

Study Guide



Joshua 1:1-18 – January 15, 2017 The Calling and Courage of Faithfulness

Welcome (40 Minutes)

Be intentional to have authentic relationships...

Worship (5 Minutes)

As the group transitions from 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)

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— Core Class @ 9am
February 12th— Member's Meeting
March 5th-April 9th— [Connection Group](#)
March 17th-19th— [DNow](#)
May 26th-31st— [Student Life Camp](#)

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 "[Cornerstone](#)":

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus name

My hope is built on nothing less
Than Jesus blood and righteousness
I dare not trust the sweetest frame
But wholly trust in Jesus name

Christ alone; cornerstone
Weak made strong; in the Savior's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all

When Darkness seems to hide His face
I rest on His unchanging grace
In every high and stormy gale
My anchor holds within the veil
My anchor holds within the veil

Christ alone; cornerstone
Weak made strong; in the Savior's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all
He is Lord
Lord of all

Christ alone; cornerstone
Weak made strong; in the Savior's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all

Christ alone; cornerstone
Weak made strong; in the Savior's love
Through the storm, He is Lord
Lord of all

When He shall come with trumpet sound,
Oh, may I then in Him be found;
Dressed in His righteousness alone,
Faultless stand before the throne.

Word (45 Minutes)

Joshua 1:1-18

With Moses departed, the Lord calls Joshua to lead his people into the promised land with courage and obedience. You can imagine the fear in Joshua to “fill Moses’ sandals.” Will the people listen to him? Will the people trust Joshua to lead them across a raging river into the land they are to inherit? **Thankfully, the faithfulness of God does not hinge on the achievements of men, however gifted they may be, or disappear because of a raging river.** God reveals his faithfulness in his promises, presence, and people.

We quickly see God’s encouragement and promise to Joshua. **“I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you (v. 5b).”** God promises to be with Joshua. In Exodus we saw the same promise made to Moses, however, Moses has died, but God has not changed. He is still present with his servant and his people to help and deliver them. It is because of this promise and truth that God can also exhort Joshua to **“be strong and courageous... (v. 6).”** He is to be strong and courageous only because God is with him (v. 9).

God’s promise lives on and this promise was not just a promise made to Abraham, Moses, Joshua, and later to David, but it is a promise for you. God promises his presence. In Christ, God dwelt among his people (Isa. 7:14; Matt. 1:23; John 1:14), and today God is with us in a personal way through the Spirit (Matt. 28:20; 1 Cor. 3:16; 6:19). As Children of God, no matter your changing circumstances, God promises, **“I will be with you, I will never forsake you.”** God’s promise of his presence leads to the great freedom of life without fear (Heb. 13:5-6) and God’s faithfulness in the book of Joshua strengthens our faith in his promises to us through Jesus Christ.

Joshua is given the command to **“Be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to the law of Moses... meditate on it day and night... (v. 7-8)”** The law of Moses, instructs Israel in knowing and relating to God (Deut. 17:18-20). “Joshua’s obedience to God’s Word would be his path to success, and disobedience his undoing” (Hunter, 18). Meditating on the word of God leads to obedience. If you lack study of God’s Word, there will be a lack of obedience. As a believer we should meditate and delight in the law of the Lord. Our lives need to be lived out of the Word of God. Life pleasing to God only comes from the word God has already spoken and from obedience to that word. Thankfully, Christ delighted in God’s law (Ps. 1:2) and he kept it perfectly on our behalf.

As we struggle to understand God is present with us and to obey God’s Word we must encourage one another to continue the battle of faithfulness. In Joshua 1:12-18, we see a unity of God’s people. In the text, Reuben, Gad, and half-Manasseh are models of willing obedience and instruments of encouragement. As God’s people we must care enough so that the Lord’s children will not be discouraged. **Unity in encouraging one another of God’s presence and obedience to God’s Word leads to faithfulness in our lives.**

The Lord has not left us, we still have God’s promise, God’s presence, God’s Word, and God’s people. As we continue to struggle in this battle of faithfulness we must be encouraged and remember:

- God promises his presence.
- Meditating on God’s Word leads to obedience.
- Unity with God’s people is crucial for our personal battle in faithfulness.

Discussion

1. Read Joshua 1:1-9. These verses introduce a number of characters. Write down the name of each character or group represented along with what we learn about them. For a good summary regarding Moses, read Deuteronomy 34.
2. Because of Moses's sin against God (Numbers 20) he was not allowed to lead the people into the land. Now that Moses has died, God will lead his people through Joshua. In a sentence what is God commanding Joshua to do?
3. What verse or verses express the key to Joshua's success in his assignment from God?
4. Joshua receives an order, and we have every reason to hear it as a difficult charge. How many times does God command Joshua, "Be strong and courageous"? What was there to fear? (See Numbers 13 for context).
5. Joshua had good reasons to be afraid, but God gave him better reasons to be courageous. List the reasons God gave Joshua to be "strong and courageous".
6. What do you think is the most important reason God gave to Joshua to help him to be strong and courageous?

7. Having spent some time in the passage, we can't escape the presence of Moses. There are important points of continuity between God's dealing with his people under Joshua and under Moses. What are they?

8. Read verses 10-18. The people of Israel would have been waiting their whole lives, quite literally, for this moment. What emotions do you think they experienced when Joshua's men gave the orders to begin preparations?

9. In verse 12, the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh are spoken of. Read Numbers 32 and write down the reason these people have made a home east of Jordan.

10. What promise did they make to Moses to persuade him to permit them to settle east of the Jordan River? How would God use them to help their brothers from the other tribes to take the land across the Jordan?

11. In Joshua's speech in verse 13 he uses an important word to interpret God's gift of land. What word does he use and what do you suppose this meant to the people of Israel? What does it mean to Christians?

12. In light of the Bible's story to this point, what is surprising about the people's response in Joshua 1:16-18? For a comparison, read Numbers 14:36-38 for a summary of how the previous generation responded to the same task.

Application

1. Verse 18 gives another command to Joshua to “be strong and courageous”, this time from the lips of the people. Courage is possible because of God’s promise, “I will not leave you or forsake you” (vs. 5). How does Hebrews 13:5-6 apply this promise to Christians?
2. In what way has God reassured you personally of his presence, of his never leaving you or forsaking you?
3. What promises of God have caused you personally to hang on in the midst of the impossible?

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!