



EXPLORE **THE BIBLE.**

Adults

Joshua; Judges; Ruth

Daily Discipleship Guide

Summer 2026



MAKING HISTORY

History never occurs in a vacuum. Any number of forces move individuals toward action. And those actions shape history. It might be tempting to think people know they are making history in the moment, but, in most cases, that's not how it works.

Sure, we can identify times when historical figures knew they were setting a new standard. America's founding fathers probably had a sense of history in 1776. And Neil Armstrong recognized the importance of "one small step for man" as he touched the moon's surface in 1969.

But those moments are the exceptions, not the rule. For the most part, history only becomes history over time. The books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth give us a snapshot of Israel's history and the people who helped make it. Moses, the nation's main history maker since it left Egypt, was gone. Now, Israel looked to Joshua to lead them into the promised land.

Later, in their own way, the judges made their mark on history. Meanwhile, an obscure Moabitess named Ruth rewrote the direction of history—for Israel and for every member of the human race. These people were not perfect, but God used them to make a difference because that's what God does.

God has a plan for your life, as well. He wants to use you to change history. But before you can touch the future, you've got to come clean with Him in the present. You do that through a personal relationship with Him through His Son, Jesus. If you've never made the decision to follow Him, you can do it today. Here's all you need to do . . .

-
- ▶ **ADMIT** to God that you are a sinner. Repent, turning from your sin.
 - ▶ **BY FAITH RECEIVE** Jesus as God's Son and accept His gift of forgiveness from sin. He took the penalty for your sin by dying on the cross.
 - ▶ **CONFESS** your faith in Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord. You may pray a prayer similar to this as you call on God to save you: "Dear God, I know that You love me. I confess my sin and need of salvation. I turn away from my sin and place my faith in Jesus as my Savior and Lord. In the name of Jesus I pray, amen."
-

After you have received Jesus Christ into your life, tell a pastor or another Christian about your decision. Show others your faith in Christ by asking for baptism by immersion in your local church as a public expression of your faith.



SUGGESTED FOR THE WEEK OF

JUNE 7
 JUNE 14
 JUNE 21
 JUNE 28
 JULY 5
 JULY 12
 JULY 19
 JULY 26
 AUG. 2
 AUG. 9
 AUG. 16
 AUG. 23
 AUG. 30

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*Evangelistic Emphasis

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- ▶ “Moses my servant is dead. Now you and all the people prepare to cross over the Jordan to the land I am giving the Israelites. I have given you every place where the sole of your foot treads, just as I promised Moses” (Josh. 1:2-3).

From the very first verses of the book of Joshua, God communicated His plans for His people. They would (finally!) cross the Jordan River and enter the promised land. A generations-old commitment God made to Abraham would at long last be realized. Joshua would be their new leader. The next steps of their journey were important ones. Courage would be needed. Deep faith in God, the One who had painstakingly led them thus far, was a requirement. Stepping out in faith would be a daily exercise.



As we study the Israelites’ entrance into the promised land and the years that follow, let’s not miss the details. God’s plans for His people and His faithfulness to His promises shouldn’t be overlooked. He would use faithful men and women to accomplish what He had in mind. The Israelites’ faith would be tested. Through it all, God’s character would be on full display.

I hope this quarter’s study brings you a deeper understanding of God’s Word, preparing you for any “next steps” God has for you. May His promises give you daily strength to faithfully follow where He leads.

In Him,

Amber Vaden

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BIBLE READING PLAN



JUNE

- 1. Joshua 1:1-18
- 2. Joshua 2:1-14
- 3. Joshua 2:15-24
- 4. Joshua 3:1-17
- 5. Joshua 4:1-13
- 6. Joshua 4:14-24
- 7. Joshua 5:1-15
- 8. Joshua 6:1-14
- 9. Joshua 6:15-27
- 10. Joshua 7:1-15
- 11. Joshua 7:16-26
- 12. Joshua 8:1-13
- 13. Joshua 8:14-29
- 14. Joshua 8:30-35
- 15. Joshua 9:1-15
- 16. Joshua 9:16-27
- 17. Joshua 10:1-15
- 17. Joshua 10:16-27
- 19. Joshua 10:28-43
- 20. Joshua 11:1-15
- 21. Joshua 11:16-23
- 22. Joshua 12:1-24
- 23. Joshua 13:1-33
- 24. Joshua 14:1-15
- 25. Joshua 15:1-19
- 26. Joshua 15:20-63
- 27. Joshua 16:1-10
- 28. Joshua 17:1-18
- 29. Joshua 18:1-28
- 30. Joshua 19:1-51

JULY

- 1. Joshua 20:1-9
- 2. Joshua 21:1-45
- 3. Joshua 22:1-12
- 4. Joshua 22:13-26
- 5. Joshua 22:27-34
- 6. Joshua 23:1-16
- 7. Joshua 24:1-13
- 8. Joshua 24:14-33
- 9. Judges 1:1-20
- 10. Judges 1:21-36
- 11. Judges 2:1-13
- 12. Judges 2:14-23
- 13. Judges 3:1-11
- 14. Judges 3:12-31
- 15. Judges 4:1-10
- 16. Judges 4:11-24
- 17. Judges 5:1-15
- 17. Judges 5:16-31
- 19. Judges 6:1-10
- 20. Judges 6:11-24
- 21. Judges 6:25-32
- 22. Judges 6:33-40
- 23. Judges 7:1-14
- 24. Judges 7:15-25
- 25. Judges 8:1-9
- 26. Judges 8:10-21
- 27. Judges 8:22-35
- 28. Judges 9:1-21
- 29. Judges 9:22-41
- 30. Judges 9:42-57
- 31. Judges 10:1-18

AUGUST

- 1. Judges 11:1-11
- 2. Judges 11:12-28
- 3. Judges 11:29-40
- 4. Judges 12:1-15
- 5. Judges 13:1-16
- 6. Judges 13:17-25
- 7. Judges 14:1-9
- 8. Judges 14:10-20
- 9. Judges 15:1-13
- 10. Judges 15:14-20
- 11. Judges 16:1-11
- 12. Judges 16:12-20
- 13. Judges 16:21-31
- 14. Judges 17:1-13
- 15. Judges 18:1-13
- 16. Judges 18:14-31
- 17. Judges 19:1-15
- 17. Judges 19:16-30
- 19. Judges 20:1-10
- 20. Judges 20:11-28
- 21. Judges 20:29-48
- 22. Judges 21:1-12
- 23. Judges 21:13-25
- 24. Ruth 1:1-15
- 25. Ruth 1:16-22
- 26. Ruth 2:1-9
- 27. Ruth 2:10-23
- 28. Ruth 3:1-9
- 29. Ruth 3:10-18
- 30. Ruth 4:1-12
- 31. Ruth 4:13-22

MEMORY VERSES



SESSION 1:

This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do. - Joshua 1:8

SESSION 2:

By faith Rahab the prostitute welcomed the spies in peace and didn't perish with those who disobeyed. - Hebrews 11:31

SESSION 3:

I will remember the LORD's works; yes, I will remember your ancient wonders. I will reflect on all you have done and meditate on your actions. - Psalm 77:11-12

SESSION 4:

So the troops shouted, and the rams' horns sounded. When they heard the blast of the ram's horn, the troops gave a great shout, and the wall collapsed. The troops advanced into the city, each man straight ahead, and they captured the city. - Joshua 6:20

SESSION 5:

Don't be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a person sows he will also reap. - Galatians 6:7

SESSION 6:

My brothers who went with me caused the people to lose heart, but I followed the LORD my God completely. - Joshua 14:8

SESSION 7:

"Then get rid of the foreign gods that are among you and turn your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel." So the people said to Joshua, "We will worship the LORD our God and obey him." - Joshua 24:23-24

SESSION 8:

That whole generation was also gathered to their ancestors. After them another generation rose up who did not know the LORD or the works he had done for Israel. - Judges 2:10

SESSION 9:

"But I will be with you," the LORD said to him. "You will strike Midian down as if it were one man." - Judges 6:16

SESSION 10:

The LORD said to Gideon, "You have too many troops for me to hand the Midianites over to them, or else Israel might elevate themselves over me and say, 'I saved myself.'" - Judges 7:2

SESSION 11:

The LORD is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and I am helped. Therefore my heart celebrates, and I give thanks to him with my song. - Psalm 28:7

SESSION 12:

But Ruth replied: Don't plead with me to abandon you or to return and not follow you. For wherever you go, I will go, and wherever you live, I will live; your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. - Ruth 1:16

SESSION 13:

In him we have redemption, the forgiveness of sins. - Colossians 1:14



Joshua

The book of Joshua is named after the man who became the leader of Israel when Moses died. It contains the record of the Israelites who crossed the Jordan River to enter the promised land. The twenty-four chapters of the book are divided into four sections. The first section is chapters 1–5. It describes how the Israelites crossed the Jordan and how God prepared the nation for its conquest of Canaan. The second section, chapters 6–12, describes how the Israelites conquered the land and records who they defeated. Third, chapters 13–21 explain how Joshua and Israel’s leaders divided and allocated the land to each of the tribes. The final section, chapters 22–24, comprises Joshua’s final words of exhortation and warning to Israel.

Judges

The book of Judges is divided into three sections. Its introduction in 1:1–3:6 provides a general overview of what happened to the Israelites in the land of Canaan from the time just after Joshua died until the rise of Israel’s first king, Saul. Because the Israelites violated the Lord’s covenant He had made with their forefathers, He declared that He would no longer drive out the Canaanites who remained after Joshua died (2:21). As a result, the period of the judges was one of the darkest times in Israel’s history.

Judges 3:7–16:31 is the main section of the book. It describes the events that took place during the time of the judges. There are twelve judges in all mentioned in the book. However, six of the judges receive much more attention than the other six judges. The final section of the book of Judges (17:1–21:25) describes two events that illustrate just how morally depraved Israel became as they lived in an anarchy when “everyone did whatever seemed right to him” during the period of the judges.

Ruth

The setting of the book of Ruth is the period of the judges, which bridges the time between the conquest and the rise of King David. David’s genealogy forms the conclusion of this book. Therefore, Ruth was written sometime after David was born. The book shows that the messianic line goes through a heritage of godly people such as Boaz and Ruth to David. Their virtues stand in contrast to the corrupt nation of Israel during the period of the judges. Nevertheless, even in Israel’s darkest times, the Lord did not forget His covenant promises to His people. This is also ironic given Ruth was a Moabitess, demonstrating that often God graciously includes and uses the most unlikely people to carry out His purposes.



Joshua

I. Preparation for Possessing the Land (Josh. 1:1–5:12)

II. Victories in the Land (Josh. 5:13–12:24)

III. Allotment of the Land (Josh. 13:1–21:45)

IV. Worship of God in the Land (Josh. 22:1–24:33)

Judges

I. Prologue (Judg. 1:1–3:6)

II. The Judges (Judg. 3:7–16:31)

III. Epilogue (Judg. 17:1–21:25)

Ruth

I. A Family Fleeing (Ruth 1:1–22)

II. A Family Sought (Ruth 2:1–3:18)

III. A Family Redeemed (Ruth 4:1–22)



USING THE DAILY DISCIPLESHIP GUIDE

A person's spiritual growth hinges on daily Bible engagement. *Daily* implies a discipline much like exercising, brushing teeth, or eating a certain number of calories EVERY day. Our spiritual training should be no different since we need spiritual nourishment every day. The focus is the *Bible*, God's Word. There is nothing wrong with knowing the thoughts of great philosophers, leaders, or theologians, as long as God's Word is the final word on the matter. Engagement carries the idea of participation and involvement. *Engagement* is active, requiring us to read, study, and reflect.

Your *Daily Discipleship Guide* is full of tools to help you engage with God's Word. But like any tool, you have to use it to get the benefit.

- Use this resource when studying with a group. The first four pages of each session help the group examine a Bible passage and move us toward acting on the truths discovered as a group and an individual.
- Use the **Talk It Out** page to hold yourself and others accountable by meeting in a smaller group of same-sex individuals (an accountability group). Share with the smaller group what God has been teaching you through the group time and your personal daily Bible study while working to memorize a Bible verse.
- Use the **Daily Exploration** pages to go deeper into God's Word, building on your group's study experience. Engage in daily Bible study, record your thoughts, reflect on the questions, and take action.
- Use the resource every week even when you are unable to attend the group's Bible study. Missing a group Bible study does not excuse you from being engaged daily with God through His Word.

Want this resource on your phone or tablet for when you are on the go? Purchase an eBook at goExploreTheBible.com or at Lifeway.com/digitalstudies.





Getting the most from Talk It Out

Talk It Out supports groups of three or four people who come together weekly to encourage, share, and sharpen each other. While other issues may be addressed, the Talk It Out section focuses on the weekly memory verse. The questions and comments provide a means for encouraging each other to memorize Scripture while reflecting on the main point of that week's lesson.

These groups are made up of three to four people...

- Participants should be of the same gender.
- These groups should be smaller on purpose.
- These groups can meet at almost any location.
- These groups can easily accommodate each other's schedules.

Some married couples may choose to use the Talk It Out section for a weekly family devotional activity.

...Who meet weekly...

- We were created to relate, so meeting weekly is important.
 - In some cases, your smaller group may need to meet virtually. You may find it best to meet face-to-face every other week or once a month and use virtual tools the other weeks.
-

...To hold each other accountable and encourage each other in their spiritual growth.

- Review the questions and comments in Talk It Out.
- Look for ways the memory verse relates to the main point of the lesson.
- Include time to pray for each other.

SESSION 1

Strong and Courageous

JOSHUA 1:1-11,16-18

JOSHUA'S COURAGE WAS GROUNDED IN THE ASSURANCE
OF GOD'S TRUSTWORTHINESS.



Russell Kelso Carter was a professor at the Pennsylvania Military Academy in 1886 when he wrote “Standing on the Promises.” For over a century this great hymn has been sung by believers all over the world. Why? Because its lyrics remind believers that God is trustworthy and His promises “cannot fail.” Consequently, those who are trusting in God “cannot fail.” Joshua discovered these truths and grounded his courage in the assurance of God’s trustworthiness.

WHAT MAKES A PERSON TRUSTWORTHY?

UNDERSTAND THE CONTEXT

There are few things more intimidating than being the replacement of a person in leadership who is revered by those whom he led and is the only leader they have ever known. This was the situation when God called Joshua to succeed Moses.

The Lord providentially prepared Moses to lead the children of Israel out of Egypt. He was raised by Pharaoh’s daughter and thus grew up knowing the ways of the Egyptians and the plight of the Israelites. God providentially moved him to Midian, where he learned the ways of the wilderness. Then God commissioned him to become His leader and bring Israel out of Egypt. God performed many wondrous miracles through Moses. At Mount Sinai, God gave Moses the law to give to the people. Exodus 33:11 states, “The LORD would speak to Moses face to face.”

When God called Joshua to be Moses’s replacement, humanly speaking, Joshua had every reason to be intimidated. He had witnessed many of the things God did through Moses. However, as with Moses, God had

prepared Joshua for his task. Joshua had led the Israelites into battle and witnessed God give them victory (Ex. 17:9-13). He accompanied Moses part way up Mount Sinai when Moses went alone to the top to receive God’s law, and he returned with Moses when Moses confronted Israel and its sin (24:13-18; 32:15-20). From the time he was a young man, Joshua served as Moses’s assistant until Moses’s death (33:11). Furthermore, Joshua along with Caleb were the only two spies who saw the promised land and believed that God would give it to them (Num. 14:6-10). Finally, just before Moses’s death, God told Moses that Joshua had His Spirit in him. He instructed Moses to bring Joshua before the high priest and the entire community of Israel to lay his hands on him and commission him to be his replacement (Num. 27:18-22).

God’s assignment for Joshua would be different in nature from Moses’s assignment. Nonetheless, as with Moses, God prepared Joshua for the task before him. There was every reason for Joshua to trust the Lord and be strong and courageous.



Joshua 1:1-11,16-18

1 After the death of Moses the LORD's servant, the LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses's assistant: **2** "Moses my servant is dead. Now you and all the people prepare to **cross over** **A** the Jordan to the land I am giving the Israelites. **3** I have given you every place where the **sole of your foot** **B** treads, just as I promised Moses. **4** Your territory will be from the wilderness and Lebanon to the great river, the Euphrates River—all the land of the Hittites—and west to the Mediterranean Sea. **5** No one will be able to **stand against you** **C** as long as you live. I will be with you, just as I was with Moses. I will not leave you or **abandon** **D** you. **6** Be strong and courageous, for you will distribute the land I swore to their ancestors to give them as an inheritance. **7** Above all, be strong and very courageous to observe carefully the **whole instruction** **E** my servant Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right or the left, so that you will have success wherever you go. **8** This **book of instruction** **F** must not depart from your mouth; you are to **meditate** **G** on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do. **9** Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." **10** Then Joshua commanded the officers of the people, **11** "Go through the camp and tell the people, 'Get provisions ready for yourselves, for **within three days** **H** you will be crossing the Jordan to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you to inherit.'" [. . .] **16** They answered Joshua, "Everything you have commanded us we will do, and everywhere you send us we will go. **17** We will obey you, just **as we obeyed Moses** **I** in everything. Certainly the LORD your God will be with you, as he was with Moses. **18** Anyone who rebels against your order and does not obey your words in all that you command him, will be put to death. Above all, be strong and courageous!"

Key Words

A. God gave Joshua a specific mission: leading Israel across the Jordan River and conquering the land He had promised to their ancestors (Gen. 12:7; 13:14-15; 15:18-22).

B. Moses never got to set foot in Canaan. Joshua, however, would lead the people into the land.

C. The Hebrew literally refers to a person's face, but it can also mean "presence." God would force Joshua's enemies away from him.

D. The Hebrew implies being left to solve one's own problems. God would not do this.

E. To God, partial obedience is disobedience. Full obedience would be key to Joshua's success.

F. God's words given to Moses and placed in the ark of the covenant by the Levites (Deut. 31:26).

G. Literally, "muttering." The image is repeating the words to oneself until they are internalized.

H. In the past, the people had faltered on Canaan's border (Num. 13-14). Here, Joshua immediately challenged them to fulfill God's commands.

I. The tribes east of the Jordan River had promised to help their brothers defeat their enemies in Canaan (Num. 32). They affirmed this commitment to Joshua.

EXPLORE THE TEXT

1. God's Promise

(Josh. 1:1-5)

We can find courage in the truth that God keeps His promises.

- **How have you experienced God's faithfulness?**

2. Joshua's Assignment

(Josh. 1:6-11)

We can discern God's best for our lives by studying His Word.

- **How does God's Word provide courage and direction for our lives?**
- **What role does God's Word play in our definition of success?**

3. Israel's Response

(Josh. 1:16-18)

We can encourage the kingdom work of others by supporting them and partnering with them.

- **How does a shared commitment to God's purposes encourage other people?**

Apply the Text

As a group, discuss how you can encourage, support, and partner with one another in kingdom work.

- **What are the advantages to having a commitment to working together with other believers over having an individualistic mentality toward kingdom work?**

KEY DOCTRINE:

The Scriptures

The Holy Bible is a perfect treasure of divine instruction. (See Deuteronomy 4:1-2; 2 Timothy 3:16-17.)

BIBLE SKILL:

Note repeated words and phrases to gain additional insights.

Biblical writers sometimes used repetition of key words or phrases to emphasize a theme or message. Identify and examine the repeated message or challenge in Joshua 1:6,7,9,18. Who was the speaker in each instance? Who was the recipient of the challenge in each verse? Think about what this phrase's repetition helps communicate in Joshua 1:1-18. What message does the repeated phrase convey to Bible readers today?



Explore the Bible Prayer Guide

Scan here for a weekly prayer guide based on this quarter's Bible passages.



DAILY EXPLORATION



Day 1: Joshua 1:1-3

Highlight the words “just as I promised” (v. 3).

Deuteronomy 34:1-8 records Moses’s death. The Israelites mourned Moses’s death for thirty days east of the Jordan River. But now it was time for Joshua and the people to prepare to “cross over the Jordan” and enter Canaan. God’s pointing out that Moses His servant was dead was a way of saying the time for mourning was over. There was more to be done. Moses’s death may have marked the passing of the greatest leader Israel had ever known, but God’s promises and plans for His people lived on.

The beginning of verse 3, “I have given,” is connected to the end of verse 2, “I am giving.” The Lord was emphasizing that the land the Israelites were about to conquer and inherit was His gift to His people. Giving His covenant people the promised land of Canaan was an expression of God’s grace. They needed to understand that they themselves would not and could not be able to take it themselves, even though God would use human agents to bring it to fruition. What’s more, using both the present and past tense together here recognizes that, while the Israelites were presently receiving this gift, the land had already belonged to them since God declared it so. Israel had been waiting on God’s timing to possess what was already theirs.

Verse 3 highlights God’s fulfillment of His promise. What does God’s faithfulness to keep His promises mean for you in your current circumstances?



Day 2: Joshua 1:4-5

Focus on God’s promises in verse 5.

These words closely echo the words God spoke when He described the land to Abraham in Genesis 15:18-20. The statement, “No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live,” repeats almost verbatim much of what God promised the people through Moses in Deuteronomy 11:25a. By carefully repeating these statements in this way, God was assuring Joshua and the people that He would be faithful to keep the promises He had made.

What God promised Joshua in the second part of verse 5 must have comforted Joshua and filled him with confidence at the same time. God promised, “I will be with you, just as I was with Moses.” God made the same promise to Moses when He commissioned him to lead His people out of Egypt (Ex. 3:12). Joshua’s memories of seeing what God did through Moses surely helped Joshua understand the meaning and weight of this promise. Also, God promised that He would “not leave” or “abandon” Joshua. Joshua’s success depended on the presence of God. This means the Lord would be an ever-present, faithful helper to Joshua.

How can you remind yourself daily of God’s presence in your life?



Day 3: Joshua 1:6-7

Identify the command that is repeated twice in these verses.

Earlier, the Lord instructed Moses to encourage Joshua because He would enable Joshua to lead the people into the land of Canaan and receive their inheritance from the Lord (Deut. 1:38; 3:28). Here, it was the Lord Himself who was encouraging Joshua. The Lord's command that Joshua "be strong and courageous" in these verses echoed the words of Moses's encouragement in Deuteronomy 31:6-7. Israel would need to see Joshua's strength and courage as an example to follow in the face of what would appear to be insurmountable challenges in the land of Canaan. Joshua would be the one who would distribute the land to the people as their inheritance.

Most importantly, Joshua needed to "be strong and very courageous" to "carefully" obey everything God commanded him. He was not to deviate from it at all. Obeying this command would be at the heart of Joshua's success. This is the reason the word *very* is added. Joshua's obedience to God's Word was more important than any military strategies he might employ in the heat of battle. The conquest would be more of a spiritual endeavor than it would be physical. Joshua would display his dependence on God and devotion to God through his faithful obedience to God. Then, God would receive all the glory for every victory won.

In what areas of your life do you need to be strong and courageous? What is holding you back?



Day 4: Joshua 1:8-11

Reflect on how God defines prosperity and success.

The command to not allow God's Word to "depart from your mouth" is closely connected to the command to "meditate" on God's Word. In Hebrew, the word *meditate* literally means to read in an undertone or to mutter. Joshua was commanded to continually speak God's Word to himself so that he would not only know what it said but also so that he would thoroughly obey "everything written in it." All who love the Lord will commit themselves to knowing His Word so that they may obey Him (John 14:15,21a).

God promised that Joshua would "prosper and succeed in whatever" he did if he obeyed Him. Prosperity and success in the Old Testament rarely focus on material wealth. The idea is that one will succeed in fulfilling a respectable purpose. Joshua would fulfill God's purpose for his life if he obeyed God's Word.

The Lord stated a third time for Joshua to "be strong and courageous" (see also vv. 6,7). Stating this command three times was the most emphatic way of communicating its importance in their culture. To emphasize the importance of this even more, God restated it negatively, imploring Joshua, "Do not be afraid or discouraged." From a human perspective, Joshua would have reason to be afraid, yet there was no reason to be afraid because God was with him wherever he would go.

What role does God's Word play in your definition of success? What steps can you take to ensure you do not "turn from it to the right or to the left"?



Day 5: Joshua 1:16-18

Take note of how the people responded to Joshua.

When the Israelites came to the land east of the Jordan River, the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh requested of Moses to allow them to settle on that side of the river. Moses granted their request (Num. 32:1-42; Deut. 2:26-3:17). However, Moses required them to help the other nine and a half tribes in conquering the land on the other side of the Jordan. Therefore, as the people prepared to cross the Jordan, Joshua reminded the two and a half tribes of their promise to help with the conquest (Josh. 1:13-15). They replied to Joshua by saying they would obey everything he commanded them to do just as they had obeyed Moses. Furthermore, they declared they recognized that the Lord would be with Joshua just as He was with Moses.

To communicate the gravity of this moment and the sincerity of their commitment to Joshua, these tribes committed to imposing the death penalty on any of their people who refused to obey Joshua. With that, they also encouraged Joshua as they communicated their solidarity with the Lord and support of Joshua by also calling on their leader to “be strong and courageous.”

How does the people’s response to Joshua in verse 16 challenge your attitude toward spiritual leadership?

APPLY THE TEXT

What are some of God’s promises that help you find courage in day-to-day life? How does remembering the promises of God in day-to-day life help prepare you for the challenging or difficult seasons in life?

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