



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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International Bible Lessons Teaching English as a Foreign Language

Teacher Page: The Land Had Rest from War

Joshua 11:6-9, 16-23 (English Standard Version)

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Before You Teach

A Note to the Teacher: This lesson is a flexible resource bank and contains more material than you will need for one class. Before teaching, choose and mark the activities and questions that best fit your students' English level, interests, and available time. You are not expected to use everything.

Suggested 60-Minute Selection: Choose 2 warm-up questions, 4-6 vocabulary words, 4 comprehension questions, 2 discussion or speaking questions, and 1 writing activity. The writing activity may also be assigned as homework.

Purpose and Scripture Materials

Purpose: Teach English as a Foreign Language using Joshua 11:6-9, 16-23 in the English Standard Version as the reading text. New to TEFL? We recommend certification training through The TEFL Academy , which will teach you how to use and write TEFL lessons such as this Teacher-Led English Lesson.

Recommended Level: A2-B1 | Lesson Length: 30-45 minutes

Pronunciation Practice: The student can read along with the Scripture audio to practice English pronunciation with the teacher's help. The teacher may pause the audio after each verse or sentence so the student can repeat difficult words and phrases.

Lesson Resources: Scripture Text: Joshua 11:6-9, 16-23 ESV - Scripture Audio: Joshua 11:6-9, 16-23 ESV

The student may read along with the audio while the teacher pauses for pronunciation practice.

1) Lesson Overview

- Theme: Trusting the LORD instead of fear, obeying God's commands, persevering through a long conflict, receiving the promised inheritance, and rest after war.
- English Skills: Reading, listening, vocabulary building, pronunciation, discussion, speaking practice, summarizing, and writing.
- Outcome: The student can describe how Joshua obeyed the LORD, summarize Israel's long campaign, and explain how the passage connects God's promise with Israel's inheritance and rest.

Teacher Tip

Help students read, write, listen to, and speak English while they study the ESV Scripture text. Encourage complete sentences, ask gentle follow-up questions, and give students time to think. Adjust the activities to fit the students' ages, number, English proficiency, and available class time.

2) Suggested Lesson Flow

1. Begin with two or three warm-up questions.
2. Assign each student one or more verses from Joshua 11:6-9, 16-23 to study and read aloud.
3. Ask students what their assigned verses say and what those verses mean.
4. Ask a student to summarize the main events in simple English.
5. Play the Scripture audio while students read along in the ESV text.
6. Review the vocabulary and practice the pronunciation of difficult words and place names.
7. Use the comprehension, discussion, and speaking questions.
8. Finish with one short writing activity and the final question.

3) Warm-Up Questions

Choose 2. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- ☐ What helps a person act when facing a frightening situation?
- ☐ Why can a long task require more courage than a short one?
- ☐ What is the difference between beginning a task and finishing it faithfully?
- ☐ How does rest feel after a long period of struggle?

4) Vocabulary

Choose 4-6. Mark the words and prompts you plan to use.

Word/Phrase	Meaning	Teacher Prompt
fighting force	An organized group of soldiers prepared for battle.	Who came suddenly upon the enemy with Joshua?
chariots	Two-wheeled vehicles pulled by horses, often used in ancient warfare.	What did Joshua do to the enemy's chariots?
handed them over	Gave someone into another person's power or control.	Whom did the LORD hand over to Israel?
remaining	Still present or left after others are gone.	According to verse 8, how many enemies remained?
made peace	Reached an agreement to end hostility or avoid war.	Which inhabitants had made peace with Israel?
inheritance	Land, property, or another gift received from someone or granted by promise.	What did Joshua give Israel for an inheritance?
tribal allotments	Portions of land assigned to the different tribes.	How was the land divided among Israel?
rest from war	A period of peace after armed conflict has ended.	What did the land finally have?

5) Bible Text Comprehension

Choose 4. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- ☐ What did the LORD tell Joshua not to be?
- ☐ What did the LORD promise to do by the next day?
- ☐ Where did Joshua and his fighting force come upon the enemy?
- ☐ What did Joshua do to the horses and chariots?
- ☐ How long did Joshua make war with the kings?
- ☐ Which inhabitants had made peace with Israel?
- ☐ Who were removed from the hill country?
- ☐ In which three places did some Anakim remain?
- ☐ What did Joshua give Israel as an inheritance?
- ☐ What condition did the land finally enjoy?

6) Scripture Discussion

Choose a total of 2 from Scripture Discussion and/or Speaking Practice. Mark the questions you plan to use.

- ☐ Why could Joshua act courageously when the enemy appeared powerful?
- ☐ How did Joshua show prompt and careful obedience in verses 7-9?
- ☐ What does the phrase "a long time" teach about perseverance?
- ☐ How does verse 23 connect Joshua's work with what the LORD had spoken to Moses?
- ☐ What does this passage teach about God's judgment and human responsibility?
- ☐ Why is it important to distinguish this command to ancient Israel from personal revenge or violence?
- ☐ What is difficult for you to understand in this passage?
- ☐ How can believers bring hard questions to God with faith, humility, and honesty?
- ☐ How did the promised inheritance and rest show that God had remained faithful to His word?

7) Speaking Practice

Choose a total of 2 from Speaking Practice and/or Scripture

Discussion. Mark the activities you plan to use.

- ☐ Retell Joshua 11:6-9, 16-23 in your own words.
- ☐ Explain why Joshua did not need to be afraid.
- ☐ Describe how Joshua obeyed the LORD's command.
- ☐ Name several kinds of land mentioned in verse 16.
- ☐ Speak for 30-60 seconds: Why does perseverance matter when a task takes a long time?
- ☐ Speak for 30-60 seconds: How should people discuss difficult Bible passages?
- ☐ Describe a long responsibility that required you to remain faithful.
- ☐ Explain the meaning of the sentence, "And the land had rest from war."

Language Coaching Tip

If a student gives a one- or two-word answer, invite a fuller response: "Can you tell me more?" "Why do you think that?" "Can you explain that another way?" or "Can you give an example?" Correct gently, and model the complete sentence when needed.

8) Writing Task

Choose 1. Mark the writing activity you plan to use in class or assign as homework.

- ☐ Option A: Summarize Joshua 11:6-9, 16-23 in 6-8 sentences.
- ☐ Option B: Write a paragraph explaining how Joshua demonstrated courage, obedience, and perseverance.
- ☐ Option C: Write respectfully about one difficult question this passage raises and why the question matters.
- ☐ Option D: Write five sentences using these words or phrases: afraid, chariots, made peace, inheritance, and rest from war.

9) Wrap-Up

Wrap-Up: The LORD told Joshua not to be afraid and promised to hand Israel's enemies over to him. Joshua obeyed the LORD's instructions and continued the campaign for a long time. At the end, Joshua took the land according to what the LORD had spoken to Moses and gave it to Israel by tribal allotments. After long conflict, the land had rest from war.

Remember: "Faithful obedience may require courage for a day and perseverance for a long time, but God never forgets what He has promised."

Final Question: How can trust in God's faithfulness help you persevere through a long and difficult responsibility?