

Study Guide



Joshua 4:1-24 – February 5, 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)

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

February— Core Class @ 9am
February 12th— Member's Meeting
February 25th— Community Group
Leader/Co-Leader 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 "[Upon This Rock](#)":

If fear shall come into my heart and whisper lies of who you are
when darkness veils the truth you hold

You are my light you are my hope
You are my light you are my hope

If fear shall come into my heart and whisper lies of who you are
when darkness veils the truth you hold

You are my light you are my hope
You are my light you are my hope

You're still strong when I am weak
You still reign in my defeat
You're still God when all seems lost
I will stand upon this rock

As arrows fall around my feet
no power of man can rescue me
I may bend and I may break
But I will trust in Jesus name

You're still strong when I am weak
You still reign in my defeat
You're still God when all seems lost
I will stand upon this rock
I will stand upon your rock

You are my one defender
You are my only hope
to Jesus I surrender
To You I give my all

You're still strong when I am weak
You still reign in my defeat
You're still God when all seems lost
I will stand upon this rock

On Christ the solid rock I stand
All other ground is sinking sand
All other ground is sinking sand

Word (45 Minutes)

Joshua 4:1-24

The author in this chapter stresses on the remembrance of God's goodness and focuses on the twelve stones and their significance. Getting through the river was not the end of it all. They must remember what happened there.

Joshua says, you must remember what God has done; and these stones are to serve as visual aids. Israel is not to only remember for themselves but to teach their children to remember (4:7, 21-24) as well. The stones were meant to provide occasions for teaching, for impressing up the next generation God's mighty work. **The stones show us God's method of retaining his people's faith is not by frequent and dazzling displays of power but by faithful witness and teaching of those particular acts in which he had already demonstrated his care for his own.** This makes us assume that a great enemy to our faith is forgetfulness (Deut. 8). A real threat of simply slowly forgetting the goodness of God. **How quick are you to forget? Do you have spiritual amnesia?**

We see reminders throughout the bible of God's acts in which he demonstrated his care for his people (this is not an exhaustive list). As God commanded Moses to lead his people out of Egypt, he gave him instructions for how this redemption was to be remembered in the Passover meal (Ex. 12). Here in Joshua, 12 stones will help them tell their story. Today, for Christians, Jesus instituted the Lord's Supper to represent his body and blood, saying "**Do this in remembrance of me**" (Luke 22:19; 1 Cor. 11:25-26). Likewise, baptism pictures our union with Christ in his death, burial, and resurrection (Rom. 6:3-4). **The Lord knows our need, our forgetfulness, and has graciously given us these symbols to remind us of our redemption in Jesus Christ.** We must tell of his faithfulness so all can have clear proof of his might, so they might remain faithful in their lives.

This section was adapted from Knowing the Bible: Joshua, A 12-week study; Trent Hunter: 2016 and Joshua: No Falling Words; Dale Ralph Davis: 2000

Discussion

1. Chapter 4 begins when “all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan,” yet the Lord still holds back the water for a time. In fact, all of chapter 4 takes place at the riverbank. There the Lord gives instructions for a memorial, one each for two different groups. Who are these two groups, and what is the Lord’s purpose for each?
2. What is the significance of the 12 stones plucked from the Jordan River?
3. What does the provision of this memorial tell us about God? What does the need for this memorial reveal about human nature?
4. In 4:14 we hear an echo from a verse in chapter 3. What verse is it? What does the repetition of this statement tell us about how God chooses to bring salvation?
5. Remember God’s goodness in your life. What are some “wonders” the Lord has performed in your life you need to continue to remember?
6. As Christians today, what are two ordinances Jesus instituted for us to remember our redemption? (See 1 Cor. 11:25-26; Rom. 6:3-4)
7. Israel must not only remember for themselves but teach their children to remember (4:7, 21-24). Do you share what these ordinances mean? Do you share what Lord has done in your life? With your kids, family, friends, or others? Why or why not?

Note: This weeks questions are based upon questions in the Book entitled “Joshua” by Trent Hunter (available in the NFCC bookstore, at Lifeway Bookstore, or online.)

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!