FAITHFUL Followers

Memory Verse: "*The Lord is my shepherd. I have everything I need.* *He gives me rest in green pastures. He leads me to calm waters. He gives me new strength. For the good of His name, He leads me on paths that are right." Psalms 23:1-3*

Big Idea: *God leads His people because He loves.*

Bible Story: Joshua and the Jordan River | Joshua 1, 3-5

Gear Up - Arrival

Greet children as they enter the classroom. Mark them present using your iPad and/or paper roster.

Opening Activities: Engage with the kids in your room as they play and interact with designated games and activities as time allows. Use this opportunity to ask kids about their week, discuss their interests, and encourage them to connect with one another!

Memory Verse Game – Freeze and Shout

What you'll need: No supplies needed
How to Play:

- Have kids walk (not run) randomly around the room.
- Designate a leader to say "FREEZE!" Everyone should stop where they are and freeze.
- Then the leader will say "SHOUT!" The kids join together in reading the first line of the new memory verse.
  "*The Lord is my shepherd. I have everything I need.*"
- The leader says "Walk!" and the game begins again.
- Repeat several times to help the kids memorize Psalms 23:1-3

Bible Time – Following God

What you'll need: No supplies needed
How to play: Talk about people from the Bible and give examples of how they followed God.

Noah

What God said: Build a huge ark.
What Noah did: Built it exactly as God told him.
Result: His family was saved from the flood.
Lesson: Obedience protects and blesses.

Daniel

What the king commanded: Stop praying.
What Daniel did: Kept praying to God.
Result: God protected him in the lions' den.
Lesson: Obey God even when it's hard.

Esther

What God asked (through Mordecai): Speak up to save her people.
What Esther did: Risked her life and obeyed.
Result: The Jewish people were saved.
Lesson: Obedience sometimes takes courage.

Get-To-Know-You Game – Does it stack?

What you'll need: No supplies needed
How to Play: This game is played in a large group and requires two designated areas. A **'Yes'** area and a **'No'** area. Ask the kids if they think certain items would stack on top of each other and stay stacked. The kids will answer **Yes** or **No** by moving to that designated area.

- Here are some fun suggestions.
  real cars, spaghetti, pine straw, boiled eggs, flip flops, yogurt, large rocks, feathers ….

Gear Up - Welcome – 5 minutes

Begin 10 minutes after the service time starts (Ex. 9:40 at the 9:30 experience).

Gather kids together in a space where they can see the TV.
Take a moment to **welcome** the kids to KXP and let them know how glad you are that they are here!

PRAY FIRST! We want to model this for our kids. Take a moment to pray for the time together and for the kids in your room.

Lesson Introduction – 5 minutes

Share the Lesson Intro with the class before starting the **KXP lesson video**. Challenge them to listen and pay attention during the Bible Story.

Say: *"Hey everyone! Welcome to KXP! This is our first Sunday together in March. We are continuing our series called Faithful Followers. Do you remember which faithful follower we have been learning about this year? Here's a few hints. He floated down a river as a baby to escape death. He grew up in a palace. He led the Israelites out of Egypt and slavery. He parted the Red Sea. He talked with God on a mountain and God gave him the ten commandments. If you guessed Moses, you're right! Today we will meet another Faithful Follower as we read from the book of Joshua in the Old Testament."*

Play the KXP lesson video in your classroom.

Bible Story – 10 minutes

Leaders, please read the Bible story below before Sunday to prepare for discussion.

Joshua and the Jordan River | Joshua 1, 3-5

As we begin this true story from the Bible, we discover that Moses had died in his old age and that God had chosen a new leader for the Israelites. His name was Joshua. Joshua had been with Moses for many years and he had learned a lot from him.

God told Joshua that he must lead God's people. ***In Joshua chapter 1, verses 5-6, the Lord said to Joshua "Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. No one will be able to stop you all your life. I will not leave you. I will never leave you alone. Joshua, be strong and brave! You must lead these people so they can take their land. This is the land I promised their fathers I would give them."*** God reminded Joshua to obey the Law Moses had given and to follow it carefully. If he did, God promised Joshua would succeed.

Joshua told the officers to get ready. In three days, they would cross the Jordan River into the land God had promised them. He also reminded the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh that even though they had land on the east side of the Jordan, their soldiers must help the other tribes fight and settle the promised land. The people answered Joshua in ***verses 16-17 "Anything you command us to do, we will do. Any place you send us, we will go. Just as we fully obeyed Moses, we will obey you. We ask only that the Lord your God be with you just as he was with Moses."***

The Israelites camped near the Jordan River. It was harvest season, and the river was overflowing its banks. It looked impossible to cross! But God had a plan! He told Joshua that the priests must carry the Ark of the Covenant into the river. Wait a second! Hold up! What in the world is the Ark of the Covenant?

Let's talk about that for a minute. It was a special box that reminded God's people that He was with them and kept His promises. It was a wooden box covered in gold. It had two golden angels, called cherubim, on top. Long poles were used to carry it because no one was allowed to touch it. Inside the Ark were the stone tablets with the Ten Commandments written on them, a jar of manna, the bread God sent from heaven, and Aaron's staff. The Ark was a special symbol of God's presence with His people. When the priests carried it, the people knew God was leading them. That's really important to know and it will help us understand what happened next.

Now back to the story. The priests carried the Ark into the river and as soon as their feet touched the water, the river stopped flowing. The water stopped! The water collected far upstream and the riverbed became dry. The priests went in first and stood in the middle. Soon all the Israelites crossed safely. This was another miracle from God.

After everyone crossed, God told Joshua to choose one man from each of the twelve tribes. Each man picked up a large stone from the middle of the river where the priests stood. When the priests finally stepped out of the river, the water began flowing again. The men carried the stones to their campsite at Gilgal and stacked them up to remember what God had done. The stones would remind everyone of God's power and that He would always be with them.

Lesson Recap –15 minutes

After the video has ended, **share the Lesson Conclusion** with the class.

Say: "*Our Big Idea for this month is that **God leads His people because He loves.** We know that God was faithful to Moses and led him well. Today, we learned that God was faithful to Joshua too. In the next few weeks, we will see how God leads His people as they get ready for a battle to claim the land God promised them. You don't want to miss it! So come back next week and bring a friend. You won't be disappointed."*

Direct the kids to the **Memory Verse** and **Big Idea** posters in your room. Have your class read them together out loud. Celebrate the kids for paying attention and listening well!

Close in Prayer – 3 to 5 minutes

Ask the kids in your room to share any **prayer requests** they have. Give them a moment to **fill out prayer cards** or **choose a prayer prompt** to take home. Then **pray over them**!

- **P**RAISE - *Open with adoration.*
- **R**EPENT - *Recall and connect the Big Idea from the Bible Story to yourself and the kids.*
- **A**SK - *Petition the Lord on the kids' behalf.*
- **Y**IELD - *Close by giving thanks to God for His perfect plan.*

Live It Out – 5 to 8 minutes | **Be Strong and Courageous Shields**

Supplies: Paper plates or cardboard, markers, stickers, foil, tape, any crafting supplies

What to Do:

- Cut shield shapes from cardboard (or use paper plates).
- Write: *"Be strong and courageous – Joshua 1:9."*
- Let kids decorate their shields.
- Add a handle on the back if possible.

Talk About:

How can we be brave and trust in the Lord when we're scared?

Leave No Trace – End of the Hour

- As parents arrive to pick up children, have the **kids work together to clean up** the classroom.
- **Thank them** for coming and **encourage them to invite a friend** and come back next week!
- Children can **finish opening activities** while waiting on their parents.