



The Announcement PT. I | Joshua | Mark Allen | 11.30.25

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together with prayer.

Icebreaker

Icebreaker Question: What's one area of your life where you feel God has given you "title and deed" but you haven't yet "taken possession"?

Key Sermon Themes

Understanding the Names

- **Joshua (Yahshua)** = "The Lord is Salvation"
- **Jesus (Yeshua)** = "I Am Salvation"
- **Emmanuel** = "God With Us"

Key Insight: Joshua still needed a Savior (Yahweh), but Jesus said "I AM salvation."

Discussion Questions:

Part 1: The Lord's Preparation (15 minutes)

Read Joshua 1:1-9

1. God told Israel He had given them the land, but they still had to "take possession" of it. What does this teach us about God's promises and our responsibility?

2. The people of Jericho were terrified for 40 years while Israel wandered in the wilderness. What opportunities might we be missing because of fear or disobedience?
3. God repeated "Be strong and courageous" three times. Why do you think Christians struggle so much with fear today? What specific fears are holding you back?

Reflection: Where has God already prepared a path for your life that you haven't stepped into yet?

Part 2: The Lord's Positioning (15 minutes)

Read Joshua 3:14-17 & Colossians 2:11-12

4. The Israelites had to step into the flooded Jordan River before God rolled it back. What does this teach us about faith and obedience working together?
5. Why did God require circumcision right before battle? What does "removal of the flesh" look like in our daily Christian walk?
6. How does water baptism serve as the New Testament picture of what happened at the Jordan crossing?

Personal Application: Have you been baptized? If not, what's holding you back from this act of obedience?

Part 3: The Lord's Plan (15 minutes)

Read Joshua 5:13-15 & Joshua 6:1-5

7. Joshua met the "Captain of the Lord's host" (Jesus) before the battle. Why is it significant that Jesus appeared with a sword (representing God's Word)?
8. God's plan to defeat Jericho (marching and shouting) didn't make logical sense. When has God asked you to do something that didn't make sense, but you obeyed anyway?
9. Pastor Mark emphasized meditating on God's Word "day and night" (Joshua 1:8). How much time are you currently spending in God's Word? What changes need to be made?

Challenge: "You show me how much time you're spending in God's word, and I'll show you how much you're actually claiming." Practical Applications

Part 4: Joshua's Announcement (10 minutes)

Read Joshua 24:14-15

10. Joshua declared, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." What does it practically look like to make this declaration over your home and family today?
11. Pastor Mark asked: "Are there areas of your life where you're still living in the wilderness?" What would it look like to cross over into the "promised land" in those areas?

Key Takeaways

- **God has already given us the title and deed** to spiritual blessings, but we must step out in faith to take possession of them.
- **Be strong and courageous** - God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind.
- **Meditate on God's Word day and night** - Pastor's message on Sunday isn't enough to sustain us all week.
- **God's plan is always better than ours** - Even when it doesn't make logical sense.
- **Choose today whom you will serve** - Make the announcement over your life, home, and family.

Practical Applications

This Week's Action Steps:

1. Daily Word Commitment

- Commit to reading God's Word for at least 15 minutes each day this week
- Choose a specific time and place
- Share your commitment with the group for accountability

2. Identify Your "Jordan River"

- Write down one area where God is calling you to step out in faith
- What's the first step of obedience you need to take?
- Pray specifically about this each day

3. Remove the Flesh

- Ask the Holy Spirit to reveal areas of "flesh" that need to be removed
- If you haven't been baptized, consider signing up for the December 14th baptism
- Identify one habit or attitude that needs to die so Christ can live more fully in you

4. Make Your Announcement

- Write out your own version of "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord"
- Share it with your family or post it somewhere visible in your home
- Declare God's Word over your home, marriage, children, and circumstances

Prayer Focus (10 minutes)

Pray together for:

- Courage to step into what God has already given us
- Removal of fear and embrace of boldness
- Commitment to God's Word daily
- Specific "Jordan Rivers" group members are facing
- Families and homes to fully serve the Lord

Closing Declaration:

Have each person declare: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord!"

Before Next Week

- Read Joshua chapters 1-6 in preparation for continued discussion
 - Journal about areas where you're "taking new ground" in faith
 - Encourage one another through text or calls about daily Word reading.
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Leader Notes

- Be sensitive to those who may not have been baptized - make it invitational, not condemning
 - Allow space for people to share fears they're struggling with
 - Celebrate testimonies of where people have stepped out in faith
 - Consider having someone share about their baptism experience if applicable
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