Preschool–Grade 6

Caleb Asks for the Mountain

Sunday School Lesson for Preschool (Ages 3–5), 20–30 minutes

Main point: Follow God all the way.
Bible passage: Joshua 14:6–15. Read Joshua 14:6–15 and Numbers 13:17–33 yourself before class.
Memory verse: "I wholly followed the LORD my God." *Joshua 14:8 (KJV)*. The old word **wholly** means all the way.
You need: a Bible, pillows or cushions to make a "mountain," crayons, and one take-home sheet for each child.
Before class: put a bookmark in your Bible at Joshua 14. Pile the pillows in a corner to make a mountain.

1. Opening game: Follow Me (5 minutes)

Kids follow you around the room. Clap, march, tiptoe, then climb up the pillow mountain together. Say: "You followed me all the way! Today we will hear a true story about a man named Caleb, who followed God all the way."

2. Bible story (5 minutes)

Hold up your Bible open to Joshua 14. Say: "This story is true. It is in God's Word." Read each line slowly and do the motion. When you see **Say it with me**, the kids say the line back to you.

Moses sent Caleb to look at a new land (Joshua 14:7). *(Hand over your eyes, look around.)*
Caleb walked up a mountain (Numbers 13:17). *(March in place.)*
Big, tall people lived there (Numbers 13:33). *(Stretch up tall.)*
The other men were scared (13:31). *(Shake and shiver.)*
But Caleb trusted God (13:30). **Say it with me: "God is with us!"**
Caleb followed God all the way (Joshua 14:8). *(Walk in place.)*
Many, many years went by. God kept Caleb alive (14:10). *(Roll your hands round and round.)*
Now Caleb was old. He was 85 years old (14:10). *(Bend over like an old man.)*
But Caleb was still strong (14:11)! *(Stand up and make strong arms.)*
Caleb said, "Give me this mountain" (14:12). *(Point up high.)*
Joshua gave Caleb the mountain city, Hebron (14:13). *(Hold out both hands.)*
Say it with me: "God keeps His promises!"

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3. Questions to ask (3 minutes)

1. Who followed God all the way? *(Caleb, Joshua 14:8)*
2. Was Caleb strong when he was old? *(Yes, 14:11)*
3. What did Caleb ask for? *(A mountain, 14:12)*

4. Memory verse (3 minutes)

Say: "Caleb said, 'I wholly followed the LORD my God.' Wholly means all the way." Teach the motion: march in place for "I wholly followed," then point up for "the LORD my God." Say the verse with the motion three times: in a normal voice, in a whisper, and in a happy loud voice. Then say "Joshua 14:8" and clap three times.

5. What this means for us (3 minutes)

Say: "God loves you! Everyone has done wrong things. That is called sin (Romans 3:23). Jesus is God. He came to earth as a man (1 Timothy 3:16). Jesus died for our sins. He was buried. Then He rose again (1 Corinthians 15:3–4)! The Bible tells us what to do (Acts 2:38). We repent: we tell God we are sorry, and we stop doing wrong. We are baptized in Jesus' name, down under the water, and our sins are washed away. And God gives us the Holy Ghost. That is God's own Spirit in us. When people are filled with the Holy Ghost, they speak in other tongues, words God gives them (Acts 2:4)."
Pray with the kids, and encourage them to talk with their parents and pastor about being baptized in Jesus' name and filled with the Holy Ghost. Never pressure a child.

6. Activity: Caleb's Mountain (5–10 minutes)

Give each child a take-home sheet. In the drawing box, help them draw a big mountain, and Caleb at the bottom with his arms up strong. While they color, ask: "Who followed God all the way? What did Caleb ask for?" Kids who finish early can climb the pillow mountain and say, "Give me this mountain!"

7. Prayer

Say each line, and the kids say it after you:
"Thank You, God, for keeping Your promises.
Help me follow You all the way. In Jesus' name, amen."

Tips for little ones: keep the story moving and do every motion big. If they get wiggly, do the strong arms and the marching again. Send the take-home sheet home so parents can tell the story again this week.

If a child is scared of the big, tall people: say, "God was with Caleb, and God is with you too. Caleb was not afraid, because he trusted God."

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