

***Grandma's favorite read aloud Bible stories ©: Joshua- the making of a general part 1***

**Excerpts from Exodus and Numbers**

A long time ago, there was a little slave boy, named Joshua...

Joshua was born in Egypt. Egypt is in Africa. His parents were born slaves there, too. We know his father's name was Nun and that Joshua and his family all lived in Egypt. But when Joshua was all grown up and was about 40 years old, strange things began to happen all over the place!

First, the rivers turned red – like blood! And all the fish died! Then, his town was overrun by frogs! After that, lice and flies were everywhere! Joshua wondered what was happening. He heard about a man named Moses who was asking the Pharaoh of Egypt (who is kind of like the king) to free all the slaves! Wow! He was really excited! How great would that be!! To finally be free!

But, more strange things happened! Lots of people were sick and the cows were dying, too. The weather was crazy and millions of locust ate all the food that they were growing...and one day, it went completely dark – in the middle of the day! And it stayed dark for 3 DAYS!! But the amazing part, was that Joshua and the other slaves had light in their homes!! (And they didn't even need any electricity or candles!)

After so many strange things, Joshua went to hear Moses speak to the slaves and he told them to go to their neighbors (who were not slaves) and ask them for silver and gold! Joshua did what he was told. When Joshua asked for the silver and gold – they gave it to him! So when they came back to Moses, he told them to prepare because God was sending another strange plaque on the Egyptians and many would die...and if they didn't want anyone in their home to die, then they had better do what he says!

So, Joshua did exactly as Moses told them to do. He killed a lamb and put its blood on the door frame. Eeew! They had supper and went to bed. But, that night, as Joshua lay in his bed, he could hear many people crying, and soon people came knocking on his door and said they had to leave Egypt IMMEDIATELY! He grabbed his family and all the things the Egyptians gave to them and hurried out the door! Joshua and his family left – with almost a million other slaves! They all hurried so fast that they didn't even have time to bake their bread! They followed this man Moses out of Egypt! Now, they were all free! All the slaves were free! Joshua was free!

So many things happened after the Israelites left Egypt. As the people followed Moses, they saw AMAZING miracles, like the parting of the Red Sea! Joshua walked with his family between the big walls of water! They also heard God speak with His own voice from the top of a

mountain! They learned a lot about God and His ways from Moses all along the way as they traveled and camped.

Joshua stuck close to Moses. He wanted to learn everything! But, one day, an army came to fight the Israelites. Moses turned to Joshua and said, "Choose us some men and go out and fight with Amalek." So, Joshua did what Moses said! While he and his men were fighting the battle with their swords, Joshua saw Moses on top of the hill with both his hands raised. As he watched him, he began to notice that when Moses' hands went down, he would start losing the battle and when they were up...he was winning the battle! Well...two men HELD UP Moses arms --- and Joshua beat Amalek! Joshua became an important leader and warrior. But, his favorite thing was that he was named Moses' assistant!