

JOSHUA CONQUERS CANAAN

Scripture:
Joshua 1:1-15

Materials Needed:
Pictures

Memory Verse: Joshua 1:8 Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; 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.

Objectives: As a result of this lesson, I want my students

To Know: that when Joshua was called to conquer the land of Canaan, even though he was outdone in his army, battle skills and weaponry, his secret to success would come from meditating on and following the Word of God.

To Realize: when one is given a task to do, the outcome of success is not measured by one's skills and resources, but on meditating on and following the Word of God.

To Respond: by meditating and following God's Word in every area of life.

Setting Up the Story—

Call out several words to have the students "act out" when you say them: fight, land, victory, day, night, success, meditate.

Write the word "success" on the board, and ask for a definition. Then write, "to achieve something desired, planned or attempted." (Basically, to win!) If you could choose one thing to be successful at, what would it be? (students share answers.)

The Bible has a formula for success, and this is what it looks like:

M x **d/n** + **d** = **S**
GW

It looks a little bit like algebra, but really it the formula for success, and the person in today's lesson that needs this formula is Joshua. How would Joshua answer the question, "If you could choose one thing to be successful at, what would it be?" (be successful as a military commander.) Do you know why?

Telling the Story—

Scripture: I. Joshua is Called to Take the Land
A. Moses is Dead

As you tell the story—

Show map. Speak as if from airplane: There's a lot of land here! But I see people already living here. It doesn't

Scripture:

B. Joshua is told to lead

II. Joshua is Outdone

A. What would he need?

1. Fighting army
2. battle skills
3. weapons
4. chariots

1:22-2:2

B. What does he have?

1. ill-trained army of slaves
2. not a lot of experience
3. not very good weapons

2:3-10

4. God's promises

Scripture:

Acts 7:28

III. Joshua is Told what to do To Be Successful

look like there are a lot of places for another 2.5 million people to live. This is going to take some pretty intense battles to conquer all this territory!

What does Joshua need as commander of the Israelites?

Why? These enemies are really tall. They have trained armies, and big walls around their cities; they have chariots, they have really good weapons. They are NOT waiting around to be conquered. They are prepared to FIGHT to the death. Imagine that one of your middle school basket ball teams is going to play the high school state champions. They are all 6 feet tall, they've been state champions for five years, and they've all been playing since they were four years old! Not only that, but their coach has been coaching for 25 years. YOUR team has no tall player, this is the first year for everyone on your team to play, and this is the first year your coach has coached basketball. What would be your chances?

BUT you know what made the difference? Read 1:2, 3. They were given a promise:

"I am going to give the Israelites"

"Everywhere your foot treads"

And then Joshua is told what to do in order to WIN—in order to be successful. It was this very strange formula. (go back to formula written on board) It's in Joshua 1:8. (have student read it aloud.)

Have students tell you what each part of the formula stands for based on the verse. Meditation on God's Word x

| day/night + doing = Success.

Concluding the story:

What was the “Book of the Law”? So do you think Joshua was going to be sitting on a rock, reading these scrolls of the Law while his men were out fighting? (do “meditation” imitation of how your students illustrated that word in the beginning of the lesson.) What did it mean for Joshua to meditate on the Law day and night? Meditate means to let your mind be filled with something. Everyone meditates on something. What are some things you and your friends might meditate on? Sports. Music. What others think. Friends. A problem you are facing. The future. What is filling your mind? That’s what you are meditating on. For Joshua, being successful meant winning battles. For us it might be many things, but the way to success is the same: Meditate day and night on God’s Word and doing it equals success.
Let’s pray.

Boardwork:

If you could be successful at one thing?

-
-
-

$\frac{M}{GW} \times d/n + d = S$

Military Leader

What would he need?

- fighting army
- battle skills
- weapons
- chariots

What did he have?

ill-trained army of slaves
not a lot of leadership
not sophisticated weapons
God’s Law

JOSHUA CONQUERS CANAAN HELPS FOR THE TEACHER

Personal Application Questions:

1. What is it in your life right now that you feel you need to succeed at?
2. How much is meditation integrated into your life currently?
3. How is meditation different from Bible reading or Bible memory?
4. What steps will you take to increase the meditation of the Word of God in your life?

Note: Author Richard Foster in his book *Celebration of Discipline* has an excellent and balanced chapter on the topic of meditation and how to take steps to incorporate it regularly into one's life.

Application Questions to think through for your Students:

1. Regardless of what your students are involved in, how does meditation on God's Word help them to "succeed"?
2. What are practical ways your students can meditate on God's Word?
3. How can you encourage your students in their meditation on God's Word?

Memory Verse:

Joshua 1:8 *Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; 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.*

Write here which game you will use to teach this verse and any supplies you might need:

Post-Lesson Activity:

Play *What's the Number?* (Bible Skills, p. 141) using key words from today's lesson or the memory verse. Make up questions in advance.

Homework Ideas:

Have students work on the memory verse this week. Write down ways in the week in which they were meditating on the verse or ways in which other verses they already have memorized helped them know what to do in a situation.