

The With-God Journey

Date: March 19, 2023

Text: Joshua 1:1-11

Title: Getting the Bible Through You

Pastor Dave Ripper

Description: Picture someone who you believe is successful. What makes them a success? How did they become successful? This week—as we continue our series, The With-God Journey—we're going to discover the Bible's picture of success as we study the life of Joshua. No matter how successful or not you believe yourself to be, God is inviting you to learn the art of living well—to make your one life matter most.

Small Group Questions

1. How did you grow up viewing success? What was/is the path to “success” for you?
2. Read Joshua 1:1-9. Consider reading it in another translation from the one you just heard. What words or phrases capture your attention most and why?
3. In his book, *The Great Omission*, Dallas Willard writes, “I often tell people I can give them one verse that is worth more than any college education, and it is Joshua 1:8.” Why do you believe Dallas would say this verse is more important than a college education?
4. Throughout this series we've contended that the Bible is all about the with-God life. How would you define the with-God life? Old Testament scholar, John Goldingay, contends that God's promise to Joshua, “I will be with you” in English suggests that we will have a sense that God is with us. But in the Bible, he writes, it suggests something objective, not merely subjective. It means “God will make sure things work out.” In the case of Joshua, God being with him means he will succeed in the task set before him. How does this interpretation of God being with Joshua shape your understanding of the with-God life?
5. Joshua was commanded to keep the Book of the Law on his lips. One text from the law is Deuteronomy 6:1-9. How did God's people practically keep God's Word before them? How were they to pass it onto others? What is the connection between “loving the Lord your God” and obeying his word?
6. What approach or approaches do you use to study and meditate on Scripture? (Examples include the R.E.A.P. Method which stands for Read, Examine, Apply, Pray. Or the inductive Bible study method which involves making observations about the text, interpreting the text, and finally, applying the text.)

7. Memorizing Scripture is an essential way we can meditate upon it. Take a few minutes individually to work on memorizing Joshua 1:8. Practice reciting it to another in your group. "Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful."

8. Close by praying for one another.

Pastor Jake Scott

1. Jake started by talking about all-time great motivational speeches. These could be coaching speeches, movie generals before battle, politicians, you trying to get your kids to do their homework... Do you have a favorite motivational speech? What do all great motivational speeches have in common?

2. Read Joshua 1:1-3 together. Why do you think God's promise in verse three is a dependant promise? Why didn't God want the first action to be the Isrealites?

3. This may be a little harder, but can anyone think of a time when God called them to something that they delayed, or didn't do right away?

4. Read Joshua 1:6-7 together. Jake talked about "I said so" (legalism) vs. "You want this" obedience. One tells people what to do, and the other casts a vision for the result of right behavior. Have you seen how these paradigms play out, and you can answer from either side of the equation?

5. The verbs of this passage feel backwards. They were Set, Obey, Meditate. At first this feels like backwards in how life works, Jake talked about the work of Janet Hagberg to outline a common spiritual journey. That journey is pictured below. Discuss this journey. Did anything surprise you? How have you seen this play out in your own life?

