

Joshua's Example Lived On

by Sharon Brese Fabrizio

Then choose for yourselves right now whom you will serve...as for me [Joshua] and my family, we will serve the Lord. -Joshua 24:15 NIV

Joshua, an Israelite man in the Bible, loved God and stayed faithful to Him. When he was young, Joshua was one of the 12 spies asked to sneak into the Promised Land and give a report. Joshua was one of only two young men who were not afraid to try to conquer the land. Joshua knew the Lord was with the Israelites and would protect them. Joshua trusted God.

Forty years later when Moses was old, the Israelites needed a new leader. Joshua was asked to safely help them move into the Promised Land; he humbly took the job. Joshua listened to God's plans for each battle and did exactly what God said. Once the land was under the Israelites' control, Joshua helped God's people figure out where they would live and how to set up their towns.

The people of Israel and Joshua's family watched how Joshua trusted God to help him lead. They knew he always waited on God's instructions. They saw how Joshua followed these plans willingly, even when he didn't understand the reasons behind what God was telling him to do. They also saw how Joshua did not take his role as leader and use it the wrong way. He didn't let the power of leading go to his head. Joshua didn't use power to take advantage of anyone else or use it for his own selfish wants. Joshua didn't get greedy.

- When you were young, who did you know that you wanted to be like? Why?
- Did you find yourself watching that person and trying to act like them?
- Do you have family or friends who look up to you?
- Have you thought about the fact that they may be watching what you are doing?
- If so, does that affect the way you act or the things you do? For example, if you know something is wrong, do you try not to do it in front of others who may look up to you?
- If someone were to look at how you spend your time, what would they notice is important to you?

Joshua's actions showed he lived his life for God; his family saw this. Later in life, Joshua told all of Israel how important it was to serve God. (Reread the Bible verse.) Both Joshua's actions and words showed he was loyal to God. This gift of how to behave and love God was Joshua's legacy.

A legacy is like an inheritance or a gift to someone who is part of your family. Joshua's legacy wasn't a typical legacy, however. Joshua didn't leave his family money or some expensive gift; it was much better! Joshua's legacy was his example of trusting and serving God. Joshua's legacy was helping his family see that God must help you make all your decisions in order for success.

- Think about the word legacy. What kind of legacy will you leave? How will your family and friends remember you?

Prayer

Dear God,

We want to hear Your instructions for our lives.

Guide us when we read the Bible so we may see Your plans for us.

We want to live our lives so our family and friends will know we love You.

Help us be an inspiration to them so they will want to live their lives for You, too.

In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

