

Study Guide



Joshua 5:1-15 – February 12, 2017 Circumcision, Passover, Commander

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 25th— Community Group Leader/Co-Leader Meeting
March 3rd-4th— Marriage Conference
March 5th-April 9th— [Connection Group](#)
March 17th-19th— [DNow](#)
April 14th-15th— Men's Canoe Trip
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 "[This is Amazing Grace](#)":

Who breaks the power of sin and darkness
Whose love is mighty and so much stronger
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

Who shakes the whole earth with holy thunder
And leaves us breathless in awe and wonder
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

This is amazing grace
This is unfailing love
That You would take my place
That You would bear my cross
You lay down Your life
That I would be set free
Oh, Jesus, I sing for
All that You've done for me

Who brings our chaos back into order
Who makes the orphan a son and daughter
The King of Glory, the King of Glory

Who rules the nations with truth and justice
Shines like the sun in all of its brilliance
The King of Glory, the King above all kings

Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy is the King who conquered the grave
Worthy is the Lamb who was slain
Worthy, worthy, worthy
Oh

Joshua 5:1-15

In chapters five and six we see the start of the Israelites taking the land. All the kings who were already in the land heard that the Lord had dried up the water of the Jordan for His people and **“their hearts melted and there was no longer any spirit in them”** (Josh. 5:1) because God’s people were coming. Everything in the land is God’s and it will either be destroyed or delivered. But before God’s sword is turned toward Jericho, God turns to the Israelites to continue his promise.

Just before leading His people across the Red Sea in Exodus 12-14, the Lord had instituted the Passover and circumcised the males to mark his people as **“Mine!”** (Ex. 12:43-13:2). However, the fathers in the wilderness failed to obey God, so the “sons of Israel” needed to be circumcised “a second time” (Josh. 5:2-7). With the whole nation now circumcised, the Lord declares, **“Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you”** (Josh. 5:9). They are now in the Promised Land and the unfaithfulness of their fathers is discarded in the past. Circumcision reminded them they needed a change that was more than skin-deep (Deut. 10:16; 30:6). Today it is only through Jesus Christ’s circumcision could the foreskin of their hearts be made clean (Phil. 3:3; Col. 2:11).

Also similar to the exodus, the circumcised then “kept the Passover” (Josh. 5:10). “And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land” (Josh. 5:11). So the manna ceased (Josh. 5:12; Ex. 16). They did not need the manna anymore, as they did in the wilderness. **Does this mean the Lord quit providing for them?** No, because they ate the produce of the land. They had arrived at their sumptuous destination. The manna was God’s special supply for an exceptional need. But now that the need becomes normal his provision comes by ordinary means. It is still His provision, whether it is manna from heaven or the grain that grows in the ground.

A man then appears to Joshua in verses 13-15. We have good reason to believe that the nameless man that appeared to Joshua is the preincarnate (this term literally means “becoming in flesh,” it refers to God becoming a human being in the person of Jesus Christ) Son of God. He is divine, since Joshua worships him without rebuke, and yet he is distinct from the Lord who speaks to Joshua. Clarity comes with the progress of revelation. The Son of God was the Father’s agent in creating the world (John 1:1-3; Col. 1:16-20; Heb. 1:1-3) and in redemption (Rom. 5:12-21); Eph. 1:7-12; Col. 1:13), and it appears that he was also the means of rescuing Israel from Egypt (Jude 5). By appearing to Joshua at this moment, God is saying, “I’ll take care of this.” This commander does not deal with Joshua on Joshua’s terms, but confronts Joshua with a sword drawn. **Allied with God’s commander through obedience to God’s Word, Joshua and his mission cannot fail.**

Discussion

1. Read chapter 5:1-9. Once the people crossed the Jordan River we might have expected them to immediately begin to take over Jericho. Instead several things must happen first, and the first order of business is circumcision. According to Genesis 17:1-14 what is the significance and meaning of circumcision? What were the main promises of God's covenant with Abraham which was to be consummated by circumcision?
2. Why weren't the males of the people of Israel already circumcised (Joshua 5:4-5)?
3. A second order of business involves another symbol given to Israel: the Passover. Read Exodus 12:1-14, 26-28. What was the Passover event and why did the Lord want them to remember it?
4. Why do you think participating in these ceremonies was important before the people attempted to take the city of Jericho? What did these ceremonies cause them to remember about God? How did these ceremonies prepare their hearts and minds for the task ahead?
5. At the end of chapter 5 we meet an unnamed man. This is likely the same figure mentioned to Moses by the Lord in Exodus 23:20-23 and 33:1-3. What indications do we have in Joshua 5:13-15 of this person's identity? Think about these clues. What did the man do when Joshua fell on his face and worshipped him? Where else in scripture do we see the statement, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy."?

6. Given the placement of this story about the commander of the Lord's army between the crossing of the Jordan and the movement toward Jericho, what point is God making to Joshua?

Application

1. What difficult calling has the Lord given you personally? What promises are you holding onto that God has given you from his Word? What acts of God's faithfulness that he has done in your life are you remembering? Are you trying to fulfill God's calling to you in your own strength or are you depending on him to win the battle? Share your thoughts and prayers with your Community Group about your particular calling.

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?

Here is a list of local ministries Norris Ferry is actively involved in:

Hub/purchased
Young life
Heart of hope
First priority
Ark-la-Tex crisis pregnancy center
Community renewal
Grief counseling
Celebrate recovery
Samaritan counseling
Last call ministries
Golden age ministries
Rescue mission
Luke's lighthouse
NOLA Baptist
FCA

May the Lord bless and encourage you as you are in your groups this week! 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!