

Lesson 6: Joshua's Farewell and Death

Joshua 23-24

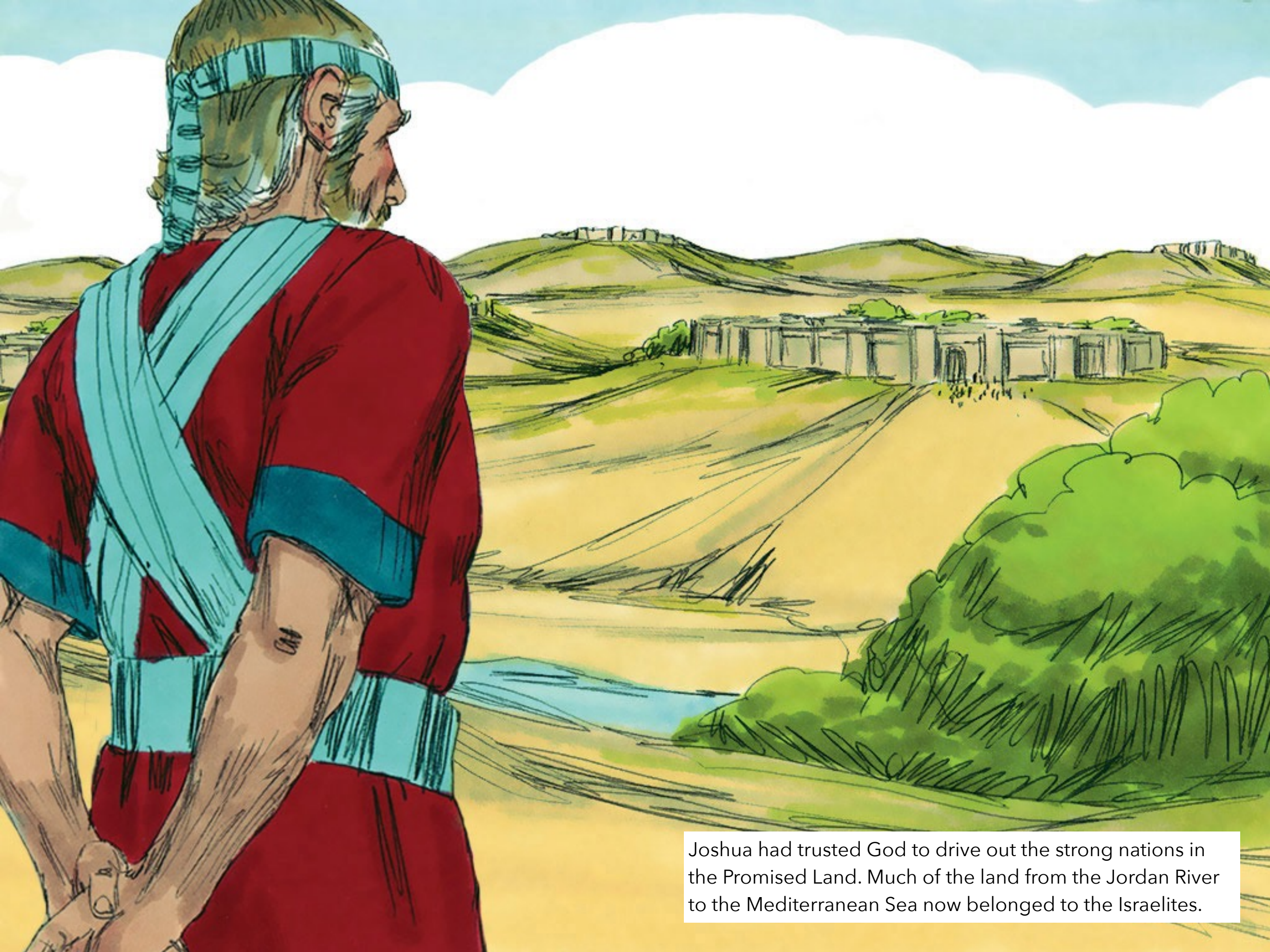
4th and 5th Grade Class

Jordan Park church of Christ



Joshua 23:1 - 24:33

JOSHUA'S FINAL CHALLENGE



Joshua had trusted God to drive out the strong nations in the Promised Land. Much of the land from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea now belonged to the Israelites.



They were now able to settle and live in the land God had promised them.



It was divided into regions, each occupied by the tribes of Israel. Joshua was now an old man and called the leaders of the people together.

ALLOCATION OF LAND TO 12 TRIBES OF ISRAEL

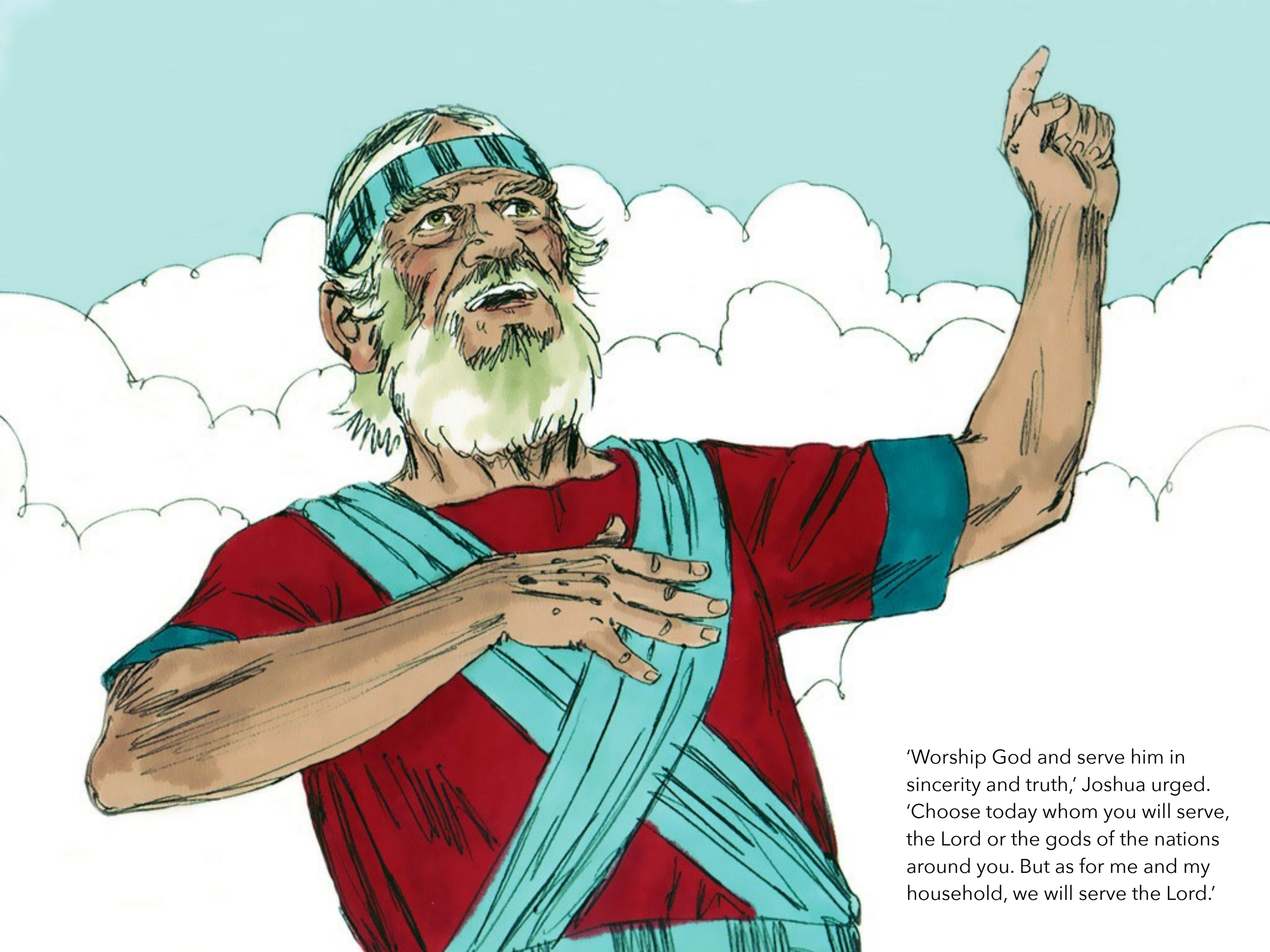


"I am an old man now and soon I shall die. You have seen all that the Lord your God has done for you," he declared. "Make sure you obey God's laws and do not worship the false gods of the heathen people still living in the land. If you do, God's anger will rise against you."




JOSHUA GIVES HIS FINAL CHALLENGE

Joshua then summoned everyone, including the leaders, to a big meeting at Shechem. He then gave them his final address reminding them how God had led and cared for the Jews from the time of Abraham to the conquest of the Promised Land.



'Worship God and serve him in sincerity and truth,' Joshua urged. 'Choose today whom you will serve, the Lord or the gods of the nations around you. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.'



The people replied, 'We will not forsake the Lord to serve other gods!' Joshua questioned them again. The people declared, 'We will serve the Lord.' Joshua said, 'You have chosen to obey the Lord. You must destroy any idols.' 'We will worship and obey the Lord alone,' they replied.

Joshua recorded the people's reply in the book of the laws of God.





He then took a huge stone as a reminder and rolled it beneath the oak tree that was beside the Tabernacle. 'This stone will be a witness to testify against you if you go back on your word, Joshua declared. The people then returned to their homes.



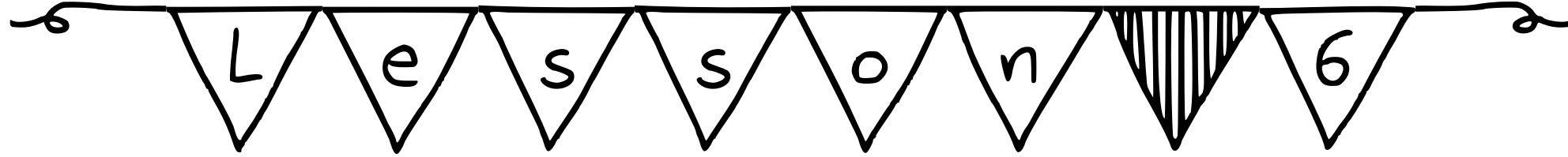
Soon after this Joshua died at the age of 110.



Joshua was buried on his own estate at Timnath- serah, in the hill country of Ephraim.



The nation of Israel obeyed the Lord throughout the lifetimes of Joshua and the other old men who had personally witnessed the amazing deeds the Lord had done for them.

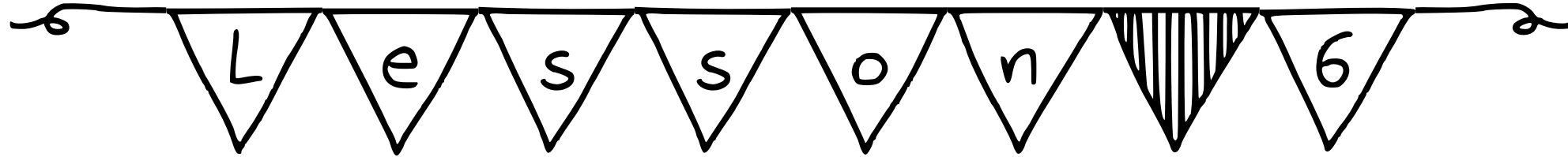


Remember Joshua's warnings to us.

Joshua 24:31- Israel served the Lord all the days of Joshua, and all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the Lord did for Israel.

Judges 2:10- And all that generation also were gathered to their fathers. And there arose another generation after them who did not know the Lord or the work that he had done for Israel.

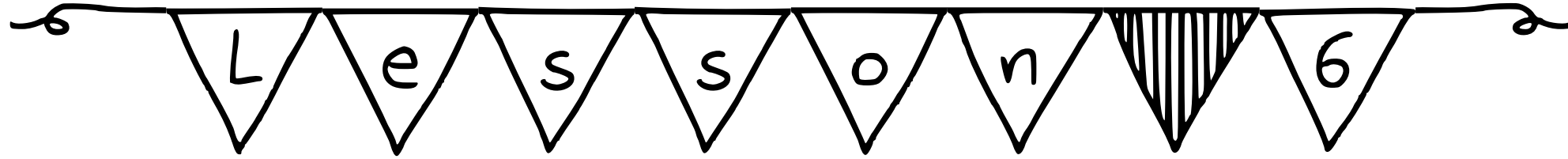
Only one generation can be the undoing of a nation. We must take a stand. We must be putting an emphasis on teaching our children to follow God.



Why was Joshua a good leader?

1. He was strong and courageous (1:9)
2. He followed God's word (8:35)
3. He prepared the next generation (4:21, 24:21)
4. He gave all the glory to God (4:14, 23:3, 23:10)
5. He keeps his promises (9:19-20)
6. He challenged those around him (18:3)

He was a man who pleased God. He is an example to us to be admired and copied.



Final words from Joshua to us.

1. Stand strong and obey (23:6)
2. If God is with us, who can stand against us? (23:9)
3. Remember that the Lord has stood up for you and love Him in return. (23:9)
4. As for me and for my house, we will serve the Lord. (24:15)
5. Don't forget what the Lord has done for you and stay true to Him. (24:18)