

Study Guide



Joshua Overview – January 8, 2017

Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from of a time of fellowship to a time of intentional study of the word, it is important to facilitate that transition with a time of worship. This can look like praying together, singing songs together, or rejoicing in what the Lord has done throughout the week.

Word (45 Minutes)

This week we begin our study of the book of Joshua. As we walk through Joshua we are going to see how Joshua relates to our everyday battle of faithfulness. **Our aim and our prayer for this study is to gain the wisdom we need for the battle of faithfulness.** During our time in Joshua we will be adapting our study guide from [Crossway's book, Knowing the Bible: Joshua, A 12-Week Study](#) by Trent Hunter. We recommend you purchase this book and use it in your Community Groups and for personal study as we go through Joshua. We have copies of the book available in our bookstore.

For this weeks study on Joshua please check out the following pages...

Walk Prayer & Missions

March 25- April 4—South Sudan
For further information visit
norrisferrychurch.org or contact Jared Clary (clary@norrisferrychurch.org)

Calendar

January 9th— Foundation Groups start;
Community Groups start
February 12th— Member's Meeting
March 5th-April 9th— [Connection Group](#)

Welcome (40 Minutes)

As you fellowship with one another, please be intentional about sharing what the Lord is doing in your lives. Get to know one another and encourage one another. Are your conversations pointing one another toward Christ?

Worship (5 Minutes)

If you are looking for a song to sing this week, here are the lyrics to "[Resurrecting](#)":

The head that once was crowned with thorns
Is crowned with glory now
The Savior knelt to wash our feet
Now at his feet we bow

The one who wore our sin and shame
Now robed in majesty
The radiance of perfect love
Now shines for all to see

Your name
Your name
Is victory
All praise
Will rise
To Christ our king
[x2]

The fear that held us now gives way
To him who is our peace
His final breath upon the cross
Is now alive in me

Your name
Your name
Is victory
All praise
Will rise
To Christ our king
[x2]

By Your spirit I will rise
From the ashes of defeat
The resurrected king
Is resurrecting me
In Your name I come alive
To declare your victory
The resurrected king
Is resurrecting me
[x3]

The tomb where soldiers watched in vain
Was borrowed for three days
His body there would not remain
Our God has robbed the grave
Our God has robbed the grave

Your name
Your name
Is victory
All praise
Will rise
To Christ our king
[x2]

By Your spirit I will rise
From the ashes of defeat
The resurrected king
Is resurrecting me
In your name I come alive
To declare Your victory
The resurrected king
Is resurrecting me
The resurrected king
Is resurrecting me

Word (45 Minutes)

Overview

The book of Joshua is as marvelous as it is at first mysterious. **Joshua will teach us about the unfailing promises of God springing from his unfailing faithfulness.** Joshua will teach us about God's justice against sin and God's great mercy toward sinners. Joshua is a book about heaven and hell, sin and salvation. It is a book about God's faithfulness fulfilled in Jesus.

After the death of Moses Israel is under Joshua's leadership. Israel a landless people invade a land with fortified cities, trained armies, and powerful kings. They are commanded and led by God to invade the ancient land of Canaan and kill all of its inhabitants to establish the land that is promised them. The cleansing of the land can be difficult to understand, however, we must remember Joshua is God's Word and we know this book is profitable for teaching, reproof, correction, and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16). The difficult things that we will encounter in this book will encourage us to seek the Lord and pursue faithfulness.

Israel needs something greater than a plot of land to live. Joshua and the people of Israel will settle the land promised to them by God, but they will also die there because of sin's curse. What the people of Israel need is rest in God. We know that this rest is only found in Jesus Christ (Hebrews 4:6-13).

The Larger Story

Joshua 21:43-45: "So the LORD gave Israel all the land which He had sworn to give to their fathers, and they possessed it and lived in it. And the LORD gave them rest on every side, according to all that He had sworn to their fathers, and no one of all their enemies stood before them; the LORD gave all their enemies into their hand. Not one of the good promises which the LORD had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass."

As we begin our study of Joshua we must read it knowing **God is faithful.** As we see in Joshua 21:43-45, not one of God's promises had failed. Every good promise which the Lord had made came to pass.

After Adam and Eve disobeyed and sin brought the curse of disobedience upon themselves they were sent out of the Lord's presence. But God promised redemption and restoration for his people. God promised Abraham a place of blessing, a promise for something that was lost by Adam and Eve. A place where God's people could rest in or trust in God and enjoy intimacy and blessings from Him.

The rest of the Bible is the story of God faithfully fulfilling these promises to fill all the earth with His glorious blessing and rest. Ultimately, we see the book of Joshua is a book of salvation within the Bible's larger story of salvation through Christ. God has been faithful and has kept his promises. Jesus has come as a new Joshua to "save his people from their sins" (Matthew 1:21). Through the story of Joshua, God is advancing his promise to bless his people by showing he is faithful. Like Joshua and Israel we must entrust ourselves to the Lord with full faithfulness to the Word of God. Let this study challenge and encourage you to take steps of obedience knowing that God is Faithful and will fulfill all of his promises.

Discussion

1. Read Deuteronomy 34:1-8. This passage describes Moses's death and what God showed him before he died. What is the significance of verse 4? How do you think Moses reacted to this experience of seeing the Promised Land but not being able to occupy it? Do you think this experience was a blessing or a disappointment to Moses?
2. Read Joshua 1:1-3. How would you assess the difficulty of the task that Joshua was given by God? What encouragement did God give to Joshua to begin the task?
3. What is one reason why we should study the Old Testament books like Joshua? Look at John 5:37-39 and Luke 24:22-27 to help answer this question. What kind of things should we be looking for as we study through the book of Joshua?
4. Read Joshua 23:14-16. These are words that Joshua spoke to the people at the end of his life. How does he remind them about the faithfulness of God?
5. What does Joshua tell the people will happen if they transgress against the covenant of the Lord and serve other gods?
6. What is the significance of the Land of Israel in this book of Joshua and leading up to this book of Joshua? Why is the Land so important? How was Israel able to take the Land? What promise of God is the basis for Israel being in the Land of Israel (Genesis 12:1-3)?

Application

1. Read Joshua 24:15. This is a very familiar verse to Christians in our own time. What choices and internal conflicts does this verse highlight? Do we face similar tensions in our own lives as Christians?
2. We are not under the Old Covenant that God made with the Israelites at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 19), but we are under the New Covenant (Ezekiel 36:25-28) brought in by Jesus? How does living under the New Covenant affect the choices that Joshua is talking about in Joshua 24:15?

Walk (30 minutes)

After enjoying fellowship, worship, and time in God's word together, it is now time to pray together as a group and encourage one another in the faith. It is very easy for this portion of the group time to be consumed by the other portions. However, this segment of the group time is crucially important. It answers the question, how do we apply what we are learning in Joshua to our lives today?

Many groups have found that it is helpful to sometimes break up into a men's group and a women's group for the purpose of being able to be more transparent and honest as we encourage one another and keep one another accountable. I encourage you to try this in your groups.

In addition to praying for, and encouraging, one another, this portion of the group time should also be used for planning how your group can participate in God's work outside the walls of our church – "neighbors and nations." Discuss with your group some ideas on how you can be intentional with building relationships with your neighbors and co-workers. What can your Community Group do to impact the area around you?

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you lead your groups! Know that we are praying for you on a weekly basis and that we are here to help you in any way that we can!