



GOD'S ROUTE 66, PART 4: CONQUEST TO COMPROMISE

Most people don't drift away from God all at once. It usually happens slowly—one compromise at a time. Joshua shows us the power of courage and obedience, while Judges reveals the danger of compromise and spiritual drift. Ruth reminds us that even in dark seasons, God is still faithful and still working redemption into our story. These books challenge us to examine where we are compromising and call us back to wholehearted trust in God.

BIG IDEA: Small compromises create big consequences.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. What is one area of life where consistency is difficult—but incredibly important?
2. With your Bible or Bible App, [read Joshua 1:1–9](#).

¹ After the death of Moses the LORD's servant, the LORD spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant. He said, ² "Moses my servant is dead. Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them. ³ I promise you what I promised Moses: 'Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you—⁴ from the Negev wilderness in the south to the Lebanon mountains in the north, from the Euphrates River in the east to the Mediterranean Sea in the west, including all the land of the Hittites.' ⁵ No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you. ⁶ "Be strong and courageous, for you are the one who will lead these people to possess all the land I swore to their ancestors I would give them. ⁷ Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. ⁸ Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. ⁹ This is my command—be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go." [Joshua 1:1-9 \(NLT\)](#)

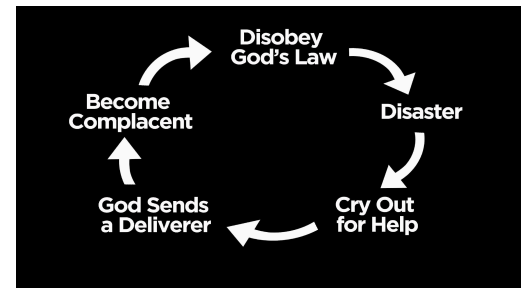
3. God repeatedly tells Joshua to "be strong and courageous." Why do you think Joshua needed to hear that so many times?
4. What fears or challenges tend to make you feel overwhelmed right now? How does God's presence give courage during uncertain seasons?
5. With your Bible or Bible App, [read Joshua 23:6–13](#).

⁶ "So be very careful to follow everything Moses wrote in the Book of Instruction. Do not deviate from it, turning either to the right or to the left. ⁷ Make sure you do not associate with the other people still remaining in the land. Do not even mention the names of their gods, much less swear by them or serve them or worship them. ⁸ Rather, cling tightly to the LORD your God as you have done until now. ⁹ For the LORD has driven out great and powerful nations for you, and no one has yet been able to defeat you. ¹¹ So be very careful to love the LORD your God. ¹² "But if you turn away from him and cling to the customs of the survivors of these nations remaining among you, and if you intermarry with them, ¹³ then know for certain that the LORD your God will no longer drive them out of your land. Instead, they will be a snare and a trap to you, a whip for your backs and thorny brambles in your eyes, and you will vanish from this good land the LORD your God has given you. [Joshua 23:6-13 \(NLT\)](#)

6. Joshua warned Israel not to compromise with the surrounding culture. What are some modern compromises that slowly pull people away from God?
7. Why do “small compromises” often seem harmless at first? Have you ever seen a small compromise grow into a much bigger problem?
8. Discuss the Big Idea: “Small compromises create big consequences.” Why is compromise usually gradual instead of sudden?
9. What is one area where people are most tempted to compromise today? How can accountability and community help us stay spiritually strong?
10. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Judges 21:25*

In those days Israel had no king; all the people did whatever seemed right in their own eyes.

[Judges 21:25 \(NLT\)](#)



11. The book of Judges repeats the same cycle again. Which part of that cycle do you relate to most personally?
12. Why do people tend to repeat destructive patterns even after learning hard lessons? What helps break unhealthy spiritual cycles?
13. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Ruth 1:16–17.*

¹⁶ But Ruth replied, “Don’t ask me to leave you and turn back. Wherever you go, I will go; wherever you live, I will live. Your people will be my people, and your God will be my God. ¹⁷ Wherever you die, I will die, and there I will be buried. May the LORD punish me severely if I allow anything but death to separate us!”

[Ruth 1:16-17 \(NLT\)](#)

14. Ruth remained loyal to Naomi even during grief and uncertainty. What stands out to you about Ruth’s loyalty and faithfulness? Why is faithfulness often most visible during difficult seasons?
15. Who has modeled faithful love and commitment in your life?
16. *With your Bible or Bible App, read Ruth 4:13–17.*

¹³ So Boaz took Ruth into his home, and she became his wife. When he slept with her, the LORD enabled her to become pregnant, and she gave birth to a son. ¹⁴ Then the women of the town said to Naomi, “Praise the LORD, who has now provided a redeemer for your family! May this child be famous in Israel. ¹⁵ May he restore your youth and care for you in your old age. For he is the son of your daughter-in-law who loves you and has been better to you than seven sons!” ¹⁶ Naomi took the baby and cuddled him to her breast. And she cared for him as if he were her own. ¹⁷ The neighbor women said, “Now at last Naomi has a son again!” And they named him Obed. He became the father of Jesse and the grandfather of David.

[Ruth 4:13-17 \(NLT\)](#)

17. God used Ruth—a Moabite widow—to become part of the lineage of Jesus. What does Ruth’s story teach us about God’s grace and redemption?
18. How does this encourage people who feel overlooked, broken, or disqualified? Can you think of a difficult season in your life that God later used for good?
19. The sermon compared Joshua and Judges:

Joshua = obedience and victory

Judges = compromise and bondage

Which book better describes your current spiritual season—and why?

MOVING FORWARD

This week, ask God to reveal any “small compromises” that may be quietly pulling you away from Him. Don’t ignore what seems small today, because compromise grows over time. Recommit yourself to God’s truth, God’s people, and God’s purpose for your life.

WEEKLY READING

This week, spend some time reading and reflecting on Joshua 1 and Joshua 23-24, Judges 2, Judges 6-7, 1 Corinthians 10:12-13.