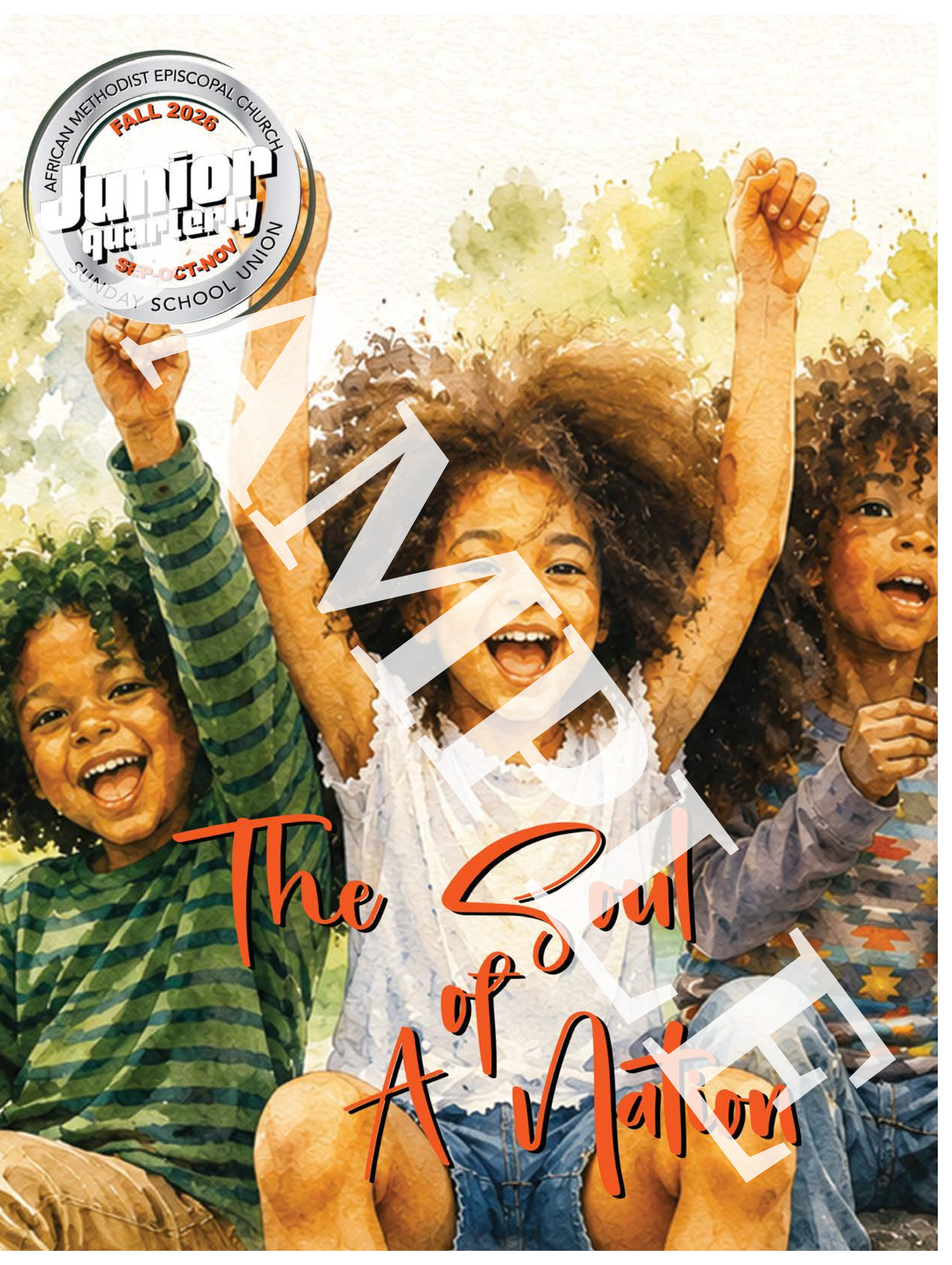




KEEP The Soul of a Nation

JUNIOR SCHOLAR SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY

Vol. 63
Fall Quarter 2026

September, October, November

No. 4
Price \$5.39

Ages 9-11 (Grades 4-6)

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Cover Design/Layout: O. Dotson, AMEC Publishing.
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JUNIOR SCHOLAR SUNDAY SCHOOL QUARTERLY

Volume 63, No. 4, September, October, November 2026.
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THE ORDER OF SERVICE

- I. Bell tap or organ voluntary as a signal for silence
- II. Singing
- III. The Apostles' Creed
- IV. Prayer, closing with the Lord's Prayer in concert
- V. Singing
- VI. Calling roll of officers and teachers
- VII. Responsive reading of the lesson text by school
- VIII. The Decalogue

THE LESSON

- I. Organ interlude while the classes are being arranged
- II. Class study of the lesson
- III. Warning bell—5 minutes
- IV. Closing bell—silence

THE CLOSING

- I. Singing
- II. Review and application of the lesson
- III. Secretary's report
- IV. The Church School Creed
- V. Singing
- VI. Benediction

Rev. Dr. Roderick Belin, Publisher
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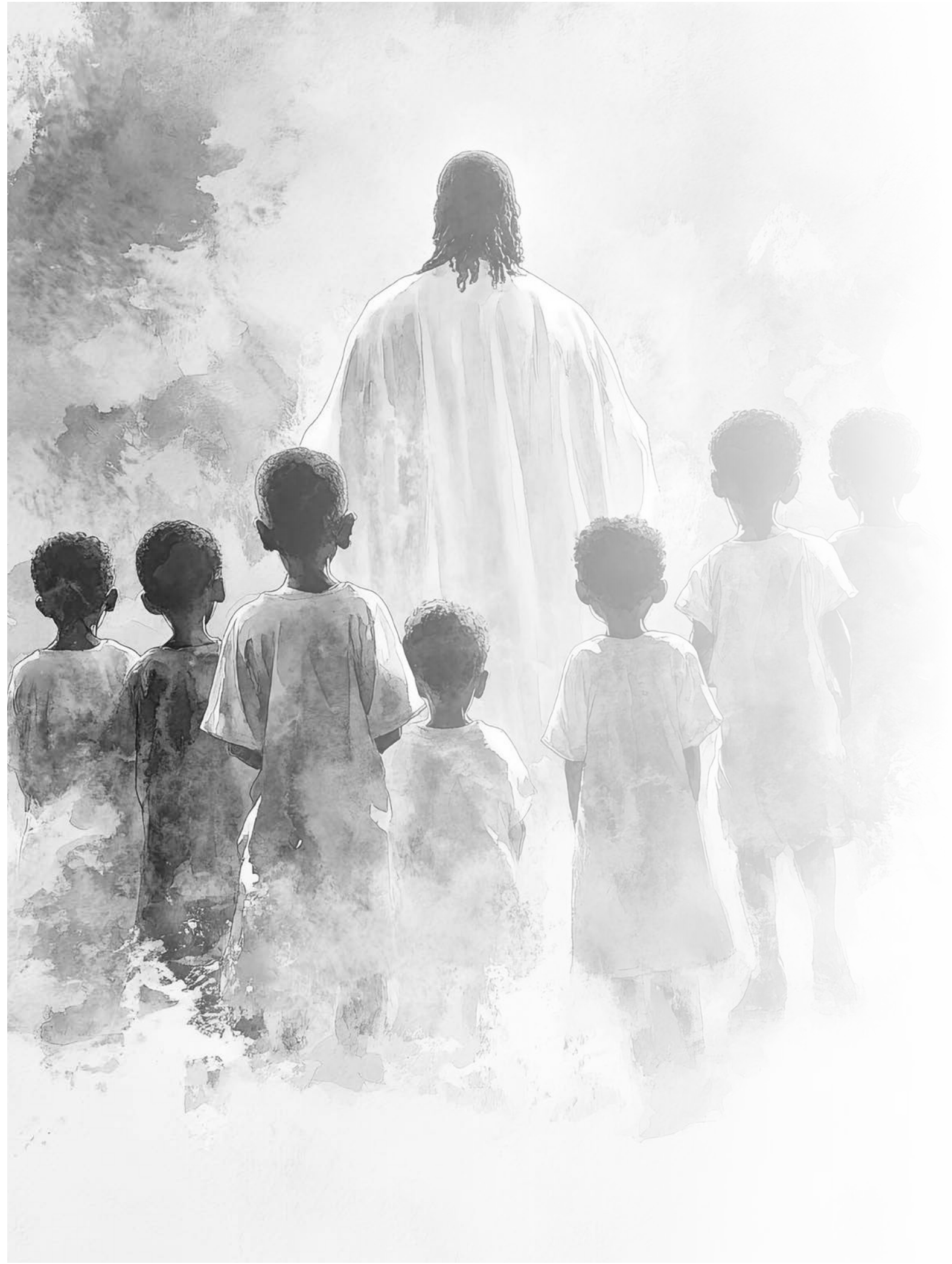
THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; the third day He arose from the dead, He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the quick and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Church Universal, the communion of the saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting.

THE CHURCH SCHOOL CREED

I believe my A.M.E. Church School must grow and grow; and that I must make it a top priority to make it so. Every member a Christian, every Christian a worker, every worker trained so that a worker need not be ashamed. This we ask in Jesus' name.

— A.M.E. Discipline



GOD CALLS JOSHUA TO LEADERSHIP

LESSON SCRIPTURE:

Joshua 1

FOCUS SCRIPTURE:

Joshua 1:1-11



(The Lord said,) "I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."
Joshua 1:9.

WORD POWER

- **JOSHUA** - The religious leader who took over from Moses and led the Israelites into the Promised Land.
- **WILDERNESS** - The southern end of the land that God promised to the Israelites.
- **LEBANON (PRONOUNCED LEB-A-NON)** - The southern end of the land that God promised to the Israelites.
- **EUPHRATES (PRONOUNCED YOU-FRATE-TEES)** - The river that marks the eastern end of the land that God promised to the Israelites.
- **GREAT SEA** - The Mediterranean Sea, which marks the western end of the land that God promised to the Israelites.
- **LAW** - Most likely the book of Deuteronomy, which offers instructions for





how the people are to live as God's chosen people inside the Promised Land.

- **OFFICERS OF THE PEOPLE** - Non-religious leaders who helped Moses and then Joshua handle issues the people had with one another.

SCRIPTURES

JOSHUA 1:1-11

- 1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses's assistant, saying,
- 2 "My servant Moses is dead. Now proceed to cross the Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the Israelites.
- 3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, as I promised to Moses.
- 4 From the wilderness and the Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, to the Great Sea in the west shall be your territory.
- 5 No one shall 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 not fail you or forsake you.
- 6 Be strong and courageous, for you shall lead this people to possess the land that I swore to their ancestors to give them.
- 7 Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to act in accordance with all the law that my servant Moses commanded you; do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, so that you may be successful wherever you go.
- 8 This book of the law shall not depart out of your mouth; you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to act in accordance with all that is written in it. For then you shall make your way prosperous, and then you shall be successful.
- 9 I hereby command you: Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."
- 10 Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people,
- 11 "Pass through the camp and command the people, 'Prepare your provisions, for in three days you are to cross over this Jordan, to go in to take possession of the land that the Lord your God gives you to possess.'"

GETTING READY!!!

Josh had been following Moe around since Josh was 3 and Moe was 13. If Moe played the drums, then Josh tried to play them. If Moe helped collect the offering, then Josh tried to help as well. Guess what? Moe let him, and it was a good decision. Do you know why? When Moe went away to college, Josh was able to take over playing the drums and collecting the offering.

How do you think Josh felt when Moe left and he had to take over?

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

The Joshua who leaves Egypt is not the same as the Joshua who leads the Israelites into the Promised Land. More than forty years have passed since he left Egypt as a slave who made bricks without straw. Since then, he's led an army that he put together against the Amalekites. He's become Moses' assistant. He's been selected to see if the Promised Land is as good as God promised. He's tried and failed to convince the people and other members of the search party to trust God.

He supported Moses as the people wandered around the wilderness for forty years. Now, a new generation is back at the edge of the Promised Land, and Moses has given them the mantle of leadership. This means that Joshua gets to wear the piece of clothing that shows he's the new leader.

Yes, the years Joshua spends with Moses prepare him to be a loyal and true leader for God. But he'll need more than that to lead the people into the Promised Land. He'll also need to be encouraged so he can encourage others. That's why God tells him to be strong and courageous before identifying each task he'll need to tackle as the leader. This happens three times.

ACTIVITY #1: THE MAKING OF A LOYAL, BRAVE, AND TRUE LEADER FOR GOD. As your teacher plays Christina Aguilera's song "Loyal Brave True" from the 2020 version of Disney's *Mulan*, create a figure



of Joshua that shows him transforming from an ordinary Israelite into each of the following: a military leader, a member of a scouting party, Moses' assistant, and the leader who guides the people into the Promised Land. (Hint: Use a male stick figure wood cutout, strips of cloth for clothing, a piece of yarn for a belt, a mini wood craft stick for a sword, and a white piece of cloth for a mantle to create your Joshua.)

USING GOD'S WORD!!!



Joshua and the people he leads are probably excited AND scared. They know that the generation before them couldn't complete the journey into the Promised Land because they didn't stay loyal, brave, and true to God. God knows it, too. That's why God gives them a different type of leader this time. Moses led with a staff. Joshua leads with a sword. Moses spent time with God so God could give him the Ten Commandments and other rules that show the people how to be loyal, brave, and true to God. Then Moses shared those things with the people, and they became known as *The Law*.



Joshua lets God encourage him, and then he uses what God's told him to encourage the people. Joshua has this new generation reaffirm their commitment to obeying *The Law*. He also has the non-religious leaders get the people ready to move into the Promised Land. Finally, he continually reminds them of what they need to do and how God will help them do it.

ACTIVITY #2: THIS TIME WE WILL BE LOYAL, BRAVE, AND TRUE.

Pretend that you are Joshua. Use the space below to make a list of things that you think will help the people do a better job of following God this time. When you're done, use the Joshua figure you made to act out sharing at least two of the things you list with the class. When you're done, talk about how hearing the encouraging words made you feel.

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

REMIX!!!

Moe helped Josh become a loyal, brave, and true leader for God. Then Josh helped do the same for others when Moe left for college. Moses did the same kinds of things for Joshua. But Moe and Moses didn't work alone. God was using them and the experiences offered Josh and Joshua to create new leaders for a new group of people.

God is still doing that with young people today. God uses pastors, other clergy, YPD directors, music directors, praise dance leaders, Sunday school teachers, scout leaders, parents, older kids, and others to show how to follow God's rules for living. These people will share rules for living, serving, praising, worshiping, and being faithful. Then God will encourage us so we know we can put what we learned into action.

ACTIVITY #3: BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS TO MAKE A POSITIVE DIFFERENCE. Think of something that shows that you're loyal, brave, and true to God that a younger person could join you in doing. (Hint: Creating care packages for hungry people with a scripture or prayer attached, cleaning up the church and/or neighborhood, etc.)

PRAISE GOD!!!

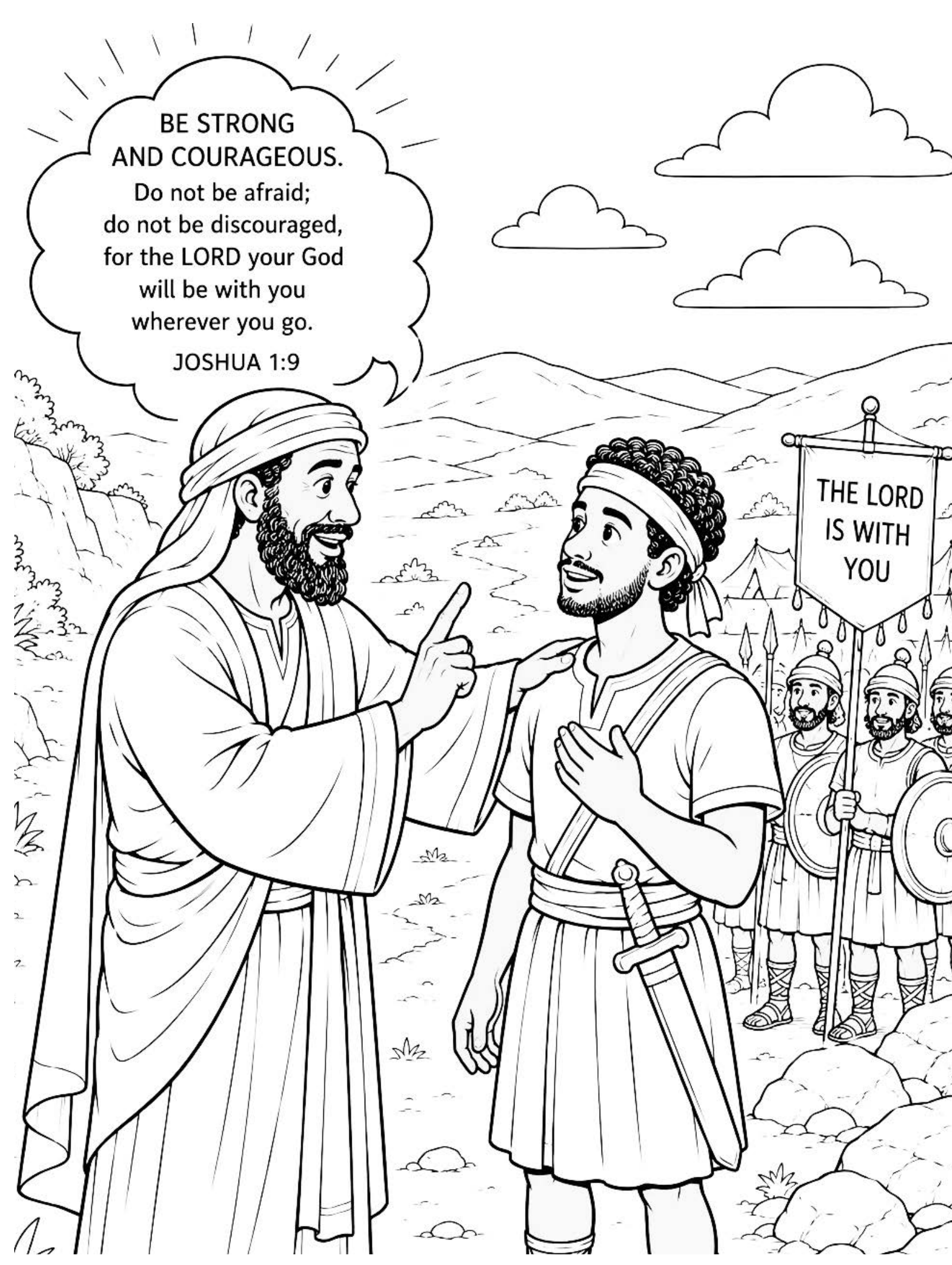
God, you keep sending people my way who show me how to be loyal, brave, and true to you. When I read the Bible I discover that you did the same thing for Joshua, too. This encourages me and proves you are with me and will never give up on me. So, I won't give up on you or the people that you send me to encourage. ~

Thank you for all you do,
Glory, hallelujah, and amen!

**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



FOLLOW GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS

LESSON SCRIPTURE:

Joshua 4

FOCUS SCRIPTURE:

Joshua 4:14-18, 21-22



(Joshua said,) "When your children ask their parents in time to come, 'What do these stones mean?' then you shall let your children know, 'Israel crossed over the Jordan here on dry ground.'" Joshua 4:21b-22.

WORD POWER

- **EXALTED** - Honored or lifted up.
- **ARK OF THE COVENANT** - The special wooden chest that holds the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments, manna and Aaron's staff.
- **JORDAN** - The river the Israelites had to cross to move from the wilderness into the Promised Land.





SCRIPTURES

JOSHUA 4:14-18, 21-22

Joshua 4:14-18'

- 14** On that day the Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel, and they stood in awe of him, as they had stood in awe of Moses all the days of his life.
- 15** The Lord said to Joshua,
- 16** "Command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant to come up out of the Jordan."
- 17** Joshua therefore commanded the priests, "Come up out of the Jordan."
- 18** When the priests bearing the ark of

the covenant of the Lord came up from the middle of the Jordan and the soles of the priests' feet touched dry ground, the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks, as before.

21-22

- 21** ...saying to the Israelites, "When your children ask their parents in time to come, 'What do these stones mean?' then you shall let your children know, 'Israel crossed over the Jordan here on dry ground.'
- 22**

GETTING READY!!!

 Patricia loved going to YPD events because she always learned something new. Usually, the kids broke out into their age group categories before doing an activity. Today, the YPD director introduced a new version of "Follow the Leader" that caused the groups to work together. This version was called "Follow the Leaders." A leader was selected for the Young Adult Division aged 18-26, for the Youth Auxiliary aged 13-17, for the Allen Stars aged 7-12, and for the Mother Sunbeams aged 2-6.

Each group leader had to make sure their group followed the YPD director's instructions. The YPD director told the Young Adult Division to go to the middle of the field and hold up a sign until everyone else crossed successfully. The sign said, "God Says We Can!" Next, the YPD director told the Mother Sunbeams to hold hands and walk across the field with her. Third, the YPD director told the Allen Stars to march across the field while

chanting the words on the sign. Fourth, the YPD director had the Youth Auxiliary clap their hands as they crossed the field.

Guess what? Every group followed the rules, and every person made it across the field safely. Guess what else? No age group felt left out or forgotten, and more than one young person got to be a leader.

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

The way Joshua had the Israelites cross the Jordan River was much like the "Follow the Leaders" game the YPD director had the YPD play. It was an organized crossing that proved they could do anything with God's help. It also proved that God honored Joshua just as God had honored Moses.

They were crossing the river at a time when the water was so high that it should've been impossible to cross. But God gave them instructions on how to cross safely. It began with the priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant into the middle of the river and stopping in the middle of it. As the priests stepped forward, the water moved to the sides so everyone else could cross on dry land. The plan also included collecting a stone from the river by a member of each of the twelve tribes, who then carried their stone to the other side. Once everyone had made it across, Joshua used those stones to create a memorial to show how God had guided and protected them.

ACTIVITY #1: CROSSING OUR JORDAN RIVER. Draw a river below with people, things, or actions that might help you cross the Jordan River if you were one of the Israelites.





USING GOD'S WORD!!!

Joshua and the Israelites used the twelve stones from the river to mark the spot where they crossed onto dry land. They did this to leave something behind that proved what God had done for them. They also did it so they would have a reason to tell future generations about God.

People still do things like that today. If you look at your church building, you'll probably find a cornerstone that shows when it was built. If you have a special mural or painting, it may have a sign that explains why it's there. But these items are more than that. They are an excuse for younger generations to ask questions about what God has done for and through older generations.

ACTIVITY #2: WE WILL MARK OUR SPOT, TOO. Use the stones and art supplies that your teacher provides to create your own memorial of things that God has done for you and/or someone you care about. When you're done, use your creation to share what you know about God with someone else in the room.

REMIX!!!

God doesn't want anyone to be left out or left behind. That's why God gives us directions for how to include others in our worship. It's also why God creates opportunities for more than one person to step into leadership. You may not be the main leader, but God will give you a chance to lead someone. If you want to lead well, follow God's directions and you will.

PRAISE GOD!!!

(This prayer can be done as a simple chant or while students are jumping rope):

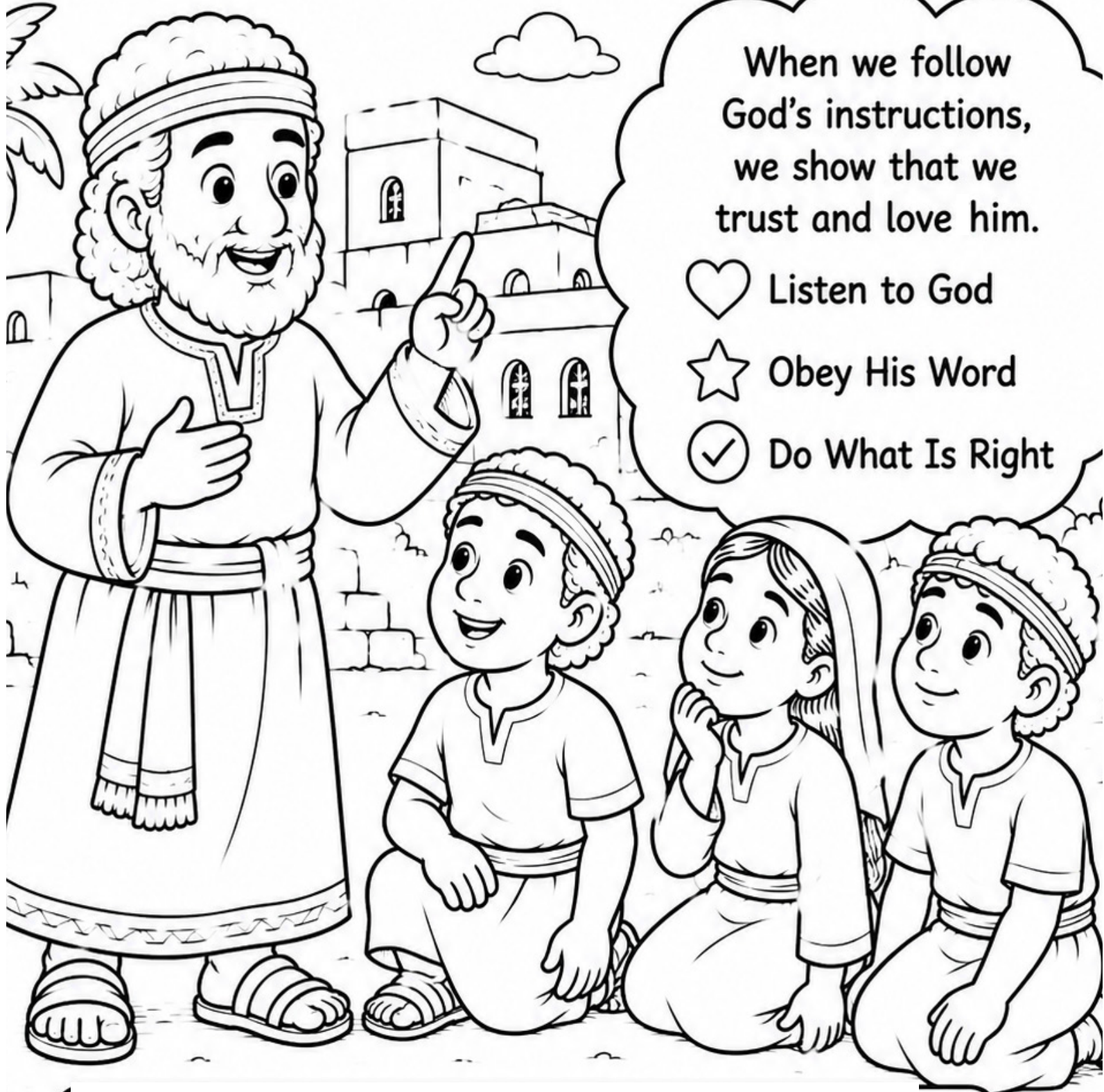
**Jordan River is deep and wide
But the Israelites crossed to the other side.
They followed God and Joshua's plan
Walking through it on dry land.
They left twelve stones on the shore
To prove what happens when we trust God more.**



Follow God's Instructions

When we follow
God's instructions,
we show that we
trust and love him.

- ♥ Listen to God
- ☆ Obey His Word
- ✓ Do What Is Right



GOD LEADS GOD'S PEOPLE TO VICTORY

LESSON SCRIPTURE:

Joshua 6; 8:26; 10:28-43; 11:1-23; Deuteronomy 7:1-16

FOCUS SCRIPTURE:

Joshua 11:16-23



Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had spoken to Moses...And the land had rest from war. Joshua 11:23.

WORD POWER

- **NEGEB (PRONOUNCED NEH-GEB)** - A desert area.
- **GOSHEN (PRONOUNCED GO-SHIN)** - A city in the southern hill country of Judah.
- **THE ARABAH (PRONOUNCED AIR-A-BUH)** - Desert section of the valley near Jericho.
- **HIVITES** - The people who made a peace treaty with Joshua by pretending to travel from far away.
- **KINGS** - The rulers who opposed the Israelites.
- **GIBEON** - The area where the Hivites lived. It would become part of the tribe of Benjamin's territory later on.
- **ANAKIM** - Very tall legendary warriors living in southern Hebron who were often called giants.





SCRIPTURES

JOSHUA 11:16-23

- 16** So Joshua took all that land: the hill country and all the Negeb and all the land of Goshen and the lowland and the Arabah and the hill country of Israel and its lowland,
- 17** from Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir, as far as Baal-gad in the valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon. He took all their kings, struck them down, and put them to death.
- 18** Joshua made war a long time with all those kings.
- 19** There was not a town that made peace with the Israelites except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon; all were taken in battle.
- 20** For it was the Lord's doing to harden their hearts so that they would come against Israel in battle, in order that they might be utterly destroyed and might receive no mercy but be exterminated, just as the Lord had commanded Moses.
- 21** At that time Joshua came and wiped out the Anakim from the hill country, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel; Joshua utterly destroyed them with their towns.
- 22** None of the Anakim was left in the land of the Israelites; some remained only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod.
- 23** So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had spoken to Moses, and Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. And the land had rest from war.



GETTING READY!!!

Anthony learned that not everyone responds well when other people do well. He was a student member of the School Board's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion team. They worked hard to make sure that every student in the district had what they needed to be successful.

Some parents felt the team was taking attention away from their students, so they tried to stop it. Anthony was really shocked to learn that his next-door neighbors were part of this group. He was even more shocked when the neigh-

bors discovered their youngest son had a learning disorder, because his team was working to help kids like him.

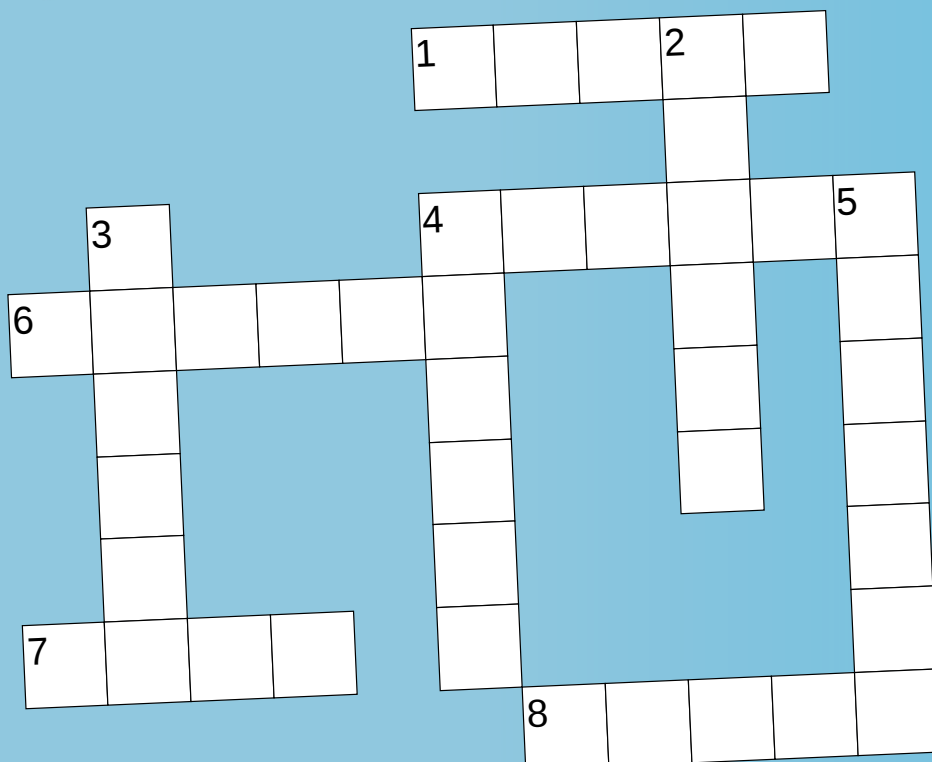
INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

When Joshua and the Israelites entered the Promised Land, several leaders and warriors didn't support the move. Some were leaders of cities like the kings that Joshua and the Israelites defeated. Others were warriors like the Anakim, whose hill-country towns were completely destroyed.

Everyone didn't oppose Joshua and the Israelites, though. The Hivites made a peace treaty with them. Because of that treaty, the Israelites even defended them when other groups attacked. Eventually, the Hivites were woven into the tribe of Benjamin.

All of this happened to give the Israelites a testimony about their connection to God. Guess what their testimony was? First, God keeps God's promises. Second, God's people are victorious when they follow God's plan. Third, teams of people who work together with God are blessed with success.

ACTIVITY #1: GOD KEPT GOD'S PROMISE AND THE PEOPLE FOLLOWED DIRECTIONS





ACROSS

- 1 The rulers that Joshua fought battles with for a long time
- 4 Desert part of the valley near Jericho that Joshua took
- 6 A city in the southern hill country of Judah
- 7 One of the places where some Anakim remained
- 8 The person God commanded to totally destroy the people who fought against Israel

DOWN

- 2 Area where the Hivites live
- 3 The person who took the whole land and gave it to Israel as an inheritance
- 4 Giant-like warriors who were wiped out
- 5 The group of people who made a peace treaty with Israel

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

Today's lesson isn't a history of the conquest of the Promised Land. It's a testimony of how God kept God's promise to Abraham, Moses, and the wandering Israelites. It's also being shared long after the events happened to the people of Israel and is a lesson about staying united and following God's directions.

That doesn't mean that the account is less valuable. It just means that it's shared to help us make a change for the better, which is what the best testimonies always do. For example, the movie *Encanto* offers two very different testimonies about Bruno on his sister Peppa's wedding day. Both are shared after the event. The first makes Bruno look like someone with bad intentions. The second shows that he meant to do good, even though it looked bad.



"Encanto – Bruno returns home"
YouTube video QR Code



"We Don't Talk About Bruno"
YouTube video QR Code

ACTIVITY #2: MY TESTIMONY. Create your own song, poem, rap, dance, chant, step, or piece of art that shows how you feel about God keeping God's promises.

REMIX!!!

Some people don't want to see us succeed because they believe our success means they've failed. Such people may try to keep us from claiming what God has promised us. We can't let that stop us. Instead, we must move forward and claim everything that God has promised us. If we don't, we won't be able to look back on our journey and offer a testimony of what God has done. And if we don't share our testimony, someone else may never discover that they can get one.

PRAISE GOD!!!

Oh how marvelous it is.

Jesus promised: he'll take care of me.

Oh how wonderful it is.

Jesus promised: he'll take care of me.

I don't worry about the things ahead.

All I have to do is live right

And believe in what he said.

Jesus promised: he'll take care of me.

God Leads God's People to Victory



GOD USES RAHAB TO BRING SUCCESS

LESSON SCRIPTURE:

Joshua 2; 6:16-25; Matthew 1:5; James 2:25;
Hebrews 11:31

FOCUS SCRIPTURE:

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



(Rahab said,) "Since I have dealt kindly with you, swear to me by the Lord that you in turn will deal kindly with my family." Joshua 2:12a.



WORD POWER

- **JERICO** - Walled city that Joshua sent two spies to inspect before allowing anyone to move into the Promised Land.
- **SIHON AND OG** - Powerful Amorite kings that Moses defeated when they wouldn't let them pass through their land.
- **RAHAB** - Non-Jewish woman from Jericho who ran an inn where she hid the Jewish spies.

SCRIPTURES

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

Joshua 2:8-13

- 8** Before they went to sleep, she came up to them on the roof
- 9** and said to the men, "I know that the Lord has given you the land and that dread of you has fallen on us and that all the inhabitants of the land melt in fear before you.
- 10** For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you utterly destroyed.
- 11** As soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no courage left in any of us because of you. The Lord your God is indeed God in heaven above and on earth below.

- 12** Now then, since I have dealt kindly with you, swear to me by the Lord that you in turn will deal kindly with my family. Give me a sign of good faith
- 13** that you will spare my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them and deliver our lives from death."

6:16-17

- 16** And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout! For the Lord has given you the city.
- 17** The city and all that is in it shall be devoted to the Lord for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall live because she hid the messengers we sent."



GETTING READY!!!

In Disney's *Moana* 2, Moana is trying to figure out how to defeat Nala and unite the different groups of Wayfinding people. She finds an unexpected ally in the demi-goddess Matangi. Matangi takes a risk and helps Moana figure out how to use her wayfinding powers in a new way. Because of Matangi's help, Moana is able to reach the hidden island and defeat Nala.



"Moana & Matangi"
YouTube video QR Code

Use this QR code to watch the YouTube video

of the clip from *Moana 2* mentioned and then share why you think Matangi chooses to help Moana.

INTO GOD'S WORD!!!

Like Matangi, Rahab takes a risk when she helps the Jewish spies. She hides them instead of telling the soldiers from Jericho where they are. She doesn't stop there, though. She tells them she's helping them because she heard about their God. She also makes them promise that they'll protect her and her family from harm if she helps them escape the city.

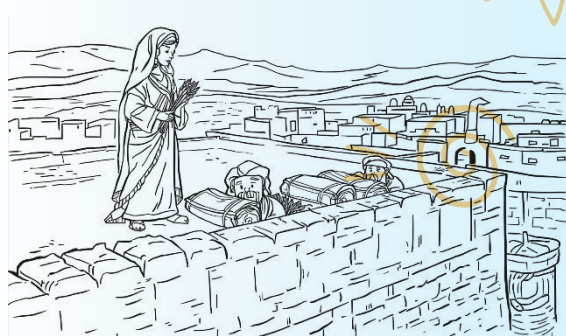
Later, Joshua keeps the promise the spies made. He rescues Rahab and her family, but everyone else in the city dies. Guess what? Everything that happens is part of God's plan. God sends an unlikely ally to help the Israelites overthrow a more powerful city.

Yes, Joshua leads the people in circling the city walls seven times while the priests blow their horns. However, he and the Israelites wouldn't have been able to do that if Rahab hadn't helped them. In return, they saved her and her family's lives. Rahab even marries a Jewish man and becomes one of the female ancestors of King David and Jesus Christ.

Rahab's House



Rahab Hides the Spies



ACTIVITY #1: I HEARD ABOUT YOUR GOD AND I WANT YOU TO HELP ME. Circle all the sentences on the next page that match what Rahab tells the spies hiding on her roof.



1. The Lord dried up the Blue Sea when you came out of China.
2. You utterly destroyed King Sihon and King Og.
3. No one in the land is scared of the Israelites.
4. The Lord has given the land to the Israelites.
5. The Lord their God is God in heaven.
6. Give me a sign that you will spare my family.

USING GOD'S WORD!!!

God is famous for surprising us. God sends helpers our way who we never expect to become our allies. God also uses the stories about how God works to transform unbelievers into believers. God did that with Rahab in today's story.

God also did it with a character in the movie *Amistad*. His name was Yamba and he was someone who others tried to enslave. And yet, he discovered something about Jesus while flipping through the pictures of a Bible. He couldn't read the English words written in the Bible, but he could make sense of the pictures of Jesus in it. Those pictures created a story that he allowed him to take a chance on God.

Here's a QR code to access the YouTube video clip of the scene from *Amistad*:



"Yamba Looks At the Bible"
YouTube video QR Code

ACTIVITY #2: COURAGEOUS ENOUGH TO TAKE A CHANCE ON GOD: Create a skit that shows the ways that Rahab showed she was loyal, brave, and true to God even though no one else in her city was.

REMIX!!!

Matangi and Rahab both took risks to help others complete a task that would benefit many. Each woman became an unlikely ally to people who wouldn't have completed their tasks without help. But they didn't become allies for the same reasons. Matangi did what she did because she didn't want the god who trapped her to win in the end. Rahab did what she did because she knew God would win in the end. Nevertheless, the heroes won because these women believed in what they were doing.

Do you believe in what God's doing? Then don't just take a chance on God. Like Yamba, share what you've learned about God with others so they can take a chance on God, too. If you do, they just might become an ally like Rahab did.

PRAISE GOD!!!

**Use the QR code below to play a YouTube video of
Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho.**

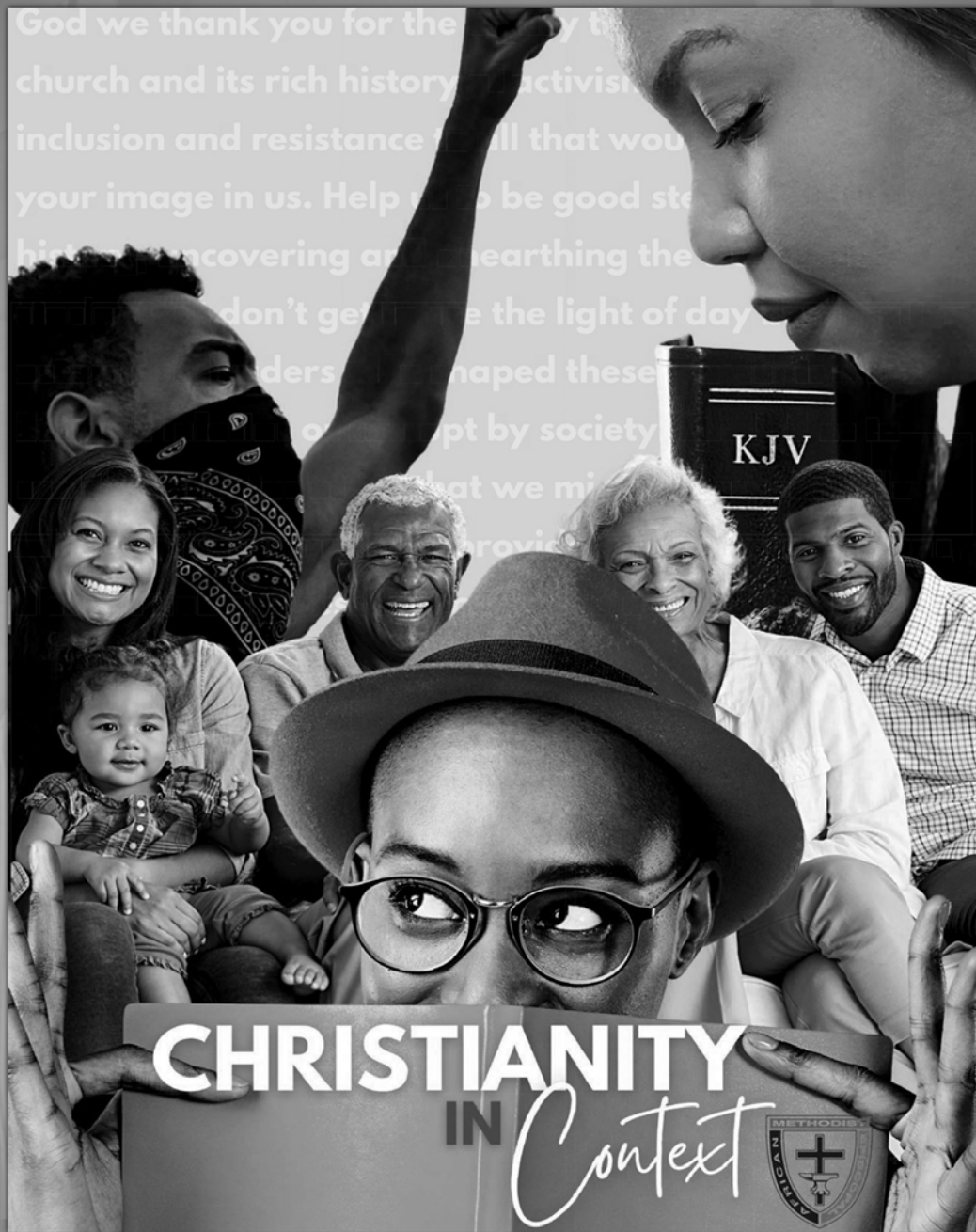


"Joshua Fought the Battle of
Jericho"
YouTube video QR Code

God Uses Rahab to Bring Success



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