

Grandma's favorite read aloud Bible stories ©: Joshua- the making of a general part 2

Excerpts from Exodus, Numbers, and Joshua 1:1-9

Being Moses' assistant was a great privilege for Joshua, son of Nun....

He was right next to Moses when anything happened! He even went up the mountain and waited not far away as Moses got the 10 Commandments from God, Himself! But, Moses was leading all these people to a land God promised to them over 400 years ago. God said it was going to be a place where they could be free and where they could tell all nations about God. They all wanted to hurry and get there! When they were getting close to the land, Moses chose Joshua, Caleb, and 10 other men to go spy out their new land.

It took 40 days to do it, but they did and they saw incredible things. They saw beautiful lands that could grow anything and a land where cattle and sheep were well fed --- But that is not all! They also saw GIANTS! Joshua and Caleb told about all wonderful things there and how it looked like the best place on earth! BUT... the other ten guys told them about the giants!

When the people heard that, they were scared and wanted to go back to Egypt! Joshua and Caleb were so upset, they tore their own clothes! They tried to encourage the people that God promised to be with them, and that God commanded them to live there...but, the people were so mad at them they wouldn't listen and wanted to stone them for trying to make them go where the giants were!

But, Joshua and Caleb were right! God DID want them to go, so, God was angry with the people! He was angry at them for not believing He would keep them safe, so He decided they would have to stay in the desert for 40 years! Joshua was sad. He knew and believed God was all powerful. He believed God wanted them to go. He believed God would defeat their enemies. But, he would have to stay in the desert too. Joshua continued helping Moses and fought many battles alongside him. He continued to learn from Moses and be trained as a warrior, but he really, really wanted to get to that Promised Land!

Many years later, when Joshua was almost 80 years old, he helped Moses fight in a very big battle. They were fighting against Og, the King of Bashan. King Og was the last of the giants! He was probably bigger than Goliath! And his kingdom was huge! He owned 60 cities and a bunch of little towns! All the cities were protected by big, thick high walls, gates and bars! God told Moses not to be afraid because He would help them win this battle and deliver King Og and all his people AND all his land and give it to Moses. God asked Moses to do to this king just the same as he did to all the other kings. But, this king...was BIG!

Moses, Joshua and all the other soldiers went to battle! They fought hard! They believed God would win the battle – and HE DID! They conquered all 60 cities and even killed Og, the giant King! They had won! But they knew, the battle was the Lord’s! It was because of God that they had won!

Joshua and his people had now been in the desert for over 40 years. All of those who did not obey God were now dead and Moses was a very old man. He was 120 years old! God now spoke to Moses and told him that He had chosen Joshua as the man to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land -- and not him. God asked Moses to bring Joshua to Him so He could make Joshua Israel’s General. So, Moses brought Joshua to the Lord in the Tabernacle (where the people worshiped.) God said to Joshua, “Be strong and of good courage; for I will be with you.” Then, Moses told Joshua to remember the battle with King Og, because God was going to do the same thing to all the kingdoms that he would have to fight in the Promised Land.

Joshua was ready. He had spent 40 years being trained by Moses to be a great General. Joshua was very wise and the Spirit of the Lord filled him. Moses told the people that Joshua would be their General and they should remember to encourage him and strengthen him, because Joshua was going to be the one to help them inherit their land and live in peace. After making his speech and teaching them a song, Moses climbed Mount Nebo alone. From there he could look over and see the Promised Land. And there he died. God himself buried Moses but no one ever found out where. Moses was gone. Now, it was up to General Joshua to lead the nation into battle to finally claim the land God had promised to them so long ago. One thing Joshua knew for sure – That the God, who was stronger than anything on earth -- would be on their side!