Name:_____

Subject: Religious Studies

Topic: Serving Others

Please read the passage below as well as The Children's Bible in 365 Stories: "The Call of Moses" (p. 62) "The New Leader" (p. 91) "Deborah and Barak" (p. 103) before answering the questions.

In St. Mark Chapter 9 verse 35 Jesus stated, "Whosoever wants to be first must be the servant of all." A good leader should therefore seek to serve others. A servant leader is one who exhibits humility, cares for others and leads by example. In St. John 13:3-5, Jesus exhibited servant leadership by washing His disciples' feet.

There are many Old Testament leaders who served with excellence. Three such leaders were Moses, Joshua and Deborah. Moses was known for his humility, Joshua for his courage and Deborah for her wisdom. They were successful leaders who found favor with God.

Children can serve as good leaders by exhibiting characteristics such as respect, dependability, courtesy, reliability and honesty. They should be examples for their peers. They should also be willing to share their skills and resources with others.

48
God Calls Moses

EXODUS 3—4

Many years passed while Moses cared for the flocks of Jethro, his father-in-law.

One day the sheep and goats were cropping the grass on the lower slopes of Mount Sinai. Moses looked up and saw a bush that seemed to be on fire. He watched anxiously, in case the fire should spread through the dry, desert land. But, although the fire glowed bright, the bush stayed unharmed. Curious, Moses went nearer, to look more closely.

Then he heard a voice coming from the heart of the fire. Moses knew at once that it was God's voice.

'Take off your shoes, Moses,' God said. 'For this is holy ground.'

Moses obeyed, then waited quietly. His heart beat fast and he covered his face with his cloak.

'I am the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob,' God said. 'I have heard the groans and cries of my people who are slaves in Egypt and I am going to rescue them. *You*, Moses, are going to lead them out of Egypt and into the land that I promised to give to the descendants of Abraham.'

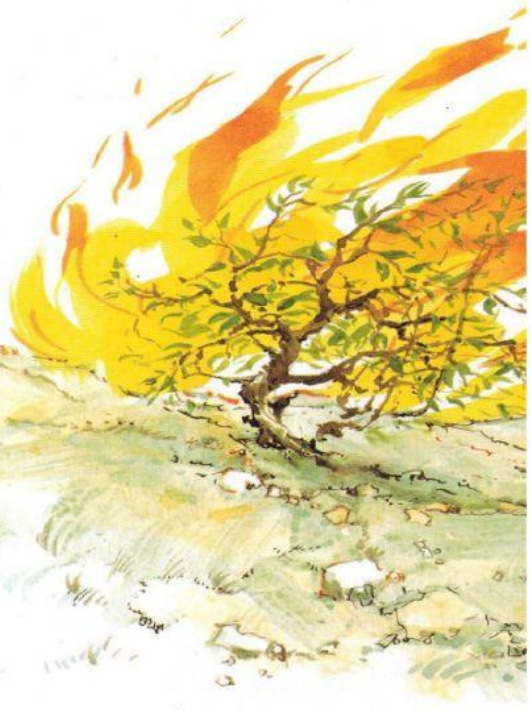
'Not me, God,' Moses begged hastily. 'Please don't send me as their leader. I'm just nobody. I could not do it.'

'But I will be with you,' God promised, 'I will help you and you will succeed. You will lead my people to this very mountain to worship me here.'

Moses still did not want to go back to Egypt. He went on making excuses, but God had an answer for every one. He told Moses that his brother Aaron could go with him and do all the talking for him.

'Take your stick with you,' God ordered. 'You will use it to do wonderful things that will prove to my people and to the king of Egypt that I am the one true God, more powerful than the king and the gods he worships.'

Reluctantly, Moses obeyed God. He took his wife and two sons and, stick in hand, set off for the land of Egypt.



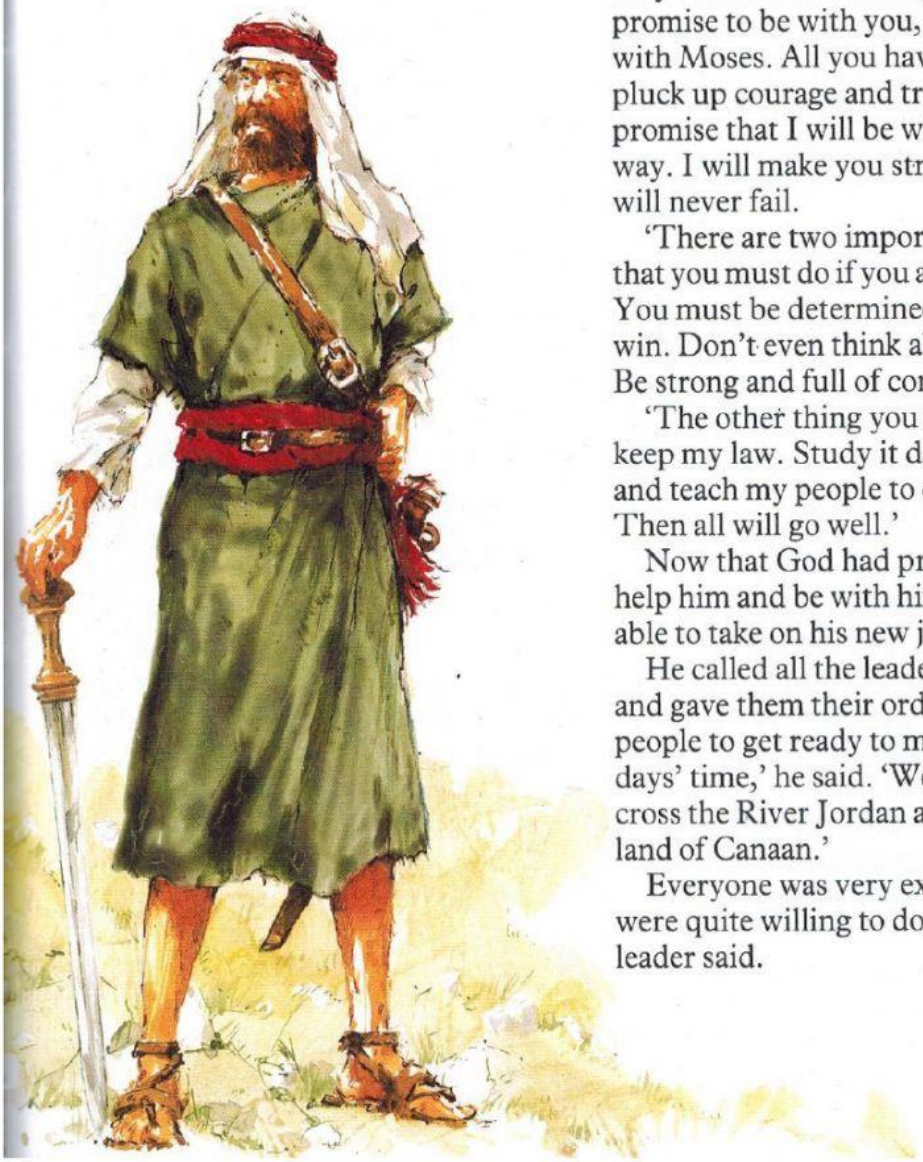
The Story of Joshua

75
The New Leader

JOSHUA 1

After Moses had climbed the mountain, never to return, God spoke to Joshua.

'My servant Moses is dead,' he told him. 'You must get ready now to lead the people into the Promised Land of Canaan. I will give you the whole country from the desert in the south to the Lebanon mountains in the north, from the River Euphrates in the east to the Mediterranean Sea in the west.'



Joshua felt very unsure and afraid. He had been Moses' trusted helper for the whole of the long journey from Egypt, but he did not feel that he could ever be the leader. He was not great like Moses, whom he had loved and admired so much. But God cheered and encouraged Joshua.

'Joshua,' God said, 'be strong and very brave! Don't be frightened! I promise to be with you, just as I was with Moses. All you have to do is to pluck up courage and trust in me. I promise that I will be with you all the way. I will make you strong and you will never fail.

'There are two important things that you must do if you are to succeed. You must be determined to go in and win. Don't even think about failing. Be strong and full of confidence.

'The other thing you must do is to keep my law. Study it day and night and teach my people to obey it too. Then all will go well.'

Now that God had promised to help him and be with him, Joshua felt able to take on his new job.

He called all the leaders together and gave them their orders. 'Tell the people to get ready to move in three days' time,' he said. 'We are going to cross the River Jordan and go into the land of Canaan.'

Everyone was very excited. They were quite willing to do as their new leader said.

86
Deborah and Barak

JUDGES 4—5

After the death of left-handed Ehud the Israelites once again forgot about God and his laws.

Trouble soon came from King Jabin in the north of the country. His army was equipped with nine hundred iron chariots and led by General Sisera. Israel's lightly armed soldiers stood no chance against these swift, strong chariots and for twenty years King Jabin treated Israel with great cruelty and violence.

The leader of Israel at this time was a woman called Deborah. She used to sit under one particular palm-tree, so that everyone knew where to come for help or advice.

One day Deborah sent for a man called Barak.

'Barak,' she began, 'God has said that you are to get an army together to fight against Sisera. In spite of his chariots, God will help you win.'

Barak was terrified at the thought of facing Sisera's army. 'I'm not going unless you go with me,' he answered.

'Very well,' Deborah agreed, 'but women will win this battle, not men.'

Barak invited the Israelite tribes living near to send volunteers to fight. Then he lined up his men on the top of a hill where Sisera's chariots would find it difficult to move easily. Sisera, with all his chariots, waited in the valley below.

Then Deborah gave the command to Barak:

'March forward! Today God will give you a victory against Sisera!'

With great courage the Israelite soldiers streamed down the hill to what seemed certain death at the hands of Sisera's waiting men.

At that moment the rain began to fall. Barak and his men moved easily through the heavy downpour but Sisera's heavy chariots soon began to skid and stick in the low valley land now churned to mud.

Instead of chasing and overtaking the Israelites, Sisera's men were trapped in their chariots at the mercy of the faster-moving Israelite soldiers. Barak won a mighty triumph that day, thanks to Deborah's help. Another woman was going to make his victory against Sisera complete.

REMEMBER TO CHECK YOUR ANSWERS CAREFULLY BEFORE CLICKING: FINISH.

1. In the story: The New Leader, who did Joshua succeed as the new leader? Shade the letter next to the correct answer. (1)

(a) Aaron (b) Caleb (c) Moses (d) Jesus

2. The Lord promised to be with Joshua____. Shade the letter next to the correct answer. (1)

(a) always (b) with double portion of the Holy Spirit

(c) as he was with Moses (d) all of the above

3a. In the Bible there are many leaders such as Joshua who served with excellence. List **TWO** other Bible leaders discussed who served with excellence. (2)

_____ _____

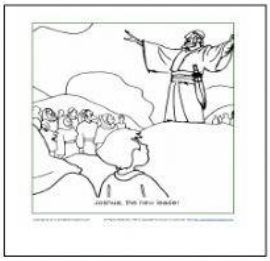
3b. Describe how each of them showed servitude. (2)

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_____

4.List **TWO** character traits of a servant leader. (2)

_____ _____



5. According to your notes, children can serve as good leaders too. One character trait is by being dependable. State **TWO** other traits. (2)

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