



STUDY GUIDE FOR GROUPS OR INDIVIDUALS



PRIVATE DEVOTIONS

Introduction to the Book of Joshua

Overview

The Book of Joshua is the sixth book of the Bible and the first of the Historical Books in the Old Testament. It tells the story of how the Israelites, under Joshua's leadership, entered and took possession of the Promised Land (Canaan) after the death of Moses. The book focuses on God's faithfulness, the importance of obedience, and the leadership required to fulfill divine purpose.



Authorship & Date

Traditionally attributed to Joshua, with possible later editing.

Likely written during Joshua's lifetime (use of term "to this day", some passages might have been edited at a later date (c. 1200–1000 BC)).



Purpose & Key Themes

The overarching theme is the taking of the promised land. Joshua is a pivotal book in the biblical narrative. It is the culmination of the promise to Abraham, the liberation of Israel, the desert wanderings and now on the edge of the promised land!

The placement of Rahab in the book is very telling. Here a non-Jewish prostitute plays a key role in the victory of Israel. More is written about Rahab in the New Testament than Joshua! Jesus can trace his lineage back to this woman. Rahab shows us the wideness of the grace of God. He can use anyone to fulfill his will on Earth.

Major Themes:

- ✅ God's faithfulness to His covenant
 - ⚔️ The conquest of the Promised Land
 - 📖 The importance of obedience to God's Word
 - 🏡 Inheritance and division of the land
 - 👐 Covenant renewal and holy living
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📁 Structure of the Book

Section	Chapters	Summary
1. Entrance into the Land	1–5	Joshua is commissioned; Israel crosses the Jordan.
2. Conquest of the Land	6–12	Battles of Jericho, Ai, and the southern and northern campaigns.
3. Division of the Land	13–21	Land is allocated among the tribes of Israel.
4. Final Exhortations	22–24	Joshua's farewell and covenant renewal at Shechem.

👤 Key Figures

Joshua – Moses' successor and faithful military leader.

Rahab – A Canaanite woman whose faith helped the spies and saved her family.

The Israelites – God's chosen people carrying out His plan.

✨ Modern Relevance

Joshua is a powerful book about faith in action. It speaks to:

- Leading with courage
- Trusting God's timing and promises
- Living a life set apart in a secular world
- The cost and reward of obedience
- Grace of God (Rahab)

NOTE: This guide will not align exactly with the sermons as it was written before the Pastors wrote their sermons.

Joshua 1:1–9

Passage Focus

Joshua 1:1–9 — God commissions Joshua after the death of Moses, calling him to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land with strength, courage, and a deep commitment to God's Word.

Observation Questions (What does the text say?)

1. Who is speaking in this passage, and to whom?
2. What instructions does God give to Joshua?
3. What promises does God make to Joshua?
4. How many times is the phrase “be strong and courageous” repeated?
5. What is commanded regarding the Book of the Law in verse 8?

Interpretation Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why is the command to “be strong and courageous” emphasized repeatedly?
2. What does verse 5 mean when it says, “no one will be able to stand against you”?

3. What significance does God's promise "I will be with you" hold for Joshua?
4. Why is continual meditation on the Law connected to success?
- 5.. How does this passage show the leadership transition from Moses to Joshua?

Application Questions (How does it apply to us?)

1. Have you ever been asked to step into a new role or responsibility like Joshua? How did you respond?
2. What helps you stay strong and courageous in the face of fear or challenge?
3. How can you incorporate regular reflection on Scripture into your daily life?
4. Where in your life do you need to be reminded that God is with you?
5. What lessons from Joshua's call to leadership can you apply today—in your family, work, church, or community?

Joshua 6:22–27

Passage Focus

Joshua 6:22–27 — After the fall of Jericho, Joshua honors the promise made to Rahab for protecting the Israelite spies. This passage highlights God's mercy, the fulfillment of promises, and the lasting consequences of obedience and faith.

Observation Questions (What does the text say?)

1. What command does Joshua give concerning Rahab?
2. Who is responsible for rescuing Rahab and her family?
3. Where does Rahab end up living after her rescue?
4. What is done to the city of Jericho after its capture?
5. What curse does Joshua pronounce in verse 26?

Interpretation Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why is Rahab chosen by God?
2. What significance does Rahab in the story of the Bible, and ultimately to the gospel?
3. How does the destruction of Jericho reflect God's judgment and justice?
4. Why would Joshua place a curse on anyone who rebuilds Jericho?
5. What does this passage teach about keeping promises and oaths?

Application Questions (How does it apply to us?)

1. What can we learn from Rahab's story about the grace of God and the gospel?
2. Are there promises or commitments in your life that need to be honored like Joshua honored his?
3. How can you demonstrate God's mercy and faithfulness in your relationships?
4. What modern lessons can be drawn from Joshua's strong stance against rebuilding Jericho?
5. In what ways has God protected or delivered you, like He did Rahab and her family?

Joshua 3–4

Passage Focus

Joshua 3–4 — These chapters describe the miraculous crossing of the Jordan River as the Israelites enter the Promised Land. God parts the waters, and the people pass on dry ground. A memorial of twelve stones is set up to remember God's power and faithfulness.

Observation Questions (What does the text say?)

1. What instructions are given to the Israelites before crossing the Jordan River?
2. What role do the priests and the Ark of the Covenant play in the crossing?

3. How does the Jordan River respond to the presence of the Ark and the priests?
4. What does God command Joshua to do after the crossing is complete?
5. What is the purpose of the twelve stones taken from the Jordan River?

Interpretation Questions (What does it mean?)

1. Why does God part the Jordan River for the Israelites?
2. How does this event compare to the parting of the Red Sea in Exodus (Exodus 14)?
3. What do the actions of the priests symbolize in this story?
4. What is the significance of memorializing the crossing with stones?
5. How does this miracle affirm Joshua's leadership in the eyes of the people?

Application Questions (How does it apply to us?)

1. What 'Jordan Rivers' (obstacles) are you facing that require faith to cross?
2. How can you follow God's presence more closely, like the Israelites followed the Ark?
3. What spiritual 'memorials' can you create to remember God's faithfulness in your life?
4. How do you respond when God calls you to step out in faith before you see the outcome?
5. In what ways can you lead others by faith and example like Joshua and the priests did?

Joshua 6

Passage Focus

Joshua 6 — This chapter recounts the fall of Jericho, where God gives Israel victory through obedience to an unconventional battle plan.

The story emphasizes faith, obedience, God's power, and the fulfillment of His promises.

Observation Questions

(What does the text say?)

1. What command does God give Joshua regarding the city of Jericho?
 2. What are the Israelites instructed to do for six days?
 3. What happens on the seventh day of marching?
 4. What role do the priests, trumpets, and Ark of the Covenant play?
 5. What are the results of the people's obedience to God's instructions?
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Interpretation Questions

(What does it mean?)

1. Why do you think God chose such an unusual strategy for conquering Jericho?
 2. How does this story highlight the importance of obedience over logic or tradition?
 3. What does the silence of the people during the march represent?
 4. What is the spiritual significance of the Ark leading the procession?
 5. What can we learn about God's character from His instructions and the outcome?
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Application Questions

(How does it apply to us?)

1. Have you ever felt called to follow God's instructions even when they seemed unusual or difficult? What happened?
2. How can you practice obedience and trust in your daily walk with God?
3. What "walls" in your life might God be asking you to trust Him to bring down?
4. How can this story encourage you when facing overwhelming challenges?
5. What practical steps can you take to grow your faith through action like the Israelites did?

Joshua 7:1–5

Passage Focus

Joshua 7:1–5 — After the victory at Jericho, Israel suffers a surprising defeat at Ai. This passage reveals the consequences of hidden sin within the community and underscores the seriousness of disobedience to God's commands.

Observation Questions

(What does the text say?)

1. What sin is revealed in verse 1, and who is responsible?
 2. What instructions does Joshua give regarding the attack on Ai?
 3. How many men are sent to spy on Ai, and what report do they give?
 4. How many Israelite soldiers go up to fight Ai?
 5. What is the outcome of the battle, and how do the people react?
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Interpretation Questions

(What does it mean?)

1. Why was the entire nation of Israel affected by one man's disobedience?
 2. What does this passage reveal about the holiness and justice of God?
 3. How might Joshua's confidence in military strategy (without seeking God's guidance) be significant?
 4. Why is the fear and disheartenment of the people in verse 5 important?
 5. How does this moment contrast with the victory at Jericho in the previous chapter?
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Application Questions

(How does it apply to us?)

1. Are there "hidden sins" in your life that may be affecting your relationship with God or others?
2. How do you typically respond when experiencing unexpected failure or defeat?
3. What can this passage teach us about the importance of accountability and integrity?
4. In what ways might we rely on our own understanding rather than seeking God's direction?
5. How can we cultivate a heart that is sensitive to sin and quick to seek God's guidance?



Joshua 13:1

Passage Focus

Joshua 13:1 — This verse marks a pivotal moment in the book of Joshua, where God speaks to Joshua, informing him that he is old and that the work of dividing the land is not yet complete. God also outlines the remaining territories that need to be conquered.

Observation Questions

(What does the text say?)

1. What does God say about Joshua's age in this verse?
 2. What does God tell Joshua about the remaining work to be done in the land?
 3. Which regions are mentioned as needing to be conquered?
 4. How does the passage frame the current state of Israel's territorial possession?
 5. What does God's statement reveal about the scope of the task still ahead?
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Interpretation Questions

(What does it mean?)

1. Why do you think God emphasizes Joshua's age at this point in the narrative?
2. What is the significance of God acknowledging that there is still work to be done, even after so many victories?
3. How might Joshua feel about the work that is still ahead of him?

4. Why are specific regions listed as needing further conquest?
 5. What does this verse teach about the nature of God's plans for His people (i.e., ongoing work)?
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Application Questions

(How does it apply to us?)

1. How can we stay faithful to God's call, even when we feel we've completed much of the work He has for us?
2. Are there areas in your life where you've started something but haven't yet completed it? What can you learn from this passage?
3. How does this verse challenge you to persevere, knowing that God's work in your life isn't finished yet?
4. How do you respond when God reveals that there's still more to accomplish in your life or ministry?
5. In what ways can you embrace God's work, even when it seems daunting or unfinished?

Joshua 22:1–18

Passage Focus

Joshua 22:1–18 — In this passage, Joshua addresses the eastern tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh after they have helped their fellow Israelites conquer the Promised Land. Joshua praises them for their faithfulness and encourages them to continue following God's commands, warning against rebellion.

Observation Questions

(What does the text say?)

1. What is the main message Joshua delivers to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh?
 2. How does Joshua praise the eastern tribes for their actions?
 3. What specific command does Joshua give to these tribes regarding their relationship with God?
 4. What misunderstanding arises regarding the altar that the eastern tribes build?
 5. How do the Israelites in the western tribes react when they hear about the altar?
 6. What are the actions and concerns of the tribes of Israel in response to the altar?
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Interpretation Questions

(What does it mean?)

1. Why is it significant that Joshua commends the eastern tribes for their faithfulness and obedience to God?
 2. How does Joshua's reminder of God's command to serve Him wholeheartedly tie into the larger message of the passage?
 3. Why do you think the building of the altar causes such a strong reaction from the western tribes?
 4. What does the misunderstanding about the altar reveal about the challenges of maintaining unity within the Israelite tribes?
 5. How does the situation reflect the potential for division even when there is a shared faith in God?
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Application Questions

(How does it apply to us?)

1. Have you ever experienced a misunderstanding or conflict with others in your community or church? How was it resolved?
2. What steps can we take to prevent miscommunication or division when dealing with sensitive matters within the body of Christ?
3. How can we build bridges of unity, like the eastern and western tribes, instead of allowing misunderstandings to divide us?
4. What does it mean for you personally to “serve the Lord with all your heart” as Joshua encourages?
5. How do you ensure that your actions, especially in community, reflect your commitment to following God’s commands?

Joshua 22–23

Passage Focus

Joshua 22–23 — In these chapters, Joshua addresses the tribes of Israel as they settle in the Promised Land. He emphasizes faithfulness to God, the importance of obedience to His commands, and the need to avoid idols. Joshua’s farewell addresses serve as a final reminder to the people to remain faithful to God.

Observation Questions

(What does the text say?)

Joshua 22:

1. What message does Joshua give to the eastern tribes (Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh) before they return to their land?

2. What reasons does Joshua give for their faithfulness to God's commands during the conquest?
3. How do the eastern tribes respond to Joshua's charge?
4. What concerns arise regarding the altar built by the eastern tribes?
5. How is the potential conflict over the altar resolved?

Joshua 23:

1. What does Joshua remind the Israelites about the victories they've experienced?
 2. What warnings does Joshua give to the Israelites in terms of their relationship with the Canaanites and their gods?
 3. How does Joshua describe the consequences of disobedience to God?
 4. What is Joshua's final exhortation to the Israelites before his death?
 5. What does Joshua say about God's faithfulness to His promises?
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Interpretation Questions

(What does it mean?)

Joshua 22:

1. Why does Joshua praise the eastern tribes for their obedience, even as they prepare to leave the rest of Israel?
2. What is the significance of the altar that the eastern tribes build, and why is it initially misunderstood?
3. How does this misunderstanding about the altar reflect the importance of communication and unity in the body of believers?
4. Why do you think the eastern tribes felt the need to build the altar?
5. What does the resolution of the altar conflict teach us about conflict resolution in the church?

Joshua 23:

1. Why is it important for Joshua to remind the Israelites of God's faithfulness and victories?

2. What is the danger of being influenced by the Canaanites, and how can this apply to our lives today?
 3. Why does Joshua strongly urge the Israelites to cling to God and His commands?
 4. How does Joshua balance God's promises with the warning of disobedience and judgment?
 5. How does Joshua's farewell speech reflect the heart of a leader who desires the people to continue faithfully following God?
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Application Questions

(How does it apply to us?)

Joshua 22:

1. Are there times when you have experienced misunderstandings or miscommunication with others in the church or community? How can you handle these situations better?
2. How can you ensure that your actions are always aligned with God's will, especially in matters of faith and obedience?
3. What steps can you take to maintain unity in the body of Christ, even when you have different perspectives?
4. How can we be more transparent in our relationships with others, especially when it comes to faith matters?
5. How does this passage challenge you to remain faithful and loyal to God, even when you might be physically separated from the larger community?

Joshua 23:

1. How can you personally guard against the temptation to be influenced by the "gods" or distractions of this world?
2. How can we encourage one another to stay true to God's commands in a culture that often promotes contrary values?
3. What are the specific areas of your life where you need to recommit yourself to God's commands?

4. In what ways can you actively remind yourself and others of God's faithfulness to His promises?
5. How does Joshua's farewell speech challenge you to live with intentionality in your walk with God, especially as you look toward the future?

Conclusion

The Book of Joshua serves as both a historical narrative and a theological reflection on God's faithfulness and Israel's obedience. The conquest of Canaan demonstrates God's power to fulfill His promises, while the division of the land shows His faithfulness to keep His word. Joshua's final speeches call Israel to remember God's covenant and remain loyal to Him, highlighting the importance of choosing to serve God wholeheartedly.

The key themes of the book include:

God's Faithfulness: God keeps His promises, whether it's delivering Israel from Egypt or giving them the land of Canaan.

Obedience and Disobedience: The success of Israel is tied to their obedience to God, while failure and defeat come when they turn away from His commands.

Covenant Relationship: The relationship between God and Israel is based on a covenant, and Joshua emphasizes the importance of Israel's faithfulness to God, not just in word but in action.

Leadership and Legacy: Joshua's leadership reflects obedience, courage, and reliance on God. His final words serve as a model for all believers to choose whom they will serve and to commit to God.

In conclusion, the Book of Joshua is a powerful reminder that God is faithful to His promises and that His people must remain faithful to Him. It challenges modern readers to reflect on their own commitment to God, to live in obedience, and to trust in His faithfulness for the future.

The Book of Joshua also points forward to another leader who will lead his people into the ultimate Promised Land and final rest. The church of Jesus Christ today is not a national or ethnic entity. It is a global enterprise made up of a diversity of people groups. We are not confined to one geographical area.

The Promised Land we are headed to is God's kingdom come, his will done on earth as it is heaven. Joshua contains many truths that can guide us as we plan our part in "taking" land currently occupied by the enemy,