

# Study Guide



## Joshua 14 – April 2, 2017 Caleb's Request and Inheritance

### 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](http://norriferrychurch.org) or contact Jared Clary ([clary@norriferrychurch.org](mailto:clary@norriferrychurch.org))

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

## Calendar

April 2nd-9th— Kid's Shine  
April 14th-15th— [Men's Canoe Trip](#)  
April 16th— Easter Service  
April 30th— Church Picnic  
May 26th-31st— [Student Life Camp](#)  
July 11th-16th— Fort Worth Mission Trip

## 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 "[Before the Throne](#)":

Before the throne of God above  
I have a strong and perfect plea:  
A great High Priest, whose name is Love,  
Who ever lives and pleads for me.

My name is graven on His hands,  
My name is written on His heart;  
I know that while in heaven He stands  
No tongue can bid me thence depart  
No tongue can bid me thence depart.

When Satan tempts me to despair,  
And tells me of the guilt within,  
Upward I look, and see Him there  
Who made an end to all my sin.

Because the sinless Savior died,  
My sinful soul is counted free;  
For God the just is satisfied  
To look on Him and pardon me  
To look on Him and pardon me

Hallelujah! Hallelujah! Praise the One,  
Risen Son of God!

Behold Him there, the Risen Lamb  
My perfect, spotless righteousness,  
The great unchangeable I am,  
The King of glory and of grace!

One with Himself I cannot die  
My soul is purchased by His blood  
My life is hid with Christ on high,  
With Christ, my Savior and my God  
With Christ, my Savior and my God

## Read Joshua 14

### Commentary

Chapter 14 opens a section dealing with the tribal allotments in the land of Canaan. It opens up a section of material that ends at 19:51. This section opens and closes with the two faithful spies (Num. 13-14) receiving their respective inheritances, Caleb in 14:6-15 and Joshua in 19:49-50. **But Chapters 14-17 also form a given block of material, for Caleb's adventuresome faith in 14:6-15 deliberately contrasts with the hesitant caution of the Joseph tribes in 17:14-18.** In verses 1-5 we see a brief description of the inheritance given west of the Jordan and in verses 6-15 we see the faithfulness of Caleb.

At one level, the inheritance given to Israel is land, but at another it is the Lord himself. By distributing the land by lot outside the tent of meeting, the Lord conveyed his benevolent presence and rule among them (Josh. 19:51). **The Lord's presence is what is good about the land, and this is reinforced by the refrain concerning the Levites: "The Lord God of Israel is their inheritance" (13:33).** This is the background to Paul's statement in the New Testament that the Spirit is the guarantee of our inheritance" (Eph. 1:14). **Unlike land, our inheritance as Christians is "imperishable, undefiled, and unfading" (1 Pet. 1:4), for Christ brings a new covenant of unending and uninhibited access to God (Heb. 9:15).**

This is the first time Caleb is mentioned in the book, but he's no latecomer to Israel's story. Caleb and Joshua have grown old together and now they bookend the land's distribution. Caleb is mentioned first because Moses promised him a specific place and because he "wholly followed the Lord" (Josh. 14:8, 9, 14). Chapter 14 points to Caleb as an example of how Israel's tribes ought to be extending the original conquest by cleaning out and nailing down their various portions. **Caleb's faithfulness is compelling: he treasured the Lord's Word, persevered under trial, and maintained courageous and energetic obedience into old age.** Interestingly, though, Caleb's story goes back further than we might think, for Caleb is a Kenizzite (14:6), one of the tribes mentioned in a string of peoples inhabiting the land when God promised it to Abraham (Gen. 15:18-21). In other words, this wholehearted follower of the Lord who is to receive an inheritance comes from a people originally marked for God's wrath. In like manner the Lord's purpose to bless the nations comes to us, former enemies who receive a blessed inheritance through faith in Christ.

### Discussion

1. Read verses 1-5. Who participated in allocating the land west of the Jordan River for the 9 ½ tribes who had not yet received their inheritance?
2. How were the decisions made regarding what land was given to each tribe?
3. What kind of inheritance was given to the tribe of the Levites (14:4 and 13:33)?

4. What are some possible reasons why the Levites were not given a particular section of the Land and instead were given several cities in which to dwell which were located throughout Israel?
  
5. Read verses 6-12. What was Caleb's request to Joshua in verse 12 regarding the inheritance for him and his descendants?
  
6. What served as the basis for Caleb's faith to make his request to Joshua for his inheritance (vs. 6-9)?
  
7. Please read Numbers 13:25-33 and Numbers 14:1-24 to get a clear understanding regarding Joshua and Caleb's report about the Promised Land 45 years earlier as compared to the report of the other 10 spies. How would you summarize the differences between the report from Caleb and Joshua compared to the other 10 spies? What made Joshua and Caleb confident that they could take the Land (Numbers 14:7-9)?
  
8. What was God's response to the negative report from the 10 spies and to the resulting fear and rebellion of the people (Numbers 14:11-12 and 14:20-23)?
  
9. What was God's promise to Caleb in Numbers 14:24? Why did God say that he made this promise to Caleb? This is what Caleb was reminding Joshua of in Joshua 14: 9.
  
10. What things caused Caleb's faith to survive and strengthen in the last 45 years (vs. 10)? What do you think is most important for strengthening our faith—looking at the past, looking at the present, or looking at God's promises for the future?
  
11. What people were living in Hebron in the hill country that Caleb requested as his inheritance? Look at Numbers 13:32-33 to understand who the Anakim people were?

12. What evidence of the strength of Caleb's faith do you see in verses 11-12?

## Application

1. We see a statement about Caleb that occurs three times in chapter 14. Verses 8, 9, and 14 say that Caleb "wholly followed the Lord". How do you think Caleb's faith in the Lord and his obedience in following the Lord were related for the 45 years since he was a spy in the Land the first time?
2. Do you think that if you truly believe God's Word—if you trust his commandments and promises, you will faithfully obey the Lord in your life? In other words, is faith the key to obedience? If that is true, then how important is it to be very familiar with God's promises for his children? Look at Hebrews 3:12-15.

# 12 Tribes of Israel

Approximate borders assigned during the Conquest



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## 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!