

LESSON 12 | THE BEGINNINGS

WEEK 12: DAY 1

THE THREAD

DISCOVERING THE THREAD OF THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE BIG-PICTURE STORY OF THE BIBLE

“For the grace of God has appeared, bringing salvation for all people,” - Titus 2:11

You’re going to continue your look at the Israelites’ journey to inherit the land promised to them by God. As you continue to uncover the big-picture story of the Bible, keep in mind that the Promised Land represents God’s faithfulness to His covenant with Abraham. Sure, God has kept His promise to make Abraham the father of a great nation. But that nation needed a home. For the Israelites, the Promised Land was a major part of their salvation as a nation. But the source of our salvation is much different.

God doesn’t save nations or people groups. God saves individuals. And as individuals, our salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ, God’s Son. God sent Jesus to die on the Cross as payment for the penalty of our sin.

Today, memorize Titus 2:11.

The only way that we can be saved from our sin is through faith in Jesus. Having faith in Jesus means that you believe that Jesus is who He says He is. When you come to salvation in Christ, your life is completely renewed, freed from the effects of sin (2 Corinthians 5:17). You are a new creation!

LESSON 12 | THE BEGINNINGS

WEEK 12: DAY 2



“Then all the congregation raised a loud cry, and the people wept that night. And all the people of Israel grumbled against Moses and Aaron. The whole congregation said to them, ‘Would that we had died in the land of Egypt! Or would that we had died in this wilderness!’” - Numbers 14:1-2

If you have ever hung out with little kids, you know that once they have lost interest in an activity, they become masters of complaining. “It’s too hot.” “I don’t want to.” “Do we have to?” This gets SUPER annoying, especially if you are trying to do something that benefits them. In the Old Testament, this annoying character trait was referred to frequently as “grumbling.” And boy did the Israelites like to grumble to God, to Moses, and to others.

Read Numbers 14:1-4 and 26-35.

Here the Israelites are tired of walking with God on His journey into the Promised Land. They are mad at Moses for leading them. And they are being so ungrateful that they claim slavery in Egypt would be better than where they found themselves. Seriously, they were willing to go back to slavery in Egypt in order to get out of the desert.

At the core, the Israelites’ showed that they didn’t trust God or believe in His promises. This caused God to respond to them with judgment. The complaining people would never see the Promised Land. God would cause them to wander in the desert until their generation was dead. Their kids ultimately got to experience the blessings of the Promised Land.

The key question for us from this text is, “Do I trust, follow, and believe in God”? As Christ-followers, we so often want our own way. We think we know better than God. But today’s passage stands as a clear reminder that we do not. We need to surrender to God’s will and plan for our lives. God may not be bringing us into the physical Promised Land, but He is leading us to become the person He has made us to be.

Something To Think About...

- How can you avoid complaining in your own life?
- How is your attitude toward God’s leadership over your life?
- What are some areas where you need to surrender more fully to God’s plans for your life?

LESSON 12 | THE BEGINNINGS

WEEK 12: DAY 3



“It is the LORD who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed.” - Deuteronomy 31:8

Have you ever had to take someone else’s place? Perhaps you have an older sibling, and you have always felt like you’ve walked in his/her shadow. Maybe you were elected the next president of your class or organization. Or maybe you made it onto the team you tried out so hard for, but there was a strong legacy you had to follow.

Read Deuteronomy 31:1-8.

Moses had just accomplished a lot for Israel, and Joshua was chosen to take his place. Can you imagine the expectations that Israel had for Joshua? Everyone has felt the weight of heavy expectations, even expectations to follow in someone’s footsteps. But God promises to Israel and to Joshua: Don’t be afraid. I will give you what you need.

Now read Deuteronomy 34:1-9.

Israel grieves Moses’ death. But take a look again at verse 9. God gave Joshua wisdom, fulfilling God’s promise never to leave him. The result was that Israel followed and respected Joshua. God followed through with His promise to take care of Joshua, miraculously protecting him and Israel.

Something To Think About...

- What are some of the fears that you woke up with today? What does this promise in Deuteronomy mean for you and your fears?
- How can this passage encourage you to remember that God keeps His promises and does whatever He can to protect you?

LESSON 12 | THE BEGINNINGS

WEEK 12: DAY 4

THE THREAD

DISCOVERING THE THREAD OF THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE BIG-PICTURE STORY OF THE BIBLE

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” - Joshua 1:8-9

Read Joshua 1:1-9.

Rules can be kind of scary. But we know that rules also come with a promise. When Joshua became the leader of Israel, God issued a promise as well as a command in verse 8. Follow God’s laws at all times, and you will prosper.

This sounds like a really hard command to follow God’s entire Law. But look at the language used in verse 1. God wants you to look at the laws as something that is on your heart and mind all the time. From there, your heart will be drawn to follow God’s rules, motivated by love for Him. And the best part is, He is going to be right there with you the entire way.

Following the laws of God is not simply to “keep you out of trouble.” By following these things, the goal should be to learn more about who He is. The character that you develop throughout this rule-following will point to God’s character. Although Joshua was likely very nervous about being the best possible leader he could be, he could find comfort in allowing God to be his leader. And you can too!

Something To Think About...

- What are some of God’s commands that are hard to follow? What can you lose by avoiding that command? What can you gain?
- Why do you think it means for people to “meditate on the law, day and night”? What are some ways that you can begin doing that?

LESSON 12 | THE BEGINNINGS

WEEK 12: DAY 5

THE THREAD

DISCOVERING THE THREAD OF THE GOSPEL THROUGH THE BIG-PICTURE STORY OF THE BIBLE

“So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them.”
- Genesis 1:27

“And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, ‘Go, view the land, especially Jericho.’ And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there.”
- Joshua 2:1

Have you ever felt called to a task that seemed too big for you?

Read chapter 2 of Joshua.

Rahab was a prostitute, which was just as controversial then as it is today! Even though Rahab would have been judged harshly by others because she was actively living in sin, God still allowed her to be an important part of His mission. Rahab would have understood that she was not anyone’s first choice to help out, and she was probably nervous to even offer her help. However, Joshua put his trust in Rahab, and Rahab trusted that she could be used in a positive way despite her sinful choices up to this point.

Sometimes we don’t realize our potential to be used by God. At times, we can feel different from everyone else, like our differences make us so separate that God can’t use us. Today, remind yourself that it doesn’t matter what sets you apart: God can use anybody He chooses to use for His glory. Do not let your past keep you from what God will do through you in the future! You matter to him, regardless of how capable or worthy you believe yourself to be.

Something To Think About...

- What can you tell yourself when you’re feeling unworthy to remind yourself that you are loved by God?
- How could this fact change the way that you treat others?