



**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Series:** God is Our Rescuer  
Fall Year 2, Lesson 16

# Our Rescuer Wants Us to Surrender All

**Take Home Point:** \*Trust God and surrender all to him. \*Repeat this phrase throughout the lesson.

**Bible Event:** Joshua 7 and 8. The city of Ai defeats Israel because Achan stole.

**Key Verse:** Joshua 1:7 "Only be strong and very courageous, faithfully doing everything in the teachings that my servant Moses commanded you. Don't turn away from them. Then you will succeed wherever you go."

**We will help kids know:**

- Achan's sin was that he stole what was the Lord's. God still rescued the people after exposing the sin.
- All that we have belongs to the Lord. As we surrender it to him, he gives it back to us so we might use it for him.




**We will help kids feel:**

- Respect and sacred fear of God as they are careful to do their best in obeying him.
- Security in Jesus, who completely surrendered to God's purpose by dying on the cross. He gives us forgiveness and strength to surrender as well.

**We will help kids do:**

- Struggle with the issue of giving things up or surrendering to God, learning to trust him more fully.
- Identify important areas of their lives that they can give to the Lord, surrendering so they might be better used in his Kingdom.

# THIS LESSON'S ROADMAP

DESTINATION	PAGE #	DISCOVERIES ON YOUR JOURNEY	SUPPLIES NEEDED
<b>Small Group Warm-Up</b> 	3-4	Kids trade marshmallows to show how God sometimes wants us to give up things in our lives that are hard to give up. When we give things to him first, many times we get back something better. But if we try to keep things away from him, sometimes those things can get in the way of our friendship with God.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• three small marshmallows for each child</li> <li>• two large marshmallows for each child</li> <li>• additional marshmallows</li> <li>• napkins</li> <li>• small paper bag or something to conceal the large marshmallows</li> </ul>
<b>Large Group</b> 	4  9-10  11-12  13-14	<b>Overview</b>  <b>Puppet Presentation:</b> “Don’t Want To Give It Up” – Gordy doesn’t want to give up or share marshmallows that he received in small group  <b>Dramatic Presentation:</b> How Achan Stole From God – A monologue presentation of Joshua 7:1-8:29.  <b>Puppet Presentation Conclusion:</b> Don’t Want To Give It Up” – Gordy learns from the Bible event that it is better to surrender to God what he asks of us.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Gordy with a big marshmallow taped to each hand</li> <li>• Joshua costume for an adult that has been torn</li> <li>• large marshmallows</li> </ul>
<b>Small Group Application</b> 	4-8	By playing “Marshmallow Chopsticks Relay,” kids review today’s topic and learn that God often has better plans for us than we can come up with on our own.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• large marshmallows in a bucket for each group</li> <li>• chopsticks (Ideally, have a set for each child.)</li> <li>• three cups. Label one cup “FALSE,” label another “TRUE,” and label the last one “NOT IN STORY.”</li> </ul>

# Small Group Warm-Up: 15 minutes

**Purpose: Get pointed in the right direction!** Build relationships and help guests feel at ease. Do the learning readiness activity that will point your group in the right direction for the lesson.

*Supplies needed: three small marshmallows for each child, two large marshmallows for each child, additional large marshmallows, napkins, and a small paper bag or something to conceal the large marshmallows.*

Pass out a napkin and three small marshmallows to each child. Say:

**Today we are going to play a game called “Marshmallow Surrender.”**  
**What does the word “surrender” mean?** *(It means you give up something that you don’t want to give up.)*

**If you like marshmallows, you probably won’t want to give them up. In this game I can’t tell you what you will get if you do give them up. Who knows? You might get something even better in return.**

**If you will, please surrender two marshmallows. Please put them in my paper bag.** *(Don’t allow anyone to peek inside the bag.)*

**How does it feel giving up something that you really do not want to?** *(Not good, or excited that I might get something better in return.)*

**Here is what you get if you turned in two small marshmallows.**

Give a big marshmallow to each child who surrendered two small marshmallows.

**Is this a better trade?**

As the children discuss this allow them to eat their big marshmallows.

**I will trade one big marshmallow for every two small marshmallows.**  
**Does anyone else want to trade for a big marshmallow?**

Now some kids will have to surrender to a friend a small marshmallow so the friend might trade for a big marshmallow. After kids have worked out their trading, continue.

**Did anyone surrender a small marshmallow?** *(Some kids gave up their small marshmallows so a friend might have two to trade.)* **How did it feel giving up something to help someone else?**

**I have a special reward for those who gave up a small marshmallow so a friend might trade for a big one.**

Give several small marshmallows to those kids to eat.

What did it feel like when you surrendered something you didn't want to give up, but you got something better in return?

Can someone share a time in your life when you had to give something up but you were happy to because you got something better? (*Be ready to give an example from your own life.*)

Today we will learn how to *\*trust God and surrender all to him*. God sometimes wants us to give up things in our lives. When we give things to him first, many times we get back something better. But if we try to keep things away from him, sometimes those things can get in the way of our friendship with God.

We will discover how a man named Achan decided to hold back some things that were supposed to be offered to God. God showed everyone how important it was not to hold back from him.

## Large Group: 20-30 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids observe what the Bible says. Present the Bible event in creative fashion. Help kids begin to interpret what it means.*

### Overview

**Puppet Presentation:** “Don’t Want To Give It Up” – Gordy doesn’t want to give up or share marshmallows that he received in small group.

**Dramatic Presentation:** “How Achan Stole From God” – A monologue presentation of Joshua 7:1-8:29.

**Puppet Presentation Conclusion:** “Don’t Want To Give It Up” – Gordy learns from the Bible event that it is better to surrender to God what he asks of us.

## Small Group Application: 20-25 minutes



**Purpose:** *Help kids map out the meaning of the Bible event in their lives. Use the questions to stimulate discussion but don't feel tied to them. Allow the Holy Spirit to guide you. Include personal examples from your own faith journey. The example of Christ at work in your life will leave lasting impressions of how Christ can work in the children's lives.*

*Use your Bibles! Children need to learn how to look up references and follow along when scripture is read aloud. Allow for quality time of prayer at the close of the lesson.*

*Supplies needed: large marshmallows in a bucket for each group, a set of chopsticks for each child, and three cups--one cup labeled "FALSE," another labeled "TRUE," and the last one "NOT IN STORY."*

Review the story by playing "Marshmallow Chopsticks Relay." On one side of the room place three cups. Label one cup "FALSE," one "TRUE," and the last one "NOT IN STORY."

Divide your group into two teams, and give each person chopsticks. A team may share a set of chopsticks. (If there are not enough chopsticks for each child to have a set, the chopsticks could be passed down the line.)

One person from each team takes a marshmallow out of a bucket with chopsticks and passes the marshmallow to the second person in line. The second person receives the marshmallow with his chopsticks and, in turn, passes the marshmallow to the next person. The last person in line places the marshmallow in the appropriate cup that answers the question you have given the group.

After each question, the player in the front of the line goes to the back of the line. This will allow all in the group to have an opportunity to be in different positions.

Teams are racing to see which team can get a marshmallow in the correct cup.

Option: Instead of dividing small groups into teams, challenge another small group to compete.

### **Observation Questions: What happened?**

**Joshua was sad because the Israelites had gone into battle against the city of Ai and lost. He didn't understand why God had not helped them.** (*TRUE. Joshua 7:1-9.*)

**God told Joshua the reason the Israelites lost the battle was because they didn't blow horns like they did at Jericho.** (*FALSE. Joshua 7:11. Someone had stolen things that were supposed to be dedicated to God after the victory over Jericho.*)

**God showed Joshua the sinner was a man named Nathan.** (*FALSE. Joshua 7:16-18. His name was Achan. God showed the sinner to Joshua as he brought the tribes one at a time before God, then by families, then by man until Achan was identified.*)

**The silver, gold, and fancy robe that Achan took belonged to Joshua and the army. That's why God was so mad.** (*FALSE. Those things belonged to God.*)

**Of all people who have ever lived, the one who has surrendered the most to God was Joshua.** *(FALSE. It was Jesus. He gave his life for us on the cross.)*

### **Interpretation Questions: What does this mean?**

Have group gather back together in a circle.

**What do you think God was trying to teach Joshua and the Israelites?**  
*(That God means what he says and they were to completely obey him.)*

### **Application Questions: What does this mean to me?**

**How is this the same for our lives?** *(God wants us to obey him completely and not to only pretend to obey him. It is hard to give up or surrender things to God, but we can trust him completely.)*

Read the following story as an example of this.

**Little Tiffany was in the first grade and liked the idea that she was now going to school. She felt like she was growing up and no longer needed some of the toys that she had when she was a little girl. Since she was so much older, she liked the things older girls played with.**

**One thing she had as a small child was a very special present her father had given her. It was a toy necklace. It was made of plastic and was supposed to look like pearls. She wore it when she went to special places like church, but she also wore it sometimes when she went out to play. Since it was used so much and because it was only a cheap little toy, it lost its color and shine. It wasn't very pretty at all. It even began to leave stains around her neck. Still it was her favorite.**

**One night when her dad noticed she was wearing it to bed, he asked that she would take it off and give it to him. She didn't want to. She explained that it was hers and he had given it to her. It wasn't fair that she couldn't wear it.**

**Her father sighed and said, "Okay, darling. But I will ask for it again. I want you to trust me enough to give it up."**

**The next night she pulled the covers up over her neck. She was hiding the necklace because she didn't want her dad to ask for it. When he kissed her goodnight he said with a smile, "Tiffany, I think you might be hiding that necklace. Though it once was very pretty, it doesn't look so good now. I wish you would give it up to me. Trust me. I'm your dad."**

Tiffany thought about it and then shook her head. "Please, dad. It's my favorite necklace. I must keep it."

The next night Tiffany knew her dad was going to ask again. Still she wore the necklace to bed. Her dad came in with a small, black box. He opened it up, but there was nothing inside. He explained to her, "Tiffany, I know how much you like that necklace, but it is no longer the best necklace for you to wear. I won't make you give it up. Trust me, though. It will be the best thing you can do. After I kiss you good-night, I'm going to leave the room and ask that you choose to take your necklace off and put it in this box. Then it will be the last time you will ever see your necklace, and it will be okay."

Tiffany thought long and hard after her dad left the room. She loved the necklace so much that it was hard to give it up. She remembered her father's kind face, and she believed what he said. It probably would be the best thing for her. So she took the necklace off, laid it in the black box, and closed it tight. With a small tear she went to sleep.

In the morning she thought right away of her necklace. She reached over for the box and opened it up. Much to her surprise it was not there anymore. Instead it was a beautiful real pearl necklace and not fake. It was something that older girls wore.

Now she understood that for her to get such a wonderful necklace she first had to give up the old one. Her dad was right. Though she would never see the old necklace again, this was for the best. This was so much better.

*How is this like giving things in our life to God? (God wants what is best for us. Sometimes we need to give up some things so we can have the better things he wants to give us.)*

**Why must God's commands always take first place?** *(He knows what is best.)*

**\*Trust God and surrender all to him.** Does this mean we could give God something like our bike?

In a way it does. When we see everything as something we can offer to God, he does not just take it up to heaven with him. He usually gives that thing right back to us so we can use it to help others.

**How can a bike be used for God?**

Help kids come up with other things and talents they can offer to God.

Read today's key verse:

**Joshua 1:7, “Only be strong and very courageous, faithfully doing everything in the teachings that my servant Moses commanded you. Don’t turn away from them. Then you will succeed wherever you go.”**

**What does God tell us to do?** *(Faithfully do everything he commands us to in his teaching or word.)*

**What is the promise we receive?** *(That you will succeed wherever you go.)*

**Remember, we can *\*trust God and surrender all to him*, because he knows what is best for us and keeps his promises. God will do what he says he will do.**

Closing Prayer:

Have each child think of one thing he can offer to God or he can surrender to God that he might want to use to help others or to help them get to know God.

Give an illustration from your life to help the kids understand. For example, “God can use my time here with you in Kingdom Quest to help others know about God’s love. I want to pray that as I surrender my time to him, he would use this time to help others.”

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# Large Group Presentation: 20-30 minutes

## Don't Want To Give It Up Puppet Presentation

Gordy: *(Appears with a big marshmallow taped to each hand.)* Hello, hello, hello. Hi, Mr. King! Hi, kids!

**Mr. King: Hi, Gordy. Wow! You're in a great mood.**

Gordy: You bet I am! I'm rich, rich, rich, rich! Marshmallow rich! I love marshmallows.

**Mr. King: I do, too.**

Gordy: You do? Would you like one?

**Mr. King: Sure, Gordy. Thanks!**

Gordy: Ha! Well, you can't have one. Gotcha!

**Mr. King: Oh, Gordy, you didn't even pay for those yourself. You got them from your shepherd.**

Gordy: Well, I had to trade in little marshmallows to get 'em.

**Mr. King: But you still got them from your shepherd. And who gave you another little marshmallow to trade for a second big marshmallow?**

Gordy: Another kid in my group. I told him if he gave me his marshmallow, I would share a big marshmallow.

**Mr. King: Well, did you?**

Gordy: Well . . . I didn't say when I'd share it. Maybe next month. Gotcha!

**Mr. King: Gordy, today we are learning there are certain things in our lives that we want to give up to God.**

Gordy: Like marshmallows?

**Mr. King: Maybe so.**

Gordy: Okay, here God. If you want these marshmallows, come and take them. *(Pauses.)* Well, I guess he doesn't want them.

**Mr. King:** Gordy, I don't think you quite understand. We want to *\*trust God and surrender all to him*. Then he often gives us back something that is much better.

Gordy: What do you mean?

**Mr. King:** When you give those marshmallows up to God, he might use them to help someone else.

Gordy: Help someone else?

**Mr. King:** That's right.

Gordy: Like you?

**Mr. King:** Well, that's one person.

Gordy: Oh, Mr. King, I don't know. You are asking me to do something hard. But here, if you're making me give it to you, go ahead and take one.

**Mr. King:** No, Gordy, I'm not making you give it to me. But you might say, "Here, God, I surrender these marshmallows to you. What do you want me to do? Eat them both or share them with someone else?"

Gordy: Okay... *(Looks up.)* God, I surrender these. What do you want me to do? *(Pauses.)* Well, no answer! I guess they're mine.

**Mr. King:** Gordy, are you really listening to God?

Gordy: *(Pauses.)* Wait a minute, Mr. King. I think I need more time to think about it.

**Mr. King:** Why don't you think about it while we watch the Bible event. God asked all the people of Israel to give up, or surrender, all the gold and silver and nice things that were left in Jericho after God helped the Israelites win that battle. Someone decided to steal from God and not surrender.

Gordy: Uh oh. I bet that didn't work out very good for him.

**Mr. King:** We will see. Watch the Bible presentation.

# How Achan Stole From God

## Dramatic Presentation

*The following is a monologue spoken by Joshua. Joshua should be costumed in clothes that have been torn. He could even have dirt on his face. This story is best presented when it is not read from a script. However, the following script can help summarize the story from Joshua 7:1-8:29.*

### Introduction

I am Joshua, the leader and general of the Israelites. You see my torn clothes and the dirt on my face. It is because I have torn my clothes in mourning and fallen on my face before God. I have prayed to him asking what has gone wrong. Why did he abandon us?

Let me tell you the story.

### Victory at Jericho and Easy Victory Anticipated at Ai

As you know, God had given us a wonderful victory over Jericho. He knocked the walls down at the sound of trumpets. We knew the Lord was fighting for us, and he was giving us the land he had promised.

God told us we should keep nothing for ourselves in Jericho. Everything was to be destroyed. It was to be surrendered to him, a first offering to him as he promised to give us victories over other cities.

We thought we had done what he asked. We dedicated all the silver and gold to the tabernacle of the Lord. We surrendered all to him as he told us.

Then we went to a small city named Ai. I only needed to send 3,000 soldiers to take the city because it was so small. But this time the soldiers did not return with shouts of victory. Instead they came running back with the men of Ai chasing after them. Let me hear you all say, "Help me! Help me!" Wait for kids to respond. Some of our soldiers even lost their lives.

How discouraged all of us felt. If we could not defeat this small city, then all the other cities that were supposed to be ours would think God had left us.

I fell on my face before the Lord and prayed. "Why God have you deserted us? Why did you not give us the victory as you promised?"

## Discovering Achan Stole From God

God said to me, “I cannot help you when you have disobeyed me. I commanded that no one should take anything from Jericho for himself. All was to be surrendered to me, but one of you has disobeyed.”

The next day I searched for the man who had done this. The Lord pointed him out. Achan was the guilty man. I told Achan, “Confess your wrongs to the Lord. Tell us what you have done; do not hide it.”

Achan said, “Yes, I have sinned. In one of the houses in Jericho I found much gold and silver and a beautiful purple robe. I wanted these things so much that I took them and buried them beneath my tent.”

It was true. We found those things buried right where Achan had said. Achan and all of his property were brought outside of our camp where it was all stoned and burned. On top of the ashes we piled stones so we might remember that God wants us to obey him. We are to surrender all to him.

## God Gives a Victory Over Ai

Then God told me, “Don’t be afraid. I will give you victory over the city of Ai. The land, the cattle, and all the things you find there will be yours.”

I chose 30,000 brave men and sent them to hide behind the city of Ai. Then I sent 5,000 men to the front of the city. These men looked like they were going to attack the city. But when the soldiers of Ai came out, these men ran away. The evil people of Ai again thought they were beating us and chased after our soldiers.

When the soldiers of Ai were chasing some of our men, our 30,000 men waiting behind the city went into the city and captured it. When the soldiers of Ai saw what was happening they raced back to the city, but they were too late. Then our men attacked them.

Let me hear everyone make a battle cry and say, “Let’s go!” Kids shout and say, “Let’s go!” We attacked from every side. God gave us complete victory.

We learned that we should obey God completely. We should *\*trust God and surrender all to him.*

## **Don't Want To Give It Up**

### **Puppet Presentation Conclusion**

**Gordy:** Wow! That was pretty serious. Does that mean I have to give up everything I have to God?

**Mr. King:** **Yes, Gordy. God wants us to surrender all to him.**

**Gordy:** But then I won't have anything left.

**Mr. King:** **That's not true. When we surrender all to God, we say he can use everything we have for whatever purposes he has. Then he lets us use the things he gives us for ourselves.**

**Gordy:** You mean I can eat this marshmallow?

**Mr. King:** **Sure. God also might ask us to use the things he gives us to help others.**

**Gordy:** You mean like giving one marshmallow to you?

**Mr. King:** **Maybe, if you think God would want you to.**

**Gordy:** I think he would. Here, Mr. King.

**Mr. King:** **Thanks, Gordy, but I have another idea. Why don't you keep your marshmallow since it's "attached" to your hand. I'm going to use your example of giving to take some extra marshmallows over here to offer them to our guests with us today. Can I have some shepherds pass out an extra marshmallow to our guests?**

*Another option is to give an extra marshmallow to each child in large group if feasible.*

**Mr. King:** **Gordy, I think your example of trusting God and surrendering all to him has helped many other people get marshmallows today.**

**Gordy:** Cool!

**Mr. King:** **Gordy, one last question. Which person in history surrendered everything to God, and because of that anyone who believes in him will be able to go to heaven?**

**Gordy:** That's easy! It's Jesus.

**Mr. King:** **How did Jesus surrender all?**

Gordy: He gave his life for us on the cross. That's a lot more than just surrendering marshmallows.

**Mr. King: It sure is. Because Jesus did that, when we trust him as our Savior our sins are forgiven. We have his power in our lives so we can trust God and surrender all to him as well.**

**Why don't you close us in prayer.**

Gordy: Okay, Mr. King. Then let's eat marshmallows.

Dear God, thank you for Jesus who surrendered all for us. Help us trust you and surrender all to you. Remind us to not be like Achan and disobey you by stealing from you. In Jesus' name. Amen.

Bye, kids!

**Mr. King: Bye, Gordy!**