

Joshua is Chosen to Lead

by Sharon Brese Fabrizzi

Moses spoke to the Lord. He said, "LORD...[after I'm gone]... Please put someone in charge of this community. Have that person lead them and take care of them..." So the LORD said to Moses, "Joshua...has the ability to be a wise leader. Get him and place your hand on him. Have him stand in front of...the whole community. Put him in charge while everyone is watching. Give him some of your authority. Then the whole community of Israel will obey him. -Numbers 27:15-20 NIV

- Have you ever played a group game where teams were chosen by two people?
- If so, what games have you played?
- Why do you think the team captains picked certain people to be on their team?

Sometimes team captains have to decide who would be best for their team. Sometimes they pick people who are really good at sports or very smart. Sometimes captains pick people who are strong or good at hiding. Sometimes people are picked for a team for other reasons. Although Joshua may have been a good leader or a strong warrior, God chose Joshua to lead the Israelites because of Joshua's faith and his loving heart. God knew Joshua was the best choice to lead God's people.

- When you are chosen to be part of a team, does it make you feel special?
- How do you think Joshua felt to be chosen by God?
- How do you think it would feel to lead people?
- Would you be worried or afraid to be in charge of a lot of people?

Being chosen by God may have made Joshua feel pretty awesome; but it would also take a lot of courage to be a leader. It might even be a little scary. Joshua may have also felt like he was being given a huge responsibility. But God encouraged him, and many times told him to be "strong and courageous." God promised Joshua He would be with him. Joshua listened to God and asked Him for help and support throughout the time he was the Israelites' leader. Joshua never used the leadership position for his own good. Joshua stayed humble and used his power and position the way God wanted him to use it. Joshua always stayed a servant to the Lord, even while he was leading the Israelites.

- How would you feel if you were chosen by God? Well, guess what? You are!

God has chosen you to be part of His family. God has chosen you to use the gifts you were given. You may be a leader where you live, work, or go to school. You might lead someone to Jesus by using your special gifts. You might lead prayer or song time. You might lead a friend to see Jesus' love by the way you act. We can all be leaders for God in some form or another; we can ask Him for help and support to lead the way He wants us to serve others.

Prayer

Dear God,

Thank You for being our God.

Help us learn what our gifts and talents are so we can lead others.

Help us remember to ask You for help and support to praise You.

No matter what we are leading, give us the wisdom to remember we are Your servants first.

Help us use our positions to help those around us.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

