

Session 6: Be Strong and Courageous: Following Joshua into God's Promises

Lesson Summary: This lesson explores the life of Joshua as a model of courageous faith, examining how he transitioned from Moses' faithful assistant to the leader who brought Israel into the Promised Land. The lesson emphasizes that true courage is displayed in the face of fear, and true strength is shown when confronting obstacles. Joshua's life demonstrates the importance of positioning ourselves close to God, following godly mentors, and trusting in God's power rather than our own abilities. The lesson culminates in a powerful typological connection between Joshua (Yeshua in Hebrew) and Jesus Christ, showing how Joshua's leading Israel across the Jordan River on dry ground prefigures Christ's work in overcoming sin (which entered at Adam) and providing a way for believers to enter God's rest. The call throughout is to be strong and courageous, not wavering from God's Word, and to leave a legacy of faith that impacts generations beyond our own lives.

Key Points:

- God's repeated command to Joshua was "be strong and courageous" - a charge needed when facing fear and obstacles
- Courage is only displayed in the presence of fear; strength is only shown when there are obstacles to overcome
- Joshua positioned himself as close to God as possible, waiting outside the tent of meeting, demonstrating his hunger for God's presence
- Discipleship works through proximity - as Joshua followed Moses, he began to care about what Moses cared about and what broke God's heart
- We can be as close to God as we want to be; it's our choice how much time we spend with Him
- Joshua's faith contrasted with the unbelief of the previous generation who refused to enter the Promised Land
- The miracle of crossing the Jordan River on dry ground paralleled the Red Sea crossing, establishing Joshua's leadership and God's continuing power
- Joshua is a "type of Christ" - his Hebrew name Yeshua is the same as Jesus, and his leading people into the Promised Land prefigures Christ leading us into eternal rest

- The waters stopped at the city of Adam (19 miles upstream), symbolizing how Christ went back to undo what the first Adam did through sin
- The water flowing toward the Dead Sea represents how sin leads to death, but God stopped the flow at Adam through Christ's work
- Joshua's legacy extended beyond his lifetime - the people served God all his days and the days of the elders who outlived him
- We are called to leave a legacy that ripples beyond our own lives, passing faith to future generations

Scripture Reference:

- Joshua 1:6-9 (primary focus - "Be strong and courageous")
- Joshua 1:16-18 (the people's charge to Joshua)
- Joshua 10:25 (encouragement to be strong and courageous in battle)
- Exodus 33:11 (Joshua not departing from the tent of meeting)
- Exodus 24:13 (Joshua accompanying Moses up Mount Sinai)
- Numbers 14:1-10 (Joshua and Caleb's faithful report and the people's rebellion)
- Joshua 3:1-17 (crossing the Jordan River on dry ground)
- Matthew 5:6 (blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness)
- Hebrews 3:14-19 (warning against unbelief like the generation in the wilderness)
- Romans 5:12-19 (Adam brought sin, Christ brought righteousness)
- Judges 2:7 (the people served the Lord all the days of Joshua)
- John 15 (abide in Christ)

Stories:

- Adam Morgan's personal story about trying to pull up a cemented fence post and realizing his father possessed a strength beyond his own, illustrating how we need God's strength to overcome obstacles we cannot handle alone

- The account of Caleb Jett inviting Adam to Crossgates Church when he first came to Mississippi College, demonstrating how one invitation can change a life trajectory
- The friendship with Caleb in college who drank 18 Dr. Peppers in one day, illustrating how proximity to someone causes you to adopt their preferences and characteristics
- Adam asking his parents why they named him Adam despite the negative association with bringing sin into the world, and their response that Adam walked with God in the garden before the fall
- The historical account of Joshua and Caleb as the two faithful spies among the twelve who believed God could give them the Promised Land
- Joshua's positioning outside the tent of meeting, refusing to leave even when Moses departed, showing his hunger for God's presence
- The miraculous crossing of the Jordan River when it was at flood stage (a mile wide), with the waters stopping 19 miles upstream at the city of Adam
- The parallel between the Red Sea crossing under Moses and the Jordan River crossing under Joshua, establishing continuity of God's power across generations
- The previous generation's refusal to enter the Promised Land despite seeing the ten plagues, the parting of the Red Sea, and God's continual provision in the wilderness