

LESSON ONE

LESSON NOTES FOR STD VI

JOSHUA AND THE JUDGES. – The Israelites enter Canaan

AIM :

General:

- 1) To relate the story of how the Israelites crossed the Jordan and entered Canaan- 'the promised land' under Joshua's leadership.
- 2) To compare Joshua with Jesus- i) His name in Greek translates as 'Jesus': 'Yahweh Saves'
ii) He led the people to the promised land- as Jesus leads us to our promised land in heaven.
iii) Joshua set up a memorial- Jesus gave us the Eucharist as a memorial of his saving act.

Personal: 1) To help the children realize the great significance of the Eucharist as the great memorial of our first step into the promised land. 2) To encourage them to participate in the Eucharist with this in mind.

STARTER: (10 mins) 'Who Did It' Game

(Announce the game- 'Who Did It ?' Divide the children into 2 teams [2 halves of the class] and give them names, say- 'LOVE and PEACE'. Write their names on the black-board ready for scoring, As the children give answers, write the names on the black board.)

Instructions-

- 1) When I give the first clue (or do an action) you have to guess who did that action. Anyone from the LOVE team can put up their hands [no calling out the answer or your team will lose a chance]
- 2) I will ask anyone who's hand is up to tell me who the person is. The answers are all people from the bible. No name will be repeated twice.
- 3) The next chance will go to the PEACE team.

Clues:

- 1] He built a huge boat. [Noah]
- 2] He received the 10 commandments. [Moses]
- 3] (Teacher does the action of plucking a fruit, biting it, offering it to someone else.) [Eve]
- 4] (Teacher does the action of picking five stones, putting one in a sling, swinging it round and round and letting it go, watching the giant fall and then running up, cutting off head with sword.) [David]
- 5] Now 2 people from the new testament- (Action of following star... worshipping Jesus... offering gift) [Wise Men]
- 6] (Action of taking bread, giving thanks to God, breaking and giving it to the apostles...) [Jesus]
- 7] Now we have two bonus points for anyone who can answer this. Remember, none of the people we have already been named, can be said again.
He helped the people cross a huge river... the waters stopped flowing for them to cross... (The children might say 'Moses' but remind them that his name is already said, Besides, he led the people across a sea.) ['Joshua']

Most of us know all about MOSES and how he led the people across the Red Sea.

*Where was he taking them? [To Canaan, the promised land]

*Did Moses finally take them there? [No] It was Joshua, who led the people after Moses' death, who finally led them into the Promised Land. Let's read about---

INPUT: [20 mins]

Read: Joshua 1: 1 – 6; verse 10; Joshua 3: 1 – 6; 14 – 17

What was the promised land called at that time? [Canaan] (write on black-board)

- Who was Joshua? [Son of Nun, Moses ' helper]
 - Joshua means 'Yahweh saves'.. do you know anyone else whose name means the same ? [Jesus. In fact the Greek word for 'Joshua is Jesus'.]
 - When Moses was called, he tried to avoid saying yes. How did Joshua act when God spoke to him ? [He straight away obeyed....Jesus also, willingly came to do the Father's .work.]
 - Do you think the waters could have really parted, as the story says? [Actually in 1927, there was an earthquake in that area and the river was' blocked for over 20 hours]
- God may have used an earthquake to do the same thing in those days! Whether it was an earthquake or not, it was a great sign of God's help for the Israelites who were waiting to cross into Canaan.

Let's see what happened next:

Read: Joshua 4 : 1 3; 8 - 9; 19 24.

- Where did Joshua ask the people to put 12 stones? [12 stones in the middle of the Jordan, where the priests had stood; and 12 at Gilgal, where they camped.]
- Why 12 stones ? [To represent the 12 tribes.]
- What is the Covenant Box ? [The box where Moses' stone tablets were kept...a sign of God's presence.]
- What was the purpose of the 12 stones? [For them to remember forever how God led them safely across to the Promised Land.]

ACTIVITY: 15mins

(Give out activity sheets. Explain that this shows the similarities between Joshua and Jesus. Let the children work in 2s or 3s, and try and fill in the answers in pencil, for about 5mins. After this have a class discussion bringing out:

1. CANAAN is like HEAVEN- the place of rest and plenty after wandering about in the desert of life.
2. The RIVER JORDAN is like DEATH. Jesus led us through death to eternal life.
3. The 12 STONES are like THE EUCHARIST- the Eucharist or Mass, reminds us of how Jesus died and rose again- saving us all. Jesus told us to do it in memory of him.
4. JOSHUA is like JESUS: Their names mean the same thing. Jesus is our. Saviour who made the way to heaven for us.
5. 40 YEARS IN THE DESERT is like OUR LIFE. Even though this life can be happy and joyful, it also has pain, suffering, difficulties and is like a desert. We are always looking forward to our heavenly home: Where we can have complete peace and rest.
6. The ISRAELITES are like us, CH.R1STIANS. We are led by Jesus and we too, have to remember' every-time we celebrate Mass.

(Ask the children to complete the sheets by colouring the scene and adding any comments if they wish. If time is lacking, this could be done at home. It would be good to file the papers to help the children to keep record of what they have learnt.)

PRAYER: [10 mins:]

(Gather the Children into a prayer circle. Help them to quieten down and imagine themselves seated around the table with Jesus at the Last Supper. They are all a little worried and excited. They feel something is about to happen....) In this atmosphere read- **Luke 22 14 - 20**

Jesus has asked you and me to do something- what is that? [To remember him when we take part in the mass remember his suffering, his death...his victory, his love ...to thank Him for making the way for us to Heaven.

Let us ask his forgiveness for the times we have just carelessly gone for mass, thinking of clothes, friends, everything except Him...

Let us ask Him to help us to remember him in future.. (someone could say a short prayer for all.

YOU WILL NEED:

Good News Bibles. {full bible} / One activity sheet per child. / Black-board.