

Study Guide



Joshua 15 – April 9, 2017 The Allotment for Judah

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

April 14th-15th— [Men's Canoe Trip](#)
April 16th— Easter Service
April 30th— Church Picnic
May 7th— Member's Meeting
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 "[Hosanna](#)":

I see the king of glory
Coming on the clouds with fire
The whole earth shakes
The whole earth shakes

I see his love and mercy
Washing over all our sin
The people sing
The people sing

Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest [x2]

I see a generation
Rising up to take their place
With selfless faith
With selfless faith

I see a near revival
Stirring as we pray and seek
We're on our knees
We're on our knees

Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest

Heal my heart and make it clean
Open up my eyes to the things unseen
Show me how to love like you have loved me

Break my heart for what breaks yours
Everything I am for Your kingdom's cause
As I walk from earth into eternity

Hosanna, Hosanna
Hosanna in the highest [x3]

Commentary

Reading through Joshua 15 is tedious work. It deals with the inheritance of the tribe of Judah and lovingly traces the boundaries of Judah (vs. 1-12), reports Caleb's victories at Hebron and Debir (vs. 13-20), categorizes and lists the various towns belonging to Judah (vs. 21-62), and includes a note of failure (vs. 63). However, we must understand, "all scripture is profitable" (2 Tim. 3:16), therefore, Joshua 15 must be profitable.

Joshua 15 is the start of a detail list of God's promise made in Genesis 12 and 15. In this chapter we get to see part of its concrete fulfillment. **Both chapter 15 and the following chapters describe in detail God's gift of the land and that means that every town name and border point is exciting to God's people.** Imagine the tribe of Judah as their allotment is given out to them in verses 1-12. Every town name and border point is truth to God's faithfulness.

As we saw last week, Caleb was promised an inheritance because he "wholly followed the Lord" (Josh. 14:9). Now, at the age of eighty-five, we see Caleb continues to be faithful and does as the Lord had commanded. **In verses 13-20 Caleb not only talked faith but acted in faith and the Lord granted him success.** Caleb dispossessed the Anakim and received Hebron for his clan. Caleb's faith in action is a picture of the way the initial conquest of the land is to be followed up by Israel. **We see how God who promises a secure inheritance enables a clan to obtain it when they are willing to risk obedience to his promise (Exod. 23:30; Deut. 7:22-23).**

Discussion and Application

1. What was God's promise made to Abraham (Abram) in Genesis 12:1-3? Why is this important? What is the connection between Abraham and Judah (see Matthew 1:2)?
2. How does listing the cities and borders demonstrate the fulfillment of God's covenant promise?
3. Judah is first in the distribution of land and receives a rather large amount of land. Why might this be? See Genesis 49:8-12 for Jacob's blessing on Judah.

4. 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). Coming from a people group originally marked to receive God's wrath, he has now received an inheritance from the Lord (15:13). How does this relate to us today (Rom. 5:6-11; Col. 1:21-23)?

5. In verse 14, Caleb drove out the sons of the Anak. Why did this take faith from Caleb? Look at Numbers 13:32-33 and Joshua 14:12 to understand who the Anakim people were? When Caleb responds in faith, does the Lord grant Caleb success?

6. Caleb, even at his old age continues to wholly followed the Lord (14:8-9; 15:13-19). How does Caleb's actions set a standard for Israel to follow? Does Judah wholly follow the Lord in this chapter (15:63)? Why is Judah not a model of faithfulness here in chapter 15 (Ex. 23:30; Deut. 7:22-23)?

7. In chapter 15 who is seen as having faith in the Lord's promise, "land still remains... I myself will drive them out from before the people of Israel" (Josh. 13:1-7)? Is it Judah or Caleb?

8. What insurmountable obstacles have you had to face which required a stronger measure of your faith?

9. How has the Lord responded to you when you have acted in faith?

10. What would it look like for you to wholly follow the Lord? What things in your life would you need to give up? What are some idols in your life that are standing in the way of you being wholly obedient to the Lord? (Relationships, sports, anger, bitterness, money, food...)

12 Tribes of Israel

Approximate borders assigned during the Conquest



Copyright 2007, Ralph F. Wilson
www.jesuswalk.com

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!