



# Lesson Eleven

## *Believing God's Promises*



### Heart Preparation

#### Scripture

Numbers 27:12–23  
Deuteronomy 3:21–29; 34  
Joshua 1, 3–4

#### Bible Truth

God chose Joshua to lead the Israelites safely into Canaan after Moses died.

#### Lesson Aim

To know that God always keeps his promises to us and that he will take us safely to the final Promised Land.

#### Memory Verse

REVIEW:

PSALM 121

Optional:

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.”

JOSHUA 1:9

After 40 years in the wilderness, Israel was ready to enter the Promised Land. But they would enter without Moses, their godly, faithful leader. The Bible describes Moses as “a very humble man, more humble than anyone else on the face of the earth” (Numbers 12:3), but he had fallen to the sin of pride when he usurped God’s authority at Meribah (Numbers 20:1–13). Not allowing him to enter the Promised Land was severe punishment, but it points to the seriousness of any sin in God’s eyes. Though Moses did not enter the earthly Promised Land, God graciously took him to a better land—the heavenly land.

God remained faithful to his promise to Abraham to give the land to his descendants, but his promise required them to take possession of it by driving out the Canaanites. In contrast to the people’s response 40 years earlier, this generation of Israelites believed God and responded in faith and obedience by following Joshua, whom God had chosen to replace Moses.

Joshua carefully followed God’s instructions as the people crossed the Jordan River into Canaan. The priests went first, carrying the ark of the covenant, which reminded the people that God went before them. When the priests’ feet touched the water of the river, which was at flood stage, God piled the waters up in a heap miles away. God had parted the waters of the Red Sea when they began their journey to the Promised Land, and he parted the waters of the Jordan River as they concluded it. The priests stood on dry ground

in the center of the river until all the Israelites, numbering in the millions, had crossed over.

How astonished people along the banks of the Jordan must have been as they witnessed this dramatic event! God performed miracles at the Red Sea and the Jordan River so that his people would always believe and trust him and so that “all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the LORD is powerful” (Joshua 4:24a). Old Testament Israel was to be a light to the Gentiles, testifying of the only true God.

God expected the Israelites to believe his promises, to obey him unquestioningly and to acknowledge their dependence upon him. He expects the same things of us today. Pray that you and your children will grow in your belief and obedience to the expectations of God.

**“The hand of the LORD is powerful.”**