

Unit I. From Nomadic Tribes to Settled People
L3/September 20, 2026

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: Joshua 6; 8:26; 10:28-43; 11:1-23;
Deuteronomy 7:1-26
PRINT PASSAGE: Joshua 11:6-9, 16-23

Fighting among the Nations



WAKE UP!

EVAN WAS THE YOUNGEST KID IN THE YOUTH GROUP THAT HE OCCASIONALLY ATTENDED WITH HIS COUSINS.

He didn't always feel like he fit in. Most of the other students talked about Minecraft, Roblox, or sports. Evan loved movies, especially ones with military themes.



One night, the youth pastor read Joshua 11:6-9: "Do not be afraid of them, . . . hamstringing their horses and burn their chariots (verse 6)." Evan's ears perked up. *Wait . . . that's in the Bible?* He had no idea Scripture included real battles like this. He wanted to ask one hundred questions but didn't want to look weird or overly anxious. So

he sat quietly, listening closely.

The lesson reminded him of a movie he had watched—*All Quiet on the Western Front*—about young soldiers facing the harsh reality of war. As the leader explained Joshua's battle, Evan imagined the fear, the pressure, and the overwhelming odds. Joshua's army was outnumbered, but God told him not to be afraid.

After the youth group, Evan told his cousins how much he liked the lesson. "Joshua obeyed even when it sounded extreme," he said. Later that night, Evan reread the passage at home. He started thinking about his own life. God's instructions didn't always make sense to him, either. Forgive someone who embarrassed you? Tell the truth when lying would be easier? Walk away from something you enjoy because it's pulling you away from God? Obedience can feel like a battle. Evan whispered, "God, help me trust You even when I don't fully understand. You see the whole battle. I don't."



WORD UP

Joshua 11:6-9, 16-23

6 The LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them, because by this time tomorrow I will hand all of them, slain, over to Israel. You are to hamstring their horses and burn their chariots." **7** So Joshua and his whole army came against them suddenly at the Waters of Merom and attacked them, **8** and the LORD gave them into the hand of Israel. They defeated them and pursued them all the way to Greater Sidon, to Misrephoth Maim, and to the Valley of Mizpah on the east, until no survivors were left. **9** Joshua did to them as the LORD had directed: He hamstringed their horses and burned their chariots.

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16 So Joshua took this entire land: the hill country, all the Negev, the whole region of Goshen, the western foothills, the Arabah and the mountains of Israel with their foothills, **17** from Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir, to Baal Gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon. He captured all their kings and put them to death. **18** Joshua waged war against all these kings for a long time. **19** Except for the Hivites living in Gibeon, not one city made a treaty of peace with the Israelites, who took them all in battle. **20** For it was the LORD himself who hardened their hearts to wage war against Israel, so that he might destroy them totally, exterminating them without mercy, as the LORD had commanded Moses. **21** At that time Joshua went and destroyed the Anakites from the hill country: from Hebron, Debir and Anab, from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel. Joshua totally destroyed them and their towns. **22** No Anakites were left in Israelite territory; only in Gaza, Gath and Ashdod did any survive. **23** So Joshua took the entire land, just as the LORD had directed Moses, and he gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal divisions. Then the land had rest from war.

KEY VERSE:

It was the LORD himself who hardened their hearts to wage war against Israel, so that he might destroy them totally, exterminating them without mercy, as the LORD had commanded Moses.

(Joshua 11:20)



WORK OUT

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA WAS WRITTEN AFTER ISRAEL SETTLED IN THE LAND THAT GOD PROMISED THEM. The battles described were not about showing off military strength. They were about protecting God's people from harmful influences and *idolatry* (worshipping false gods).

In Joshua 11, Israel faced a huge enemy army with horses and chariots. In that time, chariots were like advanced military technology. The Israelites did not have that advantage. According to records, the combined armies of the Canaanite tribes (described in verses 6-9) totaled approximately three hundred thousand armed footmen, ten thousand horsemen, and twenty thousand chariots. The Israelites were outmatched.

God told Joshua, "Do not be afraid." The victory would not come from Israel's strength—it would come from God. God also commanded Joshua to disable the horses and burn the chariots. This prevented Israel from depending on military power rather than trusting God in future battles. God wanted His people to rely on Him, not on weapons, numbers, or culture.

The surrounding nations practiced evil and destructive behaviors. God knew that if Israel blended in with those practices, it would damage their faith and relationship with Him. This passage reminds us that sin spreads easily when we compromise. God takes obedience seriously because He wants to protect His people. Joshua obeyed completely . . . and God gave the victory. The lesson isn't about glorifying war. It's about trusting God fully, even when His instructions are difficult.

INSIDE OUT



Respond to the questions below on a separate sheet of paper.

1. Why did God tell Joshua not to be afraid?
2. What does this story teach us about trusting God instead of relying on ourselves?
3. Why do you think partial obedience can still lead to problems?
4. What "battles" do students face today (peer pressure, comparison, honesty, forgiveness)?
5. When pressure feels heavy, how can you stay obedient to God?

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

Every day, we follow instructions: download this app, scan this code, submit this assignment. If we ignore the instructions, we miss out. God gives instructions, too. His Word guides us, protects us, and leads us toward life, not confusion. Sometimes following God feels harder than following a set of directions online. But the results are far greater. When we obey God daily—at school, online, and at home—we gain wisdom, peace, and strength. God's instructions are not random rules; they are life-giving guidance from a loving Father.



God is all-powerful, and we depend on His strength—not our own. No matter what, obedience matters. Partial obedience is still disobedience. Sometimes you may want to prove yourself . . . but strength isn't about overpowering others—it's about trusting God and responding with wisdom and respect.

Pray and thank God for placing people in your life to guide you. Ask Him to help you obey, even when no one is watching.



STEPPING OUT!

Start building daily trust in God. Choose a short Bible reading plan this week. Take notes. Ask the Holy Spirit to help you understand. Pray before school. Pray before responding. Pray when you feel pressure. Choose wisdom. Walk in integrity. Forgive quickly. Speak truth. Stay courageous. Trust that God will give you strength for every battle you face.



Media Mission



The Holy Spirit helps believers live obedient lives. He teaches, guides, and strengthens us. Search online for the song "Holy Spirit, You Are Welcome Here" by Heavens Mutambira & Amplified Praise (found at the link listed below). As you listen, ask God to help you trust and obey Him more each day.



https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=odC8Gh9Y6xc&list=RDodC8Gh9Y6xc&start_radio=1



This week, listen to a podcast on godly wisdom at www.pray.com. Compare godly wisdom (based on Scripture) with worldly wisdom (based on self and popularity). What is the difference?



Unit I. From Nomadic Tribes to Settled People
L4/September 27, 2026

BACKGROUND SCRIPTURES: Joshua 2; 6:1-25; Matthew 1:5;
James 2:25; Hebrews 11:31
PRINT PASSAGES: Joshua 2:8-13; 6:16-17

Joining Forces with Unlikely Allies



leaders near the front, theater kids near the back.



AT BARACK OBAMA MIDDLE SCHOOL, THE CAFETERIA WAS LOUD LIKE ALWAYS—TRAYS CLANKING, FRIENDS LAUGHING, PHONES OUT.

Everyone sat in their usual groups: athletes at one table, gamers at another, cheer-

When Priya walked in, holding her lunch tray, some students stared. She was new. Her colorful scarf and soft accent made her stand out. “Why does she talk like that?” Jake whispered. A few kids laughed. Priya heard them. Her hands shook a little, but she kept walking and

sat alone. Across the room, Jaheem noticed. He remembered being “the new kid” last year. He knew how lonely that felt. He had a choice: stay comfortable with his friends or step out and be kind.

He stood up. “Hey, I’m Jaheem,” he said, walking over. “Do you want to sit with us?” Priya smiled with relief. “Yes, thank you.” As they talked, Jaheem learned she loved soccer, was good at word games, and had funny stories about her old school in India. Soon, others joined in. Curiosity replaced whispers. Laughter replaced judgment. Jake teased, “So you don’t use TikTok?” Grinning, Priya replied, “No. But I can teach you a dance from my culture.” “Cool!” Jake exclaimed. By the end of lunch, the table was full of students with different backgrounds, different interests, and lots of smiles. No longer was Priya the “different girl.” She was just Priya.

In Joshua 2 and 6, Rahab was someone others might have judged or ignored, but she chose to have courage. She believed in God’s power and helped the Israelite spies. Because of her faith, she and her family were saved. People may judge you. You may be tempted to judge others. But God sees hearts. When you see someone different, what will you choose: comfort or Christ-like courage? Will you sit back in the crowd, or will you stand up like Jaheem and Rahab did?



WORD UP

Joshua 2:8-13; 6:16-17

8 Before the spies lay down for the night, she went up on the roof **9** and said to them, “I know that the LORD has given you this land and that a great fear of you has fallen on us, so that all who live in this country are melting in fear because of you. **10** We have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea for you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two kings of the Amorites east of the Jordan, whom you completely destroyed. **11** When we heard of it, our hearts melted in fear and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the LORD your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below. **12** Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that you will show kindness to my family, because I have shown kindness to you. Give me a sure sign **13** that you will spare the lives of my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them—and that you will save us from death.”

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16 The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, “Shout! For the LORD has given you the city! **17** The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent.”



KEY VERSE:

[Joshua said,] “The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent.” (Joshua 6:17)



WORK OUT

GOD PROMISED JOSHUA THAT HE WOULD HELP THE ISRAELITES TAKE THE LAND OF CANAAN. However, that promise did not mean that Joshua could sit back and do nothing. God's promises do not cancel our responsibility . . . they empower it. Joshua still had to lead, plan, and act in faith.

Joshua secretly sent two young spies to check out Jericho. He remembered what happened years earlier when the people panicked after hearing a negative spy report (see Numbers 13–14). This time, he was wise. The spies' job was not to decide *if* they should attack; God had already spoken. Their job was to learn *how* and *when*.

Jericho was a strong city with high walls. The spies stayed at Rahab's house. Rahab is called a prostitute, but the Hebrew word *zona* can also mean "innkeeper." Many scholars believe that she ran a home where travelers stayed. Her house was built into the city wall, a strategic place.

Rahab showed courage and faith. She had heard about the God of Israel and believed that He was the true God (Joshua 2:11). Even though she lived in Jericho, she chose to stand with God's people. She hid the spies and asked that her family be saved. Rahab was bold, smart, and willing to take a risk because she believed in God. And God honored her faith.

God can use anyone who trusts Him, even people whom others overlook.

INSIDE OUT



Respond to the questions below on a separate sheet of paper.

1. What quick judgments do you sometimes make about people based on how they look, talk, or dress, or where they are from?
2. Do you believe that God can use your gifts and abilities, even if others underestimate you?
3. Are you willing to follow God boldly, even if people misunderstand or judge you?
4. Rahab could have stayed quiet and safe. Instead, she chose faith over fear. Sometimes doing what is right is not popular. But God honors courage and obedience. What is He asking you to do today?

THERE'S AN APP FOR THAT!

Bias often starts with assumptions. But when we choose curiosity instead of judgment, we discover friendship and growth. It is easy to stick with people who look like us, dress like us, or like the same things. But when we judge quickly, we miss out. We miss learning. We miss new friendships. We miss opportunities to share God's love. Jesus calls us to share the Gospel with everyone. In Matthew 28:19-20, He tells us to make disciples of all nations. That means all people. God didn't avoid Rahab. He used her. Who might God want you to see differently this week?



Rahab appeared as an unlikely ally, but God saw her faith and used her in His plan. This week, ask God to help you see people the way He does—by their value as people made in His image. Look for opportunities to show kindness, include someone who feels left out, and demonstrate Christ-like courage. Sometimes, one act of compassion can make a bigger difference than you realize.



This is your challenge for the week: Each day, introduce yourself to someone different from you. Ask about their interests or story. At the end of the week, reflect on the following: What did you learn? Did your perspective change? Write about your experience on the lines below.

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