



Here We Come!

Play a game where the response is to stand up. Say, "If you like _____, stand up." Children this age will stand up for almost anything. Include some less pleasant things, to see if the children will remain seated. But even when you say, "If you like gooey mud or slimy worms, stand up," some children will still think that's great and stand up.

Scripture Words and Worship

The scripture verse comes from the story of Joshua and the Israelites. There was a point of contention about who the people wanted to serve or worship—the one true God, the gods of Egypt, or the gods in the land they were moving into. Some had carried away idols and symbols of the Egyptian gods for souvenirs. Joshua put the question to them and gave this verse as the answer for himself and his family. Print each word on a different tool such as a broom, hammer, or paintbrush.

Stand for God

You can let people know how special God is to you.

Up and at 'Em

Place two marks on the floor within an inch of each other to represent places to stand. The children can take turns trying to stay on their spot. Two children stand back to back, arms at their sides, feet together. Feet must remain on the mark. Only leaning is allowed. How difficult is it to take a stand when someone is pushing against you?

Story Talking

Plan a camping experience. Going outside would be best, but moving to another site inside will work. Carry all the supplies you will need. If a simple tent isn't available, put a blanket over a card table. Take food for snacks. Be sure everyone has something to carry.

When you get to the camp site, set up camp and fix the food.

- How do you wash up for the meal?
- Where do you put the trash?
- How are spills handled?
- What things could have been brought along that would make the experience easier?
- When it's time for sleep, where will everyone be?
- What items are missing that give us comfort?

Scripture Words

We will work for the Lord.
—Joshua 24:15 adapted

Sense-ations

Do crayon rubbings. Use coins, the raised letters on the hymnal, leaves, different grades of sandpaper, or other objects with patterns.

Give each child a cut-out picture of Joshua mounted on poster board or other stiff material (next page). Make a base for Joshua from a small ball of clay. Demonstrate

Moving Music

"The Grand Old Duke of York" is an old song that calls for action.

how to make Joshua stand upright.

Compare the experience to the Israelites who were far from home and had to carry everything they would need with them.

- What things are inside the church building or classroom that you would like to use?
- If you wanted to pray, what would you do?
- If you wanted to hear a Bible story, what would you do?

Live and Learn

We don't often have to demonstrate our belief in something that is important to us. But if the occasion arises and we feel strongly, the response is called "standing up for what you believe." In the scripture story, Joshua was willing to do just that, against all odds and unfriendly, unhappy people.

Move from place to place as you tell the story. Start in one corner (Egypt) where the people had been living. Move across the desert, stopping at different places until you arrive at Jericho. Provide objects that can be thrown in the trash when the people "throw away their old gods."

- The Israelite people camped outside the city. They put up tents and built fires and cooked what food they had.
- "I'll be glad when we are in Jericho," someone said. "They have houses and food and we won't have to wander around in the desert any more."
- "But there is something you must remember," Joshua told them. "The people living there don't know about our God. They don't know that God made everything."
- "Who do they think did it?" someone asked.
- "They don't know, so they make up things to worship. They think the sun might be a god, so they pray to the sun."
- "That's silly," someone said. "Our God made the sun and the moon and the stars and the water and the sky..."
- "We know that," Joshua told them. "But those people don't. You must be careful that you don't forget God and start praying to the sun."
- "We would never do that," a woman said.
- "Some of you already have," Joshua told them. "You are carrying with you statues and charms and necklaces with pictures of the gods the Egyptians worshiped. You must get rid of them."
- "But we just carry them because they are pretty," the woman insisted.
- "You must make a choice," Joshua told her. "All of you must decide who you will worship—who you will work for. Will it be God or these pretend gods?"
- The people looked at each other and the things they were carrying. "We want to serve God, Joshua."
- "Then throw away those other things. Leave them behind. Love God, the only God, with all your hearts."
- The people cheered. They threw away those other things that might make them forget about God. They wanted to work for God and do what was needed.
- "We will serve God," they all shouted.
- And Joshua and the people prayed together.

"Choose this day who you will serve."



There We Go

Send the Joshua figure home, and ask the children to share the story of the man who was willing to stand for God.