

Teaching Plan - Joshua, a Friend of God

Aim - To show that friends of God decide to follow and obey Him.



Welcome - We are here together



Activity

Choose 2 leaders. Each leader has a song their team is going to sing loudly, e.g. Jesus love is very wonderful/He's got the whole world... Tell everyone to join in when the leaders start singing. After a while stop - was it easy to follow your leader? Did you find yourself listening to the other team and wanting to sing their song? Not sure who to follow?



Bible reading: Joshua 1:9



Drama

(Teach signs for friend, listening and follow and ask the group to use them when they hear those words in the story)

A long time ago God's people were slaves in a country called Egypt. They had very hard lives, but God helped them escape. He gave them a new land to live in where they would be free and happy. God also gave them a new leader called Joshua. Joshua was **a friend of God**. **He always listened to God** and did what God told him. Everything Joshua did he asked God to help him. He was a really, good leader for the people in their new land.

But other people who lived in the new land **followed** false gods and did things against the true God. They did not live the way God

wanted them to live. They did not know God's way was the best way.

So, some of God's people forgot about the true God. **They stopped listening to Joshua and they stopped listening to God.** They started to copy the way the other people were living, and to **follow** false gods.

But Joshua reminded them. He said 'Don't turn away from God's commands. You must continue to **follow** the LORD YOUR GOD.'

Joshua reminded them how God had rescued them from being slaves in Egypt, how God had taken them to a new land where they could be free. He reminded them how God had saved them from danger many times and kept them safe.

He said to them 'Today you must decide who you will serve (**follow**). You must choose for yourselves. But as for me and my family, we will serve (**follow**) the Lord.'

All God's people thought about this. **They listened to Joshua and listened to God.** They decided to stop copying the other people who didn't know the true God. Instead, all the people said to Joshua, 'We will serve (**follow**) the Lord our God. We will obey Him.' They decided to **follow** the one true God and become **God's friends**.

Joshua wanted the people to remember they had decided to be **God's friends**. So, he found a large stone and put it under a big oak tree. He said, 'Whenever you see that stone, you will remember what you decided today. Today you decided to be **friends of God**. The stone will always help you remember that.'



Bible Reading: Joshua 24: 23-27



Talk

Joshua was a **friend** of God and good leader who always **listened** to God.

- Who in the story stopped **listening** to God and why?
God's people stopped listening because they copied others who didn't believe in the true God.
- What did Joshua tell them they had to do?
They had to decide who to serve (**follow**), the one true God or false gods.
- Who did the people decide to serve (**follow**)? God
- What did Joshua do to help them remember what they decided?
Put stone under oak tree and said whenever they looked at it they would remember

We know God loves us very much and wants the best for us. But sometimes we forget and start to copy others who don't know God. We stop living God's way and do things He doesn't want us to do.

- What sort of things could we do that God doesn't want us to do? Maybe we copy wrong things that others do - swearing, not being truthful, gossiping, not being kind, being greedy or selfish.

To be **God's friends**, we have to choose, to **follow** Him. Remember what Joshua said. 'Today you must decide (choose) who you will **follow**'. When we feel like copying others around us who don't know God, let's remember to choose to **follow** God instead.



Craft

How will we remember to do this? We're going to have a stone too. Decorate a small stone with your name on one side and the words 'Friend of God' on the other. Keep it close to you!



Prayer Time

Someone can say it or done as an Echo prayer

Thank you that we can be Friends with you God.

Help us listen to you like Joshua did.

Help us decide to follow you.



Possible Songs

I have decided to follow Jesus (2 verses)

The Bible is the word of God (Prospects)

The Father himself loves you (Prospects)

Be bold be strong for the Lord your God is with you.

(With thanks to Linda Sharp for most of the material in this session)