

LIFE GROUP GUIDE: WORK

WEEK of January 8-January 13th

PREPARE:

Before your group arrives, make sure you take a few minutes to review the Life Group video and the Life Group Guide.

- Remember, the best life group leaders have questions highlighted and a direction for where they are taking people for the discussion for the evening. The less you can look to the guide for conversation, the better.
- Test your video display option to make sure it is working before your Life Group members arrive. For those in the auditorium, it will start automatically for you.
- Pray for a powerful gathering just before members show up.

WELCOME:

Take a few minutes to welcome Life Group members.

- Opening question idea: What are your hopes for the new year?
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VIDEO:

Watch the video together.

SCRIPTURE:

Read Joshua 1:1-10 together.

1 After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: **2** "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. **3** I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. **4** Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the

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Mediterranean Sea in the west. **5** No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. **6** Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

7 “Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. **8** Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. **9** Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

10 So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: **11** “Go through the camp and tell the people, ‘Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the Lord your God is giving you for your own.’”

REFLECTION:

Provide a couple of minutes for quiet reflection on the passage, so your Life Group members can collect their thoughts.

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OBSERVATION: This passage starts with the death of the greatest leader the people of Israel had ever known. However, it was at that very time that God called them into the land that would be their inheritance. There was tremendous fear and anxiety in the atmosphere, but also *excitement*.

QUESTION: Oftentimes when God calls us into a new direction, we experience fear and excitement at the same time. Why does the call of God inspire **both** these emotions in us?

QUESTION: Is it wrong to feel afraid to follow what God is calling us to? Why or why not?

OBSERVATION: The people of Israel faced impossible obstacles as they moved in to the Promised Land. They had to cross an uncrossable river (the Jordan), defeat more experienced armies, and enter a city with unscalable walls (Jericho).

QUESTION: What is the strategy for believers to combat situations that seem to have no possible way forward?

QUESTION: What is a time in your life that you have had to have extraordinary faith to endure a trial? How did God meet you in that process?

OBSERVATION:

The Israelites had spent the last **40 years** in the desert wandering, and now God was calling them to battle. A whole generation of people had died and been born since they had been delivered from slavery in Egypt. The Israelites had not spent that time honing their skills in warfare- there was no

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one to fight! Neither had they spent the time learning how to cultivate the land, because God had provided manna bread for them.

OBSERVATION: Sometimes we know what God is calling us to do, and it seems impossible. We don't feel like we are ready or as equipped as we would like to do what God has asked us to do.

QUESTION: Does God call unqualified people to things beyond their skill level? Why or why not?

QUESTION: When was a time in your life when you felt under equipped to see something through, but God used you powerfully anyway?

OBSERVATION: When Joshua and the Israelites passed the river, they actually wound up losing their first battle. They lost the favor of the Lord because a member of the army named Achan had departed from God's plan for how to engage the battle

OBSERVATION: Sometimes it feels so easy to drift from God's story for our lives even when we have recently seen Him move in a powerful way.

QUESTION: How do you guard your heart from weathering discouragement? What about distraction from where God is calling you?

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OBSERVATION: Even after heart-breaking loss and defeat, Joshua and the Israelites eventually saw the ultimate victory of God in their nation. He delivered them from their enemies, gave them a home, and **peace** reigned over the land.

OBSERVATION: God's ultimate destination for his people is a place of peace, restoration, and *victory*.

QUESTION: Share a story of God's longterm faithfulness to you in which you struggled, but eventually saw victory. What has that taught you about following God?

PRAYER:

Offer prayer for anyone who would like it. Take a special time for your group to pray for anyone who is feeling afraid or unclear on the future that God is calling them into. Pray that this year would be a year of walking in faith into the adventure that God calls us to.

THANK YOU FOR SERVING IN THIS ROLE!
WE APPRECIATE YOU!