



## 6.12.11/Joshua 1:7-8

**Materials Needed**

None!

**Read Joshua 1:7-8**

“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful.” (NIV)

**Discussion:**

Have you ever read a book and then taken a test on what the book was about? Or maybe a test on everything you’ve been learning in school? If you studied well, then you were able to give the correct answers (not turning to the right or left) and were successful in your test. In a way, we face tests every day. Not with a pencil and paper, but decisions to make – things to do or not do, say or not say. Reading the Bible is a great way to study for these “life tests!” One of the primary ways we learn to live for Jesus is to study the Word, much like you would study for a test at school. Do you study for your everyday tests as much as you study for school tests? If not, why do think that’s the case?

**Questions:**

1. At the end of verse 7, we are told not to “turn from [God’s law] to the right or to the left.” In other words, don’t add things or take away things from God’s law just to suit your needs. For instance, the Bible talks a lot about money and how it can be a great blessing or a real stumbling block in our lives. What are some ways you might be tempted to “turn to the right or the left” when it comes to how you spend your allowance money? *You could decide that since it is ok to enjoy life and the pleasures God has created, you are going to spend all your money on games and candy. Nobody will benefit from your money but you. This is adding your own selfishness to what God intended. You know that God wants you to use your money wisely so that you can help show love and mercy to others, but that can be hard sometimes and it can be tempting to twist what God says to make it more comfortable for us.*

2. The “Book of the Law” that we see in today’s scripture refers to the first 5 books of the Bible (Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy). They are called this because they contain the law and instruction given by the Lord through Moses to the Israelite people. Why do you think God would give His people a book of laws? *The reason mom or dad says we are not allowed to touch the stove when they are cooking is to keep us safe from being burned. In the same way, God knows that there are things we need to know and obey to keep us safe and so that we may be “prosperous and successful” in our walks with Him.*

NOTE: In Matthew 5:17, Jesus says, “Do not think that I have come to abolish the Law or the Prophets; I have not come to abolish them but to fulfill them.” Jesus is the fulfillment of the Law of God. In other words, He is the only one who could ever live up to God’s perfect law and please Him perfectly. Our sin keeps us far from God, but when Jesus died on the cross for us and came back to life, He did all of the work that ever needed to be done to destroy our sin and make us right with God the Father. He did this because He was the only one who could ever truly do what God wanted. This is because Jesus IS God! When we trust Jesus instead of ourselves, this pleases God!

3. Today’s passage says to meditate on God’s Law day and night. Because JESUS is the fulfillment of the Law, the only one who could ever perfectly please God the Father, we should constantly meditate on Him. One way we can do this is to read our Bibles, which tell us all about Jesus, who He is, and how much He loves us. Why is it so important that we read follow the Word of God, the Bible? *When we read the Bible, we are able to more fully see who God is and learn to love Him more. When we love Him more, we will love what He loves and do what He does. Then we will be much more able to show others what God is like!*



NOTE: This passage mentions being successful. The most successful thing we can do is to become more and more like God Himself. Following Jesus, receiving His Holy Spirit, and being transformed to look more and more like Him is the only way we can do this and be truly “prosperous and successful” for all of eternity. Jesus loves us and has done everything for us!

### **Reflection/Prayer**

It is our great pleasure to honor God with our obedience. When you consider Jesus’ sacrifice for us on the cross, our only response can be complete gratitude. The best way to keep His law “on our lips” is to meditate on it day and night. If you don’t already, ask your parents to spend a little bit of time every day reading the Bible with you. Ask questions. Memorize your favorite verses. Pray for the Holy Spirit to lead you when you read the Bible. You will grow to love Jesus even more! And if you’re not sure what it means to love Jesus, ask your parents more about this.