

General Church Education



The Lord Is the Hero

Psalm 24:7-10; Deuteronomy 34:1-12

Lesson 2

Jacob's Ladder Religion Lessons

Level 4: The Lord Is the Hero

For ages 9-10

The Lord Is the Hero

Psalm 24:7-10; Deuteronomy 34:1-12

For Parents and Teachers

The lessons in this book follow the theme of the Lord as Hero, and focus on the Lord as a Hero of War. Lessons cover events in the books of Joshua and Judges in the Word.

When Moses died, Joshua became the new leader of Israel. Like the name “Jesus”, “Joshua” means “the Lord is Savior”. Joshua heroically led military campaigns against nations living in the land of Canaan so Israel could take possession of its promised inheritance. He led the people across the Jordan River and set up memorial stones; he led the destruction of Jericho, and, eventually, Ai; he renewed the Lord’s covenant with the people and continued to drive out the nations, eventually conquering thirty-one kings so that the children of Israel could take possession of the land. At the Lord’s command, Joshua divided the land into territories for each tribe and set up cities of refuge, where people could flee for safety if they accidentally killed someone. The Levites, who ministered in the tabernacle, were settled throughout the territories.

To begin with, the land of Canaan was ruled by judges. Although settled, the land was not fully conquered. Many nations still lived there, tempting the children of Israel to worship their gods. The Lord continually raised up judges to restore order and worship of the Lord.

The struggles the children of Israel encountered in the promised land are like struggles we experience in trying to change selfish habits to live by the light of the Word. Just as the children of Israel were given many chances to try again, the Lord continually helps us stay on His path.

Ideas for Students

- The Lord is the Hero of War.
- Joshua was a hero. He led Israel to victory in battle so people could settle in the land of Canaan.
- The Ten Commandments give us power to fight selfish and worldly feelings and thoughts.

From the Writings

The Lord protects against all evils and falsities that are from the hells. “A man of war,” signifies one who fights against falsities and evils, that is, against the hells, and conquers them, here who protects people against them; for the Lord alone fights for people and protects them when they are assaulted by the hells, and this continually, especially in temptations, which are spiritual combats. The Lord is called “a man of war” primarily from the fact that when He was in the world, He alone, from Himself, fought against the hells, which were then for the most part open, and attacked and tried to subjugate all who came into the other life. See *Arcana Coelestia* 8273.

“All the power which angels and people have is from the Lord; and in proportion as they receive the Lord, in the same proportion they have power.” *Apocalypse Explained* 209.3

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Vocabulary

covenant—an agreement between two people

Torah—the five books of Moses (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy)

hero—a person noted for courageous acts or noble character, putting others above themselves

consequence—the outcome of an action or choice

The first five books of the Word are called the Torah or the five Books of Moses. They are about the patriarchs Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, their wives and children. In this story we will learn about what happened after these first five books, in the books of Joshua and Judges.

The Lord's Promise to Abram

The Lord promised Abram, "I will make you a great nation.... To your descendants I will give this land." The land of Canaan was called the Promised Land because the Lord promised it to Abram and his descendants. The Lord gave this promise over and over again. It gave Abram and his descendants hope, the courage to fight, and the strength to do what the Lord commanded them.

Moses: a Hero

Hundreds of years after Jacob died, the Lord raised up Moses to lead Abraham's descendants, the children of Israel, from Egypt to the land of Canaan. Moses was a hero because he obeyed and



served the Lord. The Lord gave Moses the Ten Commandments, which are important laws that told the people how to live.

Before Moses died, he laid his hands on Joshua and gave him the Lord's blessing. He said:

Be strong and of good courage, for you must go with this people to the land which the Lord has sworn to their fathers to give them, and you shall cause them to inherit it. (Deuteronomy 31:7)

The Books of Joshua and Judges

Moses led the children of Israel to the land of Canaan but was not allowed to enter the land. The story of Israel continues in the books of Joshua and Judges. These books are mostly about war. Many small nations already existed in the land of Canaan. These nations did not follow the Lord. They were enemies of Israel. The children of Israel had to fight these nations to take possession of the land. They needed a courageous leader who could fight in battle.

Read Deuteronomy 34:1-12.

Joshua: a Brave Hero

The Lord raised up Joshua, a warrior, to be a leader. Joshua was a brave hero. His name means “savior”. He was a good and faithful leader who served the Lord by leading the children of Israel to victory over their enemies. Joshua knew that his power and all his victories were from the Lord.



Sometimes enemy nations in the land led the children of Israel away from the Lord. Whenever Israel turned away from the Lord they lost in battle. Whenever they turned back to the Lord they won in battle. In these lessons you will hear about the miraculous ways the Lord freed the Israelites from their enemies. The Lord was their Deliverer and Savior, so He is called “a Hero of War”.

Read Psalm 24:7-10.

The Lord Is a “Hero”

The Lord has many names because He has many qualities. He is the Creator because He made us. He is the Protector because He cares for us. He is the Deliverer because He saves us. He is the Lawgiver because He gives us rules to live by. The stories of Joshua and Judges are about Lord as a Hero of War. In the Word the Lord is often called “God the Mighty”, or the “Mighty God”. This name is translated from the Hebrew word “el haggibor”. It means “God the Hero”.

Why Is the Lord Called “Mighty” or a “Hero”?

The Lord is a Mighty Hero because all power is His. Each time we say the Lord’s Prayer we say, “Thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory”. Whatever power or strength we have comes from the Lord. This is true whether people follow the Lord or not. It is true of angels. It is true of good spirits, and it is also true of evil spirits. All power and strength comes from the Lord. He is Mighty. He is the Hero.

When the Lord came on earth to save us He came as Jesus Christ. “Jesus” means “the Lord is Savior” in Greek. His name has the same meaning as Joshua’s name. The Lord was called Jesus because He was born on our earth to teach the truth and to save people from the power of evil. He is our Hero and Savior.

The Lord Prepares Us to Fight Battles

The Lord prepared the children of Israel for battle against their enemies by giving the Ten Commandments. We can be prepared for spiritual battles against selfish feelings and thoughts by learning the Commandments. The commandments are the laws of heaven. Obeying the commandments prepares us to receive the Lord and the blessings of heavenly life, here on earth and in heaven.

Discussion Questions

- Moses and Joshua were different kinds of leaders. What special qualities did each leader have?
- Why did the Lord need a new leader to enter the land of Canaan?
- What did Joshua and Moses have in common?
- Compare the way the children of Israel responded to what Moses asked them to do with the way you respond to things your parents or teachers ask you to do. Did the children of Israel always obey Moses? Do you always obey your parents? What are the consequences of disobeying?
- The Lord asks us to follow Him by learning from and obeying His Word. When we do this, the Lord gives us power over evil spirits. How does this power work?
- Describe the qualities of a hero. Do you know someone who is a hero? What makes them a hero?
- The Lord has many qualities and many names. In Joshua and Judges the Lord is a “Hero of War”. What does this mean? How does the Lord fight for us when we are struggling with selfish feelings and thoughts?
- Do you think Joshua will always obey the Lord? What will happen if he does not?

Activity Overview | The Lord Is the Hero

Recitation

Learn the recitation for this lesson by heart.

Who is this King of Glory?
The Lord strong and mighty,
The Lord mighty in battle. Psalm 24:8

Projects and Activities

Choose one or two activities.

- Qualities of a hero
- Names of Joshua and the Lord in Greek and Hebrew
- Picture to color—Moses Anoints Joshua (Numbers 27:22,23)

Additional Activity Ideas

- See a video of *The 12 Sons of Jacob* song online at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-twelve-sons-of-jacob-song/>.
- Watch the video *A Pictorial Review of the Five Books of Moses* online at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/resource/video-the-five-books-of-moses/>. Try to name the people and incidents shown in the pictures. Turn on the closed-captioning feature (CC) if you need help.
- Identify qualities of Joshua, Hero for the Lord. Fill in a chart as you learn about Joshua. <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/project-qualities-of-a-hero-joshua.pdf>.
- Why was Joshua able to be a hero? Read clues from Deuteronomy and Joshua and fill in blanks on a chart to find out. Download this activity at <https://www.newchurchvineyard.org/file/activity-why-was-joshua-a-hero-deuteronomy28-34-joshua01-06.pdf>.

Activity 1 | Qualities of a Hero

Joshua was a warrior who led the children of Israel against their enemies, and helped them take possession of the land of Canaan. In order to succeed, he needed to listen to the Lord and obey His instructions many times. Joshua's courage to follow the Lord made him a hero.

What qualities make a person a hero?

Circle qualities that make a person a hero. Cross out qualities that are not heroic.

courage	patience	responsibility	loyalty
honesty	strength	selflessness	perseverance
brave	devoted	love God	friendship
determined	kindness	humility	education
leadership	inspiring	sacrifice	networking

1. Are there other qualities you would add to this list? If so, what are they?
2. Do you know someone you think of as a hero? Which heroic qualities come to mind when you think of this person?
3. The Lord is the greatest Hero of all. He overcame the hells without help from any angel. Is it possible for a person to become a hero in the same way the Lord became a hero? Why or why not?
4. In what way might a person become a hero?

Activity 2 | Names of Joshua and the Lord in Greek and Hebrew

The names of the Lord are most holy. Each name tells us about a quality of the Lord. See how the Lord's names are written in Hebrew, the language of the Old Testament, and Greek, the language of the New Testament. The Lord can be with us in a special way when we say His name.

1. Look at *Names of Joshua and the Lord in Greek and Hebrew* on the next page. Using the pronunciation guide, practice saying the Lord's names in Greek and Hebrew.
2. Color in the outlined Greek letters for the name YESOOS. Start coloring from left to right.
3. Color in the outlined Hebrew letters for the names Y'HO-SHOO'A and EL-HAGGIBOR. Start coloring on the right and move towards the left. This is the direction in which Hebrew is read.
4. When you have finished coloring the letters, answer the questions below.

Questions on Names

Circle the correct answer or fill in the blank.

1. The Hebrew name Joshua means:

the Lord is Savior

God the Hero

2. The Greek name Jesus means:

the Lord is Savior

God the Hero

3. The Hebrew name El-Haggibor means:

the Lord is Savior

God the Hero

4. The name _____ in the Old Testament has the same meaning as the name _____ in the New Testament.

Names of Joshua and the Lord in Greek and Hebrew

YESOOS Jesus The Lord Is Savior

Ἰησοῦς

Y'HO-SHOO'A Joshua The Lord Is Savior

יהושוע

EL-HAGGIBOR God the Hero

אלהגבור

