



LESSON SNAPSHOT

BOTTOM LINE:

Like Joshua, Big Heroes have commitment.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the importance of staying committed to what has God called them to.

KEY PASSAGE:

Joshua 5:13-6:20. The Battle of Jericho.

MEMORY VERSE:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

SUMMARY:

After Moses' death, Joshua became the new leader of the Israelites. Joshua was ready to lead the people into the Promised Land. But the city of Jericho stood in their way. God gave Joshua instructions for how to take the city of Jericho. The instructions were odd and the plan didn't seem to make sense, but Joshua believed in God and stayed committed to the plan that God had given him. When we are committed to the task God has given us, we can be heroes like Joshua.

SIMPLE PRAYER:

Dear God,

You have big plans for each of us. Those plans require commitment. Help us to stay committed to you and to the tasks that you have called us to.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



MEMORY VERSE

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

"A huge cloud of witnesses is all around us. So let us throw off everything that stands in our way. Let us throw off any sin that holds on to us so tightly. Let us keep on running the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)

LARGE GROUP:

Write each word of the verse on a poster board. Bring enough kids on stage so each kid can hold one of the words. Then have the kids unscramble the words and put them in order on stage so it can be read by the audience.

SMALL GROUP:

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.



SKIT

BIG HERO EMPLOYMENT AGENCY: COMMITMENT

ITEMS NEEDED:

Desk
Phone
Chairs

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN: 2F, 1M

CHARACTERS:

Gladys - Secretary
Mr. Jones – Head of the Employment Agency
Amber – Potential Employer/Employee

*Gladys sits behind the desk. Sue is in the waiting area.
The phone rings. Gladys answers.*

GLADYS: You've reached the voice mail of the Big Hero Employment Agency. This isn't actually a recording, but every time I answer the phone the person hangs up, so I'm going to pretend this is voice mail. If you're still on the line at this point, please leave a message at the beep. Beep. (looks into phone) Nothing. People are so rude.

Mr. Jones enters.

JONES: Gladys, who do we have today?

GLADYS: This is Amber.

Amber comes over to Mr. Jones.

JONES: Nice to meet you.

SKIT

AMBER: Pleasure.

JONES: Now are you looking to find a job or are you trying to find someone to do a job?

AMBER: I need a job.

JONES: Well, that's just fine.

AMBER: No, I mean. I want to hire someone.

JONES: Okay. What do you need?

AMBER: That's a good question.

JONES: Thank you.

AMBER: My house is a mess.

JONES: And you want to hire someone to clean it?

AMBER: I could. But really, I have plenty of time. I could just clean the house myself. Hiring someone to do that seems like such a hassle.

JONES: So, you don't want to hire someone?

AMBER: Maybe, but not for that. The grass in my back yard grows so fast. It really needs to be mowed every week. Maybe I should hire someone to do that.

JONES: And you're not going to decide suddenly that you could do it yourself?

AMBER: Absolutely not. I hate yard work.

JONES: Very well. We have several qualified gardeners in our company.

AMBER: I hate yard work so much, I think I'll just have the whole back yard paved over. Maybe put a basketball court back there.

JONES: Well, you won't need a gardener for that.

AMBER: You know, the more I think about it, the more I realize I'm really here to look for a job.

JONES: Really? What kind of work to you do?

SKIT

AMBER: Well, not housekeeping or gardening obviously.

JONES: Obviously.

AMBER: I can play the piano. Although I prefer to do that just for fun. I like to cut people's hair. But I don't have any formal training and I probably need formal training to get a job doing that. I've always thought it would be fun to try and -

GLADYS: Do you know what you need?

AMBER: I need a job. Or maybe I need to hire someone.

GLADYS: You need to commit, is what you need.

AMBER: Commit.

GLADYS: There's a whole great big world out there filled with opportunities, and you don't have to have everything figured out. But you're never going to enjoy all God has to offer you if you never make a commitment to anything.

AMBER: You're right.

JONES: Are you sure?

AMBER: Yes, I'm sure. I'm committing to that answer. I need to decide what's important to me and be committed to making it happen.

GLADYS: Good for you, Amber.

JONES: So which is it? Getting a job or hiring someone for a job? What are you going to commit too?

AMBER: (*excited*) I'm going to join the circus!

Amber runs off.

GLADYS: Nice lady. I think she'll do well.

JONES: You do pretty well at driving away my business, Gladys.

GLADYS: It's not always easy, but I stay committed.

End.



OBJECT LESSON OR KIDS SERMON

ITEMS NEEDED:

CD player

CD

Show them the CD player (with the CD already in it).

Who knows what this is? It's a CD player that I can use to listen to my music. In fact, I want to listen to some music right now. So I will hit the play button.

Hit play on the CD player. Listen to the music for a few seconds.

When I'm done, I can just turn it off.

Turn it off.

Now what you do suppose will happen if I hit the play button again?
play the music again.

Turn the player on for a few second and then off again. Do this repeatedly over the next few lines.

But what will happen this time? Or this time? Will it still play music if I hit it again? That's right, it will! In a way, we could say that this CD player has commitment. It is committed to give me music every time that I hit the play button. Now this player doesn't have thoughts or feelings, so it can't choose to not play the CD. As long as everything is working properly, it has to play the music when I tell it to. For us, we have the freedom to choose to do something or choose not to do it. We can do something once or twice and then decide we don't ever want to do it again. Commitment is when we say, "I am going to do this faithfully and without fail." When we commit ourselves to God and to the tasks he has given us, it is a beautiful thing. Music to God's ears.

Play the music for a little while.



LARGE GROUP GAME

JERICO BOWLING

ITEMS NEEDED:

Plastic bowling ball
Plastic bowling pins

INSTRUCTIONS:

Line up the bowling pins in a straight line, instead of the normal triangle formation. Don't leave too much space between pins – this is the wall of Jericho after all.

Choose as many kids as you have time for. Have each kid try and knock down the wall of Jericho by rolling the plastic bowling ball from the other end of the stage. Each kid gets three rolls. Ties result in a bowl off. The kids with the most pins down wins!

VARIATION:

For younger kids, make a smaller wall and have them roll the ball from a shorter distance away.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

The Israelites didn't have the advantage of a large ball to knock down the walls of Jericho. They had to rely on God and follow his instructions – no matter how strange they seemed. Because of their commitment, those walls came a tumblin' down.



LARGE GROUP LESSON

BOTTOM LINE:

Like Joshua, Big Heroes have commitment.

OBJECTIVE:

Kids will learn the importance of staying committed to what has God called them to.

KEY PASSAGE:

Joshua 5:13-6:20. The Battle of Jericho.

INTRO

We all have heroes. People that we admire, look up to, want to be like. People who have done amazing things and possess amazing qualities. Those qualities are what we call virtues. For the past several week's we've seen those virtues at work. We've witnessed Noah's obedience and Abraham's faith. We've seen Joseph's forgiveness and Moses' humility.

Today, we're going to talk about commitment. All of these heroes were given big tasks by God. And each of them fulfilled the task because they had commitment. It took years for Noah to build that ark, but he stayed committed. Abraham had to wait a long time for a son, but he believed God with commitment. Moses led the Israelites through the desert for forty years. Talk about a life of commitment.

When Moses died, his servant Joshua became the new leader of the Israelites. It was Joshua who finally brought the people up to the edge of the land that God had promised to give them so long ago. The people were ready to come to their new home. There was just one thing standing in their way. The city of Jericho.

The city of Jericho was in the Promised Land, and the people there weren't about to share the land with the Israelites. Jericho was a fortified city, with a strong, impenetrable wall. There was no way for the Israelites to take the city of Jericho on their own.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

But God gave Joshua instructions on what to do. They seemed a bit odd, but as we're about to read, Joshua stayed committed to God and followed his instructions.

READ Joshua 5:13-6:20.

MAIN POINT

Just walk around the city?! Don't attack. Don't engage the enemy. Just march around the city for seven days. That was the Lord's instruction to Joshua and the Israelites. That must have seemed like a pretty strange plan to some of those people marching around the city. And I'm sure it looked odd to the people in Jericho who were looking down on the Israelites from their safe and secure city wall.

Joshua could have ignored God's instructions. Or he could have started out strong, but then began to waver. By day three, a less-committed man might have thought to himself, "What am I doing? This isn't accomplishing anything. We should just go back to camp."

But not Joshua. He stayed committed to the task that God had given him. And on that seventh day, after they had marched around the city seven times and blown their trumpets, the walls of Jericho fell. As simple as that. The Israelites were now able to take the city easily.

God did an amazing work by bringing the walls down. And God did it after Joshua demonstrated his commitment to God and the task that God had called him too.

DRIVE IT HOME:

God has great plans for you. And he calls you to tasks both great and small to bring about those plans. Those tasks may not always make sense, that's why we must stay committed.

God calls us to honor our parents. This can be hard, because even they aren't perfect. They make mistakes sometimes. But we must stay committed to obeying God anyway.

At this stage of your life, you have to spend a lot of time studying and doing homework. You might wonder sometimes "what's the point?" But the truth is, all of that work is making you smarter and stronger for great things down the line into your teenage years and adulthood. You must stay committed to do the small things that you've been given today, so that you are ready for the big things that God will bring your way down the line.

Heroes possess commitment. Heroes like Joshua were committed to God and to the tasks that God had given him. We can be a hero like Joshua, with a little commitment.

LARGE GROUP LESSON

CLOSE WITH A SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

You have big plans for each of us. Those plans require commitment. Help us to stay committed to you and to the tasks that you have called us to.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (K-2ND)

ICEBREAKER

What's something that's hard to stay committed to?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Hebrews 12:1

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Pair the kids off and have a staring contest. If you break the stare, you're out. Play followup rounds between winners until only one remains. Talk about the commitment necessary to win a game like this.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Joshua 5:13-6:20.

Who did Joshua encounter near Jericho?

What good news did the man have for Joshua?

How many times did the Israelites walk around the walls of Jericho?

What happened on the seventh day when the priests blew their trumpets?

What does it mean to be committed to a goal?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

We want to be like the great heroes of the Bible. Help us to stay committed to you and to the big things that you have called us to.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (3-5TH)

ICEBREAKER

What's something that's hard to stay committed to?

MEMORY VERSE ACTIVITY

Hebrews 12:1

Play the telephone game with the memory verse.

SMALL GROUP GAME/ACTIVITY

Pair the kids off and have a staring contest. If you break the stare, you're out. Play followup rounds between winners until only one remains. Talk about the commitment necessary to win a game like this.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Read Joshua 5:13-6:20.

Who did Joshua encounter near Jericho?

What good news did the man have for Joshua?

Why do you think God gave the Israelites such unusual instructions?

How would you have felt being an Israelite marching around Jericho?

Is there a goal that you need to commit to?

SIMPLE PRAYER

Dear God,

We want to be like the great heroes of the Bible. Help us to stay committed to you and to the big things that you have called us to.

*In Jesus' name,
Amen*



POWERPOINT REVIEW GAME

Multiple Choice

1. Who did Joshua meet near Jericho?
 - A. God
 - B. Commander of the Lord's army*
 - C. General from Jericho
2. What was the first thing Joshua was told to do?
 - A. March around the city
 - B. Blow a trumpet
 - C. Take off his sandals*
3. For the first six days, how many times each day did the Israelites march around the city?
 - A. 1*
 - B. 6
 - C. 7
4. What special thing did the Israelites have with them as they marched?
 - A. A burning bush
 - B. The ark of the covenant*
 - C. Silver and gold
5. What quality do we need to be a hero like Joshua?
 - A. Smarts
 - B. Strength
 - C. Commitment*



MAKE IT STICK

5 Simple Ways You Can Make This Lesson Stick With your Kids

Bible Heroes Lesson 5

THIS WEEK'S LESSON: JOSHUA



IN THE CAR:

Ask your child what they learned about this week on the drive home:

Today we learned that big heroes have commitment. When Joshua received some strange orders from God to march around the city of Jericho, he obeyed. Not just once, but for seven days. Joshua never wavered in his commitment, and because of it, God delivered Jericho into the hands of the Israelites. We can be heroes too, if we remain committed to God and the tasks he has called us to. Joshua 5:13-6:20.



HANGING OUT:

Make this week's lesson real:

Go over your kids' schedules with them. Look at the things they devote the most time and energy to. Discuss if these are the things they wish to be committed to. Work with them on ways to make commitment to God a priority.



AT DINNER:

Here are some great discussion starters:

- How did the Israelites conquer the mighty city of Jericho?
- Why do you think God gave the Israelites such strange orders?
- What does it mean to be committed to God?



AT BEDTIME:

Quiz your child on this week's memory verse:

"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us." - Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)



PARENT TIME:

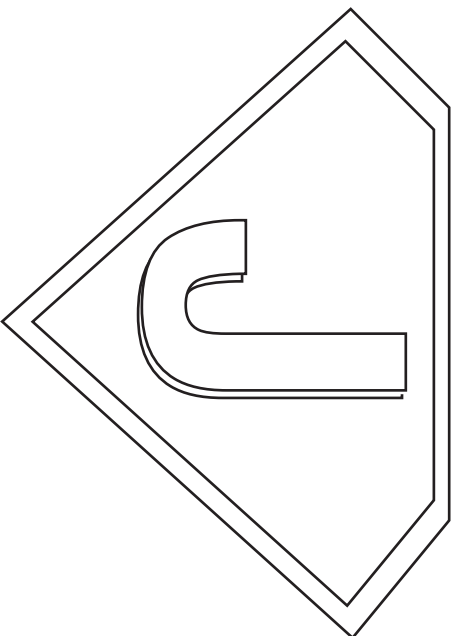
What you need to know:

Kids take their lead from you. If you want them to understand what it means to be committed to God, it's important that you model it for them. Pray for a renewal of your commitment to him, and for his guidance as you work to raise kids that are committed to him.



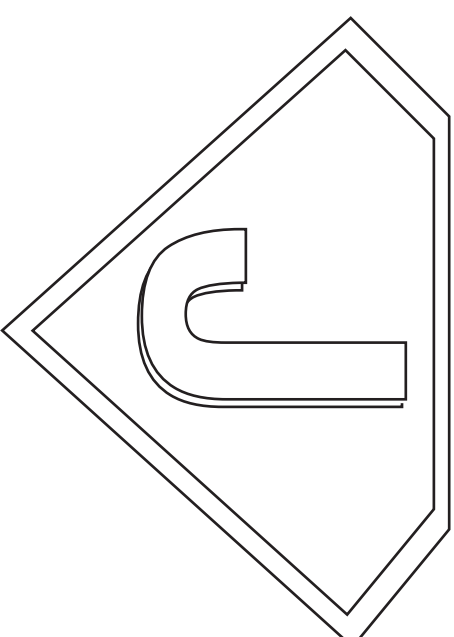
CRAFT PROJECT

Have children draw a scene of the Israelites marching around the walled city of Jericho. Afterwards, have them write on the walls of Jericho obstacles or problems that they face in their own life. Encourage them to commit to God and his ways, trusting that he will see them through every obstacle.



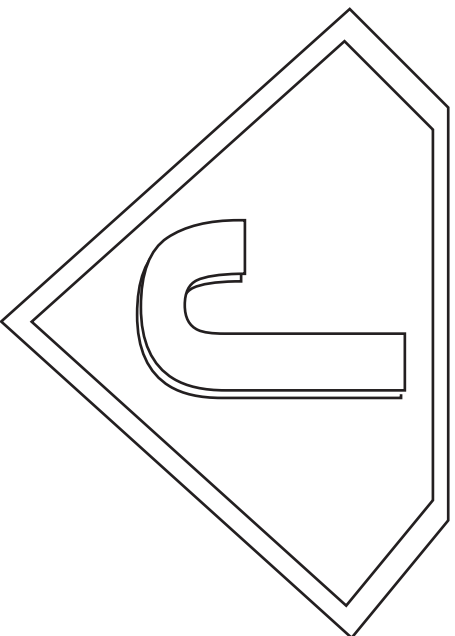
"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

- Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)



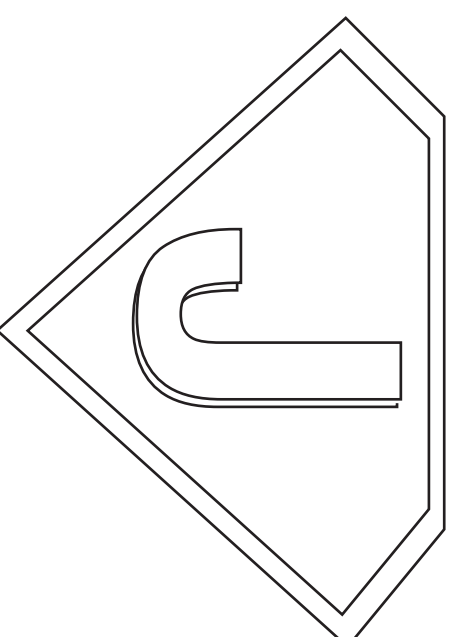
"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

- Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)



"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

- Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)



"Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."

- Hebrews 12:1 (NIV)