

Study Guide



Joshua 11 & 12 – March 19, 2017 Victory over Northern Coalition

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

South Sudan & NOLA Baptist— For further information visit norriferrychurch.org or contact Jared Clary (clary@norriferrychurch.org)

Please see the list of local ministries under the "Walk" section below.

Calendar

March 5th-April 9th— [Connection Group](#)
March 5th-April 9th— Kid's Shine
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 "[The Lion and the Lamb](#)":

He's coming on the clouds, kings and kingdoms will bow down
And every chain will break, as broken hearts declare His praise
Who can stop the Lord Almighty?

Our God is the Lion, the Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power and fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before You

Our God is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain
For the sin of the world, His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
Oh every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb

So open up the gates, make way before the King of kings
Our God who calls the saved is here to set the captives free
Who can stop the Lord Almighty?

Our God is the Lion, the Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power and fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before You

Our God is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain
For the sin of the world, His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
Oh every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb

Who can stop the Lord Almighty? Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
Who can stop the Lord Almighty? Who can stop the Lord Almighty?

Oh who can stop the Lord Almighty? Who can stop the Lord Almighty?
Oh who can stop the Lord Almighty? Who can stop the Lord?

Our God is the Lion, the Lion of Judah
He's roaring with power and fighting our battles
And every knee will bow before You

Our God is the Lamb, the Lamb that was slain
For the sin of the world, His blood breaks the chains
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb

Oh every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
And every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb
Every knee will bow before the Lion and the Lamb

Read Joshua 11:1-23; 12:1, 7

Commentary

In chapters 11 and 12 we find the Israelites conquest in Northern Canaan. Jabin the king of Hazor gathers a coalition bent on stopping Israel. **The details of Israel's opposition is important because it shows the massive resources available to the enemies of God but it makes the power of God shine more brightly in delivering his people from their hands (Josh. 11:1-5).** “When you go out to battle against your enemies and see horses and chariots plus an army larger than yours, you must not be afraid of them; for the Lord your God is with you, the One who brought you up from the land of Egypt” (Deut. 20:1).

In verses 6-15 we see God's sovereignty and Joshua's response as God's servant. In verse 6 the Lord gives his sovereign assurance, “I will give over all of them, slain, to Israel” and in verses 7-15 Joshua and Israel attack and defeat the enemy. The Lord promised victory and Joshua still had to have faith, act and obey. Divine sovereignty energizes human response. It creates confidence, which calls forth effort and obedience. **Joshua is shown as a model servant for God in these passages (Josh. 11:15).** His chief characteristic is that he obeys God's commands. What marks a model leader is not the size of his chariot force, or how large his army is, but an obedience to God's commandments that leads God's people to be faithful.

Joshua 11:20 gives us new insight into Joshua's victory over his enemies: the Lord “hardened their hearts.” The apostle Paul answers a common question regarding God's absolute sovereignty and man's real responsibility” “Is there injustice on God's part? By no means!... He has mercy on whomever he wills, and he hardens whomever he wills” (Rom. 9:14-18). The Lord hardened Pharaoh's heart to demonstrate his power and proclaim his name (Rom. 9:17). **Though mysterious, this hardening is not incompatible with human responsibility, for just as the Lord holds Pharaoh culpable, so he holds these Canaanites guilty for their sin (see Lev. 20:1-5; Deut. 9:5).** By hardening the hearts of those whose hearts are already set against him, the Lord allows the full extent of human sinfulness to show itself. Nowhere is the mingling of divine sovereignty and human responsibility better seen than at the cross, where “Jesus, delivered up according to the definite plan and foreknowledge of God, [was] crucified and killed by the hands of lawless men” (Acts. 2:23; see also 4:27-28).

In Joshua 1, Joshua quoted Moses in speaking to the people: “The Lord your God is providing you a place of rest and will give you this land” (Josh. 1:13). Now, at the conclusion of the battle we read, “And the land had rest from war” (11:32). More fighting remains to be done when the Israelites attempt to occupy the conquered territories, but the Lord has proven true to his promises (Josh. 1:3-5). **By way of reminder, “rest” has a deep theological significance, reaching back to the seventh day, when God rested from creation, and forward to the Sabbath rest coming to believers in and through Christ (Gen. 2:2-3; Heb. 4:1-11).**

Discussion

1. Joshua 11:4-5 describes armies gathered “like the sand that is on the seashore.” This imagery will be used to describe future battles in Scripture, including history’s final battle before God’s final judgement (see. Judg. 7:12; 1 Sam. 13:5; Rev. 20:8). What is this image intended to convey?
2. In Joshua 11:6-15 we see Joshua respond to God’s promise. What does it take for Joshua to respond to God’s promise? What is required of you to respond to God’s Word with obedience?
3. In Joshua 11:15 the word “commanded” is repeated three times. What key verses from chapter 1 stands behind this verse? (See Joshua 1:7-9)
4. As Christians who are listening to God and seeking to obey Him we will encounter times when God is calling us to do something that fills us with fear and trembling. Have you experienced times like this? Are you currently experiencing this? What has been your response? What has been helpful?
5. In these chapters we observe the unfailing provision and faithfulness of God but in verses 13 and 22 we see notes of Israel’s wavering obedience. In our wavering obedience, how does God assure you of his faithfulness?
6. What is meant by God “hardening their hearts” in Joshua 11:20? Why is this difficult to understand? Does this mean that the Canaanites were like puppets, controlled by God and therefore without personal guilt? What indications from Scripture lead you to answer this way?

7. At the end of Joshua 11 we read, “And the land had rest from war.” What is the theological significance of this statement?

8. Chapter 12 is a detailed inventory of every place and king taken by Israel under Moses (12:1-6) and Joshua (vs. 7-24). While these people and places are unfamiliar to us, what would this catalog have represented to an ancient Israelite reader of this book?

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
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!