

LESSON

2

Background Scriptures:

Joshua 5:13-6:27

Print Passages: Joshua 5:13-15;  
6:1-5, 15-16, 20



# Do It the Right Way

Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" (Joshua 5:14b)



Alvin tried to convince his grandfather to let him take care of his yard in exchange for a monthly allowance of one hundred dollars. Alvin's grandfather is very meticulous about his yard. He prides himself on having one of the nicest lawns in his neighborhood. In the past, whenever Alvin helped his grandfather, his

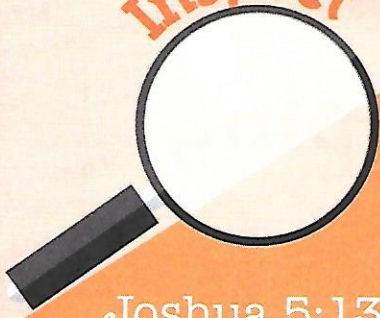
grandfather often had to go back and redo tasks because Alvin's work did not meet his grandfather's standards. Alvin is in high school now, and he believes that he can meet and even exceed his grandfather's expectations of taking care of the yard.

Alvin's grandfather was pleased—even impressed—that his grandson offered to do his yard chores, even though he wanted to be paid for his services. Grandfather decided to give Alvin a trial run before he agreed to hire him for sure. Alvin and his grandfather discussed what had to be done for the job to be complete. Alvin agreed to everything that his grandfather told him that he must do.

The next Saturday, Alvin showed up to cut his grandfather's lawn. Alvin remembered his grandfather's instructions. Alvin thought about it and believed everything that his grandfather wanted done was worth way more than his suggested monthly allowance. Alvin decided to only do a fraction of what they had agreed he would do. After he finished, Alvin's grandfather reviewed the job and pointed out three things that Alvin did not complete. Alvin explained to his grandfather that he thought the three tasks were extra; and extra work should be worth more money. Grandfather decided that Alvin's lack of obedience showed his unwillingness to do the job correctly, so he did not agree to hire Alvin for the permanent job. Instead of focusing on what his grandfather wanted done, Alvin believed that his work should have been good enough to be hired for the job.

**Do you think Alvin's grandfather treated him unfairly?**





## Joshua 5:13-15; 6:1-5, 15-16, 20

**13** Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"

**14** "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?" **15** The commander of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.

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**1** Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the Israelites. No one went out and no one came in. **2** Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. **3** March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. **4** Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. **5** When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in."

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**15** On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. **16** The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city!"

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**20** When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.

## Intersect

Today's Scripture passage describes how God used Joshua to conquer Jericho and take possession of the land that was promised to the Israelites. Joshua was appointed as leader of the Israelites, after Moses died. Joshua wanted to honor God in everything he did. By this time, all the older Israelites that left Egypt during the Exodus were dead, except for the descendants of those Israelites, Joshua, and Caleb. Those descendants were now adults; and Joshua was to lead the new generation to take possession of the land that God always intended for His people. To renew the covenant that God had established with the Israelites long ago, Joshua circumcised all of the uncircumcised men. This act of faith proved to God that the men of the new generation wanted to follow Him and obey His instructions and direction.

Joshua and the Israelites knew they would have to fight for the land that was promised to them, but God assured Joshua that Jericho would be delivered into his hands. With unwavering faith, Joshua did all that God instructed him to do. Joshua arranged the armed men and the priests and marched around the city once each day for six days. They marched seven times on the seventh day, as God told him. God also told Joshua that on the seventh time around the city, on the seventh day, he was to command the army and Levites to shout. When they shouted at Joshua's command, the walls of Jericho fell, and the Israelites entered the land and took control of it.

## Inside Out

After studying today's Scripture passage, why should Christians obey God completely? Have you ever been given specific instructions that you thought were unnecessary at the time? Inside his own mind, Joshua may have questioned why God wanted him to march around Jericho a total of thirteen times over seven days and then command the army and priests to shout. But instead of ignoring God's methods, Joshua chose to obey, which resulted in victory. Will you trust God and follow His instructions, even when you may not agree with the details?

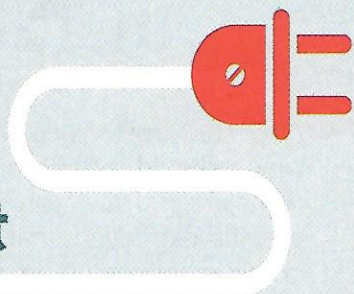




## There's an App for That!

Many Christians spend a lot of time trying to figure out life decisions on their own, failing to realize that God is willing to help them in every situation. When believers grow to trust God's promises and power, miraculous things can happen. Joshua was victorious in battle because he trusted God and followed His instructions completely. Do you invite God to lead you, or do you try to figure out everything on your own? Pray and ask God to help you release your plans, worries, and concerns to Him. God knows exactly what to do to lead you to victory.

## Connect



Have you ever wondered what the world would be like without God? This is an unimaginable thought. Believers accept God as the creator and ruler of the universe and world. God assures believers of His presence through His Word, nature, and other believers so we can move boldly in the world, knowing God is with us.



## Stepping Out!

This week, you are challenged to draw a picture that describes the events recorded in today's Scripture passage. Illustrate in your drawing that the army and priests marched around the city six times in six days and seven times on the seventh day. On the seventh time, when they heard the loud horn blast, Joshua commanded them to shout, and the walls of Jericho collapsed.

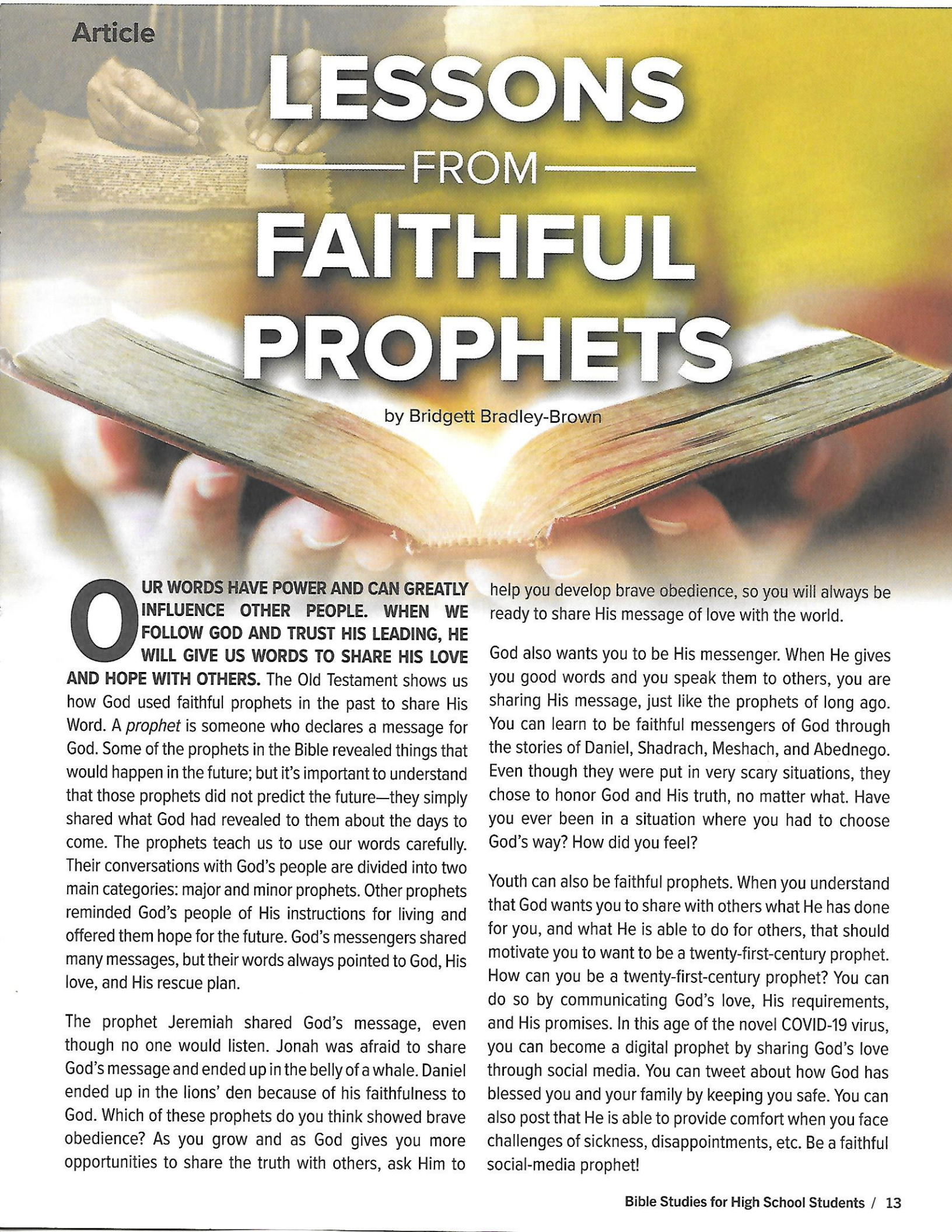
Use your drawing to show that God's instructions may not be understood at the time, but obeying God's instructions fully is always the Christian response.

## Media Mission

"Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho" is a well-known African-American spiritual. The lyrics allude to the Battle of Jericho that was discussed in today's lesson. Visit <https://www.songfacts.com/facts/traditional/joshua-fought-the-battle-of-jericho> to listen to the tune of the song and to learn other interesting facts about the lyrics and how the song was used during slavery.







# LESSONS — FROM — FAITHFUL PROPHETS

by Bridgett Bradley-Brown

**O**UR WORDS HAVE POWER AND CAN GREATLY INFLUENCE OTHER PEOPLE. WHEN WE FOLLOW GOD AND TRUST HIS LEADING, HE WILL GIVE US WORDS TO SHARE HIS LOVE

**AND HOPE WITH OTHERS.** The Old Testament shows us how God used faithful prophets in the past to share His Word. A *prophet* is someone who declares a message for God. Some of the prophets in the Bible revealed things that would happen in the future; but it's important to understand that those prophets did not predict the future—they simply shared what God had revealed to them about the days to come. The prophets teach us to use our words carefully. Their conversations with God's people are divided into two main categories: major and minor prophets. Other prophets reminded God's people of His instructions for living and offered them hope for the future. God's messengers shared many messages, but their words always pointed to God, His love, and His rescue plan.


The prophet Jeremiah shared God's message, even though no one would listen. Jonah was afraid to share God's message and ended up in the belly of a whale. Daniel ended up in the lions' den because of his faithfulness to God. Which of these prophets do you think showed brave obedience? As you grow and as God gives you more opportunities to share the truth with others, ask Him to

help you develop brave obedience, so you will always be ready to share His message of love with the world.

God also wants you to be His messenger. When He gives you good words and you speak them to others, you are sharing His message, just like the prophets of long ago. You can learn to be faithful messengers of God through the stories of Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego. Even though they were put in very scary situations, they chose to honor God and His truth, no matter what. Have you ever been in a situation where you had to choose God's way? How did you feel?

Youth can also be faithful prophets. When you understand that God wants you to share with others what He has done for you, and what He is able to do for others, that should motivate you to want to be a twenty-first-century prophet. How can you be a twenty-first-century prophet? You can do so by communicating God's love, His requirements, and His promises. In this age of the novel COVID-19 virus, you can become a digital prophet by sharing God's love through social media. You can tweet about how God has blessed you and your family by keeping you safe. You can also post that He is able to provide comfort when you face challenges of sickness, disappointments, etc. Be a faithful social-media prophet!





**“Everybody born comes from the Creator trailing wisps of glory. We come from the Creator with creativity. I think that each one of us is born with creativity.”**

**—Maya Angelou**