

God Is Worth Serving



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Regular Baptist Press

Summer Quarter 2019 • Vol. 1, No. 4 • © 2019 Regular Baptist Press • Printed in U.S.A.
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STRONG[®]

curriculum



A world weak on truth needs a strong, trustworthy message. STRONG Curriculum builds stronger churches by teaching all Scripture to produce spiritually mature believers who measure up to the stature of Christ.

A Plan You Can Trust

Regular Baptist Press firmly believes God's Word is living and powerful and more effective than any idea or philosophy man could ever dream up. The Bible is Spirit empowered, so it cannot fail to strengthen kids who interact with its truths. Believing this, we purposefully built Strong Kids on Bible bedrock. We know the curriculum's solid Biblical foundation will make it transformational.


Strong Kids provides each age group with the age-appropriate plan to prepare kids to successfully take the next step in their spiritual growth. The lessons for all five age groups form five steps for building spiritually strong kids.


Strong Kids for Juniors grounds students in their faith before they move into their teen years. The overall track is through the Bible, but with different emphases than in the Primary and Middler age groups. For instance, students spend more time on the Ten Commandments, David's writings in Psalms, Solomon's wisdom in Proverbs, spiritual life applications from the Epistles, and end-time events from Revelation.


The Strong Kids scope and sequence is built on the seven teaching aims Jesus had during His earthly ministry. Identifying Jesus' aims helps you teach the Bible with purpose and clear goals in sight. Every lesson in the Strong Kids scope and sequence addresses at least one of Jesus' teaching aims.


Look for the BuildUP icons in the table of contents and on the first page of each lesson.


JESUS' TEACHING AIMS


 **Believe the gospel.** Jesus taught His students to understand, believe, and then share the gospel. This aim is obviously fundamental to all the rest.


 **Understand Biblical ethics.** Jesus instructed His students to live according to moral values. These values provided them with the tools to make wise decisions.

 **Internalize godliness.** Jesus taught His followers to be godly on the inside. He warned them not to become like Pharisees, with a mere outward appearance of godliness.

 **Learn doctrine.** Jesus knew the importance of teaching His students the truth and identified doctrine as one of the means for spiritual growth. Wishy-washy doctrine leads to faulty practice.

 **Develop life skills.** Jesus taught His followers to meet life's challenges in a way that honored and glorified God. He gave them the skills to navigate those challenges successfully.

 **Uplift others.** Jesus' life was all about others. Leading by example, He taught His followers to be all about others too.

 **Prepare to serve.** Jesus prepared His followers to serve in the context of local churches that were established soon after His ascension. He emphasized sacrifice and dedication.

STRONG[®] curriculum

Kit Contents

- Teacher Guide
- Student Book*
- Set of Take-Home Papers*
- One sheet of Recognition Stickers*
- Teaching Pictures
- Resource CD with online download code
- Bible Story DVD
- Posters

*Order one book or set for each child..

Ordering Information

All materials are available from Regular Baptist Press.

- Web: www.StrongCurriculum.com
- E-mail: orders@rbpstore.org
- Toll-free orders in the United States: 1-800-727-4440
- Fax: 1-847-843-3757
- Canada: Contact your distributor.

In this quarter's Strong Kids for Juniors, the students will learn all about serving God as they study Joshua and Judges. They will be challenged to serve God expectantly, powerfully, honestly, wisely, fearlessly, faithfully, confidently, courageously, cooperatively, selflessly, obediently, and exclusively. They will marvel at God's power and faithfulness and be motivated to serve Him.



One-Time Purchase (Sold Separately)

- Strong Kids Music Vol. 1



The Doctrinal Basis of Our Curriculum

A more detailed statement with references is available upon request.

- | | | | |
|---|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The verbal, plenary inspiration of the Scriptures • Only one true God • The Trinity of the Godhead • The Holy Spirit and His ministry • The personality of Satan • The Genesis account of creation • Original sin and the fall of man | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The virgin birth of Christ • Salvation through faith in the shed blood of Christ • The bodily resurrection and priesthood of Christ • Grace and the new birth • Justification by faith • Sanctification of the believer | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The security of the believer • The church • The ordinances of the local church: baptism by immersion and the Lord's Supper • Biblical separation—ecclesiastical and personal • Obedience to civil government • The place of Israel | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The pretribulation rapture of the church • The premillennial return of Christ • The millennial reign of Christ • Eternal glory in Heaven for the righteous • Eternal torment in Hell for the wicked |
|---|--|---|---|

Basic Classroom Supplies

Paper Products

Construction paper
White copy paper
Butcher paper
Poster board
4" x 6" index cards
Self-adhesive labels
Sentence strips

Markers

Pencils
Crayons
Colored pencils
Permanent markers
Washable markers

Office Supplies

Cellophane tape
Double-stick tape
Masking tape
Stapler
Scissors

Adhesives

Glue sticks
Craft glue
Plasti Tack

Miscellaneous

Play-Doh
World map or globe
Craft sticks (regular and jumbo size)
Premoistened towels
Hand sanitizer
Plastic tablecloth for art projects
Paper towels
Ziplock bags
Yarn
Chenille wires
Cotton balls

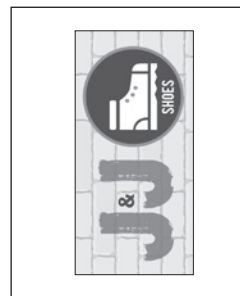
Unit Bulletin Board Ideas

Every lesson has a verse poster. If you have a bulletin board available in your classroom, consider hanging the verse posters there. Otherwise, the following is a specific way to use your bulletin board throughout the quarter.

Units 1 & 2

Cover the bulletin board with light blue backing and add the red scalloped border around the sides. Using black EZ Letters, put the following title across the top of the bulletin board: Serve God.

Print copies of resources 53-R10 through 53-R23. Put the shoe store sign (resource 53-R10) in the middle of the board. Each week add a shoe to the board (53-R11 through 53-R23) that corresponds with the lesson's theme. Give students an opportunity to write around the shoes their examples of service to God. For example, if they serve God honestly, have them write their experience on the Serve God Honestly resource (53-R13).



53-R10



53-R11 through 53-R23

Knowing Your Junior Students

Description of Physical, Social, and Emotional Development

- I DIFFER widely from my peers. Some of us have experienced the onset of puberty and its accompanying growth spurt, and some have not.
- I MAY feel insecure about my physical changes and focus on my appearance and how I compare with my peers.
- I SOMETIMES feel inadequate due to changes in my body and comparison to others.
- I AM more self-focused than I used to be and worry about what others think.
- I HAVE developed a view of impending adulthood, and sometimes it is unsettling.
- I WANT to have a best friend with whom I can share activities. Girls my age often have complicated, changeable relationships. Boys tend to be competitive and more focused on the activity than the other people involved.
- I ENJOY humor and silly jokes, but sometimes I use humor to be sarcastic and put down someone else.

Cognitive (Learning) Development

- I CAN gather information and form well-thought-out opinions.
- I CAN start to see the bigger picture in an issue; I can reason and work things out and understand how things relate to one another.
- I AM beginning to develop my own values and understanding of the world.
- I AM just beginning to think abstractly, but I am not always able to do so.
- I CAN understand similes and metaphors.
- I CAN concentrate for longer periods of time, which allows me to be focused on a task to the point of building a skill.

Effective Responses

- Use God's Word to reassure students that each person is specially created by God.
- Remind students that God looks on the heart and values inner character.
- Give verbal praise to help students feel valued.
- Be sensitive to students' feelings. Emphasize the Scriptural principle of encouraging and building up each other.
- Encourage students to treat each other with respect. Vigilantly discourage belittling talk or behavior.
- Laugh at students' silly jokes, but correct students who use sarcasm to put down someone else.
- Be an example of a Christian adult, portraying adulthood in a positive manner and talking about events and privileges students can look forward to as they mature.

Effective Instructional Methods

- Provide lessons that challenge students' thinking. Help students understand how Bible passages and principles are related and how God's truths build on one another.
- Encourage volunteers to read and explain Bible passages. Provide guided instruction where clarification is needed. Encourage participation, but don't embarrass students by calling on them to do something they are not comfortable doing.
- Encourage discussion by asking questions that require students to think analytically, to compare and contrast, and to build on previous knowledge.
- Facilitate opportunities for students to express their opinions and ideas about lesson topics.
- Divide students into equal groups rather than allowing them to self-select groups for activities.

SESSION 1 | UNIT 1

Serve God Expectantly

Rahab and the spies

Scripture Focus

Joshua 1—4

BuildUP Theme



PREPARE TO SERVE

God wants us to serve Him expectantly because He is awesome.

Measurable Response

The student will determine one way to serve God expectantly.

Memory Verse

“For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan before you . . . that all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever” (Joshua 4:23, 24). NKJV

“For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you . . . that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever” (Joshua 4:23, 24). ESV

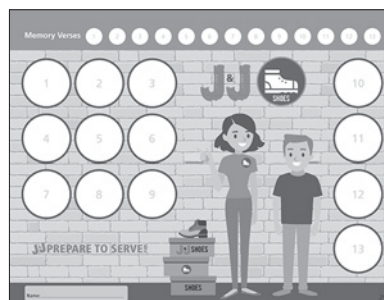
Teacher Preparation

- Read Joshua 4:23, 24. Rahab and the rest of the people of Jericho all had a healthy view of God’s mighty hand. But only Rahab responded by putting her faith in God. The rest were just plain scared.
- Is your belief in God’s might evident in your daily life, or does your life seem to indicate that God is not as mighty as He says He is? When was the last time you stepped out by faith in God to do something great by His might? Let this lesson encourage you to do so!

Recognition Charts

This quarter focuses on the seventh BuildUP aim: Prepare to Serve. Christian service demands dedicated, hard work, so the icon for the Prepare to Serve aim is a work boot. The recognition chart depicts the inside of “J & J Shoes,” a fictional shoe store. “J & J” stands for “Joshua and Judges,” two Bible books that teach us a lot about serving God effectively. Each sticker has a work shoe on a shelf with the corresponding lesson title printed above it. The students will “stock the J & J store” throughout the quarter.

Give each student an attendance and verse chart (student book page 29). Give each student sticker 1 for attendance. Next week, allow them an opportunity to earn the smaller Bible sticker by saying this week’s memory verse. Give the students an opportunity to earn the final Bible sticker on their winter charts by quoting Romans 10:15b, last week’s memory verse. Collect the charts or hang them on a wall.



Session Starters

Option 1—Fingerprint Creations

Gather

- Inkpads.
- Wet wipes or damp paper towels.
- Post-it Notes (3" x 3").
- Markers.

Steps

1. Give each student a Post-it Note and access to inkpads and markers.
2. Students put a fingerprint on their Post-it Note using the inkpad. Give them wet wipes or damp paper towels for washing the ink off their fingers.
3. Students use the markers to create a creature, animal, or object out of their fingerprint on their papers.
4. Students stick their Post-it Notes on the wall for everyone to admire.
5. Explain the phrase “God’s fingerprints are all over it.”

Your fingerprints are literally all over your creations, making it simple to tell who made which creation.

The phrase “your fingerprints are all over it” can be used figuratively too. It means that you caused something to happen or had a lot of input on its outcome. We can also say that something has God’s fingerprints all over it. That means God obviously used His might to make something happen.

6. Transition to the Bible lesson.

We will examine some of God’s mighty works in our lesson today. We will learn that even people who hated God recognized God’s “fingerprints” were all over one mighty deed in particular. The lesson will encourage us to serve God with an expectation that He can do mighty things in and through us.

Option 2—Fingerprinted Creations

Gather

- Play-Doh.
- Magnifying glass or camera phone.

Steps

1. Give each student a can of Play-Doh. Students have three minutes to make something out of their Play-Doh using only their hands.
2. Students display their Play-Doh creations and describe it.
3. Give students access to magnifying glasses or camera phones to examine their creations for any fingerprints or palm prints. If they take a picture of their prints with a phone, then they can zoom in to get a better look at it.
4. Explain the phrase “God’s fingerprints are all over it.”

We could prove you shaped and molded your Play-Doh model because your unique fingerprints are literally all over it.

The phrase “your fingerprints are all over it” can be used figuratively too. It means that you caused something to happen or had a lot of input on its outcome. We can also say that something has God’s fingerprints all over it. That means God obviously used His might to make something happen.

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Bible Study

Gather

- Teaching picture 53-1.
- Teaching picture 52-4 (from the spring quarter).
- Poster 53-P1.

This quarter we will cover the books of Joshua and Judges. Both books will teach us that God is worth serving. Each lesson will encourage you to serve God. This lesson will encourage you to serve God expectantly because God is awesome.

I. God’s Expected Victory (Josh. 1)

READ: Joshua 1:1–4.

ASK: What did God say He had already given to Israel? *All the land on which they would walk.*

God promised Joshua that Israel would cross the Jordan and be victorious wherever they went. God expected His people to have total victory. That was a bold expectation!

ASK: What might a coach say to you before a game or a competition? *You can do it! Give it your all! Leave nothing on the field!*

ASK: What would you think if the coach said, “Don’t worry about winning. I already know you will win every game you play this season.”?

No coach can guarantee a victory because a coach cannot control the outcome of a game. But God is not like a coach. He’s the star player that totally dominates everyone else.

ASK: Who’s your favorite athlete?

Imagine having your favorite player on your team as you face off against a group of kids your same age. Your chances of winning would be pretty good.

Israel had the infinite God of the universe on their side. There was no way Israel could lose to the giants living in strong cities if Israel simply put their faith in God. That’s why God was so confident they would win against the Canaanite armies.

READ: Joshua 1:5.

ASK: What did God promise concerning His presence? *God would never leave or forsake Joshua.*

God loved Joshua and the Israelites. He promised never to abandon them. He’s made that same promise to us too.

READ: Joshua 1:6.

By faith in God, Joshua and the Israelites could conquer the Promised Land with strength and courage.

READ: Joshua 1:7–9.

God commanded Israel to make His law a daily part of their lives because learning and studying God’s law would build their faith in God. The deeper their faith in God, the more successful they would be in conquering the Promised Land.

Joshua obeyed God right away. He gathered the officers and told them to get the people ready to cross into the Promised Land in just three days (1:10, 11). The people were ready and eager to go (1:12–18).

II. Canaan Expected Defeat (Josh. 2:1–11)

Before Joshua had the nation of Israel cross over the Jordan River, he sent two spies into Canaan. He wanted to know what the land was like and especially what was going on inside the great city of Jericho.



53-P1

DISPLAY: Poster 53-P1. Point out Jericho.

Jericho's walls were thick and impossible to break through in just one battle. Some of the people, such as Rahab, even built their homes inside the walls.

God led the two spies to Rahab's house for the night to observe the city. Rahab's house had a lot of visitors coming and going. The spies probably didn't look out of place in her home.

READ: Joshua 2:2–7.

Rahab had figured out the visitors were Israelite spies, but she did not tell Jericho's king. Someone else, however, did. So, before the king's soldiers arrived at her door, Rahab decided to hide the spies in the flax on her roof.

READ: Joshua 2:8, 9.

ASK: Have you ever had a sickening feeling that something bad was going to happen? How did you respond?

Rahab told the spies that the people of Jericho had a bad feeling about the Israelites' presence nearby. She was convinced herself that God would give Israel the land without fail.

READ: Joshua 2:10.

DISPLAY: Teaching picture 52-4 from the spring quarter.

The people of Jericho heard about the Red Sea crossing and Israel's conquering of the land on the other side of the Jordan River. They were afraid of Israel's powerful God. They expected to lose their battle with Israel because of God's great power.

READ: Joshua 2:11.

ASK: What did Rahab believe about Israel's God? *That the God of Israel was the one true God of heaven and earth.*

While the rest of Jericho prayed to their gods for deliverance from Israel's God, Rahab turned from her false gods to put her faith in God.

III. Rahab Expected Deliverance (Josh. 2:12–24)

READ: Joshua 2:12, 13.



52-4

Rahab showed her faith in God by asking the spies to spare her and her family in the coming battle with Israel. The two spies agreed, “As long as you stay quiet about us, we will spare you when God destroys Jericho” (2:14).



53-1

DISPLAY: Teaching picture 53-1.

Once the coast was clear, Rahab led the spies to her window and told them to escape to the mountains and stay there for three days until they could return safely to their camp. Rahab used a red cord to lower the spies to safety (2:15, 16).

The spies and Rahab came to an agreement. If Rahab hung the red cord in her window, then the soldiers would not touch anyone in her house. But any family member who left her house during the attack would be killed.

READ: Joshua 2:21.

ASK: What did Rahab do? *She did exactly as the spies had instructed.*

The spies waited in the mountains until the way was clear for them to return to Israel’s camp. When they finally returned to Joshua, they told him all that had happened. They concluded that the Lord had already given them the Promised Land for all the inhabitants of the land were worried about Israel’s coming invasion (2:22–24).

God gave Rahab courage to stay in her house rather than leave the city. She could have climbed down the rope hanging in her window, but she obeyed the spies and stayed put. She patiently and calmly expected deliverance because God is gracious and forgiving.

IV. Israel Expected a Miracle (Josh. 3)

God directed the Israelites to move to the Jordan River. But they could not cross it, for it was at flood stage. The water moved too swiftly and deeply to allow for animals and children to cross it safely. After three days, Joshua told the people to get ready because the Lord was going to do miracles before them.

READ: Joshua 3:9–11.

Joshua told the people that the miracle they were about to see would prove that God would go before them to drive out the Canaanites living in the Promised Land (3:10). “Behold,” said Joshua, “the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan” (3:11). The ark symbolized the Lord Himself, Who would lead His people into the Promised Land.

Remember that God used a wind to part the Red Sea for the Israelites forty years earlier. God could have done the same to stop the Jordan

River from flowing, but He wanted Israel to step out in faith instead.

READ: Joshua 3:13–16.

The priests carrying the ark stepped into the Jordan River expecting God to do a miracle because God is awesome. God did not disappoint. The waters coming down the river began to pile up a great distance away, thus forming one big wall of water way up stream. The waters on the other side of the priests continued flowing down and emptying into the Dead Sea. Soon a wide section of the riverbed was dry.

READ: Joshua 3:17.

ASK: What did God command the Israelites to do as the priests stood in the middle of the riverbed with the ark of the covenant?
God commanded the Israelites to cross the dry riverbed.

What a miracle for God's people to witness! God had no trouble handling the mighty Jordan, so He must be able to handle the mighty Canaanites.

The Lord did this wonderful work so the people of Israel and all the people who lived in Canaan would know that God was with the Israelites and that they could always expect Him to do great things so long as they served Him.

V. Israel Expected Victory (Josh. 4)

Before returning the Jordan to its normal flow, God told Joshua to command one leader from each of the twelve tribes to go back into the riverbed and pick up a large stone to stack up in their camp as a memorial to God's work on their behalf (4:1–5, 20). Joshua went back onto the Jordan riverbed himself to set up another memorial there (4:9). Then, when everyone had crossed the riverbed, God let the raging Jordan flow again (4:18).

READ: Joshua 4:20–24.

ASK: What did God want the world to learn about His "hand"?
That it is mighty!

By piling up the stones for future generations to observe, the Israelites demonstrated that they expected a great victory in the Promised Land. They hadn't even conquered a city yet and they were already setting up monuments for future generations. They expected God to show Himself faithful and mighty as they stormed the Promised Land.

Memory Builder

Gather

- Poster 53-P2.
- Sand or sandpaper.

Steps

1. Display poster 53-P2. Explain that the illustration is supposed to represent the Jordan's dry river bed with the river's water backed up along the bottom.

The Jordan crossing had God's fingerprints all over it. Damning up a river, even today, takes careful planning and construction. God did it quickly and without any assistance or use of heavy equipment. So, stopping the Jordan's flow became a great example of God's mighty hand and amazing grace.

2. Read the memory verse together as a class. Note that the verse runs along the fingerprint lines moving from left to right and top to bottom. Read it ahead of time to get the flow of the verse.

ASK: What has happened in your life that has the "fingerprints" of God's mighty hand all over it?

3. Students alternate between saying the verse and poring sand on the poster to cover parts of the verse. Consider using strips of sandpaper instead. Or, if you did the Fingerprint Creations session starter, consider using the students' Post-it Notes to cover sections of the verse.



53-P2 NKJV



53-P2 ESV



Student Book Page 3

Session Application

Gather

- Student book page 3.

Steps

1. Distribute a copy of student book page 3 to each student. Students read the stories and answer the questions about the characters' service for God (section 1). See answers below.

ASK: On what basis did Ben make his decision? *Ben made his decision based on his grandpa's rejection of God.*

ASK: What should he do based on God's awesomeness? *Ben should continue to pray every day for his grandpa knowing that God can help his grandpa see his need for salvation.*

ASK: On what basis did Julie make her decision? *Julie made her decision based on what she thought she could do for God on her own.*

ASK: What should she do based on God's awesomeness? *She should pray for courage, trust God, and invite Candice to her church's Vacation Bible School.*

2. Students consider their expectations of their awesome God as they serve Him in a specific way. Have them write their expectations along the blank areas of the fingerprint (section 2). Use the following sample answers to help them write their own.
 - I believe God can give me courage to play the piano for church offertory.
 - I believe God can help me know what to say when I talk to my friend about God.

The God Who used His mighty hand to part the Red Sea and stop the Jordan River has not changed. His message to you through the Jordan River account is that you can serve Him with great expectations because He is awesome! The great things He does through you help to show that His hand indeed is mighty in all the earth.

3. Ask students to pray about their expectations as they serve their awesome God.

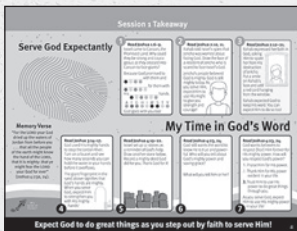
Session Takeaways

PERSONAL FOCUS

Each week has a student page called My Time in God's Word. Those pages provide an opportunity for your students to interact with God's Word. Before dismissing the students, draw their attention to the first My Time in God's Word on page 4 of their student books. Instruct them to complete the activity at home. The activity reviews the Bible account for this lesson and encourages the students to expect God to use His mighty hands to empower and embolden them for serving Him.

PARENT CONNECT

Distribute the Strong Kids at Home sheet for lesson 1. Point out the Big Question on the front page and the students' opportunity to interact with their parents on the back page.



Student Book Page 4

Plan to give the Quarter Overview page included at the front of the Strong Kids at Home sheets to a parent of each student in your class. This page informs the parents of what their students are learning and guides the parents to have meaningful spiritual interaction with their children. For your convenience, the summary page is also on the resource CD. Feel free to deliver it to your students' parents electronically.

If you have not ordered the Strong Kids at Home sheets for this quarter, we encourage you to do so yet. They provide a valuable connection between your classroom and the home.