



PROMISED

Land

A JOURNEY THROUGH JOSHUA



ChangePoint 

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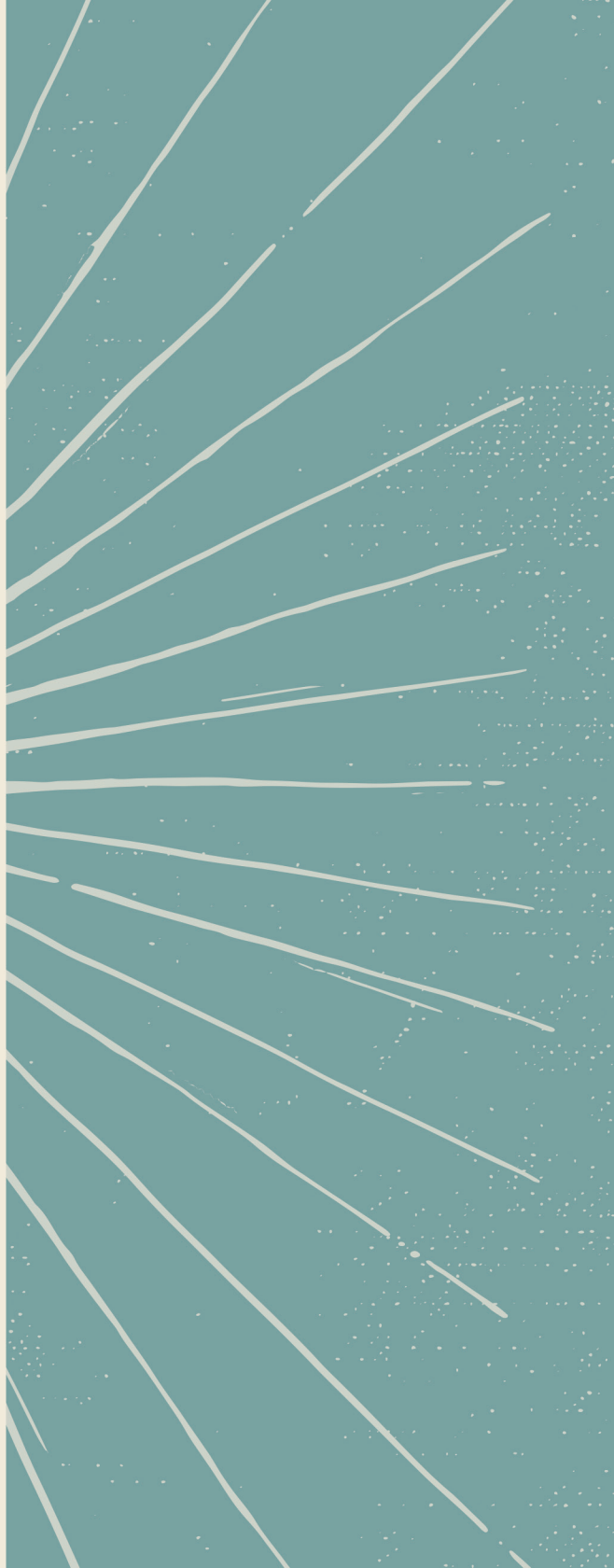
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Welcome to

PROMISED LAND



Welcome to PROMISED LAND

What are we doing? Why are we doing it?

The book of Joshua is a story of God's faithfulness in the lives of his people as they move into the Promised Land. Ancient Canaan was occupied by overwhelmingly powerful enemies whose cultures were pervasively evil. Joshua and the Israelites had every reason to be terrified by God's command to take that territory in his name. Nevertheless, they stepped out in faith, and God, time-and-again, demonstrated his wisdom, power, and faithfulness to his people, leading them to ultimate victory.

We also live in a land that desperately needs deliverance from evil. Alaska's shocking levels of addiction, suicide, and abuse are undeniable evidence of the spiritual strongholds Satan has in our state. For us here at ChangePoint, Alaska is our promised land - the territory that God has called us to take in his name and for his glory.

God has given us a clear strategy for how to make our vision of Life in Christ for Every Alaskan a reality: by planting ChangePoint campuses across our state. This year our church family will step out in faith and plant campuses in East Anchorage, the Mat-Su valley, and Kotzebue! And we will also raise the finances for our first 10 campuses!

The ChangePoint elders believe that this study in the book of Joshua will provide a spiritual foundation as we step beyond the Raspberry campus to bring Life in Christ to Alaska. The story of how God led Joshua and the Israelites to take the Promised Land contains critical spiritual lessons that we must learn and apply to our lives. We will discover how God fights battles for us, the role we play in bringing God's kingdom to the lost and suffering, and the centrality of faith in God.

Our prayer is that the spiritual principles we take away from this journey through the book of Joshua will help each one of us take ground for Christ's kingdom!

Community:

BETTER TOGETHER



Our Vision:

Life in Christ for every Alaskan
and the world beyond.

Our Mission:

To live as a community intentionally
focused on cultivating the life
of Christ in others.

One of the fastest ways to fail in the Christian life is to try to do it alone. The Bible teaches that our spiritual growth is contingent on partnering together with other followers of Christ.

Long story short...we're better together, and we're made for community! The leadership at ChangePoint is fully committed to helping you find Christian community.

The Promised Land study will not have the same impact in your life if you do not actively engage with other Christ-followers. Our prayer is that you not only experience community and the lasting relationships that can emerge from a group, but also that your group becomes a place where trust, transparency, and grace are ever increasing!

**Reach out any time to the Community
Life team for support along the way!**

WEEK

1



INVITATION *to*
COURAGE





JOSHUA 1:1-9

After the death of Moses the Lord's servant, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' assistant: 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now you and all the people prepare to cross over the Jordan to the land I am giving the Israelites. 3 I have given you every place where the sole of your foot treads, just as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will be from the wilderness and Lebanon to the great river, the Euphrates River—all the land of the Hittites—and west to the Mediterranean Sea. 5 No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. I will be with you, just as I was with Moses. I will not leave you or abandon you.

6 "Be strong and courageous, for you will distribute the land I swore to their fathers to give them as an inheritance. 7 Above all, be strong and very courageous to observe carefully the whole instruction my servant Moses commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right or the left, so that you will have success wherever you go. 8 This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do. 9 Haven't I commanded you: be strong and courageous? Do not be afraid or discouraged, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

Arrival, Connecting, and Snack Together: (15 Minutes)

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing.

Short Opening Prayer for Your Time Together: (2 Minutes)

You have about 60 minutes to discuss this week's lesson. Pace your group. Move fairly quickly through the observation and reflection sections so that you have margin for discussion and surrender. Be sure to take 10 minutes to pray together at the end of your group.

Have someone read Joshua 1:1-9, slowly enough for everyone to enjoy, then take a few moments to quietly reflect. Re-read this passage as necessary as you move through and discuss these questions.

Observation

1. What does the Lord command and promise to Joshua and the people of Israel?
2. How does the Lord encourage Joshua to respond to his promises?

Reflection

3. Like Israel, as followers of Christ, we are also God's chosen people. What commands and promises does God make to us in terms of:
 - a. Where we are commanded "to go"?
 - b. What we are commanded "to do"?
 - c. What our experience will "be like" when we respond to God in obedience?
4. The Lord repeatedly reminds Joshua that His presence will be with him and his people:
 - a. Why do you think this reminder is important to Israel?
 - b. How is this important to us in our modern context?

Discussion

5. What scriptures from God's word give you strength and courage?
6. In what areas of your life have you experienced spiritual prosperity and success because of your obedience to God's will, ways, and word?

Take-Aways

- What is one thing God is saying to you through today's study and discussion?
- What are you willing to ask God to help you change in light of what you've learned?

Closing Prayer

Pray for each other in light of what was shared today.



WEEK

2



PEOPLE *of*
PROMISE





JOSHUA 1:3-5

3 I have given you every place where the sole of your foot treads, just as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will be from the wilderness and Lebanon to the great river, the Euphrates River—all the land of the Hittites—and west to the Mediterranean Sea. 5 No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. I will be with you, just as I was with Moses. I will not leave you or abandon you.

Arrival, Connecting, and Snack Together: (15 Minutes)

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing.

Short Opening Prayer for Your Time Together: (2 Minutes)

You have about 60 minutes to discuss this week's lesson. Be sure to take 10 minutes to pray together at the end of your group.

Have someone read Joshua 1:3-5, slowly enough for everyone to hear, then re-read as necessary as you discuss.

Observation

1. What stands out about the “land promise” to Joshua and the people of Israel?
2. What “presence promise” does the Lord repeat to Joshua?

Reflection

3. God's promise of “the land” was hugely important to His people in the time of Joshua. How do you see this connect to us as a church family with the vision, *Life in Christ for Every Alaskan and the World Beyond*?
4. What would spiritual victory look like in our city and state?

Discussion

5. What does victory look like in your personal evangelism and discipleship of those you care the most about?
6. What enemies challenge and threaten victory in your gospel influence in the lives of those you care the most about?

Take-Aways

- What is one thing God is saying to you through today's study and discussion?
- What are you willing to ask God to help you change in light of what you've learned?

Closing Prayer

Pray for each other in light of what was shared today.



Group Notes



Prayer Requests

WEEK

3



EFFECTS
OF
Grace





JOSHUA 2:1-24

Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two men as spies from the Acacia Grove, saying, “Go and scout the land, especially Jericho.” So they left, and they came to the house of a prostitute named Rahab, and stayed there. 2 The king of Jericho was told, “Look, some of the Israelite men have come here tonight to investigate the land.” 3 Then the king of Jericho sent word to Rahab and said, “Bring out the men who came to you and entered your house, for they came to investigate the entire land.”

4 But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. So she said, “Yes, the men did come to me, but I didn’t know where they were from. 5 At nightfall, when the city gate was about to close, the men went out, and I don’t know where they were going. Chase after them quickly, and you can catch up with them!” 6 But she had taken them up to the roof and hidden them among the stalks of flax that she had arranged on the roof. 7 The men pursued them along the road to the fords of the Jordan, and as soon as they left to pursue them, the city gate was shut.

The Promise to Rahab

8 Before the men fell asleep, she went up on the roof 9 and said to them, “I know that the Lord has given you this land and that the terror of you has fallen on us, and everyone who lives in the land is panicking because of you. 10 For we have heard how the Lord dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings you completely destroyed across the Jordan. 11 When we heard this, we lost heart, and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on earth below.

12 Now please swear to me by the Lord that you will also show kindness to my father’s family, because I showed kindness to you. Give me a sure sign. 13 that you will spare the lives of my father, mother, brothers, sisters, and all who belong to them, and save us from death.” 14 The men answered her, “We will give our lives for yours. If you don’t report our mission, we will show kindness and faithfulness to you when the Lord gives us the land.” 15 Then she let them down by a rope through the window, since she lived in a house that was built into the wall of the city.

16 “Go to the hill country so that the men pursuing you won’t find you,” she said to them. “Hide there for three days until they return; afterward, go on your way.” 17 The men said to her, “We will be free from this oath you made us swear, 18 unless, when we enter the land, you tie this scarlet cord to the window through which you let us down. Bring your father, mother, brothers, and all your father’s family into your house. 19 If anyone goes out the doors of your house, his death will be his own fault, and we will be innocent. But if anyone with you in the house should be harmed, his death will be our fault. 20 And if you report our mission, we are free from the oath you made us swear.”

21 “Let it be as you say,” she replied, and she sent them away. After they had gone, she tied the scarlet cord to the window. 22 So the two men went into the hill country and stayed there three days until the pursuers had returned. They searched all along the way, but did not find them. 23 Then the men returned, came down from the hill country, and crossed the Jordan. They went to Joshua son of Nun and reported everything that had happened to them. 24 They told Joshua, “The Lord has handed over the entire land to us. Everyone who lives in the land is also panicking because of us.”

Arrival, Connecting, and Snack Together: (15 Minutes)

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing.

Short Opening Prayer for Your Time Together: (2 Minutes)

You have about 60 minutes to discuss this week's lesson. Be sure to take 10 minutes to pray together at the end of your group.

Have someone read Joshua 2:1-24, slowly enough for everyone to enjoy, then re-read as necessary as you discuss.

Observation

1. How does Rahab assist the spies sent from Joshua?
2. Why does Rahab help?
3. What impact will Rahab's choice have on her extended family?

Reflection

4. The decisions and actions of one person have the potential to impact many. Both the spies and Rahab are good examples of this. How are the spies and Rahab significant people in the story of Israel?
5. Can you think of individuals who have greatly influenced the story of Christianity and the Church? What courageous decisions and actions did they make and take?

Discussion

6. What individual has been most influential in your spiritual growth? Tell your group about them. How did God's grace work through them to influence you?
7. How has God used you in someone else to move them forward in their faith story? What great movements of God have you witnessed or been a part of because of God working in you and through you or someone else?

Take-Aways

- What is one thing God is saying to you through today's study and discussion?
- What are you willing to ask God to help you change in light of what you've learned?

Closing Prayer

Pray for each other in light of what was shared today.



Group Notes



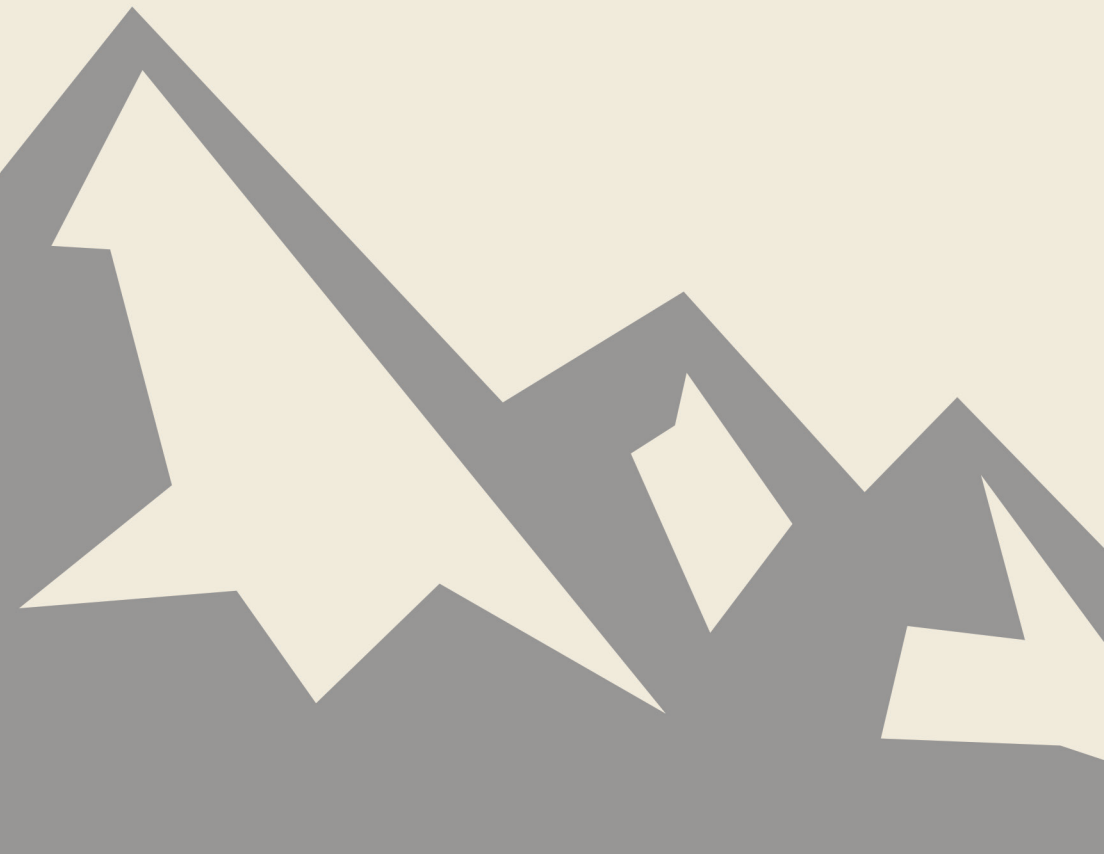
Prayer Requests

WEEK

4



AUDACITY *of*
FAITH





JOSHUA 3:1-17

Joshua started early the next morning and left the Acacia Grove with all the Israelites. They went as far as the Jordan and stayed there before crossing. 2 After three days the officers went through the camp 3 and commanded the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God carried by the Levitical priests, you are to break camp and follow it. 4 But keep a distance of about a thousand yards between yourselves and the ark. Don’t go near it, so that you can see the way to go, for you haven’t traveled this way before.”

5 Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, because the Lord will do wonders among you tomorrow.” 6 Then he said to the priests, “Carry the ark of the covenant and go on ahead of the people.” So they carried the ark of the covenant and went ahead of them.

7 The Lord spoke to Joshua: “Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, so they will know that I will be with you just as I was with Moses. 8 Command the priests carrying the ark of the covenant: When you reach the edge of the water, stand in the Jordan.”

9 Then Joshua told the Israelites, “Come closer and listen to the words of the Lord your God.” 10 He said: “You will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly dispossess before you the Canaanites, Hethites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites, and Jebusites 11 when the ark of the covenant of the Lord of the whole earth goes ahead of you into the Jordan. 12 Now choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one man for each tribe. 13 When the feet of the priests who carry the ark of the Lord, the Lord of the whole earth, come to rest in the Jordan’s water, its water will be cut off. The water flowing downstream will stand up in a mass.”

14 When the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carried the ark of the covenant ahead of the people. 15 Now the Jordan overflows its banks throughout the harvest season. But as soon as the priests carrying the ark reached the Jordan, their feet touched the water at its edge 16 and the water flowing downstream stood still, rising up in a mass that extended as far as Adam, a city next to Zarethan. The water flowing downstream into the Sea of the Arabah—the Dead Sea—was completely cut off, and the people crossed opposite Jericho. 17 The priests carrying the ark of the Lord’s covenant stood firmly on dry ground in the middle of the Jordan, while all Israel crossed on dry ground until the entire nation had finished crossing the Jordan.

Notes

Arrival, Connecting, and Snack Together: (15 Minutes)

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing.

Short Opening Prayer for Your Time Together: (2 Minutes)

You have about 60 minutes to discuss this week's lesson. Be sure to take 10 minutes to pray together at the end of your group.

Have someone read Joshua 3:1-17, slowly enough for everyone to enjoy, then re-read as necessary as you discuss.

Observation

1. How does the nation of Israel prepare to cross the Jordan into the Promised Land?
2. How are different levels of human leadership part of God's plan for His people taking the land?
3. What supernatural miracle does Israel witness as they cross the Jordan river?

Reflection

4. In what ways can and should the church prepare for ministry in new places and pursuits that need the power of the gospel?
5. What human resources and practical resources has God given to His people to accomplish His purposes?
6. What spiritual resources has God given to His people to accomplish His purposes?

Discussion

7. Since becoming a Christian, what “new territory” has God led you to influence and discover?
8. What resources has God equipped you with to accomplish His purposes?
9. Think of a time in your life where God gave you specific instructions for how to move forward in a situation or relationship. Tell that story and share about your obedience.
10. Tell about a time where you witnessed God's moving in undeniable and supernatural ways

Take-Aways

- What is one thing God is saying to you through today's study and discussion?
- What are you willing to ask God to help you change in light of what you've learned?

Closing Prayer

Pray for each other in light of what was shared today.



Group Notes



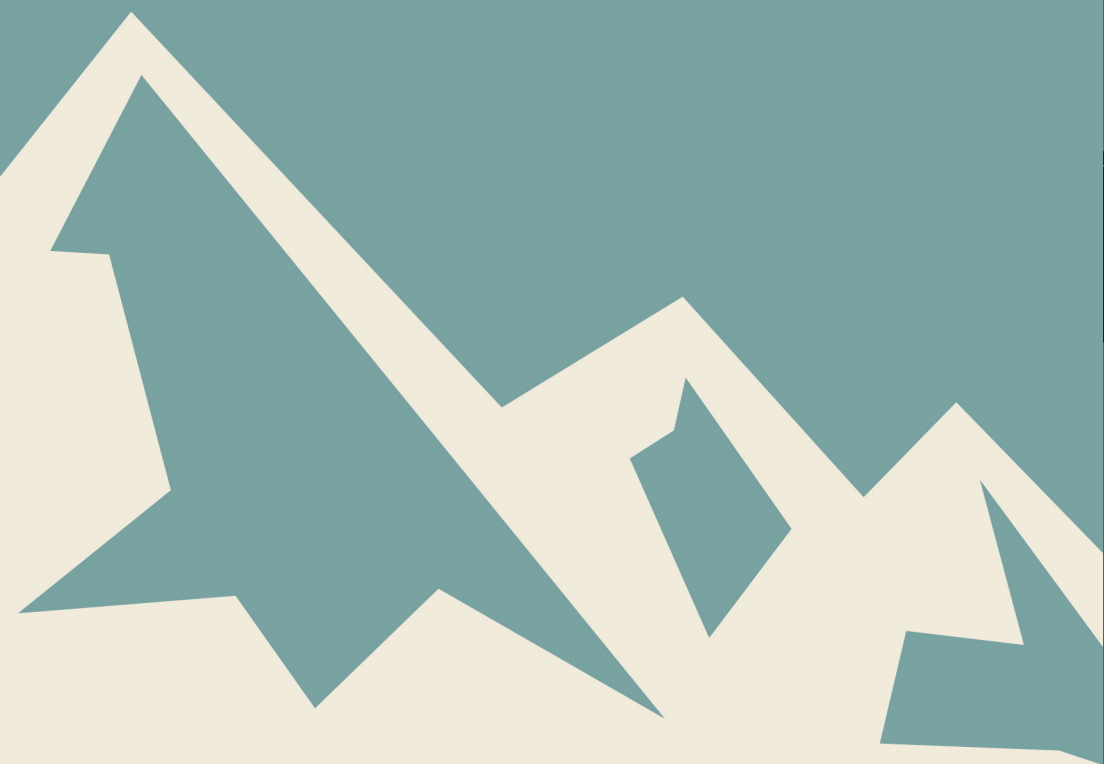
Prayer Requests

WEEK

5



PEACE
in His
POWER





JOSHUA 6:1-27

Now Jericho was strongly fortified because of the Israelites—no one leaving or entering. 2 The Lord said to Joshua, “Look, I have handed Jericho, its king, and its best soldiers over to you. 3 March around the city with all the men of war, circling the city one time. Do this for six days. 4 Have seven priests carry seven ram’s-horn trumpets in front of the ark. But on the seventh day, march around the city seven times, while the priests blow the trumpets. 5 When there is a prolonged blast of the horn and you hear its sound, have all the troops give a mighty shout. Then the city wall will collapse, and the troops will advance, each man straight ahead.”

6 So Joshua son of Nun summoned the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant and have seven priests carry seven trumpets in front of the ark of the Lord.” 7 He said to the troops, “Move forward, march around the city, and have the armed men go ahead of the ark of the Lord.”

8 After Joshua had spoken to the troops, seven priests carrying seven trumpets before the Lord moved forward and blew the trumpets; the ark of the Lord’s covenant followed them. 9 While the trumpets were blowing, the armed men went in front of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard went behind the ark. 10 But Joshua had commanded the troops: “Do not shout or let your voice be heard. Don’t let one word come out of your mouth until the time I say, ‘Shout!’ Then you are to shout.” 11 So the ark of the Lord was carried around the city, circling it once. They returned to the camp and spent the night there.

12 Joshua got up early the next morning. The priests took the ark of the Lord, 13 and the seven priests carrying seven trumpets marched in front of the ark of the Lord. While the trumpets were blowing, the armed men went in front of them, and the rear guard went behind the ark of the Lord. 14 On the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

15 Early on the seventh day, they started at dawn and marched around the city seven times in the same way. That was the only day they marched around the city seven times. 16 After the seventh time, the priests blew the trumpets, and Joshua said to the troops, “Shout! For the Lord has given you the city.

17 But the city and everything in it are set apart to the Lord for destruction. Only Rahab the prostitute and everyone with her in the house will live, because she hid the messengers we sent. 18 But keep yourselves from the things set apart, or you will be set apart for destruction. If you take any of those things, you will set apart the camp of Israel for destruction and make trouble for it. 19 For all the silver and gold, and the articles of bronze and iron, are dedicated to the Lord and must go into the Lord’s treasury.”

20 So the troops shouted, and the trumpets sounded. When they heard the blast of the trumpet, the troops gave a great shout, and the wall collapsed. The troops advanced into the city, each man straight ahead, and they captured the city. 21 They completely destroyed everything in the city with the sword—every man and woman, both young and old, and every ox, sheep, and donkey.

Rahab and Her Family Spared

22 Joshua said to the two men who had scouted the land, “Go to the prostitute’s house and bring the woman out of there, and all who are with her, just as you swore to her.”



23 So the young men who had scouted went in and brought out Rahab and her father, mother, brothers, and all who belonged to her. They brought out her whole family and settled them outside the camp of Israel.

24 They burned the city and everything in it, but they put the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron into the treasury of the Lord's house. 25 However, Joshua spared Rahab the prostitute, her father's family, and all who belonged to her, because she hid the messengers Joshua had sent to spy on Jericho, and she still lives in Israel today.

26 At that time Joshua imposed this curse:

The man who undertakes
the rebuilding of this city, Jericho,
is cursed before the Lord.
He will lay its foundation
at the cost of his firstborn;
he will finish its gates
at the cost of his youngest.

27 And the Lord was with Joshua,
and his fame spread throughout the land.

Arrival, Connecting, and Snack Together: (15 Minutes)

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing.

Short Opening Prayer for Your Time Together: (2 Minutes)

You have about 60 minutes to discuss this week's lesson. Be sure to take 10 minutes to pray together at the end of your group.

Have someone read Joshua 6:1-27, slowly enough for everyone to enjoy, then re-read as necessary as you discuss.

Observation

1. What specific instructions and battle plan does the Lord give to Israel to defeat Jericho?
2. Were the Israelites obedient to God's battle plan, yes or no?
3. What was the result of the Battle of Jericho?

Reflection

4. What questions might have been going through the minds of the Israelites upon receiving such an odd and unique battle plan?
5. What does the Battle of Jericho reveal to us about God's strategies and methods for accomplishing His purposes?

Discussion

6. Can you think of an example in your own life or in the lives of people you know where God moved in a creative, unique and mysterious way?
7. Name a specific place, person, or situation in your life that, like Jericho, would take a powerful and creative act of God to defeat, overcome, and win for His purposes and ways. What is your "Jericho"?
8. How does it feel to know that God has a battle plan to overcome evil that is beyond our intellect, creativity, and strength?

Take-Aways

- What is one thing God is saying to you through today's study and discussion?
- What are you willing to ask God to help you change in light of what you've learned?

Closing Prayer

Pray for each other in light of what was shared today.



Group Notes



Prayer Requests

WEEK

6



CALL *to* CONTEND





JOSHUA 7:1-26

The Israelites, however, were unfaithful regarding the things set apart for destruction. Achan son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of what was set apart, and the Lord's anger burned against the Israelites. 2 Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and told them, "Go up and scout the land." So the men went up and scouted Ai.

3 After returning to Joshua they reported to him, "Don't send all the people, but send about two thousand or three thousand men to attack Ai. Since the people of Ai are so few, don't wear out all our people there." 4 So about three thousand men went up there, but they fled from the men of Ai.

5 The men of Ai struck down about thirty-six of them and chased them from outside the city gate to the quarries, striking them down on the descent. As a result, the people lost heart.

6 Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the Lord until evening, as did the elders of Israel; they all put dust on their heads. 7 "Oh, Lord God," Joshua said, "why did you ever bring these people across the Jordan to hand us over to the Amorites for our destruction? If only we had been content to remain on the other side of the Jordan! 8 What can I say, Lord, now that Israel has turned its back and run from its enemies?"

9 When the Canaanites and all who live in the land hear about this, they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. Then what will you do about your great name?"

10 The Lord then said to Joshua, “Stand up! Why have you fallen facedown? 11 Israel has sinned. They have violated my covenant that I appointed for them. They have taken some of what was set apart. They have stolen, deceived, and put those things with their own belongings.

12 This is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies. They will turn their backs and run from their enemies, because they have been set apart for destruction. I will no longer be with you unless you remove from among you what is set apart.

13 “Go and consecrate the people. Tell them to consecrate themselves for tomorrow, for this is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: There are things that are set apart among you, Israel. You will not be able to stand against your enemies until you remove what is set apart.

14 In the morning, present yourselves tribe by tribe. The tribe the Lord selects is to come forward clan by clan. The clan the Lord selects is to come forward family by family. The family the Lord selects is to come forward man by man. 15 The one who is caught with the things set apart must be burned, along with everything he has, because he has violated the Lord’s covenant and committed an outrage in Israel.”

Achan Judged

16 Joshua got up early the next morning. He had Israel come forward tribe by tribe, and the tribe of Judah was selected. 17 He had the clans of Judah come forward, and the Zerahite clan was selected. He had the Zerahite clan come forward by heads of families, and Zabdi was selected. 18 He then had Zabdi’s family come forward man by man, and Achan son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was selected.

19 So Joshua said to Achan, “My son, give glory to the Lord, the God of Israel, and make a confession to him. I urge you, tell me what you have done. Don’t hide anything from me.”

**JOSHUA 7:1-26
CONTINUED**

20 Achan replied to Joshua, “It is true. I have sinned against the Lord, the God of Israel. This is what I did: 21 When I saw among the spoils a beautiful cloak from Babylon, five pounds of silver, and a bar of gold weighing a pound and a quarter, I coveted them and took them. You can see for yourself. They are concealed in the ground inside my tent, with the silver under the cloak.”

22 So Joshua sent messengers who ran to the tent, and there was the cloak, concealed in his tent, with the silver underneath. 23 They took the things from inside the tent, brought them to Joshua and all the Israelites, and spread them out in the Lord’s presence.

24 Then Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan son of Zerah, the silver, the cloak, and the bar of gold, his sons and daughters, his ox, donkey, and sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and brought them up to the Valley of Achor.

25 Joshua said, “Why have you brought us trouble? Today the Lord will bring you trouble!” So all Israel stoned them to death. They burned their bodies, threw stones on them, 26 and raised over him a large pile of rocks that remains still today. Then the Lord turned from his burning anger.

Arrival, Connecting, and Snack Together: (15 Minutes)

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing.

Short Opening Prayer for Your Time Together: (2 Minutes)

You have about 60 minutes to discuss this week's lesson. Be sure to take 10 minutes to pray together at the end of your group.

Have someone read Joshua 7:1-26, slowly enough for everyone to enjoy, then re-read as necessary as you discuss.

Observation

1. What happened in the Battle of Ai?
2. How do the leaders of Israel respond after the battle, and what does the Lord reveal to them?
3. What trouble did the sin of Achan bring to the nation of Israel?

Reflection

4. What impact can unconfessed sin have on the work of the Holy Spirit in our own lives and in the life of our church family?
5. How can we apply the story of Achan to our lives and the lives of others as we consider our responses to our own sins?

Discussion

6. How have the sins of others impacted your life or the life of a community that you have been a part of. Share as much of the details as you feel led and comfortable to share.
7. Can you think of an example of a healthy response to sin in your own life or in the church? Tell the story.
8. What is the most important message for the church to learn from the story of Achan's sin?

Take-Aways

- What is one thing God is saying to you through today's study and discussion?
- What are you willing to ask God to help you change in light of what you've learned?

Closing Prayer

Pray for each other in light of what was shared today.



Group Notes



Prayer Requests

WEEK

7



EXPECTATION
of the
MIRACULOUS





JOSHUA 10:1-15

Now King Adoni-zedek of Jerusalem heard that Joshua had captured Ai and completely destroyed it, treating Ai and its king as he had Jericho and its king, and that the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were living among them. 2 So Adoni-zedek and his people were greatly alarmed because Gibeon was a large city like one of the royal cities; it was larger than Ai, and all its men were warriors. 3 Therefore King Adoni-zedek of Jerusalem sent word to King Hoham of Hebron, King Piram of Jarmuth, King Japhia of Lachish, and King Debir of Eglon, saying, 4 “Come up and help me. We will attack Gibeon, because they have made peace with Joshua and the Israelites.” 5 So the five Amorite kings—the kings of Jerusalem, Hebron, Jarmuth, Lachish, and Eglon—joined forces, advanced with all their armies, besieged Gibeon, and fought against it.

6 Then the men of Gibeon sent word to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal: “Don’t give up on your servants. Come quickly and save us! Help us, for all the Amorite kings living in the hill country have joined forces against us.” 7 So Joshua and all his troops, including all his best soldiers, came from Gilgal. 8 The Lord said to Joshua, “Do not be afraid of them, for I have handed them over to you. Not one of them will be able to stand against you.”

9 So Joshua caught them by surprise, after marching all night from Gilgal. 10 The Lord threw them into confusion before Israel. He defeated them in a great slaughter at Gibeon, chased them through the ascent of Beth-horon, and struck them down as far as Azekah and Makkedah. 11 As they fled before Israel, the Lord threw large hailstones on them from the sky along the descent of Beth-horon all the way to Azekah, and they died. More of them died from the hail than the Israelites killed with the sword.

12 On the day the Lord gave the Amorites over to the Israelites, Joshua spoke to the Lord in the presence of Israel:

“Sun, stand still over Gibeon,
and moon, over the Valley of Aijalon.”

13 And the sun stood still and the moon stopped until the nation took vengeance on its enemies. Isn't this written in the Book of Jashar? So the sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed its setting almost a full day. 14 There has been no day like it before or since, when the Lord listened to a man, because the Lord fought for Israel. 15 Then Joshua and all Israel with him returned to the camp at Gilgal.

Arrival, Connecting, and Snack Together: (15 Minutes)

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing.

Short Opening Prayer for Your Time Together: (2 Minutes)

You have about 60 minutes to discuss this week's lesson. Be sure to take 10 minutes to pray together at the end of your group.

Have someone read Joshua 10:1-15, slowly enough for everyone to enjoy, then re-read as necessary as you discuss.

Observation

1. Describe the size and strength of Israel's enemies in this chapter.
2. What promise does the Lord make to Joshua in Joshua 10:8?
3. How did the Lord help Israel to engage their enemy?
4. What was the influence and impact of Joshua's prayers?

Reflection

5. What enemy of the church or opposition to God's work can sometimes appear largely impossible to overcome? What are the significant threats to God's kingdom work?
6. What supernatural help or act from God would be significant in helping the Church to expand her influence, making a way for the gospel to take root in our state? What could we boldly ask God for that would significantly help the work of His Church?

Discussion

7. Share a story about the power of prayer and God's specific answers to the deep longings of your heart or the hearts of others.
8. What impossible things have you seen God accomplish in your life or the lives of others?
9. Where are you begging God to do the impossible?

Take-Aways

- What is one thing God is saying to you through today's study and discussion?
- What are you willing to ask God to help you change in light of what you've learned?

Closing Prayer

Pray for each other in light of what was shared today.



Group Notes



Prayer Requests

WEEK

8



CHARGE *to*
STAND
FIRM





JOSHUA 24:1-28

Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem and summoned Israel's elders, leaders, judges, and officers, and they presented themselves before God. 2 Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the Lord, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your ancestors, including Terah, the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods.

3 But I took your father Abraham from the region beyond the Euphrates River, led him throughout the land of Canaan, and multiplied his descendants. I gave him Isaac, 4 and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I gave the hill country of Seir to Esau as a possession.

"Jacob and his sons, however, went down to Egypt. 5 I sent Moses and Aaron, and I defeated Egypt by what I did within it, and afterward I brought you out. 6 When I brought your fathers out of Egypt and you reached the Red Sea, the Egyptians pursued your fathers with chariots and horsemen as far as the sea. 7 Your fathers cried out to the Lord, so he put darkness between you and the Egyptians, and brought the sea over them, engulfing them. Your own eyes saw what I did to Egypt. After that, you lived in the wilderness a long time.

8 "Later, I brought you to the land of the Amorites who lived beyond the Jordan. They fought against you, but I handed them over to you. You possessed their land, and I annihilated them before you. 9 Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, set out to fight against Israel. He sent for Balaam son of Beor to curse you, 10 but I would not listen to Balaam. Instead, he repeatedly blessed you, and I rescued you from him.

11 You then crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho. Jericho's citizens—as well as the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hethites, Girgashites, Hivites, and Jebusites—fought against you, but I handed them over to you. 12 I sent hornets ahead of you, and they drove out the two Amorite kings before you. It was not by your sword or bow. 13 I gave you a land you did not labor for, and cities you did not build, though you live in them; you are eating from vineyards and olive groves you did not plant.'

The Covenant Renewal

14 "Therefore, fear the Lord and worship him in sincerity and truth. Get rid of the gods your fathers worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and worship the Lord. 15 But if it doesn't please you to worship the Lord, choose for yourselves today: Which will you worship—the gods your fathers worshiped beyond the Euphrates River or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living? As for me and my family, we will worship the Lord."

16 The people replied, "We will certainly not abandon the Lord to worship other gods! 17 For the Lord our God brought us and our fathers out of the land of Egypt, out of the place of slavery, and performed these great signs before our eyes. He also protected us all along the way we went and among all the peoples whose lands we traveled through. 18 The Lord drove out before us all the peoples, including the Amorites who lived in the land. We too will worship the Lord, because he is our God."

19 But Joshua told the people, "You will not be able to worship the Lord, because he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions and sins. 20 If you abandon the Lord and worship foreign gods, he will turn against you, harm you, and completely destroy you, after he has been good to you."



21 “No!” the people answered Joshua. “We will worship the Lord.”

22 Joshua then told the people, “You are witnesses against yourselves that you yourselves have chosen to worship the Lord.”

“We are witnesses,” they said.

23 “Then get rid of the foreign gods that are among you and turn your hearts to the Lord, the God of Israel.”

24 So the people said to Joshua, “We will worship the Lord our God and obey him.”

25 On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people at Shechem and established a statute and ordinance for them. 26 Joshua recorded these things in the book of the law of God; he also took a large stone and set it up there under the oak at the sanctuary of the Lord. 27 And Joshua said to all the people, “You see this stone—it will be a witness against us, for it has heard all the words the Lord said to us, and it will be a witness against you, so that you will not deny your God.” 28 Then Joshua sent the people away, each to his own inheritance.

Lined writing area consisting of multiple horizontal lines for text entry.

Arrival, Connecting, and Snack Together: (15 Minutes)

Spend the first 15 minutes or so of your time together catching up and socializing.

Short Opening Prayer for Your Time Together: (2 Minutes)

You have about 60 minutes to discuss this week's lesson. Be sure to take 10 minutes to pray together at the end of your group.

Have someone read Joshua 24:1-28, slowly enough for everyone to enjoy, then re-read as necessary as you discuss.

Observation

1. What story is Joshua telling in the first part of this chapter? (Joshua 24:1-13)
2. What challenges does Joshua then present to the nation of Israel? (Joshua 24:14-28)
3. How do the Israelites respond to these challenges?

Reflection

4. Why is it important to review and remember the story of God at work in our own lives and in the life of the church? What opportunity is there in the telling of stories like this?
5. Joshua challenges Israel to remember and renew their covenant commitments to God. Why do you think he does this? Why is it important for us to remember and reaffirm our covenant relationship with God and our kingdom responsibilities as His people?

Discussion

6. What stories of God's power and faithfulness are important for you to remember in your life to honor the work of God and reflect on his steadfast love on your behalf?
7. What circumstances, temptations, or "idols" can tempt you to neglect your covenantal relationship with God?
8. What would the future of Alaska look like for our children and grandchildren if God were to move in mighty power through his Church and bring supernatural breakthrough and revival?

Take-Aways

- What is one thing God is saying to you through today's study and discussion?
- What are you willing to ask God to help you change in light of what you've learned?

Closing Prayer

Pray for each other in light of what was shared today.



Group Notes

Prayer Requests



What's NEXT?

Our hope is that *The Promised Land* study has ignited a passion in your heart to reach others for Christ in deeper ways. However, this is not the end. It's another step forward on this journey of life in Christ. Learning how to step out in faith takes a lifetime. Spiritual growth is a continuous process of learning to die to sin and embracing life in Christ until we get to heaven.

So, you might be thinking...“What’s next?”

Here are some helpful suggestions so that you can leverage this study for continued spiritual growth:

- Find or start a life group or continue meeting with your Promised Land group.
- Carve out space every day to pray and enjoy God in His word.
- Continue attending Sunday services each week.
- Find a place to use your spiritual gifts in the church.
- Share your faith with those who need to hear the hope of Jesus Christ.

Remember that the Christian life is a marathon not a sprint.

Spiritual maturity does not happen overnight!



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