**1. Motivate**

What are some important leadership traits?

* vision
* organized
* able to communicate well

A video introduction to the lesson is available. View it at <https://tinyurl.com/43w6zdpr> If you don’t have wi-fi where you teach, you must download the video file to your computer from <https://tinyurl.com/4b55dc42>

* able to motivate others
* administrative skills
* good listener
* good at logistics
* able to prioritize

**2. Transition**

Today ⇨ we look at new leader for the children of Israel … Joshua

* God gives assurance that He will be with Joshua
* Joshua accepts leadership, trusting in what God promises

**3. Bible Study**

3.1 Those Who Preceded Us

Listen for promises.

Joshua 1:1-5 (NIV) After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them--to the Israelites. 3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates--all the Hittite country--to the Great Sea on the west. 5 No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.

Why was the death of Moses a major event for the people of Israel?

* he was the one who (at God’s direction) confronted Pharaoh and lead the people out of slavery to the Egyptians
* Moses had been the God appointed and God ordained leader for the 40 long years of nomadic wandering in the wilderness
* Moses was known to have communicated with Jehovah God in person
* he was the leader when God’s miraculous protection and provision occurred
* Moses confronted the people when they rebelled

For what major challenge did the Lord want Joshua to get the Israelites prepared?

* you and all the people
* get ready to cross the Jordan River
* get ready to go into the land I am about to give them

What mixed feelings might Joshua have had in this leadership transition?

* honored to be chosen but awed by the responsibility
* not sure how the people will take to this change
* excited about the possibilities

Joshua might have felt inadequate. What kinds of things cause you to feel discouraged or inadequate?

* family responsibilities
* new job, loss of job
* new role in church ministries
* dealing with finances in economic downturn
* facing long term medical problems

What assurances or promises were given to Joshua that the task was achievable and victory assured?

* I’ll give you every place you walk on (same promise as to Moses)
* the extent or exact boundaries of the land were described
* no one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life
* I was with Moses and I’ll be with you the same way
* I will never leave you nor forsake you

What are some assurances and promises from God that you can claim?

* forgiveness of sins
* eternal life, abundant life
* the presence of God’s Holy Spirit within our lives
* God will supply our needs
* when we honor God with our tithe, He promises “pour down blessing” beyond our needs
* peace of God which surpasses all understanding
* God works all things together for God for believers
* power to overcome temptation, no temptation greater than you can bear
* adoption into God’s family
* bodily resurrection and transformation
* victory over death

3.2 Center Your Life on God’s Word

Listen for a repeated challenge.

Joshua 1:6-9 (NIV) "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them. 7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 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. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

God said three times, “be strong and courageous.” Why do you think God would repeat Himself?

* emphasis – this is *important*
* just in case Joshua wasn’t listening
* stress the importance of this challenge

What specific steps did the Lord instruct Joshua to take in order to be successful?

* be strong and courageous
* be careful to obey all the law Moses gave you
* don’t deviate from it right or left
* meditate always on the Book of the Law
* be careful to do everything in it
* don’t be overcome by terror
* don’t be discouraged
* remember that Jehovah God will be with you wherever you go

Why do you think obedience is so important to God?

* faith is demonstrated by obedience
* shows we love God – “if you love Me you will keep My commandments”
* obedience honors God’s authority
* it leads to spiritual growth
* obedience is a witness to the world
* obeying God leads to freedom (not to slavery)
* obedience is how we abide in God’s love – again, shows our faith

Joshua needed to be intimate with God’s Word to be a good leader. What would be the value of hearing God’s commands and promises from God, Himself?

* you weren’t making up these things
* it was first-hand knowledge
* not hearsay
* it was person to person communication

Consider that God still speaks to us … maybe not audibly, but how?

* Scripture
* God’s Spirit who indwells every believer
* preaching and teaching
* circumstances
* godly counselors

3.3 You Become the Example

Listen for commitments made.

Joshua 1:16-18 (NIV) Then they answered Joshua, "Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. 17 Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you as he was with Moses. 18 Whoever rebels against your word and does not obey your words, whatever you may command them, will be put to death. Only be strong and courageous!"

What did the people commit themselves to do?

* whatever you command, we will do
* wherever you send us, we will go
* we obeyed Moses, we will similarly obey you
* anyone who does *not* do what you say will be put to death

What did they expect of Joshua in return?

* may Jehovah God be with you
* same as He was with Moses
* only (above all, foremost) be strong and courageous

What is the relationship between their willingness to follow Joshua and their conviction that he was leading from the presence of the Lord?

* he had to have credibility
* you want to be able to depend on what they say and what they will do
* you cannot follow someone who cannot be depended on
* since they are assured that Joshua will follow God, they are willing to follow him

The people affirmed their commitment to follow Joshua. Why is it important to have godly people affirm us as we follow God?

* we can be assured that we are on the right track
* we can know that people will work with us
* we can depend on them

What are some ways we can display a consistent example of faith?

* following your leaders
* observable consistency in following the Lord
* positive reinforcement of those you work with
* faithfulness in service to the Lord
* mentor those who might pick up your responsibilities when you move on

Use the last page as a handout so your learners can take home the application points of this week’s lesson.

Application

Observe.

* Faith can be strengthened by observing people who live a faith-based life.
* Choose someone in your life who walks with God and carefully observe how this person follows Him.
* Perhaps you could shadow this individual for a day and learn from him or her.

Focus.

* Observing others’ beliefs is a great first step, but ultimately your faith should be centered on God’s Word.
* Focus your attention on God’s Word, and your faith will grow in a manner that pleases God.
* Read, study, and make God’s Word the foundation of your faith.
* If you don’t have a plan for Bible study, ask for help from your group leader.

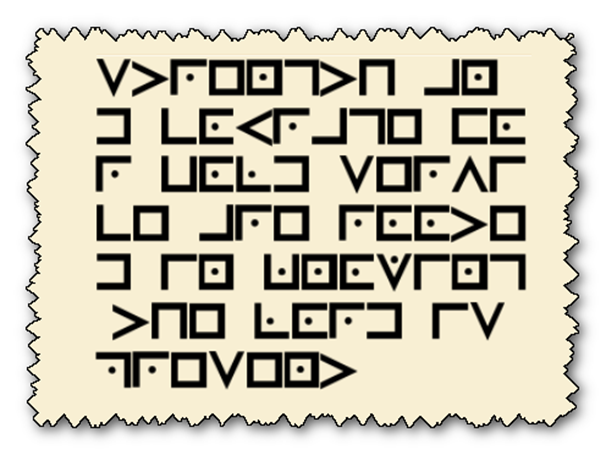
Display.

* Let your faith practice be an example for other people to follow.
* Seek out others to mentor and be their example of living a life of faith.
* Remember to be strong and courageous.

Cryptogram Puzzle

A cartoon of a person sitting at a computer

AI-generated content may be incorrect.A grid of black letters

AI-generated content may be incorrect.

Audwin Alpin, our cryptanalyst has been wracking his brain trying to decrypt this message from the underground church in Bamoacay. Help him out by using the key below. Note the “HELLO WORLD” example of how the code works. Audwin wants you to know there is technical help (and other Fun Family Activities) at <https://tinyurl.com/4b55dc42>