

# Examples

## Lesson 3—Joshua’s Example

### OVERVIEW

Background Bible Passages: Exodus 33:11; Numbers 13: 27-28,33; Joshua 24:29

Key Verse: 1 Timothy 4:12—“No one should despise your youth. Instead, you should be an example to the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity.”

### BEFORE CLASS

Preparation: *Your preparation will determine the direction your class will go.*

- At the end of your life, if a summary was given concerning the way you lived and it read, “He/she was a...” What would you want it to say?
- How does your speech, life, love, faith and purity exemplify Christ?
- Study and prepare your lesson so that you are familiar with the teaching outline.
- Pray for each student by name.
- Use the Contact 1-2-3 system to the right to follow up on students who have recently missed on Sunday morning.
- Look for chances to build and deepen your relationship with your students outside of the church building..

### CONTACT 1-2-3 SYSTEM

*CONTACT 1--The first time a student is absent, give him a call.*

*CONTACT 2--Following the second absence, send him a postcard.*

*CONTACT 3-- The third week they are absent, pay him a visit.*

*THINK ABOUT IT: What does it say to a student when they miss multiple weeks in a row and are never contacted? It says, “It really doesn’t matter if you’re here or not.” Small things communicate great messages. Let the three “small” things above communicate that you care and miss your students when they are absent.*

## OPENING ACTIVITY

### Discussion Questions

- *How do you want to be remembered at the end of your life?*
- *At the end of your life, if a summary was given concerning the way you lived and it read, “He/she was a...” What would you want it to say?*
- *If only five words were going to be put on your tombstone to describe your life, what would you want them to be?*

*SAY:* Today we’re going to look at one of the great champions of the Bible, a man named Joshua, but before we do, let’s take a look at our key verse for the day.

## KEY VERSE

- Last week we read a verse that expressed five areas in which you, as a Christian, are called by God to be an example. *Who remembers what they are?*

*(NOTE: If they have trouble remembering, help get them started and then give them hints: —“No one should despise your youth. Instead, you should be an example to the believers in...”)*

*Choose a volunteer to read—Read 1 Timothy 4:12*

*SAY:* These five areas are:

- Speech
- Conduct (Some translations might say “Life”)
- Love
- Faith
- Purity

*SAY:* Today we’re going to take a look at Joshua, and although we aren’t going to follow the order above, we will see what kind of example he set in each of these areas.

## BIBLE LESSON

- *Who knows who Joshua was and what he did? (He led the Israelites into the Promised Land; He, under God’s direction, led in the fall of Jericho; etc.)*
- *Who knows what book of the Bible most of Joshua’s stories are in? (Joshua)*

*SAY:* First, let’s consider the area of LOVE:

- *In what ways today do students have issues with love?*

- *Agree or Disagree—How a person loves God determines how he loves (or treats) others? (Yes. This is true.)*
- *If a person loves God, they will obey him? (Jesus said so in John 14:21,23)*
- *Describe what someone would be like who is in love with God? Why do you think someone who is in love with God would spend time with God?*

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Exodus 33:11

*SAY: As a young man and throughout his life, Joshua’s life was characterized by the kind of devotion, loyalty, longing and faith that is born out of a heart of love. He longed to be in God’s presence. This was the reason that he would not leave the tent—because God’s presence had been there. David described his own feelings as, “As a deer longs for streams of water, so I long for You, God. I thirst for the living God. When can I come and appear before God?” (Psalm 42:1-2)*

*SAY: When someone loves a person, they don’t avoid them. They greet them enthusiastically. They want to be around them—to talk and share with them.*

- *Why do you think some people try to avoid God’s presence?*
- *Do you find that you want to be in God’s presence or that you prefer to avoid Him? Why do you feel this way?*

*SAY: Second, let’s consider the area of PURITY:*

- *What is the first thing that comes to mind when “purity” is mentioned?*

*SAY: For most people just one area of life comes to mind when purity is mentioned, but a pure life is a godly life and this affects everything from what a person thinks about to what they do. Consider David’s thoughts on this matter: “Who may ascend into the hill of the Lord? And who may stand in His holy place? He who has clean hands and a pure hearts, who has not lifted up his soul to falsehood” [Psalm 24:3-4])*

*SAY: Now let’s take a look at Joshua’s life: Joshua was one of the twelve spies that Moses sent into the Promised Land to take a look at the inhabitants whom they would have to fight to overcome it. Listen to their report when they returned.*

Choose a volunteer to read—Numbers 13:27-28, 33.

*SAY: The sons of Anak were a race of very large people, sometimes called “giants.” They were probably nine or ten feet tall. Ten of the spies rejected the idea that they could invade the Promised Land. Only Joshua and another, Caleb, believed in God and that He would fight for them. They said, “...do not rebel against the*

*Lord; and do not fear the people of the land, for they shall be our prey...the Lord is with us; do not fear them” (Num. 14: 9).*

SAY: Joshua and Caleb could have compromised. They could have gone along with the crowd, but they didn't—not even when their own people began picking up stones to kill them. They remained true and steadfast.

- *In what ways today do students you know compromise having “clean hands and pure heart”?*
- *How big a problem is peer pressure at your school?*
- *Why do you think so many people are willing to compromise what they believe instead of standing firm?*

SAY: Let's talk about FAITH for a minute

- *In what ways did Joshua's actions exhibit faith? (He believed God regardless of what he saw or what others said.)*
- *Do you think you would have had a problem believing God's promise to give them the land even though they would have to face giants to get it? Why or why not?*
- *How do you think daily faith can be exhibited in a student's life today?*

SAY: Joshua was a man of faith. His life could be summarized by a statement that the Lord made to him forty years later before he led the people into the Promised Land. The Lord said, *“Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9).*

SAY: Now let's talk about SPEECH and CONDUCT. As a young man we saw Joshua staying at the tent where Moses had met with God. Now, as an old man, after seeing God bless the people so that they now inhabit the Promised Land and now after many years of “rest...from all their enemies on every side” (Joshua 23:1), listen to his words: *“...As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” (Joshua 24:15).* Throughout his life Joshua continued to follow God, not just in words but in his actions as well.

- *In what ways do some students follow Jesus with their words only?*
- *What do you think you will be like when you are old—Do you think that you will still be following Jesus? Will you be able to say, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord”?*

- *Statistics reveal that 92% of the students in Christian youth groups will not continue being active in church once they are in college? How does this make you feel? Which percentage do you think you will be in?*

Choose a volunteer to read—Read Joshua 24:29

- *After 110 years of life, Joshua died and what description was given to him? (“Joshua...the servant of the Lord.” These five words summarized his whole life.)*
- *If you were to die today, could the same be said of you—“[Insert Student’s Name], the servant of the Lord.”*
- *Or, do you think the five words that might be applied to you at the end of your life would be the five areas in which you were true to follow the Lord: Speech, Conduct, Love, Faith, and Purity.*

Consider the following silently to yourself:

- Are you person of godly speech?
- Are you person of godly conduct?
- Are you person of godly love?
- Are you person of godly faith?
- Are you person of godly purity?
- Why or why not?
- Are you happy with this?
- What would need to change for you to be right with God in all five of these areas?

## WRAP IT UP

- *Does anyone know what Joshua’s name means? (The Lord is salvation.)*
- *Does anyone know the New Testament name for Joshua? (Jesus. “Joshua” was the Old Testament form of the name “Jesus,” which likewise means, “The Lord is salvation.”)*

*SAY:* Interestingly, both his name and his life demonstrated the salvation that comes from God. Joshua led the people into the Promised Land where they overcame their enemies and eventually had rest. Jesus has made a way into a different Promised Land (Heaven) and has given us the strength to overcome our enemies (sin, death, and Satan) and has given those who know Him rest (Matt. 11:28-29). Joshua was a great example but Jesus is the ultimate example. This week, be like Him.

## **Prayer Time**

*Pray specifically today that your students will be like Jesus and that they will be an example in speech, conduct, love, faith and purity.*

List prayer requests below and on the back of this page and pray for your students throughout the week. *Ask if any of your students want to pray today.*

## **Prayer Requests**

