

ENTER THE JOURNEY

CHECKLIST: WHAT YOU NEED

- Pre-written papers for ice breaker
- Copies of the downloadable “622 service” and “Prayers & Thanksgivings” booklets
- Copies of the lesson handout
- Copy of the leader's notes
- A white board, easel pad, or chalk board with markers/chalk
- OPTIONAL: Bibles (ESV or similar recommended)
- OPTIONAL: Have notebooks on hand for teens to take home and use as prayer journals if they wish

ICE BREAKER: PICTURING ADVENTURES

Write out some classic adventure book titles (preferably ones that involve a journey of some kind) on pieces of paper and fold. Keep in mind that the teens will be asked to draw them, so you may want to avoid titles containing names of specific people or places. A few examples are below:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pilgrim's Progress • Around the World in 80 Days • Watership Down • The Wizard of Oz • Treasure Island • The Call of the Wild | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Lord of the Rings • Children of the New Forest • Charlie and the Chocolate Factory • The Jungle Book • The Lion, The Witch, and the Wardrobe • Twenty Thousand Leagues Under the Sea |
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The teens take turns selecting a piece of paper from the pile and then drawing a picture illustrating the book title written on it for the others to guess at. They may draw blank lines depicting the actual words of the phrase and fill in parts of it if they are guessed. All other clues should be drawn (not acted out and word bubbles cannot contain actual letters or numbers). The teens have one minute to draw/guess each title. Depending on how quick your teens are to guess, you may want to be more or less strict about the exact words, or allow more or less than one minute.

FOR SMALL GROUPS, SIMPLY GIVE THE TEENS AS MANY TURNS AS TIME ALLOWS AND DON'T KEEP SCORE. FOR LARGER GROUPS, DIVIDE INTO TEAMS WHERE TEAM-MATES TRY TO GUESS THE MOST TITLES BEFORE THE ALLOTTED MINUTE IS UP.

622: BEGINNING WITH PRAYER

Begin the formal part of the lesson by saying together the first part of the order of service for young people in the booklet, up to the middle of page 4.

AT THIS POINT IN THE LESSON, ASK IF THE TEENS SUCCEEDED IN DOING LAST WEEK'S CHALLENGE, HOW IT WENT, AND WHETHER THEY HAVE ANYTHING TO SHARE.

DISCUSSION: WHAT YOU NEED ON A JOURNEY

As an introduction to the lesson ask the teens to discuss the following questions.

DEPENDING ON THE COMFORT LEVEL FOR SHARING IN YOUR GROUP, IT MAY BE EASIER TO HAVE THEM VOLUNTEER ANSWERS WITH ALL RESPONSES WRITTEN TOGETHER ON A BOARD.

- How would you prepare if you were headed off on a long journey?
- When you start out on a trip of some kind, what are your expectations? Do things usually go exactly according to plan?
- Does anyone have a story about an unexpected adventure while travelling? (It can be good or bad; something that happened to you or to someone you know.)

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A few things worth pointing out (if they don't otherwise arise during the discussion):

- Your teens may come up with some ideas as to how they would pack, what they'd want to learn ahead of time, arrangements they'd want to make in case of emergency, etc. Chances are your teens will say "it depends". What kind of journey? How long? Where will they be going? Challenge them to come up with some ideas for how they might prepare for a journey where they don't actually have any of these answers.*
- Sometimes things do go according to plan. Travel arrangements run smoothly. We find we have packed everything we needed. The weather is exactly what we had hoped it would be. And we get to see the places and people we'd hoped, and enjoy them as much as we thought we would. But more often than not, there are surprises, whether good or bad.*
- Perhaps you have a story of your own that you can share of travel plans going awry, but if you don't, your teens likely will. Hopefully your discussion raises the point that you never know exactly what is going to happen, because journeys almost always involve the unexpected.*

THE LESSON: JOSHUA 1

The first part of the lesson (below) can be read aloud. Then the teens are asked to read the Bible text (either silently to themselves or aloud together), followed by some additional questions for discussion.

(IF YOU ARE LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL RESOURCES TO HELP RESPOND TO QUESTIONS THAT MAY BE RAISED DURING THIS UNIT, WE RECOMMEND "DISCOVERING THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER: A HANDS-ON APPROACH, VOLUME 2: OUR LIFE IN THE CHURCH" BY SUE CARELESS.)

Life is like a journey. We do not know ahead of time exactly how it will unfold or where it will take us. In that sense it is almost impossible for us to be prepared. But if we are believers, we go on our way equipped with the Holy Spirit, the knowledge of our Christian identity, and the fellowship of the community of faith. If we've been baptized and confirmed in the Prayer Book tradition then we are further equipped with the promises we've made, and the teachings of the catechism.

Jesus was an amazing teacher. His disciples had been with him just long enough to hear his teaching and witness some miracles, when he sent them out on a short term missionary journey with these instructions: "Take nothing for your journey, no staff, nor bag, nor bread, nor money, and do not have two tunics..." (Luke 9:3). Does it sound radical to you? Well, this was a learning experience for the disciples. And a big part of what they needed to learn was to trust God to lead them and provide for them when they didn't know what their experience was going to be like. Though they had no physical resources, the disciples had the benefit of having been witnesses to Jesus' ministry and having received his authority. When they returned a short time later to debrief with their Lord, they found they still had a lot to learn, but with the very best Teacher.

In this world, things do not always go according to our plan. There will be blessings and triumphs. And there will be struggles, distractions, and failures. But for the Christian pilgrim there is the knowledge that none of these things are surprising to our God. He will provide. He will be present. And he will offer us grace upon grace.

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God had led the people of Israel out of their slavery in Egypt, but because of their disobedience they had wandered forty years in the wilderness. Now, God was about to lead them into the land that he had promised them. But it was not going to be easy. They would face many enemies and temptations. On the brink of this new chapter, God instructed Moses to share these words with the people: "Be strong and courageous. Do not fear or be in dread of them, for it is the Lord your God who goes with you. He will not leave you or forsake you" (Deuteronomy 31:6). Though Moses had led them this far, the task was given to Joshua to lead them on. Let's take a look at the opening narrative of the Old Testament book of Joshua.

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Refer to Joshua 1:1-9.

(THE TEXT IS PROVIDED ON THE BACK OF THE HANDOUTS AND IN THESE LEADERS' NOTES SO THAT EVERYONE CAN MARK IT UP AND MAKE NOTES ON IT IF DESIRED. ALTERNATIVELY, YOU CAN READ OUT OF A BIBLE).

Read through the text. Then ask the teens to respond to what they've just read. Here are some questions to help guide the discussion.

- What does this passage tell us about Joshua's background?
- What encouragement is offered to Joshua as he sets out?
- Take a look at the "Do not's" of this passage. What are they? Why do you think they are mentioned?
- What can we learn about God from this passage?
- How do you think these things might apply to our lives today?

A few notes and reflections for reference:

- *The passage tells us only that Joshua was "the son of Nun" and "Moses' assistant" (v1), but we know that Joshua shared the experiences of Israel in liberation from Egypt, wandering in the wilderness, and also witnessing up close the miracles and the unfolding relationship with God that characterized Moses' leadership. Joshua was prepared for his ministry through observing all this and serving. It's also interesting to note that Joshua's name points to God's salvation (literally meaning "The Lord is salvation"), and its Greek translation is "Jesus".*
- *Joshua knows where his orders come from (God) and whose feet he is following after (Moses). The Lord is not only directing his steps, but promising the land and victory over enemies (v3-5). God promises to be present with Joshua (v6, 9). If Joshua is obedient to God's command, then he will prosper and be successful (v8).*
- *There are two "Do not's" in this passage. The first one is found in verse 7 and says "Do not turn from [the law] to the right hand or to the left" and the second one is found in verse 9 and says, "Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed". Wherever we find a "do not" there is a reason for it to be there. It is there because there will come a time when there will be pressure or temptation to do these very things. Though neither Joshua nor the people know what lies ahead, God does, and he wants them to keep his command close to their hearts; to stay the course in spite of fear and in spite of distressing surprises. Thus the words "Be strong and courageous" are repeated (v 7, 9)*
- *We can see from this passage that God had a plan and he invited human beings to participate in that plan. The promises that he offered to Joshua tell us how powerful and generous God is. The land, victory in battle and success generally were all within God's power to give. God cared about his people. He was present with them. He understood them and wanted them to set aside fear and be strong and courageous in the task that he had set before them. It was his desire to bless and prosper them. He gave the law so that they might "have good success" (v7).*
- *We may take comfort from the knowledge that we are not the first generation to face a challenging journey, to feel fear and to struggle to remain obedient. But we may find a greater consolation in what this passage tells us about our God: that he is present with us, encouraging us and working for our ultimate good.*

DURING EACH LESSON, IF THE TEENS RAISE THEOLOGICAL OR BIBLICAL QUESTIONS THAT YOU DON'T FEEL CONFIDENT ABOUT ANSWERING, SAY SO, BUT LET THEM KNOW THAT YOU'LL FIND THE ANSWER AND RESPOND AT THE NEXT MEETING.

PREVIEW: AT-HOME CHALLENGE

Take a brief moment to look at the at-home challenge together.

THE WEEKLY "AT-HOME CHALLENGE" IS TYPICALLY A SIMPLE ASSIGNMENT TO SPEND SOME QUIET TIME IN PRIVATE PRAYER. ENCOURAGE THE TEENS TO GET NOTEBOOKS THAT CAN BE USED AS PRAYER JOURNALS. ASSURE THEM THAT THEY WILL NOT BE REQUIRED TO SHOW THEIR JOURNAL OR THEIR PRIVATE PRAYERS TO ANYONE.

Each morning and evening, follow your own rule of prayer.

(IF YOU DON'T HAVE ONE, TRY SAYING THE MORNING AND EVENING PRAYERS FROM THE "FORMS OF PRAYER TO BE USED IN FAMILIES", WHICH BEGINS ON PAGE 728 OF THE BCP. IF YOU DON'T HAVE A COPY, YOU CAN LOOK IT UP HERE: [HTTP://PRAYERBOOK.CA/RESOURCES/BCPONLINE/FAMILY-PRAYER.](http://prayerbook.ca/resources/bcponline/family-prayer))

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During this unit, we're going to take some of the prayers that come from the liturgies of Baptism and Confirmation and pray them for one another as a reminder and a renewal of commissioning.

Spend some time reflecting on and praying with the words of this prayer:

Almighty and everliving God, who makest us both to will and to do such things as be good and acceptable unto thy Divine Majesty: We make our humble supplications unto thee for these thy servants. Let thy fatherly hand, we beseech thee, ever be over them; let thy Holy Spirit ever be with them; and so lead them in the knowledge and obedience of thy Word, that in the end they may obtain everlasting life; through our Lord Jesus Christ, who with thee and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth, ever one God, world without end. Amen.

(ADAPTED FROM THE ORDER FOR CONFIRMATION, BCP PAGE 560)

CLOSING PRAYERS (622 AGAIN)

Close with any prayers that might be appropriate in the context of the discussion of the day.

Before closing, ask the teens to listen quietly while you pray the words of the At-Home Challenge prayer over them.

AT THE END OF EACH LESSON, IF YOU FIND THAT YOU STILL HAVE LOTS OF TIME REMAINING, YOU MIGHT CHOOSE TO TAKE SOME TIME TO EXPLORE THE "PRAYERS AND THANKSGIVINGS" SECTION IN THE BCP (PAGES 39-62, OR YOU CAN USE THE DOWNLOADABLE BOOKLET). AS YOUR GROUP MEMBERS COME ACROSS PRAYERS THAT THEY FIND RELEVANT, PAUSE AND PRAY THEM TOGETHER.

Then finish with the "Grace", the final prayer in the booklet.

JOSHUA 1: GOOD REASON TO HAVE COURAGE

¹After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, ²"Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. ³Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. ⁴From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea towards the going down of the sun shall be your territory. ⁵No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. ⁶Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. ⁸This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."