry land to the other side. Now, their children were at the Jordan River. God directed Joshua to do the same. Joshua was exalted and revered in all of Israel because everyone knew he had God's favor through his faith and obedience. Joshua did not want this event to die or be forgotten. He asked twelve men to collect twelve stones from the Jordan River. When they crossed the Jordan River, he set up the stones as a memorial. This was their legacy. This was their memorial. People would ask about the stones, and they would learn how God was with them at the Red Sea and at the Jordan River. Then they would love and fear God.

Inside Out



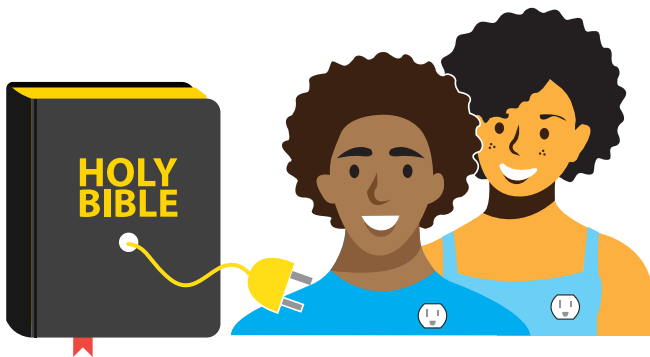
Read each statement and determine whether it is true or false. Write your answer on the line.

1. Joshua led the Israelites across the Red Sea on dry land. _____
2. Joshua requested that twenty men gather twelve stones from the Jordan River. _____
3. The gathering of the stones was to set up a memorial to remember crossing the Jordan River on dry land. _____
4. God exalted Joshua because of his faithfulness and obedience. _____
5. Joshua successfully fulfilled God's promise by leading the Israelites to capture and inhabit the Promised Land. _____



THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

How can we apply the lesson today to our lives? Family legacies and traditions are so important. We pass on our legacy by talking about our family members and what they have achieved. But it is the pictures, trophies, certificates, jewelry, etc., that make us feel closer to our legacy. These tangible things are etched into our memory, and we can always go back to them to refuel (if need be). Imagine browsing through a family photo album and a young child asks, "Who is that? She looks like me." It could be an aunt, a grandmother, or even a great-grandmother. Keep and share the family legacy handed down for generations to come.



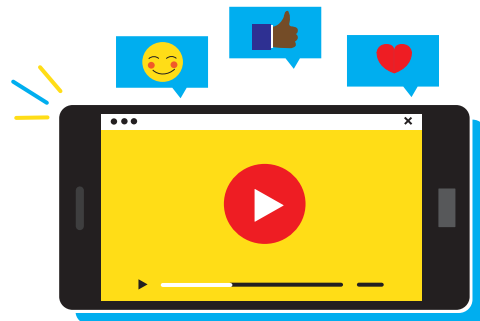
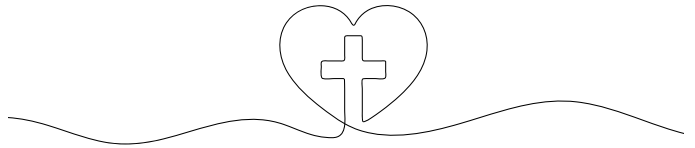
CONNECT

Do you have anything passed down to you from your parents or another family member? Jewelry, pictures, clothes, antique cars, and paintings are just some of the things that family members pass down to the next generation. Memories are the other important thing. You may not have anything tangible to share with your siblings or other family members, but you have memories. Share stories (funny and emotional) of family events. Start taking videos now of family reunions and other events and post them to family chats, Instagram, or Facebook. These will become family conversations for years to come.



STEPPING OUT!

Take a moment to write down the similarities and the differences in these two events—the crossing of the Red Sea and the crossing of the Jordan River. Start by identifying who, where, what, how, and why. What event happened after they crossed the Red Sea and the Jordan River?



MEDIA MISSION

Find a person or a song that demonstrates family love and legacy. "Family Reunion" by the O'Jays is a great example of a song that demonstrates this. Be sure to listen to the end of the song (found at the link below) because it speaks of a larger family.



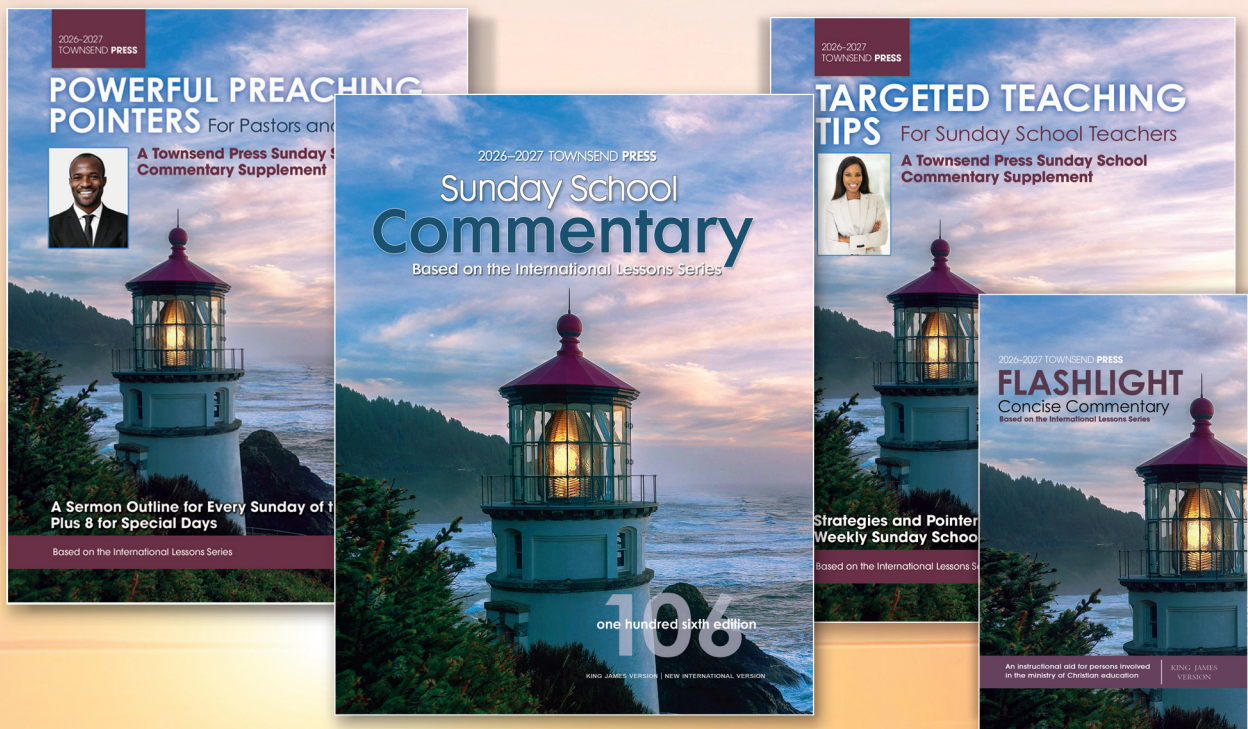
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1kub9gN_ciQ

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