



*3 STUDIES IN JOSHUA
FOR INDIVIDUALS, GROUPS & 1:1*

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The book of Joshua continues the story of God's relationship with his people immediately after the death of Moses at the end of Deuteronomy. It is the story of the possession of Canaan, the land God promised to Abraham, as a home for his descendants. Thus, Joshua is a story of God's promises being fulfilled. As the book opens, the people of Israel are poised on the border of Canaan, about to cross into it.

These three studies in the opening chapters of the book will give us the opportunity to see God at work for his people in Canaan. We'll also consider how his promises and actions in Canaan are fulfilled in Jesus, giving us even more reason than that past generation to trust in God's faithfulness!

Joshua 1

1. What's the best piece of advice you've ever received?
2. How do you make sure you remember important information?
3. Who is the best leader you have ever served under?
What made their leadership so outstanding?

Read Numbers 20: 1 - 12

Read Joshua 1

4. How many promises of God can you think of that are about to reach their fulfilment in the conquest of the Promised Land?
5. Why do you think God "recaps" the history of his relationship with Moses at the beginning of Joshua's ministry?

6. How would you describe the role of Moses as leader of God's people?

7. Why is there such a focus on "the law" in this section?

8. Which of God's instructions in 7 – 9 would you find most difficult to obey?

9. How does the command to obey the law relate to the covenant relationship God established with the people through Moses?

10. How can God's actions and work in the past be an encouragement to you in the face of an uncertain future?

11. What practical steps can you take to remind yourself of God's faithfulness, so that you can continue to stand firm?

Read Hebrews 4:1 - 3

12. What is the rest that can still be entered into today?

13. How does the author of Hebrews tell us that we can enter it?

14. Think of what we learn about Moses and Joshua here. How is Jesus a greater leader than either of them?

15. How are the blessings that come to us through Jesus greater than the blessing of possessing the land of Canaan?

Joshua 2

1. When you read a spy thriller or watch a spy movie, do you wish that you had the spies' skills, or spend the whole time worrying that they'll be caught?

2. When you played hide and seek as a child, what was your favourite hiding place?

3. Of the people you know who seem unlikely to come into a relationship with God, what is it about their lives that makes you think that?

Read Joshua 2:1 - 24

4. What does Rahab demonstrate that she understands about God?

5. At what points in the story would you say Rahab demonstrates faith in God?
6. How is Rahab's faith an outworking of her understanding about God.

7. How can we learn from Rahab's faith about what it is to put our trust in Jesus?

Read Joshua 6:22 - 25

8. How is the salvation that God wins for Rahab and her family similar to the salvation he wins for us in Christ?

9. Write a definition of "salvation" based on this episode.

10. What barriers might we erect (intentionally or unintentionally) to God's saving work in those for whom we don't expect it?

11. In 2:11 Rahab speaks about the sovereignty of God. How does God's rule over everything in heaven and earth impact your life?

12. What does the story of Rahab teach you about God's salvation?

13. Pray for people who seem far from God's salvation, but whom God can draw near. Ask him to do just that!

Joshua 3 & 4

1. What's the best mnemonic or memory aid you've ever used?
2. What do people mean when they speak of God being with them?
3. Do you think that Christians you know imagine that the Christian life would be easier if Jesus was physically present with them all the time?

Read Joshua 3 & 4

4. How did God demonstrate to his people that he was with them?
5. Why do you think the people needed this reminder?

6. How is this manifestation of God's presence different to the way he was with the Exodus generation?

See Exodus 13:20 - 22

7. Think of what the people of Israel witness in this episode? What would it remind them of?

What impact would it have on them?

8. What does Joshua command as a reminder of God's presence and action for future generations?

9. What are the twin purposes of the memorial?

10. Why do you think the narrator dedicates such a long section to the building of the memorial?

11. Jesus tells his disciples that it is better that he leaves them, so he can send the Holy Spirit; *“very truly I tell you, it is for your good that I am going away. Unless I go away, the Advocate will not come to you; but if I go, I will send him to you.”* (John 16:7)

How is it better for followers of Jesus to have the Holy Spirit, rather than for Jesus to remain bodily on earth?

12. Jesus promises us, “And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.” (Matthew 28:28).

How is Christ’s presence and encouragement to you to stand firm in faithfulness?

13. What aspect of God’s work do you most need reminding of?

14. What steps can you take to keep reminding yourself of these important truths?



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