



Fighting Among the Nations

Deacon Robert Childs | Joshua 11:6-9, 16-23

THE BIG IDEA

Trust God, persevere in obedience, and give Him the glory while extending grace to others.

Lesson Summary

Deacon Robert Childs teaches Fighting Among the Nations from Joshua 11:6-9, 16-23. A northern coalition presents Joshua with a formidable challenge. God tells him not to be afraid and promises victory. The lesson follows three outlines: God's assurance of victory, perseverance and obedience, and fulfillment and rest.

Deacon Childs emphasizes that the account calls attention to God, faith, and obedience. Joshua responds to God's direction and continues through a long campaign. The teacher explains the command concerning horses and chariots as a reminder to depend on God rather than military equipment. The chapter closes with the land allotted to Israel and rest from war.

The class brings these themes into Christian life through humility, honest testimony, and patient relationships. Deacon Childs stresses studying the whole Bible and points to Jesus' teaching about loving enemies and praying for persecutors. The discussion challenges believers to give God credit, explain the struggles in their own journey, and show grace while dealing with disagreement.

Memory Verse

"And Joshua did unto them as the Lord bade him:"

Joshua 11:9 (KJV, excerpt)

This excerpt introduces Joshua's obedience to God's specific command in the passage.

[Read the Scripture \(KJV\)](#) | [Lesson recording on YouTube](#)

Prepared from the supplied September 20 Sunday School transcript: Deacon Robert Childs and the class discussion. Times refer to that recording. Scripture links and memory-verse excerpts use the KJV; lesson notes summarize the teaching.



Detailed Lesson Notes

LESSON OUTLINE

God's Assurance of Victory - Joshua 11:6-7

Perseverance and Obedience - Joshua 11:8-9, 16-21

Fulfillment and Rest - Joshua 11:22-23

Key verse: Joshua 11:20

1. Study the whole story

Deacon Childs explains why Old Testament study matters for understanding the Bible as a whole. He compares beginning in the middle of a book with trying to understand the present without its background. Sunday School, careful reading, and help from others can deepen understanding, especially for someone beginning a walk with Christ.

Recording: 2:25-5:46

3. Receive God's assurance and respond

In Joshua 11:6, God tells Joshua not to fear and promises to deliver the opposing army. Joshua and his forces then approach suddenly at Merom. Deacon Childs emphasizes taking God at His word and acting on His direction. Faith involves a response, even when the assignment appears overwhelming.

Recording: 13:25-17:03

5. Persevere without taking all the credit

The discussion repeatedly returns to putting God first and remaining submissive to Him. Joshua 11:18 says the campaign lasted a long time. The lesson connects perseverance with obedience and faith. Continued progress is a reason for gratitude and continued dependence, rather than an excuse to become self-sufficient.

Recording: 25:23-30:18

2. Recognize the size of the challenge

Joshua 11:1-5 describes Jabin of Hazor gathering other kings, soldiers, horses, and chariots at the waters of Merom. Deacon Childs uses this background to explain the challenge facing Joshua. As responsibilities grow, opposition may also become more demanding. The lesson directs attention to God rather than appearances alone.

Recording: 9:23-13:23

4. Depend on God rather than the equipment

Joshua 11:8-9 records victory and obedience to the command about the horses and chariots. Deacon Childs explains this as a lesson in dependence: the people should not transfer their confidence to the equipment they could acquire. The class stresses acknowledging God's power rather than treating success as a chance to collect wealth or take personal credit.

Recording: 20:07-25:09

6. Read difficult passages with care

Deacon Childs acknowledges that the chapter's destruction can trouble readers. Joshua 11:16-21 presents the campaign within its account of judgment and God's commands to Moses. Study the historical setting and the surrounding Scripture carefully. The teacher urges deeper study instead of taking isolated verses as the whole message of the Bible.

Recording: 28:42-33:26



Humility, Grace, and Rest

7. Practice the way of Christ

Deacon Childs moves from the conquest account to the Christian call to love enemies, pray for persecutors, and bear witness. He emphasizes Christ's sacrifice, grace, and mercy while maintaining the importance of obedience. The present-day application is faithful witness and compassionate conduct; the ancient battle account is not a command to attack people today.

Recording: 35:20-38:14

9. Recognize fulfillment and receive rest

Joshua 11:22-23 describes the remaining Anakim locations, the distribution of the land, and rest from war. Deacon Childs highlights God's role in bringing rest after the campaign. His closing encouragement is to remember God's care when the world feels unsettled. Trust His faithfulness while continuing to live in obedience.

Recording: 47:36-50:16

8. Tell the journey, not just the result

The class warns that confidence can turn into arrogance. A person who is struggling may find it hard to relate to a testimony that begins only with the speaker's present success. Share how you needed help, prayed, learned, and grew. Honest testimony helps others see a path forward instead of feeling that faith is beyond their reach.

Recording: 38:22-45:19

10. Bring humility and grace into conflict

The closing discussion cautions against calling every person who disagrees with us an enemy. It explores the difficulty of showing grace while also addressing harmful behavior. Pause when anger rises, seek God's help, and respond with self-control. A firm correction and a compassionate heart can belong together.

Recording: 50:22-57:54

Life Application

- Read Joshua 11:6-9, 16-23 with its surrounding chapter. Bring one honest question to Bible study.
- Identify a challenge where you have been relying only on your own ability. Pray and seek wise direction.
- Choose one act of obedience and follow through, even when it takes patience.
- Give God thanks for help received instead of taking all the credit for progress.
- Share a testimony that includes how you struggled and what helped you grow.
- In a disagreement, pause before reacting. Aim to speak truth with humility and grace.



Prayer and Personal Reflection

Lord, help us trust You when a challenge seems greater than our strength. Teach us to study Your Word carefully, persevere in obedience, and give You the glory. Keep us humble as we grow. Help us tell the truth about our journey and show grace to those around us. Guide our words and actions, and teach us to receive Your rest. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Where do you need to trust God and persevere, and how will you show humility or grace in that situation?

ONE COMMITMENT FOR THIS WEEK

My commitment: _____

My next step: _____

[Read the Scripture \(KJV\)](#) | [Lesson recording on YouTube](#)



Sunday School Questions

Name: _____ Date: _____

Choose one answer for each question. Use the website to submit your answers and reflection privately to the church.

1. What did God tell Joshua in Joshua 11:6?

- A. Return to Egypt before the battle
- B. Depend entirely on the captured chariots
- C. Do not be afraid; God would deliver the opposing army
- D. Wait until all the kings offered peace

2. According to Deacon Childs, why did God command the destruction of the chariots?

- A. So the people could boast about their own strength
- B. To teach the people to depend on God rather than military equipment
- C. Because the people had already stopped obeying every command
- D. So another nation could claim the victory

3. What does Joshua 11:18 say about the campaign?

- A. Joshua made war a long time
- B. Every battle ended on the first day
- C. Joshua never faced another challenge
- D. The people returned to Egypt immediately

4. What approach did Deacon Childs emphasize for Christians today?

- A. Treat every disagreement as a reason for revenge
- B. Use Scripture only to win arguments
- C. Measure faith by possessions and power
- D. Love enemies, pray for persecutors, and bear witness

5. How does Joshua 11:23 close?

- A. Joshua abandons the people
- B. The land rests from war
- C. The tribes choose a new king
- D. The people begin building chariots

6. EXTRA CREDIT - What comparison did Deacon Childs use to explain why we should study the Old Testament too?

- A. Learning a song without its melody
- B. Starting a race without warming up
- C. Opening a book in the middle instead of knowing its beginning
- D. Building a house without painting it