



THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

Weekly Group Bible Studies

Wesley International Congregation

INTRODUCTION

The book of Joshua documents the stage of Israel's journey where God leads His people to inherit the land He promised to their ancestors under the fresh leadership of Joshua. As we reflect on this narrative together, prayerfully consider what God is saying to you personally and to us as a church through these Scriptures. May each study stir your heart to be strong and courageous in the Lord to take hold of what He has for you and for us as His people.

Note: The first two studies are included in the 2025 "Be Strong & Courageous" theme booklet, if you have already completed these studies, continue the journey with Study 3.

STUDY 1: PREPARING FOR A NEW SEASON

A. RELATE

Reflect/Share about a time when you went through a significant season/change in your life. How did you prepare for that change? What helped you?

B. READ

Deuteronomy 31:1-8

C. REFLECT

Moses had led Israel out of slavery in Egypt to journey to the land that God promised to them. For forty years they lived in the wilderness, unwilling to boldly take the land that God had given to them for fear of the inhabitants of the land.

At this point of the journey, God already revealed to Moses that he would not be the one to lead them across the Jordan River into the promised land. As Moses acknowledges this before the people, sharing with them that there will be a new season ahead, he encourages them to be strong and courageous for this season. May this passage encourage us in the new season we are entering into!

STUDY 1: PREPARING FOR A NEW SEASON

D. RESPOND

1. As Moses shares that he will soon no longer lead the people, what does he reveal that God will do in the near future? (v3-5)
2. In verse 6, Moses encourages the people to “Be strong and courageous”. Based on this passage, why do the people need this encouragement, and what is the basis of their strength and courage? (v3-6)
3. Moses calls Joshua before Israel and encourages him with a similar message to “Be strong and courageous”. Why was this important? From this passage, why does Joshua need strength and courage, and what are the reasons Joshua can be strong and courageous? (v7-8).

Read Deuteronomy 31:14-15, 23.

4. Moses encouraged the people, and then he publicly encouraged Joshua. How is that different to what God is doing in v14-15 and 23?
5. Now God is the One who encourages Joshua with the words: “Be strong & courageous”, what do you notice is consistent about why Joshua needs this, and the basis for why he can be strong and courageous?

STUDY 1: PREPARING FOR A NEW SEASON

E. RELY

- Why do you think:
 - a. You personally need strength and courage from God?
 - b. We as a church need strength and courage from God?
- Take some time to release any fear, dismay or discouragement to God.
- Pray for strength and courage for yourself, one another, and the congregation on the same basis of the confidence we see in these passages: the presence of God, the power of God and the promise of God.



STUDY 2: A NEW DAY HAS COME

A. RELATE

Share about a time when you took on responsibility from someone else because they moved on or passed on the baton. What was it like? What helped you?

B. READ

Joshua 1:1-9

C. REFLECT

In the previous study, we reflected on the encouragement to “Be strong and courageous” firstly from Moses to the people, then from Moses to Joshua, and then finally from God to Joshua. All of this happened whilst Moses was still alive and things had not yet changed. Today we reflect on God’s word to Joshua right after Moses passed away. This was an expansion of God’s encouragement to “Be strong & courageous!”. Let the words speak strength and courage into our hearts!

STUDY 2: A NEW DAY HAS COME

D. RESPOND

1. What stands out to you about the instruction that God gives to Joshua? (v2)
2. What promises does God make to Joshua and what is to be the basis of his confidence in these promises? (v3-5)
3. In v6-9, God speaks that encouraging phrase again three times: “Be strong and courageous”. It might seem like simple repetition, but each time God speaks these words to Joshua, a slightly different nuance is given. What is unique about this encouragement in verse 6?
4. What is different about the encouragement in verse 7-8? Why do you think strength and courage is needed to follow the Book of the Law?
5. How should Joshua interact with the Book of the Law and what is the promise that comes with interacting with it in this way? (v7-8).
6. What is different about the encouragement in verse 9? How does strength and courage interact with and contrast against fear and dismay?

STUDY 2: A NEW DAY HAS COME

E. RELY

- Share how God is challenging you to be strong and courageous this year.
- Share about how this encouragement to “Be Strong and Courageous” links with:
 - a. The promises God might be leading you/us to inherit?
 - b. Our interaction with the Word of God?
 - c. How we overcome fear and dismay?
- Write out and pray bold prayers for strength and courage in your life and in the church believing for God’s promise, presence, power and provision!



MY BOLD PRAYERS FOR:

MY WORK/STUDIES/CONTEXT:

MY FAMILY:

MY FRIENDSHIPS:

OUR CHURCH COMMUNITY:

OUR CITY:

GOD'S GLOBAL MISSION:



STUDY 3: STRENGTH AND COURAGE IN ACTION

A. RELATE

Share about a time when you had to show strength and courage. What was it like before, during and after that situation?

B. READ

Joshua 1:6-18

C. REFLECT

God makes promises to Joshua and encourages him to be strong and courageous. It appears that Joshua responds with obedience and expedience, immediately making preparations to step into the land that God had promised. May we too respond to God's words of promise and encouragement with prompt obedience!

STUDY 3: STRENGTH AND COURAGE IN ACTION

D. RESPOND

1. Who are the first group of people that Joshua gives instruction to, in what way
are they to prepare themselves and why was this instruction important? (v10-11)
2. Joshua gathers a second group of people: the Reubenites, Gadites and ½ the tribe of Manasseh. These 2.5 tribes had already received their allotted land inheritance on the West side of the Jordan River. In some ways they would have had little motivation to cross the Jordan. How does Joshua instruct them and what does this teach us about inheriting God's promises? (v13-15)
3. The second group respond to Joshua's instruction with three pledges of their own, what are they and what does this teach us? (v16-18)
4. Alongside these pledges, the people also encourage Joshua. What two specific encouragements do they give to him and how might this have heartened Joshua? What example does this give to us in the community of God's people?
5. What are the above passages revealing to you about:
 - a. Responding to God's charge to be strong and courageous?
 - b. Encouraging to those who look to us for guidance?
 - c. Encouraging those who lead us?

STUDY 3: STRENGTH AND COURAGE IN ACTION

E. RELY

Share about how you might:

- Respond promptly to God's encouragement to be strong and courageous.
- Encourage those whom you guide, and those who guide you?

Pray for one another that you might act upon God's charge to be strong and courageous about His mission and purpose in your life!



STUDY 4: CROSSING THE JORDAN

A. RELATE

Share about a time you had to do something you were afraid of and had never done before. What hindered you and what helped you?

B. READ

Joshua 3:1-17

C. REFLECT

In order to inherit all the land God had promised Israel, the people had to cross over the Jordan River. But how would they do this? Normally the river would be between 0.9 and 3 metres deep and 27-31 metres wide (which would be hard enough to cross!)- but at this time, it was the season when the banks were overflowing with spring rains (v15). Does this remind you of another time God's people had to walk across a significant body of water? This crossing would require faith, obedience and the presence and power of God!

STUDY 4: CROSSING THE JORDAN

D. RESPOND

1. What were the instructions that the officers gave to the people and why? (v2-4)

How might you have felt about these instructions if you were among the people?

2. Joshua instructs the people to consecrate themselves. What reason does he give and how does this compare with Ex 19:10-15)? (v9-10). What do you think is the connection between consecration and the presence and power of God?

3. What do you notice about the relationship between God speaking to Joshua and Joshua speaking to the people? (v7-13)

4. From God and Joshua's instructions:

a. What are the priests and people to do? (v8,12,13)

b. What would happen as they obeyed? (v13)

c. What would this miracle confirm? (v10-11)

5. Try to picture the scene of v14-17 unfolding. What aspects of the miracle would have surprised you the most and why?

6. What does passage reveal to you about the relationship between our faith and obedience and God's promise, presence and power?

STUDY 4: CROSSING THE JORDAN

E. RELY

Share about:

- Areas of obedience to courageously follow God that you need prayer for
- Situations of faith where you need the promise, presence and power of God

Pray for one another that just like Joshua, the officers, the priests and the people, that we would step out in faith and obedience and that God would step in with His promise, presence and power.



STUDY 5: THE FALL OF JERICHO

A. RELATE

What does “Walking by faith not by sight” look like in your own walk with the Lord?

B. READ

Joshua 5:13-15 and 6:1-27

C. REFLECT

After miraculously crossing over the Jordan River and making their way into the plains of Jericho, Israel celebrated their first Passover in Canaan using the produce in the promised land. The very next day, the manna God had provided all these years came to an end. It was during this time that Joshua encountered the Commander of the Lord’s army. As we reflect on this narrative, consider what role we must play in obedience to God, as He leads us into His promises.

STUDY 5: THE FALL OF JERICHO

D. RESPOND

1. What stands out to you about the encounter with the Commander of the Lord's army?

2. Look closely at the instructions given to Joshua in both passages:
 - a. What stands out about how he relays these instructions?
 - b. What is revealed about the heart of God in this narrative?

3. What do we learn from this passage about the connection between the spiritual and physical realm when it comes to faith, obedience and power?

4. Imagine you are one of the priests or Israelite soldiers, what would be some of the barriers or obstacles to obeying God's instructions?

5. What do we learn from this narrative about walking by faith and not by sight?

6. How can this story be applied:
 - a. In helpful ways?
 - b. In unhelpful ways?

STUDY 5: THE FALL OF JERICHO

E. RELY

Share about:

- What God is saying to you through this passage about the Church.
- What God is revealing to you about His heart for the world.

Pray for boldness to obey God. Joshua's commission reminds us of the prayer of the disciples in Acts 4. We need strength and courage from the Lord to follow Him. Take some time to pray a prayer that may resemble the prayer below.



Acts 4:29-31

29 And now, Lord, look upon their threats and grant to your servants to continue to speak your word with all boldness, 30 while you stretch out your hand to heal, and signs and wonders are performed through the name of your holy servant Jesus.” 31 And when they had prayed, the place in which they were gathered together was shaken, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and continued to speak the word of God with boldness

STUDY 6: TAKING THE LAND

A. RELATE

Share about a time you had to overcome challenges to gain something in your life.

B. READ

Joshua 13:1 and 14:6-15

C. REFLECT

In this study, we fast forward from the fall of Jericho to when Joshua was now advanced in age. The Lord speaks to Joshua acknowledging that he is very old, and yet that there still much promised land to be inherited by the people.

Caleb who is now 85 and a contemporary of Joshua, does not shy away from boldly inheriting the land that God had promised to him. His example encourages us to boldly step out in faith to inherit the promises of God in our lives!

STUDY 6: TAKING THE LAND

D. RESPOND

1. Caleb approaches Joshua and recounts what God said to Moses about both of them 40 years prior (See Deut 1:19-40 for the whole story). What differentiated Caleb from the other spies in this story? (v8)
2. What promise did the Lord speak through Moses that day and why? (v9, 10).
3. If you were Caleb, what potential barriers to inheriting this promise would you be worried about? (v10-12)
4. Despite the potential challenges, how would you describe Caleb's attitude to inheriting the land? Where does Caleb's confidence lay? (9-12). Note- Imagine what Caleb's attitude could have been if he had become bitter and resentful.
5. What was the eventual outcome of this situation and how does that encourage you? (13-15)
6. Taking the land in our context, does not mean God giving us whatever we want and when we want it. What do you take away from this narrative about inheriting the promises of God for your life and for the Church in alignment with His will and His word?

STUDY 6: TAKING THE LAND

E. RELY

Share:

- What barriers might be holding you back from inheriting God's promises?
- How is God encouraging you through Caleb's example?

Submit any barriers to God in prayer and pray that God might give you strength, courage and confidence to overcome these barriers, to take hold of His promises for you, your family, and for the church.



STUDY 7: SERVING THE LORD IN THE LAND

A. RELATE

Reflect on an intense situation/season you experienced in your life. What challenges did you experience after that storm had passed?

B. READ

Joshua 24:11-28

C. REFLECT

In chapter 24, Joshua (who is now very old and would soon pass away) recounts the journey of Israel from Abraham up to this point. The Lord had graciously given rest to Israel from all their enemies. Joshua knows that it will be easy for Israel to turn away from God now they have inherited the land, so he charges Israel to make a fresh commitment to God before sending them to their inherited lands.

We face a similar temptation when we experience the blessings of God: to turn away from God and become self-centred. As we listen in on this dialogue between Joshua and the people, may our hearts be stirred to make a similar commitment to lovingly and faithfully serve Jesus wherever we may go.

STUDY 7: SERVING THE LORD IN THE LAND

D. RESPOND

1. As Joshua looks back at what God has done, what stands out to you about God, His promises and His faithfulness? (v11-13- See also Joshua 23:14)
2. Now that Israel rest and are blessed, what charge does Joshua give to them; what commitment does he make; and how does this speak to you? (v14-15)
3. The temptation Israel faced (the idolatry of their ancestors, and the idolatry of the cultures around them) is similar to what we face. What is the difference between both and why is it so important for us to think about this in our lives? (v15)
4. What are some of the distinctives between following a living God and following the idols you might be tempted by?
5. As the people respond positively to Joshua's charge, what reasons do they give and what resonates with your desire to serve God? (16-18)
6. In 1 Corinthians 10:6-14, Paul reflects on Israel's wilderness journey and warns the Corinthian Christians to learn from their examples. What stands out to you in this passage? What is different for us on this side of the cross? How does this speak to you personally?

STUDY 7: SERVING THE LORD IN THE LAND

Note: Joshua points to the inadequacy of the people to serve God, highlighting God's holiness, jealousy and justice (v19-20), but the people insist on serving God. So Joshua call them to put away their idols and incline their heart to God (v23). The people respond committing to serving God and obeying His voice (v24).

Consider what this might look like in our lives to put away our modern-day idols and incline our heart to God to serve Him and obey His voice.

E. RELY

Share about:

- How you have seen the love, promises and faithfulness of God in your life
- The temptations of idolatry of the past or present that you face
- How you want to respond to God after reflecting on this passage

Take some time to pray, confessing or submitting any idols you are facing in your life. Thank God for His faithfulness and forgiveness; then express your commitment to serve Him with your life.

