

RISE

Joshua Series, Week 1 (Joshua 1-4)

September 10 (Sunday)

Joshua 1:1-9

“Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people . . .” (vs. 2, ESV).

How attentive do you believe you are to God’s prompting? How has God spoken to or prompted you in your past? What makes it difficult to hear, feel or be sensitive to the promptings of God? What holds us back from acting when God calls us to move? In what area(s) could God be calling us to “arise and go” or “arise and do” as we serve Him?

“I will not fail you or abandon you” (vs. 5) . . . For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go” (vs. 9).

What does Joshua 1:1-9 reveal about God’s character? What does that mean to you? What encouragement do you draw from this passage, and why? Do you believe these promises? Why or why not? How can these promises specifically help you in your daily life this week?

As God calls Joshua to move forward as the leader of the Israelites, He charges him to be: strong, courageous, careful, obedient, disciplined, a student and deliberate (Joshua 1:6-9).

On a scale of 1-10, where would you rank yourself on each of these seven elements when it comes to taking action on what God has directed you to do? Any insight about yourself (what does it say about you) that may highlight an area in which you could be strong or weak? Identify two things (actions, behaviors, ways of thinking) you can take this week that will help you respond strongly and courageously.

What does God’s command in Joshua 1:8—to continuously study His Word (Book of Instruction/Law) and to mediate on it day and night—show about the value and importance of reading your Bible and then putting what you’ve read into practice? Why is this a struggle for many of us?

September 11 (Monday)

Joshua 1:10-18

After receiving the charge to be strong and courageous, Joshua takes God at His word. He immediately calls the officers of Israel together and informs and instructs them about moving forward to take possession of land across the Jordan River.

Is it your tendency to take God at His Word? What situation or circumstance do you need to trust God with today? What does Joshua’s command to the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh show us about family helping family and working together as a team with other followers of Christ?

September 12 (Tuesday)

Joshua 2:1-18

Joshua sends two spies to scout out the land across the Jordan. The men are detected as they enter the city of Jericho, but a prostitute named Rahab helps them avoid capture. She tells the spies “I know that the Lord has given you this land,” (vs. 9) and then hides them in her roof in exchange for a guarantee of safety for her family when the Israelites attack the city.

Think back over the past year. What’s one example of God watching over and providing for you in a way you didn’t expect? Who has God used to encourage you in a stressful or difficult situation? Are you in the habit of looking for and recognizing God’s provision and then thanking Him for it?

September 13 (Wednesday)

Joshua 3:1-17

Upon the return of the two spies, Joshua and the Israelites move forward to the banks of the Jordan River. God then directs Joshua to command the priests to carry the Ark of the Covenant into the Jordan and to stop there (vs. 8). The priests did as they were commanded, and as soon as their feet touched the flood level water, the river ceased to flow which allowed all the people to cross over to a place near Jericho on dry ground.

What does this account show about the relationship between having faith and taking action? What step(s) is God asking you to take in faith as you move forward with Him?

September 14 (Thursday)

Joshua 4:1-23

God's final instruction to Joshua as the Israelites crossed the Jordan River was for the Israelites to erect a twelve-stone memorial so that the present-day Israelites and the generations to follow would have a tangible reminder of the miracle God performed on their behalf. "This is where the Israelites crossed the Jordan on dry ground" (vs. 22).

Why are spiritual memorials (things that help us remember how God provided and/or moved on our behalf) important? Do you have any spiritual memorials (whatever that may be) to help you remember things like God's goodness or faithfulness through a difficult situation, your salvation, baptism, baby dedication, marriage vows? Do you make it a point to tell others, and particularly children, about God's greatness and what He has done for you?

September 15 (Friday)

Joshua 4:1-23

As the priests stood in the middle of the dry Jordan River holding the Ark of the Covenant, the Israelites "hurried" across the riverbed (vs. 10). This mass of people included the armed warriors from the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh who were "ready for battle" (vs. 13).

What do the details from verses 10 and 13 (above) show us about responding to and following God's instructions? As you serve the Lord, would you describe yourself as having a sense of urgency and being "ready for battle"?

September 16 (Saturday)

Spend some time reflecting on what you read and learned from Joshua 1-4. Then read Joshua 5-8 in preparation for Sunday's message.