

God Was on Their Side

Reader



LE words included in text: (in the order in which they appear)

live(d)*	quite	mile(s)	nice	white
spite	time	wide	hide	tribe(s)
side	rise	drive	live(s)	tire(d)
wipe(d)	wise	give*	pile(d)	whine
life	line	prize	hike(d)	twice
while	guide	size	arrived	strike

Vocabulary Words—These may be words that you need to discuss the meaning of before reading:

spite, Ark, arrived, tribes, collapsed

This text was written at a first grade level (based on the phonics skills and sight words chosen). The length of the text may be longer than your child is accustomed to. My advice is to read the text TO your child on the first day. On subsequent readings, you can offer to share the reading, taking turns. Gradually release the responsibility and limit support as it is re-read.

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God Was on Their Side

from Deuteronomy 31, Joshua 1-6



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God's people, the Israelites, lived in the desert for forty years. In spite of all God had done, they did not always trust that He was on their side. Because of their sin, God wiped out many of them. God wanted His people to have life and follow Him.



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While Moses was quite old, God told him the time had come for a new man to rise up and lead. Because Joshua was so wise, he was next in line. Moses put his hands on Joshua so all the people would know that Joshua would now be their guide.



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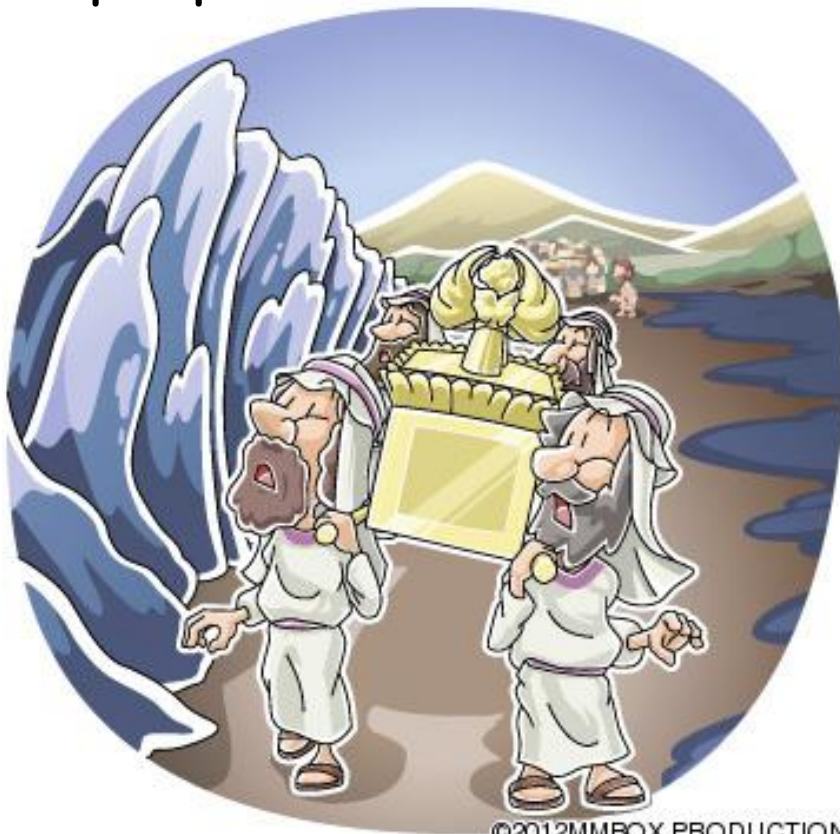
Joshua looked out miles and miles over the wide open land. God told him to be strong because He was on their side. He would help them drive out all the people that lived in that land and give it to them as a prize.



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So, Joshua sent out two men to size up the land on the other side of the Jordan River, around Jericho. While the men were there, they met Rahab and went into her house. She was nice and found a place to hide them because some men of Jericho wanted to take their lives.

When the men came back, they told Joshua that God would give them this new land, for He was on their side. Joshua knew that it was time to cross over the Jordan River and drive out the people on the other side.



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The priests carried the Ark and all the people followed. As soon as their feet touched the water of the river, it piled up on both sides and all the people hiked through!



When the Israelites arrived at the gates of Jericho, they could see that the people of Jericho were white with fear. God told Joshua, "Take a hike around the city one time for six days in a row." All the tribes did as God said. Even if they were tired, they did not whine.

On day seven, the Israelites were told to hike around the city not just twice, but seven times. Joshua said, "On the seventh time around, blow your horns and shout. Then you will see God strike the land of Jericho."



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The people did as God said and Jericho collapsed into a pile! The Israelites knew that they could fully trust God because He was on their side.