

Study Guide



Joshua 18 & 19 – April 30, 2017 Allotment of the Remaining Land

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 30th— Baptisms; 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 "[I Stand Amazed](#)":

I stand amazed in the presence
Of Jesus the Nazarene,
And wonder how He could love me,
A sinner, condemned, unclean.

O how marvelous! O how wonderful!
And my song shall ever be:
O how marvelous! O how wonderful!
Is my Savior's love for me!

He took my sins and my sorrows,
He made them His very own;
He bore the burden to Calvary,
And suffered and died alone.

When with the ransomed in glory
His face I at last shall see,
'Twill be my joy through the ages
To sing of His love for me.

Commentary (Read: Joshua 18:1-10)

Israel's assembling and setting up the tabernacle at Shiloh, hints at the dawn of a new day. This was a new situation. The day would come, Moses had told Israel (Deut. 12:1-15), when the Lord would choose a place in the land where he was to be worshipped, a place where sacrifices were to be offered and sacrificial meals enjoyed. Here they were to worship faithfully, joyfully, and securely. Now the Lord's dwelling place was set up at Shiloh, where he had caused his name to dwell (Jer. 7:12). The Lord's intention was for his people to worship him in fidelity, joy, and security.

Shiloh may have marked a new day, but it was not the final new day. Zechariah saw it and was glad, the time when the Lord would enable us to serve him without fear in holiness and righteousness before him all our days' (Luke 1:74-75). Many of our brothers and sisters long for the new day when they can worship and serve God without fear. But already with Israel we have clear glimpse of God's intention for us to worship him faithfully, joyfully, and securely.

However, in chapters 18-19 we also see Joshua accuse the seven tribes of developing a dangerous laxity toward the task of possessing the land. "How long will you put off going in to take possession of the land, which the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you (Joshua 18:3)?" **Joshua's question of them "putting off" taking possession of the land indicates a persisting action or attitude.** Israel is in danger of dropping the call to possess the gift of God. "The land lay subdued before them (Joshua 18:1)." It is a crucial time for them and they must act, they must press on and possess the land. In verses 3-7 Joshua does what he could to get Israel to respond to the call. Twenty-one men were to case out the land and write up a description of it. Then Joshua would cast lots for these tribes and portion out their inheritances to them. Perhaps Joshua thought this would help them out of their laziness.

The Lord has promised the land yet it must be possessed. **It is the Lord's gift and yet that does not cancel human responsibility.** Dale Davis states, "The Lord's promises are intended not as sedatives but as stimulates." God does not want his people to ignore his promises but to respond. In 2 Peter 1:3, Peter exclaims that "His divine power has granted to us all things pertaining to life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us to his own glory and excellence, by which has granted to us his precious and very great promises." Then he concludes in verse 5, "For this very reason, make every effort to supplement your faith with virtue, and virtue with knowledge..." **God's gifts are meant to prompt God's people.**

H.L. Ellison states about Israel's laxity, "The slackness blamed by Joshua may well have been due to an unwillingness to settle down. It was fine to have a "promised land," but the reality showed the need for learning new skills and engaging in hard work. That is for many the disappointing side of God's gifts; they are always given that we may serve the better. Even his rest is linked with a yoke (Matt. 11:28-30)."

Discussion

1. Read Joshua 18:1-3. Verse 1 says that the whole congregation of the people of Israel assembled at Shiloh and set up the tent of meeting there. The tent of meeting was the central place of worship for all of Israel, and so verse 1 describes a time that the people were gathered together for worship. According to verse 2 what was the status of the land at this time? How much of it was already occupied at this time and how much of it remained to be occupied?
2. How would you describe the attitude of the people regarding the remaining task of completely occupying the land (vs. 3)? Does it appear that they were fearful to occupy the rest of the land? Does it appear that they were eager to occupy the rest of the land?
3. What was the biggest reason why they should have been ready and confident to occupy the rest of the land (vs. 3)?
4. Describe the steps in Joshua's plan for dividing the remaining land among the seven remaining tribes (vs. 4-6).
5. Who would divide the remaining land into seven portions? How would the decision be made regarding which tribe would receive which portion of land?
6. In verses 8-10 Joshua said he would cast lots for them before the Lord in Shiloh? What do you think was the meaning and significance of casting lots before the Lord in order to divide the inheritance?

7. What process in the Christian life could be analogous to the process of occupying the land in the book of Joshua? Think about these things. The occupation of the land was promised by God to Abraham for his descendants (the people of Israel). The process of subduing the land was accomplished by the power of God. The process of occupying the land was surely going to be accomplished because of the promises of God, but it still required the physical efforts of the people of Israel to accomplish. What process in the Christian life requires the promises and power of God and also requires the efforts of God's people? Tracy, in his sermon on Sunday, will draw an analogy with sanctification—spiritual growth in the Christian life, becoming more like Jesus.

8. Read 2 Peter 1:3-4. These verses talk about what God's divine power has granted to us as we live our lives on this earth. What quality of life has God granted to us by his power and his promises? What specific qualities has God made possible for us according to these verses?

9. Read 2 Peter 1:5-11. According to verses 3-4 God's power provides all things that pertain to life and godliness, and his great promises make it possible for us "to become partakers of the divine nature". According to verses 5-11 is there anything left for us to do to develop qualities that make a fruitful Christian life? What are we urged to do in these verses?

10. Do you see that these verses are talking about sanctification—growth in the Christian life and becoming more like Jesus? Do you see the great promises and power of God to make it happen? Do you also see that we have a responsibility to "make every effort to supplement your faith" with these qualities? How is this process of sanctification a good analogy to the people of Israel occupying the land?

11. What were some takeaways from the sermon? How did the Holy Spirit convict you? What new things did you learn about God's character? How did the sermon challenge you personally?

Application

1. Look carefully at the qualities that we are urged to practice in verses 5-8. What, specifically, are they, and how can you practice each of these specific qualities?



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!