



### INTRODUCTION TO THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

The Book of Joshua details the way Israel took possession of the land of Canaan, a land that God had promised them. While there are numerous references to wars, battles, and Israel conquering many people and nations, these wars, battles, and conquests are not the main thrust or point of the book.

Rather, the theme and message of the book include all of the following.

- The faithfulness of God to the promises He has made His people
- The redemptive work of God in the midst of extremely adverse situations and conditions
- The reality that God is the One who provides victory and that the victory is not dependent upon what human beings bring to the table
- The foreshadowing of Jesus and what He would do for all of humanity in the person of Joshua

### JOSHUA CHAPTER 1 (FACILITATOR)

#### **Discussion Starter**

- If you had to choose who you thought is the strongest cartoon/movie characters, who would you choose and why?
- Describe a time in which you used strength that you didn't know that you had.
- **Opening Prayer**
  - Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

#### **Tell the Story**

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

#### **Read the Story (Joshua 1:1-18)**

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

#### **Breaking it Down**

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

### **Joshua 1:1-7**

- Why is it important to understand that Joshua was around 80 years-old when God commissioned him to lead Israel into the land that He had promised and given to the Israelites.
  - Joshua was most certainly not a young man, and this understanding is important because it points to the reality that Joshua was going to be a tool and instrument through which God was going to work. Ultimately, it was as it always is, God who was going to claim the victory. Joshua's age is also important to consider because he did not use his age as an excuse for not being able to do what God called him to do. Although imperfect, he sought to lead Israel well.
    - What excuses do you make for running away from who God has called you to be on a daily basis? How do you navigate these excuses?
      - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- Read Deuteronomy 34:10-12 about Moses and consider how difficult it would have been for Joshua to "follow in the steps of Moses," who would have probably been considered somewhat of a national hero to the Israelites. What do you think were some of the difficulties/challenges that Joshua faced in leading after Moses?
  - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
    - In what ways do you compare yourself to others and believe that you are not equipped and empowered to be who God has called you to be?
      - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- What is the significance of what God says in verse 5?

- God refers to Himself as being the source of victory for both Moses and now the same is going to be true for Joshua and the Israelites. It's not because of the Israelites physical strength or prowess. It's not because of Joshua. It's because of the Lord's enduring presence and power.

- In what ways are you not fully trusting the presence and power of God in your life over your own presence and power?

- This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

### **Joshua 1:7-11**

- How do you personally define and measure success in general? Do you think God defines and measures success in the ways that you do? Why or why not?

- These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

- Notice how God refers to His "Book of the Law." It was supposed to be on the people's lips. It was supposed to be in their minds so that they could execute on (obey) what God said.

- Of the following, which one do you struggle with the most? What are active steps that you can take to begin to allow God to fill in some of those gaps?

- Reading God's Word
- Understanding God's Word
- Executing what God's Word says (obedience)

- These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

- Notice that God is not haphazard, reckless, or unintentional in preparing and equipping His people to claim the promises He made them. But also notice that this preparation and equipping took time and there was some waiting involved.

- In what ways do you "wait well" on God and His timing rather than seeking to push your own timing?

- In what ways do you “wait poorly” on God and His timing seeking to push your own timing?

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### **Joshua 1:12-18**

- The tribes that are referenced in verse 12 had decided to live in the land that was east of the Jordan River and this land had already been given into the hands of the Israelites. What do these tribes’ response to Joshua in verses 16-18 indicate about their understanding of unity, themselves, and God?

- Although they already had their land, their concern was for their brothers and sisters, their fellow Israelites and being there for them. They understood that claiming the promises that God had given them also involved helping others to claim the promises that God had given to them.

- In what ways do you need to be more like these Israelite tribes regarding the following areas?

- Your family
- Your brothers and sisters in Christ
- Those who don’t yet know Jesus

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### **Final Application**

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

### **Closing & Prayer Requests**

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.

- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Joshua chapter 2)

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### JOSHUA CHAPTER 1 (STUDENT)

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