Lesson

Engaging Introduction

Hello kids! Today we're going to talk about someone very important from the Bible named Joshua. Have you ever had a big task to complete? Maybe something at school, like a project or a test. Sometimes, we have leaders, like our teachers or coaches, who guide us and help us along the way. Joshua was a leader like that for the Israelites.

You see, Joshua was the leader who took over after Moses. Moses did great things, like leading the people out of Egypt, but when it was Joshua's turn, he had a special job. He led the Israelites into a land that God had promised them. But as Joshua grew older, he knew it was time to talk to his people about what would come next. That's what we find in Joshua Chapter 23—a special farewell speech from Joshua.

Imagine Joshua gathering all his people, kind of like a big assembly at school with everyone sitting and listening to the principal. Joshua wanted his people to remember some important lessons. Today, we are going to learn what Joshua told his people and how those same lessons can help us live our lives too. So, let's get ready to hear Joshua's wise words and see what God has to teach us!

Main Teaching Points

1. Remembering God's Help

First, Joshua reminds the Israelites about all the amazing things God had done for them. Imagine if you were part of a soccer team and you remembered all the times your coach led the team to victory. Joshua told the people to remember how God led them across the Jordan River and helped them win many battles against their enemies. These weren't just stories about battles; they were reminders of how God took care of them every step of the way.

It’s important for us, too, to remember the good things God has done in our lives. Maybe He helped you learn how to ride a bike, or He answered a prayer for a friend who was sick. Remembering God’s help can make us feel thankful and not take things for granted. It’s like keeping a memory box of happy times with God!

2. Stay Strong and Obey God

Next, Joshua encourages his people to be brave and obey everything written in the Law of Moses, which are God's rules. You know, just like when a teacher gives clear instructions for a project, and we have to follow them to make sure it turns out right, that’s how God's rules work. They’re meant to guide us on the best path.

Joshua said that if the Israelites obeyed God's rules, they would stay strong and things would go well for them. When we're at school or playing in the playground, following rules helps keep us safe, doesn't it? In the same way, following God's rules helps us live happy and peaceful lives.

3. Avoiding Distractions

Joshua also warned the Israelites about getting distracted by the people living around them who

did not follow God. It’s like when you're doing your homework and the TV is on—it’s so tempting to watch, right? Joshua knew that the people around the Israelites worshipped other gods and did things differently. If the Israelites followed them instead of God, they would lose their way.

For us, distractions can come when we're spending too much time on screens or trying to fit in with friends who don't make good choices. Joshua's reminder is to keep God first and not be swayed by everything happening around us.

4. The Importance of Commitment

Finally, Joshua talks about the importance of committing to God. He warned them not to forget their promise to love and serve God. It's like when you say you’re going to practice a musical instrument every day—it takes commitment. Joshua wanted them to know that staying close to God was a choice they needed to make every single day.

When we commit to something, like feeding a pet or watering plants, we take responsibility for it. In the same way, Joshua reminded his people—and he reminds us—that it's important to commit to loving and obeying God and to keep choosing Him every day.

Personal Application for Elementary Students

Now, let's think about how all of these lessons can apply to us!

First, let's remember to be thankful for the things God has already done for us. Maybe tonight at dinner, you can share with your family something good that God has done for you this week. Remembering these moments can fill our hearts with gratitude, just like the Israelites remembered how God helped them.

Next, when you hear the word “obey,” remember why it’s important—to keep you safe and happy. When your parents set a bedtime or your teacher asks you to finish an assignment, they're helping you grow strong and smart, kind of like how God's rules help us grow strong in our faith.

Also, be aware of distractions. When you’re doing something important, like studying or even playing with your little brother or sister, try to focus on that instead of getting caught up in other things that aren't as important at the moment. It's just like Joshua told the Israelites to focus on God.

Finally, make a commitment to spend time with God every day. This could be through prayer, reading a Bible story, or even just thanking God for what you have. You could think of it like brushing your teeth—you wouldn’t skip that every day, would you? In the same way, spending time with God is important for a healthy spiritual life.

Interactive Discussion Questions

Now, let's discuss some questions together to help us think more about what we've learned.

1. What is one thing God has done for you that you are thankful for?

Teaching Guidance: Encourage the children to think about everyday things people might overlook, like good health, family, or answered prayers. Share a personal story to spark inspiration.

2. Why is it important to follow rules, and how does this relate to what Joshua told the Israelites?

Teaching Guidance: Connect academic or household rules to God’s commandments. Discuss how these rules keep us safe and help us live well. Ask them to give examples of rules at school or home that help them.

3. Can you think of a distraction that sometimes keeps you from spending time with God or doing important things? How can we manage distractions better?

Teaching Guidance: Help children identify potential distractions, like screen time or noisy surroundings. Discuss strategies to manage these, such as setting a timer, choosing quiet times for important tasks, or asking for help from adults.

4. What is one small way you can commit to spending time with God every day?

Teaching Guidance: Encourage specific ideas like reading a Bible story, praying before meals, or keeping a gratitude journal. Help them set realistic goals so they can start small and grow their commitment over time.

These questions help us think more deeply about how to bring Joshua's lessons into our own lives. Let’s remember Joshua's words and how they remind us to be thankful, obey God, avoid distractions, and stay committed to our faith every day.