

Sunday School Lesson, September 6, 2026

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Lesson—Renewing Our Commitments¹

Text: Joshua 1:1-11

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Understand that God provides for his people.
2. Realize that God develops leaders to guide believers.
3. Live faithfully in covenant with God.

Why This Lesson Matters: God provides for his people by developing leaders to guide them so that they may live faithfully in covenant with the Lord.

Key Verse: *“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; Be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the Lord thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest. (Joshua 1:9, KJV).*

II. Topical Outline of the Lesson

1. Introduction
2. Joshua's call into leadership (Joshua 1:1-4)
3. Courage To Live God's Law (Joshua 1:5-9)
4. Preparing The People to Enter God's Promised Land (Joshua 1:10-11)

III. Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson

Joshua: One of two Israelites allowed to live through the exodus from Egypt and enter the promised land. He modeled faithfulness to the Lord and, as a result, was successful in military conquest.

Lord: The God of the Israelites plays a central role in the text by giving guidance to Joshua. He expects covenant loyalty fitting with the commands in Deuteronomy.

Moses: Remembered as the leader who partnered with God in rescuing the Israelites from slavery, who delivered them through the wilderness, who transmitted God's teachings to them as part of a covenant relationship with the Lord, and who mediated between God and the people.

¹ Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at www.sspbnbc.com

IV. Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)

*Be Strong
Stand*

Commanded

Prosper

Servant

V. Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context

Joshua 1 follows the conclusion of Deuteronomy and the death of Moses. Deuteronomy provides the theological framework for Joshua, emphasizing covenant loyalty, obedience to God's instruction, and reliance on God's guidance. Joshua 1 focuses on God's commissioning and trust in Joshua to become the new leader and lead the Israelites across the Jordan River into the promised land. Joshua's leadership continues rather than replaces this covenantal vision and permits a victory for the Israelites.

Joshua opens with loss and uncertainty. The death of Moses leaves Israel facing the future without the leader who guided them through liberation and the wilderness. God's first words to Joshua do not focus on strategy or conquest, but on promise, presence, and obedience. The repeated command to be strong and courageous frames leadership as a response to God rather than a display of confidence. Courage is required to because obedience will be tested. Joshua is called to lead decisively while remaining anchored in God's instruction. Faithfulness, not force, will determine the people's success.

Food for thought/question for consideration: (What have we learned, Charlie Brown?)

Transition, former things progressing into new things, will always be a part of life. The transition from Moses to Joshua in no way hinders the progress of the people of Israel. We must never mistake transition for a loss of momentum, courage, or commitment. If there's a transition taking place in your life, look at it as an opportunity to continue doing what God has ordained for you in bigger and better ways.

Closing Hymn: *Blessed be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

Sunday School Slogan: *To Sunday School to Sunday School, we all should go; we
have classes for all ages, help us to grow.*