

Small Group Guide: Jesus in the Old Testament – Joshua



Summary:

In this exploration of the Book of Joshua, we uncover a treasure trove of spiritual insights that point directly to Jesus Christ. The very structure of the Old Testament reveals a profound truth: where the law (represented by Moses) could not enter the Promised Land, Joshua – sharing the same name as Jesus (Yeshua) – leads God's people into their inheritance. This parallel reminds us that what the law cannot accomplish, Jesus fulfills. As we delve into Joshua's conquest of Canaan, we see striking similarities to Christ's second coming as described in Revelation. From the two spies sent ahead (mirroring the two witnesses in Revelation) to the seven-day march around Jericho (echoing the seven trumpets), these connections invite us to view the Old Testament with fresh eyes. They challenge us to seek Jesus in every part of Scripture, recognizing that even ancient conquest narratives can reveal profound truths about our Savior and His plans for us.

Opening Discussion:

1. What's your typical approach to reading the Old Testament? Do you find it challenging or enriching?
2. Have you ever discovered an unexpected "treasure" in Scripture? Share your experience.

Key Takeaways:

1. The Old Testament is full of rich symbolism and foreshadowing of Jesus.
2. Joshua (Yeshua) Parallels Christ, leading people into the Promised Land where the law (Moses) couldn't.
3. Many events in Joshua parallel Jesus' second coming as described in Revelation.
4. Cities of refuge in Joshua symbolize Christ as our refuge and high priest.

Discussion Questions:

1. How does understanding the connection between Joshua and Jesus enrich your reading of the Old Testament?
2. Discuss the parallels between the conquest of Jericho and events in Revelation. How do these similarities strengthen your faith?
3. How does the story of Rahab and the scarlet cord remind you of Christ's sacrifice?
4. In what ways do you see Jesus as your "city of refuge"? How does this impact your daily life?
5. Why do you think God used so much symbolism and foreshadowing in the Old Testament?

Practical Applications:

1. This week, read through the book of Joshua with "new eyes," looking for connections to Jesus and the gospel.
2. Practice sharing one Old Testament story with someone, explaining how it points to Christ.
3. Reflect on areas in your life where you need to "cut away the flesh" (like circumcision) and surrender more fully to God.
4. Consider how you can be a "light to the world" in your daily interactions, representing God to others as Israel was meant to do.

Closing Prayer:

Thank God for the richness of His Word and ask for wisdom to see Jesus throughout all of Scripture. Pray for a deeper appreciation of the Old Testament and its relevance to our faith today.

5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide:



Day 1: The Law and Grace

Reading: Joshua 1:1-9, Romans 8:1-4

Devotional:

As we see the transition from Moses to Joshua, we're reminded of the shift from law to grace. Moses, representing the law, couldn't lead the people into the Promised Land. But Joshua, sharing the same name as Jesus (Yeshua), could. This mirrors our own spiritual journey. While the law reveals our sin, it cannot save us. Only through Jesus can we enter into the promises of God. Reflect today on areas where you might be relying on your own efforts rather than God's grace. How can you more fully embrace the freedom and power that comes through Christ?

Day 2: God's Faithfulness in Our Battles

Reading: Joshua 6:1-20, Ephesians 6:10-18

Devotional:

The battle of Jericho demonstrates God's faithfulness and power in seemingly impossible situations. Just as the Israelites had to trust and obey God's unusual battle plan, we too are called to walk by faith, not by sight. Our spiritual battles today may not involve physical walls, but we face obstacles that seem just as insurmountable. What "walls" are you facing in your life right now? How can you apply the principles of trust, obedience, and perseverance from this story to your situation? Remember, our victory is not through our own strength, but through God's power working in and through us.

Day 3: Finding Refuge in Christ

Reading: Joshua 20:1-6, Hebrews 6:16-20

Devotional:

The cities of refuge in Joshua point us to Jesus as our ultimate refuge. Just as these cities provided safety for the accused, Christ offers us protection from the consequences of our sin. The high priest's death allowing the accused to go free foreshadows how Jesus' death brings us true freedom and forgiveness. Today, consider what it means to take refuge in Christ. Are there areas of guilt or fear in your life where you need to more fully embrace the safety and peace found in Jesus? How can you live today from a place of security in God's love and forgiveness?

Day 4: God's Presence in Our Journey

Reading: Joshua 3:14-17, Matthew 28:16-20

Devotional:

The miraculous crossing of the Jordan River echoes God's earlier deliverance at the Red Sea, reminding us of His consistent presence with His people. Just as God was with Joshua, He promises to be with us always. This divine presence isn't just for dramatic moments, but for every step of our journey. Reflect on times in your life when you've clearly sensed God's presence. How can you cultivate a greater awareness of His presence in your daily life? Consider practical ways to remind yourself of God's constant companionship throughout your day.

Day 5: Fulfilling God's Promises

Reading: Joshua 21:43-45, 2 Corinthians 1:20-22

Devotional:

The book of Joshua culminates with the fulfillment of God's promises to Israel. While not every detail was completed in Joshua's time, the essence of God's promise was realized. This partial fulfillment points us to the ultimate fulfillment in Christ. In our lives, we may experience a tension between the "already" and "not yet" of God's promises. Some are fulfilled now, while others await complete realization in eternity. How does this perspective shape your faith and patience? Reflect on promises God has fulfilled in your life and those you're still waiting on. How can you cultivate trust and hope in God's faithfulness, even when the complete fulfillment seems distant?