

Worship KidStyle Children's Edition

Parent Connection

Parents: Check out what your child is learning in *Worship KidStyle!* The information on this page will help you carry out your role as your child's primary spiritual developer by continuing the discussion we have in class.

Joshua and the Judges

This unit focuses on how we can learn, follow, and recognize God's commands.

Session 1: Crossing the Jordan

The Big Idea: I can recognize God's power in the world.

The Bible Story: The Israelites Crossed the Jordan River (Joshua 3–4)

Key Bible Verse: Joshua 4:24

Connecting Points: List off powerful things in nature. Clear a playing area. Use paper wads and blow the paper (or use a straw) from one end of the table or room to another. Notice how much energy was exerted to complete the task. Consider how important powerful wind was in our Bible story. Now, fill a bowl halfway with water and try to part the water. Was it possible? If so, try keeping the water parted long enough for a hundred, a thousand, or even a million people to walk the width of a river! That is the power the wind had that specific day, that exact instant, for that exact length of time when God parted the Jordan River. Only God is powerful enough to do all of those things while still hearing us when we pray. Pray, thanking God for His power to do all things—big or small.

Session 2: Jericho Fell

The Big Idea: I can obey, respect, and honor God.

The Bible Story: Jericho Fell (Joshua 6:1–20)

Key Bible Verse: Deuteronomy 13:4

Connecting Points: Recall the Bible Story. Ask: "Would you have felt silly walking around a city seven times in complete silence? Or doing anything in complete silence, for that matter?" Continue: "How many times in the last week have your parents asked you to do something over and over? Did you do it? Did you know that obedience is a form of worship?" Play a simple game of "Simon Says." Make each command unusual and sometimes repetitive. Allow each person to play "Simon." Once finished, ask if one command was more difficult than others. Did they feel silly doing specific actions over and over? Consider what would have happened had the Israelites not followed God's instruction. Would the walls have still fallen? Realize God commands us to listen, obey, respect, and honor Him, no matter how silly the instructions seem. Pray, praising God for His instruction in our lives.

Session 3: Deborah and Barak

The Big Idea: I can follow God's instructions.

The Bible Story: Deborah and Barak (Judges 4)

Key Bible Verse: Proverbs 8:33

Connecting Points: Read Proverbs 8:33. Ask: "What happens when we don't follow instructions?" Allow the kids to respond. Send the kids throughout the house to create a simple obstacle course. Blindfold the parents and have the children call out directions. Run the course. Ask: "How hard is it to listen and trust instructions? How important was it for us, the parents, to trust the kids giving direction? How important is it that we listen for God's voice and trust His words?" Recognize that God will never give us wrong directions. Our job is to worship Him with our obedience. Pray that your family will listen for, trust in, and obey God's voice.

Session 4: Gideon

The Big Idea: I can trust God to guide me.

The Bible Story: Gideon (Judges 6–8)

Key Bible Verse: Psalm 25:5

Connecting Points: Guide each person to think of messages, true or false. Write two to three messages on slips of paper (one message per slip). For instance "alligators have two eyelids." Fold each slip, place them in a bowl, and take turns reading it to decide if it is true or false. Ask: "How did you decide which messages were true or false? How can we know when someone is telling us the truth?" Recall the Bible story. How can we know this story is true? Realize that all the messages in the Bible are true. Pray, asking God to give the kids confidence to trust in His specific messages for them.

Session 5: Samson

The Big Idea: I can learn from my mistakes.

The Bible Story: Samson (Judges 13–16)

Key Bible Verse: Psalm 103:12

Connecting Points: Grab a pencil for everyone to look at. Inspect the pencil and ask, "Which end of the pencil do we use to write with? What about the other end? Do we really need both ends of the pencil?" Think about mistakes we make in our lives. What mistakes do you wish you could erase? Know that with every action comes a consequence. So, even though the "eraser" to our sins is Jesus, there are still consequences for our actions. Pray, thanking God for sending Jesus.