

# Session 10

## Power with you

Our 5 to 8s are constantly facing new situations and challenges. The exciting story of Joshua taking the Israelites into the Promised Land can help them understand that the all-powerful God is with them everywhere they go. For our children, knowing that God is with them can transform their lives.

**To plan your session...** Choose a selection of *Opening, Into the Bible* and *Living the life* activities to make your session fun and memorable.

## Options to open your session...

### Game

**Activity time:** 5 minutes

**Aim:** to think about God being with us even though we can't see him

**You will need:** a blindfold for each pair of children (optional)

- 1 Ask the children to find a partner. Invite one child in each pair to shut their eyes, or be blindfolded. Give each blindfolded child a pencil and paper, and ask them to draw some simple pictures, such as a house, a person and a tree. Encourage their partners to help them with the drawing.
- 2 Ask the children how they found this. Did their partners help them? Say that today they're going to think about how God is always with us, even though we can't see him.

### Matching pairs

**Activity time:** 5–10 minutes

**Aim:** to think about who is with us when we go to different places

**You will need:** picture cards from page 77

- 1 Copy enough cards for at least one pair per child.
- 2 Place the cards face down on the table and invite the children to take turns to pick up two cards. Ask them if they've ever been to the places shown on the cards and who went with them. If the cards are the same, the child keeps them and has another turn. If not, the cards are put back and the next child has a turn.
- 3 When all the cards are gone, the winner is the one with the most pairs.

### Aim

To remember that God is with us wherever we go

### Bible passage

Joshua 1

### Ready to use activity

#### Praise

**Activity time:** 15–20 minutes

**Aim:** to praise God for his power  
**You will need:** letter templates from page 78 (optional)

- 1 Ask the children to think of some really powerful things God has done. Invite the children to take turns to share their ideas.
- 2 Give each child a sheet of paper to draw a picture of the story they are thinking of. When they have finished, help each child to cut their sheet to make one of the letters of the word 'POWER'. You can use the letter templates from page 78, if you wish. If you have a larger group you could spell all or part of: 'GOD IS SO POWERFUL'.
- 3 Encourage everyone to take it in turns to tell God in their own words what they think of his power, using the pictures they have made to remind them of specific things he has done.

## More on this theme

If you want to do a short series with your group, other sessions that work well with this one are:

- **Session 11** Help for the spies, Joshua 2
- **Session 12** Across obstacles, Joshua 3:1 – 4:9
- **Session 13** Breaking the walls, Joshua 6

# Into the Bible – options based on the Bible passage...

## Ready to use activity

### Bible story with actions

**Activity time:** 20 minutes

**Aim:** to remember that God is with us wherever we go

#### 1 Team game

Write the words 'Moses' and 'Joshua' on separate sheets of paper and stick them to the wall a little apart.

Invite the children to form two teams and stand in two lines facing the names on the wall. Explain that when you say 'Go', the first person in each team must run and touch one of the names, run back, tag the person now at the front, then run to the back of their team line. The next front person should then do the same. The catch is that you will be calling out 'Old leader' or 'New leader' and they must touch the correct name. If they've touched the wrong name, they must correct themselves before running back. When all in the team have successfully touched the names, the whole team must sit down to win.

#### 2 Chat and act

Ask the children if they can remember a time when they had to feel brave and strong. If they get stuck, suggest some ideas like going to school for the first time, or the first time they stayed away from home. Encourage them to share what they really felt like on these occasions, and invite them to act or express through facial expressions how they felt if they were worried. Explain that God is with them in these situations, as we will find out from the story of Joshua.

#### 3 Get ready

Explain that God's power is needed in the Bible story today. When they hear about God's power, encourage the children to stand up and raise one arm above their heads like superheroes. Also, this session's story is about reading and obeying God's laws – the rules that his people needed to obey. Ask whether they know who was given the laws by God (*Moses*). When they hear about the laws, encourage them to make their hands into a book and pretend to read it. Practise these actions together.

#### 4 Story with actions

When you see the asterisk\*, pause to allow the children to do the appropriate action.

**Story:** God told Joshua to tell his people, the Israelites, that they needed to pack up their camp and travel across the River Jordan to the Promised Land – the country that God was giving them. God told Joshua to be strong and brave, and always to read and obey God's laws\*. Then God would give him the power\* to be a great leader. God said that he would be with Joshua wherever he went and his power\* would help him get through all kinds of problems.

So Joshua told the people to pack up all their belongings and get ready to go. Then he explained to the men that after they had crossed the River Jordan they would have to help their neighbours take over other lands before they settled in their own Promised Land. He said that God had the power\* to make them strong and brave and would be with them to help them wherever they went.

The men all agreed with their new leader and did what he said, because Joshua read God's laws\* and remembered to keep them always.

#### 5 Think

Ask the children what they think about this story. Give them time to respond.

Ask the children how they think Joshua felt as a new leader. Why do you think God told him to be strong? Give them time to answer.

**Tip for Leaders:** There's a learning aim for each activity to help you deliver the overall session aim.

## Bible story with *Splash!*

**Activity time:** 20 minutes

**Aim:** to remember that God is with us wherever we go

**You will need:** copies of the *Splash!* sheets from pages 79 and 80

### 1 Prepare

Make copies of pages 79 and 80, so that they are back to back on one sheet of paper; you will need one copy per child. Cut the block of coloured strips off the bottom of the *Splash!* sheet, leaving just the map. Save the strips for *Living the life* 'Wear and remember'.

### 2 Read

Give each child a copy of the *Splash!* sheet and ask them to turn to the map. Read Joshua 1:1, or invite a good reader to do so. Explain to the children that the beginning of this story about Joshua is the end of someone else's story. See if they can tell who that person is (*Moses*).

### 3 Fold

Tell the children that they will need to get ready to fold and add to their map. Read verses 2–4. Ask them to find the River Jordan, and draw down the river with a blue line. Then read the verses again and, as they hear about the edges of the land God is giving to his people, invite the children to fold over the appropriate edge and add to the pictures. For example, when they hear 'north', encourage them to fold over the top edge to reveal the Mountains of Lebanon, where they could draw on some snow or goats! They could add camels in the desert in the south, fish in the river in the east (in some Bible versions this is north-east) and boats in the sea in the west. Encourage them to be creative with this!

### 4 Listen

Explain that in the next verses God makes a deal with Joshua. It is a special deal, made with promises. The Bible calls it a 'covenant'. There are things for Joshua to do, and things for God to do. As the children listen, challenge them to spot these things. Read verses 5–9. Ask the children what they spotted. You might like to read it again slowly. (*Joshua: be determined; be confident; obey the Law; read and study it. God: help Joshua win battles; be with Joshua always and everywhere; do what he promised; give the people the land. (GNB)*) If they find this too hard, suggest other ideas and ask the children if they're right or wrong.

### 5 Think

Invite the children to think about what this story tells them about God. This is an open question so encourage them to be honest. You might find they feel more confident if you tell them, in a sentence, what the story has told you personally about God. Encourage them to think about God's promise to be with Joshua.



# Living the life – options to help live God’s way...

## Wear and remember

**Activity time:** 15 minutes

**Aim:** to remember that God is with us wherever we go

**You will need:** copies of the *Splash!* sheet from page 80, string

- 1 Explain to the children that they are going to make a wristband with different coloured beads representing places where God is with us. They can use it to remember God is always with them to help them.
- 2 As they cut out the coloured strips from the *Splash!* sheet, ask them to think about some places where God is with them, and to choose a colour to represent that place.
- 3 Glue and then roll the strips of paper into bead shapes, then thread them on to 20 cm lengths of string. (Older children might like to cut the strips at angles to make the beads different shapes.)
- 4 Encourage them to put the wristbands on, and then recap with them what each colour represents.

## Jump and pray

**Activity time:** 10 minutes

**Aim:** to ask God to be with us

**You will need:** picture cards from page 77

- 1 Place the matching picture cards from page 77, enlarged if possible, with several copies of each, face up on the floor around the room. Alternatively, write words such as ‘beach’, ‘home’ and ‘school’ on sheets of paper. Ask the children to run around. When you clap your hands, encourage them to carefully jump on to a card that has a picture of a place that they are going to over the next few days.
- 2 When all the children have chosen a card, encourage them to shout together: ‘Please, God, be with me in this place.’ (You may need to practise this shout together first.)
- 3 Invite the children to take their card home to remind them that they have asked God to help them in this situation.

## Ready to use activity

### Talk and thank

**Activity time:** 10 minutes

**Aim:** to remember that God is with us to help us wherever we go

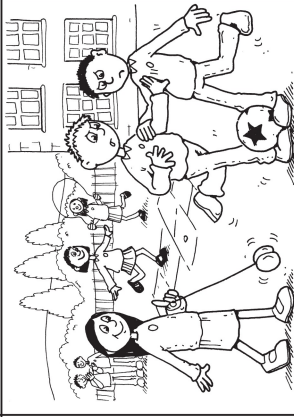
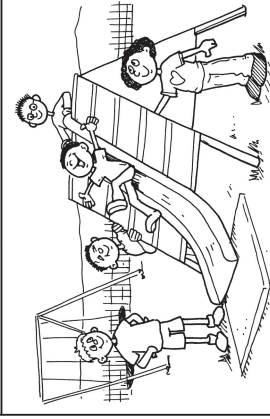
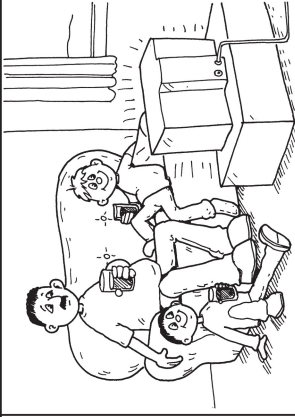
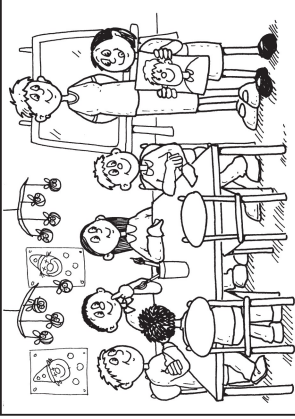
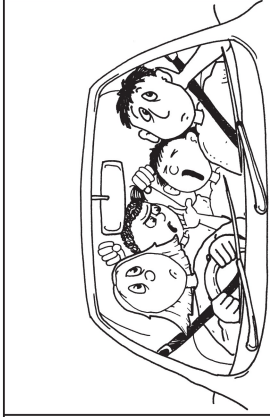
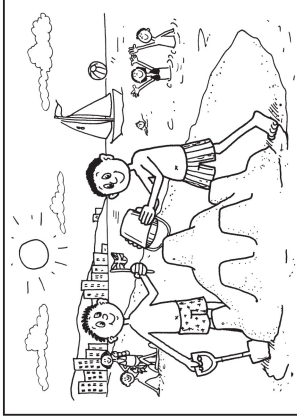
**You will need:** picture cards from page 77 (optional)

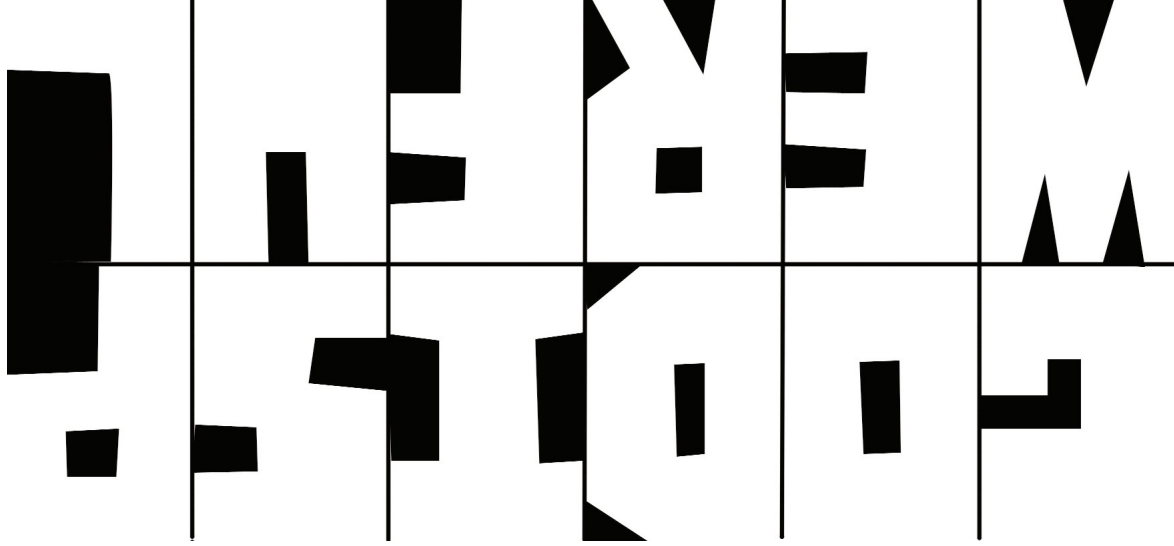
- 1 Read Joshua 1:5. Ask the children how they know that God was with Moses. Remind the children that, just as God was with Moses, he was with Joshua and he is also with us wherever we go.
- 2 Recap together some of the things that happened to Moses. Encourage them to think about when Moses was in specific places, and thank God for being with Moses there.
- 3 Look together at the picture cards from page 77. Encourage them this time thank God for being with them in these places. *PowerPoints for this activity are available in the zip folder.*

## Extra ideas for the session, and beyond...

Together, make a camp using large sheets, pillows, cushions, bags, suitcases, pots and pans and a few items of clothing. As you do this, explain that after the Israelites left Egypt they lived in tents in the desert.

Challenge older children to read more of the book of Joshua and mark his journey and battles on the map on the *Splash!* sheet on page 79.







# Splash!

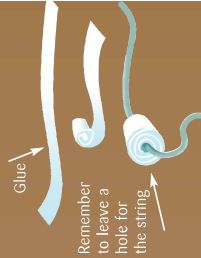


Fold forward on the dotted lines to add extra pictures to your map.



Cut out the coloured strips on the other side. Use them to make beads for your wristband.

The different colours can remind you that God is with you to help you everywhere you go.



**“Don’t be afraid,  
or discouraged,  
for I, the Lord  
your God, am  
with you  
wherever you go.”**

**Joshua 1:9**