

leader of men, a minister, a lawyer, or a merchant. What did God require of Joshua? What does he require of each one of us? We must put on [point to the board] the breastplate of righteousness, and "be not afraid," "be of good courage"—why? "For the Lord thy God is with thee." Close with the hymn,

"Am I a soldier of the cross?"

**EXPLANATION.** The breastplate here represented is the Bible, God's word. He who takes not this protection with him into the warfare of life will fall in the fight, and never reach the promised land.

#### Primary and Intermediate.

BY M. V. M.

**LESSON THOUGHT.** *Jesus is our Leader.*  
**Review.** Print on the board "Moses," "Canaan," "Wilderness," "Joshua." Let different members of the class tell what they can about them. Children should be encouraged to tell what they can about past lessons, not only when the formal review occurs, but at other times. Teacher can manage this review so as to lead up naturally to the lesson for the day.

Erase words on the board. In one corner make a sun with yellow crayon, beams falling upon upper part of the board. Print "Canaan," in large letters. Make a river as a boundary to the land. Explain that the Israelites had come to the place where they could look into Canaan, but the river Jordan lay between them and the land which God had said should be their home. The river was deep and wide. Standing on the banks, they could see the beautiful green fields of the promised land, but how could they get to those far fields? With a few strokes of crayon make hills in Canaan, and something to indicate a great town.

Tell that a city lay in sight, too. Wicked people who did not know God lived in the towns of Canaan. The children of Israel knew that they would have to fight to drive these people away. Do you think they were afraid?

Print, on wilderness side, "Joshua." Where was Moses? Who had told Joshua to lead the people across Jordan into Canaan? Could Joshua see how he could get them all across the deep, wide river? Could the people see how Joshua was going to bring them over?

Read verse 2. Impress upon children that what God says do can always be done. He knows the way, and when the time comes to act he will show the way. What had Joshua to do? Obey the Lord. What had the people to do? Follow Joshua.



Tell what the Lord said about courage. Why did he say, "Be not afraid?" Because, "The Lord thy God is with thee." Where he is so are we!

Erase "Canaan," and put "Heaven" in its place. Tell that this world is like the wilderness through which the

Israelites had journeyed. We have many enemies to conquer before we can enter our Canaan. Tell what some of them are. Who is our Leader? Jesus. The Israelites would never have entered Canaan if they had not trusted and obeyed Joshua. So must we trust Jesus, and he will lead us safely into our promised land.

#### Lesson Word Pictures.

There stands Israel's new leader, Joshua. His very appearance makes him as one to go before others. How strong his build, what a look of intelligence, decision, force! But what does God say? He must lead this people over Jordan? This people! He looks up and down the length of the vast encampment. How great the host! He looks at Jordan. How strong and deep this swelling stream! He must divide the land among Israel's tribes! He thinks of that stretching territory unto the great river in the north, unto the great sea in the west, and how vast the work of subjugation, how difficult the task of division! Joshua to subdue hostile, fierce Canaan, and Joshua to locate needy Israel! What wonder if he bowed his head when God began to speak! So burdened with anxiety! Who could sympathize? Who could help? How weak, how lonely seemed Israel's leader! But hark!

"I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee!" God is saying. That bowed head is rising.

"Be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed," again God speaks. When he has finished his message there is no drooping head to Israel's leader. How erect his form! How confidently rests his hand upon his trusty sword! From his eyes flashes the light of wisdom and courage from heaven! He is no longer alone. Israel's God is the companion of Israel's leader.

We follow him out into the responsibilities of his leadership. We see him on Jordan's bank. Before him is the deep, swelling river. Behind him is the great, impatient host. Over Jordan he must lead them—somehow. What room for doubt and fear! But hark! "I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee!" the unseen God is saying. Into Jordan press the bearers of the ark, while back, back, the river falls, and with shouts, with songs, over Jordan the people go! Joshua is at Jericho. It must be taken. How strong its walls! How brave its defenders! Who can conquer Jericho? "Be not afraid!" God is saying. Round and round the stubborn walls the people go. Hoarse and defiant is the peal of the horns. Triumphant is the people's shout. Down go the walls of Jericho.

Again, it is a time of perplexity. The Lord's host has been routed by the men of Ai, and in shame, anxiety, Joshua is prostrated upon the earth. "I will not fail thee," God is saying. Rise, Joshua! Search the people by lot. Take tribe by tribe, family by family, soul by soul! There is the refuse, sifted out by the lot—guilty Achan and the reason for Israel's defeat.

Listen! It is that great Amorite army before Gibeon, Joshua's ally. How far-stretching is the idolatrous host! You hear their avenging cries. And Joshua! "Be not afraid," God has said, and in the might of heaven Joshua hurls Israel upon the Amorites. Who could resist that sudden thunderbolt?

Look again—Joshua must divide the land among the tribes. What need of wisdom! "I will not fail thee," God whispers. And now across the broad fields, the vineyards, the wheat lands, the palm groves, fall the lines of Joshua's skillful partition. Happy Israel, under a heaven-directed administrator!

Joshua is an old man now. Soon he must go over Death's Jordan. One thing he would do: bind the people in covenant to God. How serious a task! "Be not afraid," God is saying. Now the old leader gathers the people. "Choose ye, this day!", he is saying. Hear that answering shout, "We will serve the Lord." Happy leader! The echoes of that shout will attend him over Jordan.