

Retaining the Promised Land

Materials I Need:

Legend:



= Option 1, Appropriate for 1st – 2nd Grade

= Option 2, Appropriate for 3rd – 6th Grade

Memory Work:

“Choose for yourselves today whom you will serve, but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.” Joshua 24:15

Aim Questions:

1. How old was Joshua when he died?
2. Where did Joshua call the people to gather for his final speech?
3. What were the two key points Joshua made in his farewell address?
4. What does it mean to “cling” to the LORD?
5. What “choice” did Joshua put before the people of Israel and how did they respond?



Hook:



Secrets of Success (Discussion). What is success? How is it measured? Who are some people you think are successful, and why? Don't you love to find out secrets? What makes us so curious, and why do we always want to know something in the worst way when we know it is a secret? This morning we will have a visitor come and tell us the “SECRETS OF SUCCESS.” I can hardly wait to hear what they are! Build up the suspense throughout the HOOK time so that when Joshua arrives to tell the secrets, they will be anxious to hear them.



Secrets (Game). Play a game of “telephone” where someone starts a secret, whispers it in someone's ear, then that person whispers what they heard to another, and so on. When all in the circle have been told, see how close the actual secret is to what came out at the end. For the secret, use Bible truths or Scripture verses.



Following Instructions Leads to Success (Activity). Set up a treasure or scavenger hunt so that the students who follow the instructions carefully are rewarded at the end. Make the clues or rules as complicated as you can so that the students must be careful to read and follow the instructions exactly.



Remembering the Events of Last Week (Discussion). Talk about what the students did throughout the week. What choices did they make? In all the events that they can remember from last week, ask them who they were serving--God or themselves? You may need to give them several examples from your own week to get them talking. If they grew tired of obeying their parents or grumbled while doing their chores, they were not faithfully serving the Lord. If they spent all of their leisure time watching television, they were serving themselves.

- Remember When? (Discussion).** Ask the students questions about events in their lives from years ago. Remember your first day of kindergarten? What was your favorite place to visit? Where did you first go on a vacation with your family? Do you remember the day your little brother or sister was born? Can you remember when you learned to ride a bike? Try to get the students to share special memories with the other classmates. This will spark ideas from those who may have a tough time remembering some of these things. This morning Joshua will tell us, just like he told the Israelites, that it is a good thing to remember special events. Remembering these events should cause us to be thankful to God for special times.
- Looking Back with the Israelites (Worksheet).** Fill in the blanks on **1JOS05.GF1** as a review of God's goodness and mercy toward His people. This will be a good review and should help with the story for this morning. Answer key if found on **1JOS05.GF1 Pg. 2**.
- Make a Mural (Opening Activity).** Have the kids, as they come into class, work on a mural to be used during the TOOK time. Have them draw a large tree full of leaves. Each child can fill the tree with leaves by tracing and coloring their handprints. Draw or paint a large rock underneath the tree. Fill in grass, sky, birds, etc., to make the mural complete.
- What is Trust? (Discussion).** Trust is such an important thing in all of life. But what exactly is it? Can you give a one-sentence definition for this word? What are some areas that we place our trust in each and every day without even thinking about it? (i.e., our cars, our water supplies, our doctors, our pharmacies, our teachers, etc...) What does it then mean to place our "trust in God?" Is there any difference between placing our trust in our car, for instance, and placing our trust in God?
Debrief: In today's Bible lesson, we're going to learn what it means to place our 100% trust in God alone and why this is so important for the Christian life today.
- What Are You Looking At? (Discussion).** Did you know that the human brain remembers only 10% of what we hear, but remembers 50% of what we see? This statistic shows the value of the human mind. What we see is vitally important because our minds will remember those images. For example, when you see a commercial on television for some new toy, the next time you're with your mom at Toys R' Us, what will you do? What we put into our minds can affect the choices we make on a daily basis. What do you allow to enter your mind and what difference do you think those images are making?
Debrief: In today's Bible lesson, we will find that God wants the people of Israel to remember Him and His laws so that the people will continue to walk in His ways and receive His blessings. To remind them of God, He commanded them to erect a large stone monument at Shechem as a visual aid for their obedience.
- The "Cling" Test (Activity/Object Lesson).** Bring in a 10 lb. sack of rice or some other bulky item that would be difficult for your children to pick up, but not impossible. Ask for several volunteers. Tell the students that they can't "cling" to the sack of rice, but must hold it out in front of them at all times. If they can pick it up and hold it out in front of them, begin to see how long each volunteer can hold it in that position. Once they've tried this, then have them try it again, but this time, they can "cling" to the object with both arms and hold it tightly to their body. Time them again to see how long they can hold it. It should be considerably longer than the first.
Debrief: What does it mean "to cling" to something? In today's Bible lesson, Joshua told the people to "cling to the Lord." When we cling to the Lord, our burdens become easier to handle, just like the sack of rice was easier to handle when we clung to it. God wants us to "cling" to Him by trusting in His Word.
- The "Cling-Up" Bar (Activity/ Object Lesson).** Bring in a chin-up bar or a weight-lifting bar and a step stool. With two teachers holding each end, ask for some student volunteers to see long each child can "cling" there with their chin above the bar. If their chin goes below the bar, then the next volunteer can give it a try.

Explain to them that on our own, it's very difficult to cling to God. In fact, we cannot do it on our own. Now bring in the step stool and tell the children that it represents the Word of God. "Let's see now the difference God's Word can make in helping us "cling" to God!" Have the same volunteers stand up on the step stool so that their chin is above the bar.

Debrief: Do you see now the difference God's Word can make in our trust in God? When we stand on God's Word, clinging to God is so easy, isn't it? In today's lesson, we're going to see how Joshua told the people to stand on God's Word alone so that they, too, could cling to God.



Book:

Presentation Ideas –



A Special Visitor (*Listening Activity*). Joshua visits to tell the students (just as he told the Israelites before he died) the "SECRETS OF SUCCESS". He can address the class as if they are the Israelites. The bigger the buildup of suspicion, the closer attention the students will have for what he tells them. Come up with a dramatic way to reveal the secrets (perhaps a Bible wrapped in a special box). The secrets he reveals are based on the statements he made in his final address to God's people from the last two chapters of Joshua. The secrets are **Trust** (depending on God's promises), **Humility** (remembering who gives us all our victories), **Obedience** (to the Word of God), **Loyalty** (to the One true God), **Servant's Heart** (choosing to serve God rather than ourselves), **Total Dependence** (upon God for all things), **Gratitude** (thankful hearts in all situations), **Remembering** (God's blessings and mercies), **Seeking Forgiveness** (confession and repentance), and **Contentment** (no grumbling).

Bible Adventure –

As we read the last two chapters in the book of Joshua, we find that God had let the nation of Israel rest from the wars it fought to conquer Canaan--the land He had promised to them. Joshua had become very old. Knowing that he would not be on earth much longer, he called together the Israelites to give them his last words. He knew it was important for the Israelites to understand some basic truths if they were to continue to follow God and keep the land that had been given to them. Joshua wanted to encourage them in whatever way he could.

Joshua shared with the people three truths he wanted them to remember. The first truth was that it was the Lord their God who fought for them, and had given them this Promised Land. God was the One who helped them win wars and drive out their enemies--it was not their own strength and might that had caused this to happen. Joshua wanted the people to continue to depend on God alone, and to get rid of any pride that would tell them they didn't need God anymore.

The second truth Joshua shared was that they were to obey the word of God in the laws that had been given to them through Moses. They were to finish the job of driving their enemies out of the land. Joshua warned them that if they failed to do this, those nations, with their evil ways and false gods, would bring temptations to the Israelites to turn away from the true God. If they turned away they would eventually die.

Remember how the book of Joshua began? God called Joshua to obey His word completely: "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it." (1:8) Joshua took those words very seriously, and the way he lived his life was proof. Over the forty years Israel wandered in the wilderness, Joshua remained obedient to the Lord because he knew it was God who fought for Israel! God blessed him for his faith, and his life is an example to us today. If we want to do well and have God's blessing upon our lives, then we have to learn to trust what God says and obey Him with our whole hearts.

The third truth Joshua shared was that the people needed to trust and obey God in everything! He asked them to remember how God had worked in their lives in the past, and said that God had kept every single promise made to His people. If they continued to obey Him they would see God's blessings. If they chose to disobey, they would be punished by God for failing to give Him the respect and honor He

deserves. We know from reading the rest of the Old Testament that this is exactly what happened--800 years later the nation of Israel was taken captive by the Babylonians. (See 2 Kings 24-25)

Now Joshua gathered all the people at Shechem and called for the leaders to present themselves before God. Joshua spoke God's words to them. God reminded His people how closely He had been involved in their lives. He reminded them of His mighty acts performed for their good. He went back through Israel's history, back to His promise to Abraham, to make him a great nation, then back to Abraham's descendants, Isaac and his children Esau and Jacob, who went down to Egypt with his family. Then God sent Moses and Aaron to lead the people out of Egypt. He divided the Red Sea so they could cross over on dry land, and destroyed the Egyptians who were following. God delivered His people from the Amorites and from the false prophet Balaam. Then He gave them victory after victory as they entered the Promised Land. Finally, God had given them a rich land that they had done absolutely nothing to earn.

God had been good to the nation of Israel. Everything that had come to pass was by His hand. Joshua believed that God deserved all his love and loyalty. He wanted the Israelites to believe it too. He wanted them to commit themselves to Israel's God, not the gods of Egypt they had left behind, nor the gods of the Amorites in whose land they now lived. Joshua told them, ". . . Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve. . . But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord." (24:15)

The people were quick to respond to Joshua and said they would never leave their God. "We will serve Him," they said, "for He is our God." Imagine their surprise at the next words out of Joshua's mouth. He told them that there was no way they could please God because God is too holy. Why would Joshua be asking them to make a commitment to God, and then almost in the same breath tell them that they could not keep the commitment? Joshua knew that it is easy to say we will do something, but often much harder to do it. The way the Israelites chose to live their lives before God would be much, much more important than their words. Have you found this to be true in your own life? It's easy to say to the Lord, "I love you; I'll obey you." But sometimes our lives are not good examples of our love for God or our obedience to Him. Joshua told the people to incline (or focus) their hearts to God. We are even dependent on God for the ability to obey Him. True obedience is not something we drum up from inside ourselves--it is the result of God's opening our eyes to Who He is, so that we want to obey Him. Are you learning to daily depend on God through thinking about what He tells you in His Word, and asking Him in prayer to give you the power to live a holy life before Him?

Even after this challenge to the people, they told Joshua again that they would serve the Lord. Even after Joshua warned them that would suffer if they turned their backs on God, the people said they would be obedient. So Joshua made a covenant with the nation of Israel that day, and he set up a large stone near the tabernacle at Shechem to be a witness of Israel's agreement to follow her God. Then the people all returned to their own lots of land.

After this, Joshua, who was now one hundred ten years old, died and was buried in the land he had been given by God. The nation of Israel followed the Lord all the days Joshua led them, and they continued to follow Him while all the elders who had served with Joshua were alive.

If you had to sum up these last two chapters of Joshua, to sum up Joshua's message to the Israelites in just one sentence, what would it be? I think it could be found in verse 8 of chapter 23: "You are to hold fast to the Lord your God." When you hold fast to something you hang on to it as if you are glued to it. No one is going to move you or break your hold. What are you holding fast to? We all hold onto something in this life--our own abilities, our wealth, our families or friends, or to God. Doesn't it make sense to hold fast to the One we know is going to be the only thing standing when all is said and done? This is the choice Joshua was asking the Israelites to make. We all reach a point of decision where we must be honest and commit ourselves one way or the other. Joshua did not want the Israelites to be uncertain or half-hearted about their loyalty to the Lord, but asked for complete, sold-out commitment to Him. God asks the same of us. Joshua's words are for us today too. "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve." Make the choice then hold fast to God.



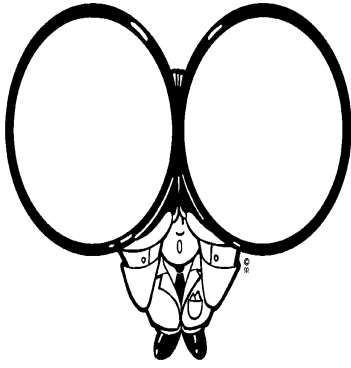
Look:

- The Secrets of Success Revealed (*Worksheet*)**. Unscramble the words on **1JOS05.GF2** to reinforce the secrets presented in the Bible Adventure.
 - Promised Land 3-D Topographical Map (One per classroom) (*Ongoing Craft*)**. Finishing touches are to be added this week. Labels have been provided in your collection of supplies. Items to be completed are the Mediterranean Sea, Sea of Galilee, and the Dead Sea. Please see your class leader or department director to coordinate display and judging of your map for next week.
 - Memory HELP! (*Worksheet*)**. Use this worksheet to help learn the memory verse, **1JOS05.GF3**
 - Passage Review Questions (*Worksheet*)**. This booklet contains many questions from the Scripture passage covered in today's lesson. Students may work on them in class and complete them during the week at home, **1JOS05.GF4**.
-



Took:

- Holding Fast to the Secrets of Success (*Craft*)**. Assemble this craft as a review to Joshua's presentation. This advent calendar format will allow the students to build up suspense and reveal these secrets to their friends and family. Use **1JOS05.GF5 Pg.1 and Pg. 2** for this craft. Instructions found on **1JOS05.GF5 Pg. 3**. See the sample for any clarification needed.
- Clinging to God (*Worksheet*)**. From **1JOS05.GF6 Pg. 2**, cut out the proper applications of ways we cling to God, and paste these down on **1JOS05.GF6 Pg. 1** within the clasp of the hands shown on the page. Talk about how when we are obedient to God's Word and make right choices, these are actually the ways in which we "hold fast" or "cling to" God Himself. Encourage your students to cling to God this week. Pray for strength and wisdom in making the right choices throughout the coming week.
- Promise Stone to God (*Accountability Activity*)**. We heard in this morning's Bible Adventure how the Israelites renewed their covenant--or promise--to follow God. They erected a promise stone so that they would remember that renewed promise. Using the mural you created during the HOOK time, allow each student the opportunity to come forward and paste a slip of paper on the stone, indicating a promise of obedience that they will comply with during the week. Leave this up and spend some time during next week's HOOK time to see how they did in keeping their promises.
- Remembrance Journal (*Craft*)**. Using **1JOS05.GF7** cut out and assemble a "Remembrance Booklet." This is a small booklet (shaped like a rock) to be used to jot down God's blessings for the next month or so. Encourage the students to record these blessings, and set a time for them to bring them back and share with each other at a later date.



Looking Back With The Israelites

Joshua assembled all the tribes at Shechem to remind them how God had provided for them all the way up until that point. Fill in the blanks below with the information Joshua told them.

_____, the father of Abraham, lived beyond the river and worshiped _____.
Joshua 24:2.

God led Abraham throughout _____ and gave him many _____. Joshua
24:3

_____ was Abraham's son. Joshua 24:3

Isaac's sons were _____ and _____. Joshua 24:4.

Jacob and his sons went down to _____ Joshua 24:5. God selected _____ and

_____ to lead His people out. Joshua 24:5 The Egyptians pursued the Israelites with

_____ and _____. Joshua 24:6 The Lord heard their

cries and brought the _____ over them and covered them. Joshua 24:7.

The Israelites lived in the desert for _____. Joshua 24:7.

The Israelites defeated the _____ who lived east of the Jordan. Joshua 24:8.

_____, son of Zippor, the king of Moab, sent for _____ son of Beor

to curse the Israelites. God only allowed him to _____ the Israelites. Joshua 24:10.

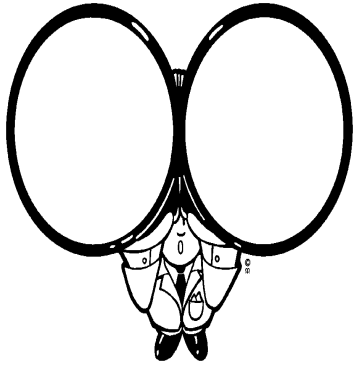
When the Israelites crossed the _____ they came to _____. God

provided victory over them as well as the _____, _____, _____,

_____, _____, _____, and the

_____. Joshua 24:11-12.

God gave them the _____. Joshua 24:13.



Looking Back With The Israelites Teacher's Answer Key

Joshua assembled all the tribes at Shechem to remind them how God had provided for them all the way up until that point. Fill in the blanks below with the information Joshua told them.

Terah, the father of Abraham, lived beyond the river and worshiped other gods
Joshua 24:2.

God led Abraham throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants. Joshua 24:3

Isaac was Abraham's son. Joshua 24:3

Isaac's sons were Jacob and Esau Joshua 24:4.

Jacob and his sons went down to Egypt God selected Moses and

Aaron to lead His people out. Joshua 24:5 The Egyptians pursued the Israelites with

chariots and horsemen. Joshua 24:6. The Lord heard their

cries and brought the sea over them and covered them. Joshua 24:7.

The Israelites lived in the desert for a long time. Joshua 24:7.

The Israelites defeated the Amorites who lived east of the Jordan. Joshua 24:8.

Balak, son of Zippor, the king of Moab, sent for Balaam, son of Beor

to curse the Israelites. God only allowed him to bless the Israelites. Joshua 24:10.

When the Israelites crossed the Jordan they came to Jericho. God

provided victory over them as well as the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hittites, Girgashites,

Hivites, and the Jebusites. Joshua 24:11-12.

God gave them the land. Joshua 24:13.

The Secrets of Success Revealed

W	K	I	K	F	Z	H	Z	W	C	R	Z	C	G	T	H	G	A
K	I	N	T	X	I	U	H	N	E	H	K	W	N	N	U	D	R
Q	L	P	T	N	E	R	C	M	Z	B	X	V	P	E	M	S	R
C	K	L	S	S	E	N	E	V	I	G	R	O	F	M	I	Q	F
N	T	W	O	G	U	M	K	R	K	V	I	E	Y	T	L	R	C
Q	V	P	L	B	B	R	T	A	N	R	C	T	J	I	I	U	X
A	H	M	W	E	E	V	T	N	M	N	D	R	E	M	T	J	W
K	H	L	R	L	F	D	K	L	E	A	Y	Y	T	M	Y	K	Z
G	Z	I	M	M	M	H	I	D	Y	T	L	A	Y	O	L	T	I
B	N	L	Z	B	M	N	N	E	X	B	N	Q	V	C	V	N	F
G	C	H	M	V	C	E	O	P	N	M	J	O	D	R	B	A	B
M	L	J	M	B	P	R	S	C	A	C	Q	L	C	G	N	V	A
X	V	L	Z	E	L	S	S	H	K	K	E	F	J	Q	F	R	Y
D	N	U	D	G	R	A	T	I	T	U	D	E	A	F	A	E	G
L	M	N	X	I	B	I	Q	H	U	N	K	J	P	C	S	S	E

YES. IT IS A WORD SEARCH.

SO GO FOR IT. YOU REMEMBER HOW TO DO THESE.

THE WORDS CAN GO ANY DIRECTION. UP, DOWN, SIDEWAYS ,
BACKWARD, OR EVEN FORWARDS.

SERVANT

CONTENTMENT

DEPENDENCE

FORGIVENESS

GRATITUDE

HUMILITY

LOYALTY

OBEDIENCE

REMEMBERING

TRUST

MEMORY HELP!!

My computer scrambled the words to the verse. Can you unscramble the words to find out what you are to do?

(If you need help, look up the verse in your Bible.
Write the corrected verse below.)

**We choose for the Lord this day we will serve,
but as for yourselves you will serve me and my
household.**

Joshua 24:15

9. What would happen to the Israelites if they turned from God?
24:20

10. What object did Joshua say witnessed all these things? 24:27

11. How old was Joshua when he died? 24:29

12. Where was Joshua buried? 24:30

13. Where were Joseph's bones buried? 24:32

14. Where was Eleazar, son of Aaron, buried? 24:33

Passage Review Questions Joshua 23 and 24

1. When the Lord gave Israel rest from all their enemies around them, how old was Joshua? 23:1

2. What did Joshua do in 23:2?

3. What did the Lord do for the Israelites? 23:9

4. Had God fulfilled all of His promises? 23:14

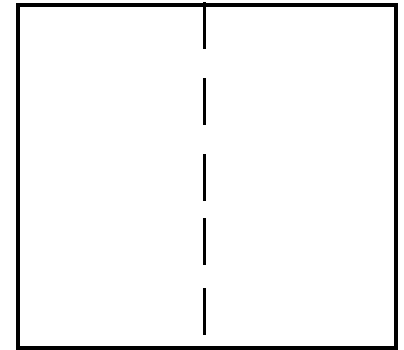
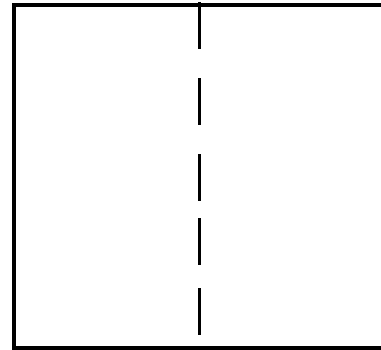
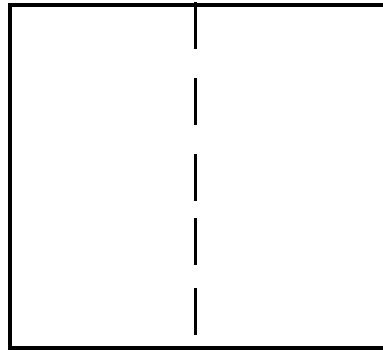
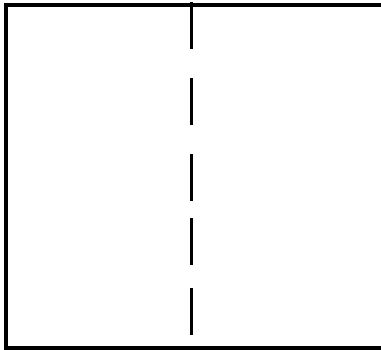
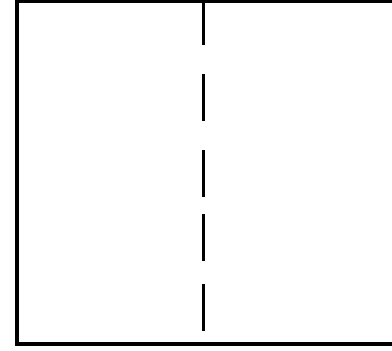
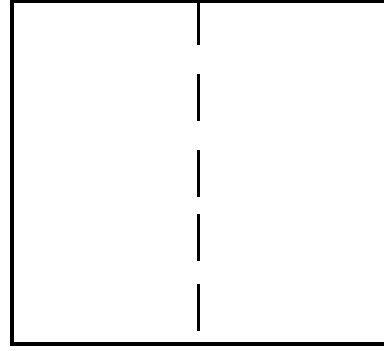
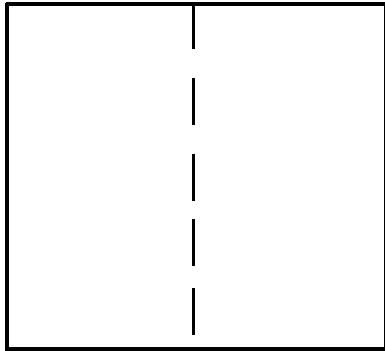
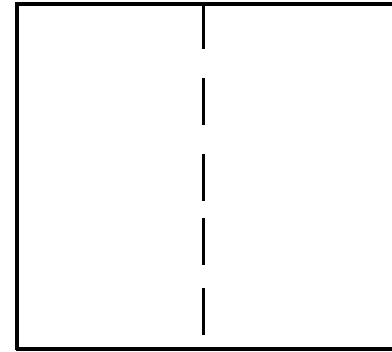
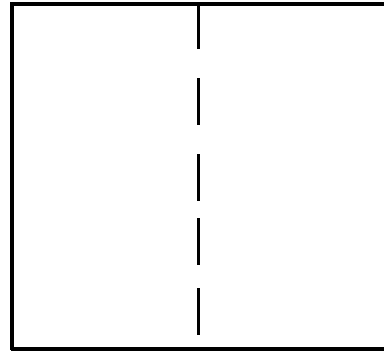
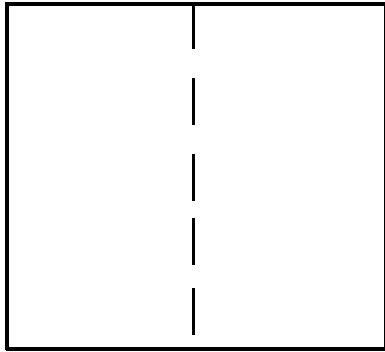
5. What would happen to the people if they were to turn away from God? 23:16

6. Who presented themselves before God? 24:14

7. What did the Lord want from the Israelites? 24:16-18

8. Write down and try to memorize the last sentence of 24:15.

○ Holding Fast To The Secrets Of Success ○



Trust

Prov. 3:5-6

Humility

James 4:10

Obedience

**1 Jn. 5:3
Jn. 14:23**

**Servant's
Heart**

**Josh. 22:5
Col. 3:23-24**

Loyalty

**Deut. 6:1-5
Josh. 24:15**

**Total
Dependence**

**Ps. 91:1
Ps. 86**

Gratitude

**1 Cor. 15:57
1 Thess. 5:18
Col. 3:17**

**Remembering
God's
Blessings**

**1 Chron. 16:8-13
Ps. 103:2
Ps. 105:1-5**

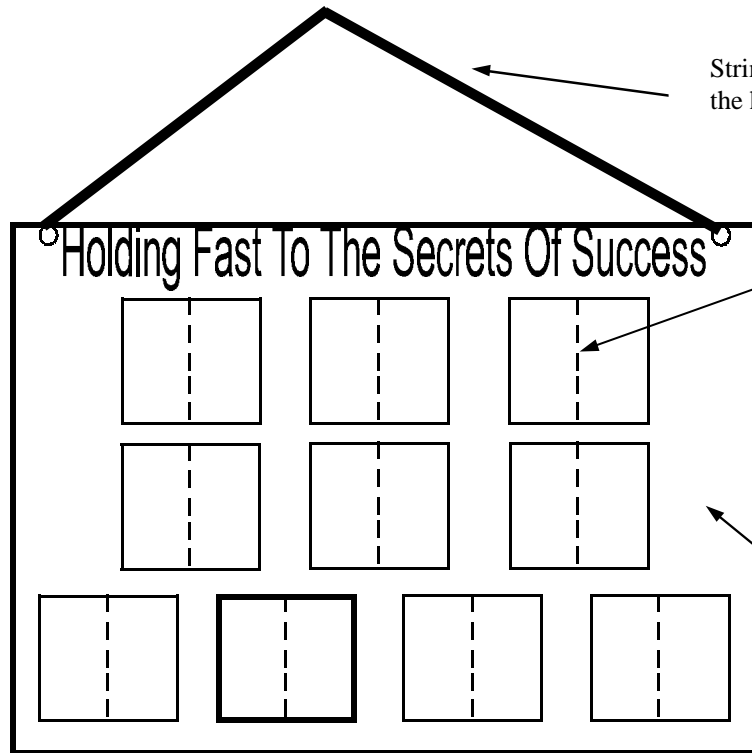
**Seeking
Forgiveness**

**1 Jn. 1:9
Col. 3:13
Matt. 6:14-15**

Contentment

**Ps. 37:7
1 Tim. 6:6
Heb. 13:5**

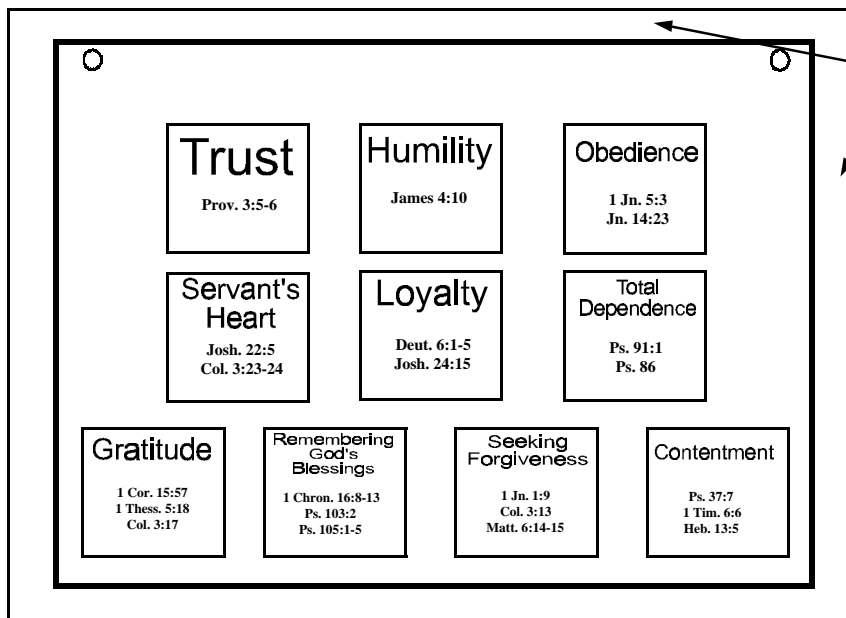
Instructions for Holding Fast to the Secrets of Success



String a long piece of yarn through the holes at the top, and tie to secure.

Top or title sheet is to be pasted over the lower sheet. Before you paste this sheet down, slit open windows so that they can be opened to reveal the secrets in the boxes below.

Once these two sheets have been pasted together trace your hands as you hold on to the edges of the page. See sample for clarification.



Paste the lower sheet to a piece of colored construction paper to start. Color lightly inside each of the secret boxes.

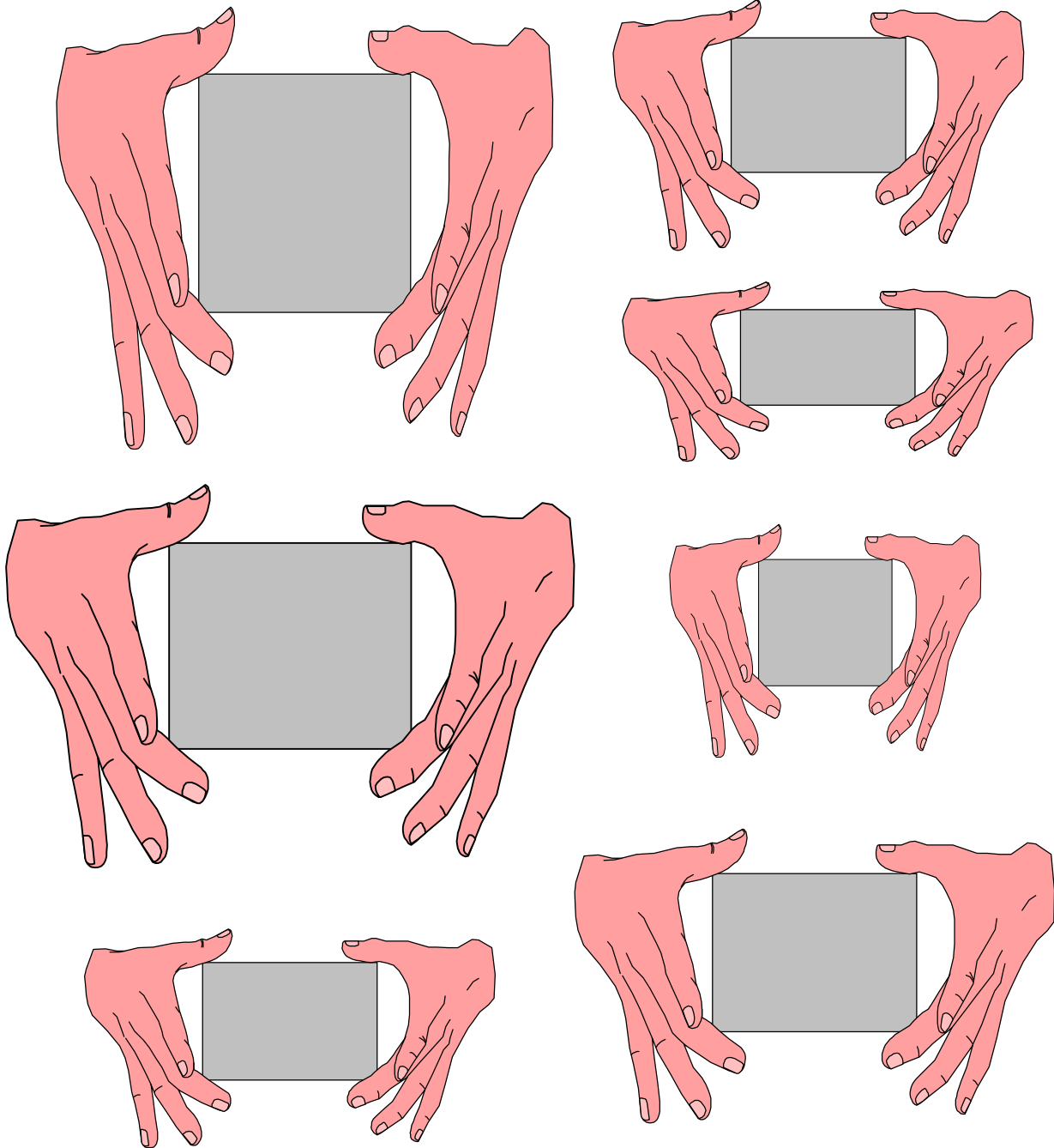
Top sheet should be carefully pasted over the lower sheet so that the windows line up exactly.

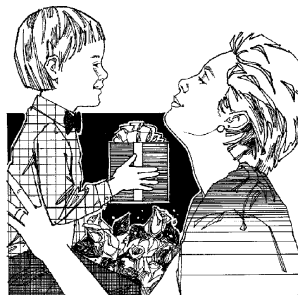
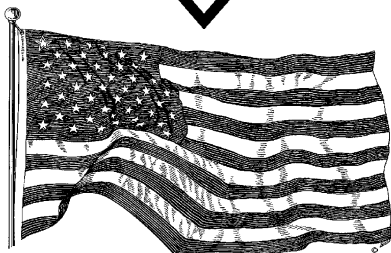
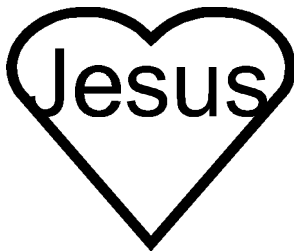
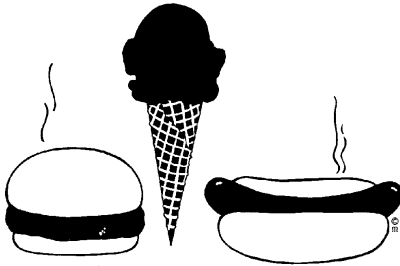
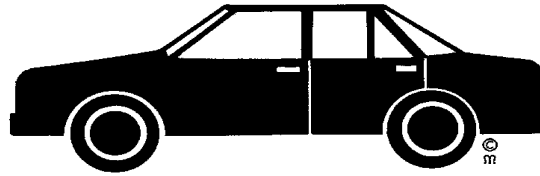
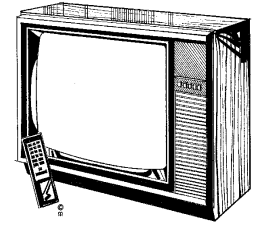
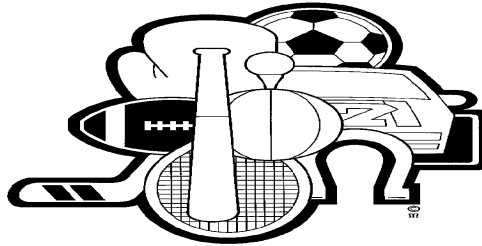
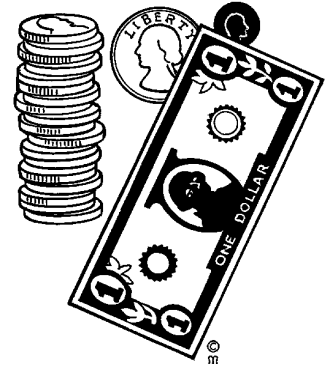
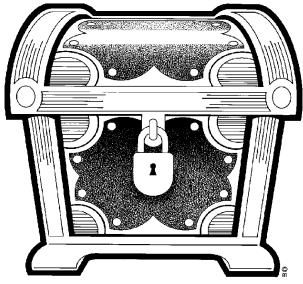
Once completed, you are ready to share the secrets of success with your friends and family.

Clinging To God

**But you are to hold fast to the Lord
your God Joshua 23:8**

What kind of things does God want us hanging on to?







Remembrance Journal

Joshua 24:25-27

