

GROW!

Learning how to GROW in your friendship with God

LESSON BACKGROUND: Joshua was a very successful leader. This was because he spent time with God and read His Word. Joshua got instructions for what to do and how to lead God's people from listening to what God was saying when he prayed and read the Word. Joshua was confident that God was always with him because He spent time growing his relationship with God and believing His Word.

KEY PASSAGE: Joshua 1:1-9

KEY VERSE FOR THE MONTH: "God, You are my God. I want to follow You." Psalm 63:1.

BIG IDEA: "I can READ GOD's WORD to hear Him speak."

BIBLE MESSAGE – God Speaks to Joshua

INTRODUCTION

This month we're learning how to GROW in our friendship with God. Last week we looked at the first letter, G. Does anyone remember what G stands for? Yes, it stands for Get Quiet. Today, we're going to look at the letter R in our GROW series.

VIDEO:

A million little thoughts run through our heads every day, like, those are some cool shoes... She has something in her teeth... Or, what's that smell? Mmmm... Cookies! God knows every thought we have, and He cares about all of them. He's thinking about us all the time, and He wants us to open our hearts to think about Him, too.

We see this when we read the Bible and learn about a man named Joshua. God gave him some important instructions, because Moses, the leader before him, had died and God was putting Joshua in charge of all His people. As you can imagine, leading that many people could be very challenging!

God gave instructions to Joshua, telling him to get the people ready to cross the Jordan River. It was time for them to have the special land He had promised them. God reminded Joshua that He would be with him and that no one would be able to come against Joshua as long as he lived! God also gave Joshua these instructions, "Be strong and very brave. Make sure you obey the whole law my servant Moses gave you. Do not turn away from it to the right or the left. Then you will have success everywhere you go."

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God also told Joshua to never stop reading the book of the Law. He wanted Joshua to think about what it said, day and night! God told him to make sure to do everything in it so that things would go well for him and he would have great success! Joshua opened up his heart to God. He learned that God was with him, guiding his every step, and that gave him the confidence to lead God's people to the land they had been longing for.

When we open up our hearts to God, we will think about who He is and what He wants us to do. From this story we know that God is with us and that He wants us to read His Word because it will guide our steps. When we spend time with God each day and open up our hearts to Him, we will grow!

APPLICATION

We can see from our Bible story that Joshua was successful because he read God's word and followed God's instructions. But reading God's word is just as important for us today. Why do you think God want you to Read His Word? *PAUSE* ... Here are some reasons why God wants us to read the Bible:

- To **ask questions and find answers** to things we don't understand. Have you ever needed an answer to a problem? I'm sure you have, well the Bible is full of answers, that's why we need to read it.
- Another reason to read God's Word is that it's also one of **the ways He speaks to us!** We learnt last week to "get quiet". When you spend time with God and read His Word, we make space for God to speak to us. This could be a memory verse that feels like it 'jumps out' and answers our questions or just a story that gives us encouragement.
- We will **learn more about who God is**, like how powerful He is and how much He loves us! that I will never run out of things to learn about who God is and how much He loves me... That's why I read my Bible every day! If you wanted to spend time reading God's Word, when could you do that? before bed, when you get up in the morning, before dinner, on the ride home from school

When we take the time to read God's Word, our friendship with Him will grow, because we'll understand more about who He is and actually we learn more about ourselves and our part in His plan.

Our Big Idea today is **"I can READ GOD's WORD to hear Him speak."**

Our Memory Verse is "God, You are my God. I want to follow You." Psalm 63:1. As we follow Jesus and READ GOD'S WORD, we will hear all the wonderful things God has to say.

Let's pray:

Dear God, thank you that you are gave us your Word to learn more about you and how much you love us. Help us find the time to read your Word and be open to hear what you have to say. We love you. In Jesus' name, Amen.