

**Youtube Link:** <https://youtu.be/0RvTLdACRlo>

**Children's Bible Story Video:** <https://youtu.be/N-rSk0GOGBs>

**Worship Theme:** God encourages us and is always with us.

**Memory Verse:** “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9b)

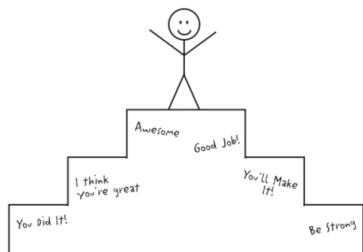
**Songs (Youtube links):**

1. If the Lord Is with Us [https://youtu.be/2CzIW4\\_ueg0](https://youtu.be/2CzIW4_ueg0)
2. I Enter His Gate <https://youtu.be/WvXL4DtBMdc>
3. When the Storm Comes <https://youtu.be/II5A7jKQb2o>

**Prayer**

**Song:** Select songs from the list above.

**Icebreaker: Give Encouragement and Appreciation**



1. Divide the children into two groups.
2. Each group will take turns and say something that can encourage their friends like “You’re awesome!” “Be Strong!” or “You can do it!”
3. Write their encouragements on a board like steps.
4. When either team runs out of things to say, you can connect the steps and draw a person on the top.
5. Remind the children to always be encouraging to each other because God always encourages us!

**Introduction:**

God loves you and wants to encourage you today. Did you know that God has special plans for your life? Did you know that he thinks about you all the time? Did you know that he goes with you wherever you go? He does! When we encourage people, we give them courage, hope, or confidence. Today, we will learn about a man named Joshua who really needed encouragement from God. Let’s find out how God encouraged Joshua!

**Bible Story:**

After Moses died, God told Moses’ helper, a young man named Joshua, that he was to be the new leader. Imagine taking the place of someone like Moses—Moses, who led the Israelites out of Egypt, through the Red Sea, and across the desert! Imagine if you suddenly had to be pastor of a big church. How would you feel? Would you be in fear and full of worries? How do you think Joshua felt? Joshua probably felt scared because the job was so big. He probably wondered how he could ever lead the Israelites as well as Moses did.

Even though Joshua might have been scared about taking Moses’ place, God wanted him to be strong and full of courage. (Print Joshua 1:7-9 and read to children → see below) God said to Joshua, “**Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go**” (Joshua 1:7-9) With God’s encouragement, Joshua became a great leader for Israel!

God has a purpose for each of us, just as he had a purpose for Joshua. And you don't have to wait until you're grown up. God has things for you to do right now—loving others, doing well in school, and obeying your parents. Sometimes it's very hard to love others or obey our parents or do our homework every day. God wants to help you and encourage you when those things seem too hard to do. God is on our side to guide and encourage us today the way he did for Joshua long ago.

### Questions to discuss:

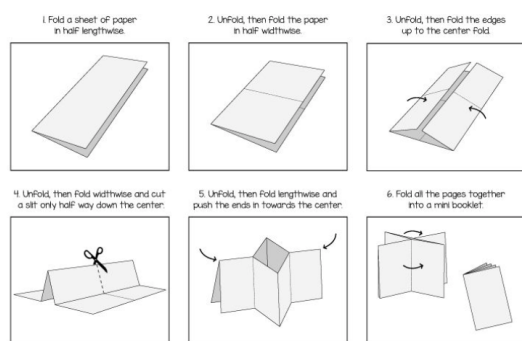
1. Who was the first leader of Israel who died? (Moses)
2. Who did God choose to be the second leader of Israel? (Joshua)
3. Did Joshua think being a leader of Israel was an easy thing to do? (No.)
4. What should you do when your friends or family members are having a hard time in life? (Encourage them like how God encourages us)

### Memory Verse:

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9b)

### Craft: Book of Encouragements

1. Print the foldable book template (see below) as well as the verses.



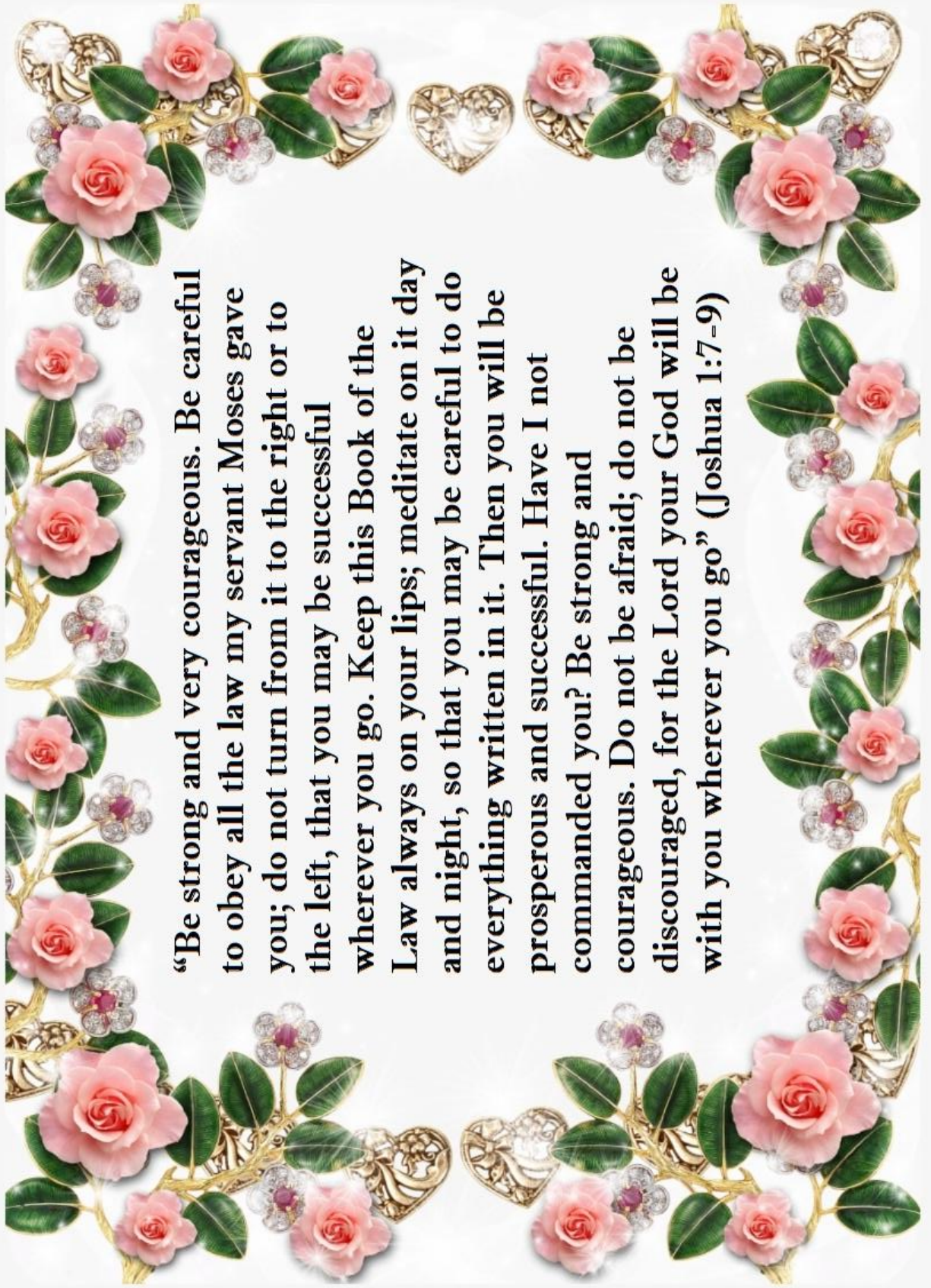
2. Help children to fold and cut the book template so that they can fold it into a book. Use the instruction from the diagram here.
3. Children should cut out the encouragement verses and glue them into the book in the order they want.
4. Children can decorate and color the book and use them whenever they need God's encouragement.

**Song:** Select songs from the list above


### Prayer

#### Teacher's Devotion (Please read before you get ready to teach the students.)

Our plans and God's plans don't always match. Today, many people feel that they deserve only good things because they're good people. The truth is, we deserve death and serious consequences for our sin. But God doesn't give us what we deserve. Christians surrender their lives to serve God because of what God has given us and what he has to offer through us. Teaching young children is a blessing because God is using you to spread the Good News to them. Take some time to thank God for using you to teach children.



**“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:7-9)**

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Print on 8 1/2" x 11" paper. Fold in 1/2" width & cut on dotted line. Fold in 1/2" width & cut on dotted line. Fold in 1/2" width & cut on dotted line. Fold in 1/2" width & cut on dotted line.

## God Encourages Us

**Do you have doubts and fears?** "So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand" (Isaiah 41:10).

**Are you lonely?** "Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you" (Hebrews 13:5b).

**Are you unhappy?** "Do not grieve, for the joy of the Lord is your strength" (Nehemiah 8:10c).

**Are you sad about something?** "I, even I, am he who comforts you" (Isaiah 51:12a).

**Do you need protection?** "I am with you and will watch over you wherever you go" (Genesis 28:15a).

**Do you need peace of mind?** "And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 4:7).

**Is sickness a problem?** "I am the Lord, who heals you" (Exodus 15:26b).

**What about your friends?** "He who walks with the wise grows wise, but a companion of fools suffers harm" (Proverbs 13:20).

**Do you often feel insecure?** "I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:13).

**Are you often tempted?** "In all these things we are more than conquerors through him who loved us" (Romans 8:37).