



Joshua 1–9

Living by Faith

Sample Lesson

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ONE

BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS

Read Introduction, Joshua 1:1–9;
other references as given.

God buries His servants but never His plans. In this first lesson God buries Moses and calls another servant (Joshua) to lead His people into the land He promised Abraham (Genesis 15, the Abrahamic Covenant [legal commitment], modern Israel plus the West Bank). God’s succession plan is simple. Choose a man of godly character who is willing to live by faith and follow His leadership.

In the first lesson God promises Joshua victory over his enemies on one condition. Joshua and the Israelites must obey God completely. As you study this passage, you’ll discover an obvious parallel between God’s promise to Joshua for military victory and God’s promise to believers for victorious Christian living (Romans 8:31).

Before you begin every lesson in this study, ask God to reveal Himself to you through His Word and to transform you into the image of Jesus Christ.

1. a. Why does the book of Joshua occupy such an important place in God’s revelation to man (Introduction)?



Lombardi Time Rule:

If the leader arrives early, he or she has time to pray, prepare the room, and greet others personally.

ADD GROUP
INSIGHTS BELOW

b. Joshua (the book) is the official record of the fulfillment of the ancient covenant or promise God made with Abraham (Abrahamic Covenant). What important reminder does God’s fulfillment of the Abrahamic Covenant provide for Christians (Introduction)?

2. Joshua’s original name was Hoshea (salvation), but Moses changed his name to Joshua (Yahweh/Jehovah is salvation) when he chose him to be one of the twelve men to spy out the land of Canaan (Numbers 13:16). List three major events recorded in the book of Joshua (Introduction).

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

3. The book of Joshua teaches us that God can be trusted to keep His promises. List two additional truths taught in the book of Joshua (Introduction).

1. _____

2. _____

4. Some Christians believe crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land (Canaan) is a picture of the Christian dying and going to heaven. The Christian song “On Jordan’s Stormy Banks” reads “Sickness, sorrow, pain and death, are

felt and feared no more.” A survey of Israel’s occupation of the land, however, reveals that sickness, sorrow, pain, and death were not absent from their lives in the Promised Land. If the Promised Land is not a picture of heaven, what does it represent for the believer (Introduction)?

5. The book of Joshua is a record of the military conquest of the land God promised Abraham hundreds of years earlier. It is also a picture of the believer’s spiritual quest to live by faith and possess the peace and rest that God promises all believers.

a. If Christians are not fighting against flesh and blood, whom or what are they fighting (Ephesians 6:11)?

b. In Ephesians 6:10–16 there are several words or phrases that assure believers of spiritual victory if they are willing to put on the whole armor of God. Please give at least three phrases that guarantee victory for the believer.

1. _____
_____ (v. _____)

2. _____
_____ (v. _____)

3. _____
_____ (v. _____)

6. a. The objective in war is to conquer your opponents. Who or what must a Christian conquer if he or she expects to



Zip-It Rule:

Group members should agree to disagree, but should never be disagreeable.

ADDITIONAL
INSIGHTS

live victoriously for God (2 Corinthians 10:3–5)?

- b. If you are a Christian, in which of the following areas have you been unwilling (not unable) to capture enemy thoughts and actions?

Anger Fear Unforgiveness Hatred Revenge
Covetousness Jealousy Slander Lust Resentment
Loneliness Envy Idolatry Adultery
Murder/Suicide Drunkenness

7. Moses led the children of Israel out of bondage in Egypt, delivered God’s law to them at Mount Sinai, and guided them during their forty-year wilderness wanderings. But Moses died at Mount Nebo shortly before the nation of Israel entered the Promised Land.

- a. What words are used to describe both Moses and Joshua (Joshua 1:1; 5:14)?

- b. What evidence do you see in your life that you are becoming a more faithful servant of God?

8. Joshua exhibited additional qualities that made him an excellent choice as the new leader of God’s people. Besides being a servant, what additional character qualities did Joshua possess?

Exodus 17:8–10: _____

Exodus 24:12–18: _____

Numbers 13:16–14:9: _____

9. List three promises God gave Joshua when He commissioned him to be the leader of His people (Joshua 1:2–5)?

1. _____
_____ (v. _____)

2. _____
_____ (v. _____)

3. _____
_____ (v. _____)

10. God's promise to Abraham (Abrahamic Covenant) was unconditional, but His promise to Joshua was conditional upon his obedience to the Lord's commands.

a. What specific commands did God give Joshua before he led the people into the land (Joshua 1:6–9)?

1. _____
_____ (v. _____)

2. _____
_____ (v. _____)

3. _____
_____ (v. _____)

b. Why *do you think* God repeated some of His instructions to Joshua?



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ADDITIONAL
INSIGHTS

ADDITIONAL
INSIGHTS

- c. There is an important phrase that indicates the type of obedience God expects from everyone who desires to experience His abundant peace and rest (Joshua 1:7-8). What is this?

- 11. God promised Joshua success if he was careful to do all (not some or most) that He commanded (Joshua 1:7-8). To Joshua success meant military victory over his enemies and the establishment of the people within the land. If you are a Christian, what *do you think* it means for you to be successful as a believer?

LEADERS' GUIDE

Lesson 1: Be Strong and Courageous

1. a. Joshua is the only book in the Bible that records the Israelites' formal entrance into the land God promised Abraham and his descendants.
b. God keeps His promises. Since God was faithful to keep His promises to ancient Israel, Christians can be confident that He will be faithful to fulfill His promises to them.
2. 1. The fulfillment of the promise God gave to Abraham.
2. The allocation of the land to the various tribes.
3. Joshua's farewell speech.
3. 1. The book of Joshua teaches that God is righteous. This is made evident by His unwillingness to tolerate sin wherever it is found.
2. The book of Joshua teaches believers how to live or walk by faith, and it teaches a lot about spiritual warfare.
4. The Promised Land is a picture of the believer who has learned to live by faith. The writer of Hebrews calls this a "rest" (Hebrews 3:7–19) because the term refers to the quietness of the soul that a believer experiences when he anticipates God's salvation and has learned to trust Him fully for daily living.
5. a. The believer is fighting against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this age, against the spiritual hosts of wickedness in the heavenly places.
b. 1. That you may be able to stand against (Ephesians 6:11).
2. To withstand (Ephesians 6:13).
3. To stand (Ephesians 6:13).
4. Be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one (Ephesians 6:16).
6. a. The believer's thoughts. A Christian must allow the Word of God to be the ultimate authority in life. If there are thoughts that are contrary to the Word of God, he must surrender them to the authority of the

Scriptures regardless of how right or logical they may seem to him at the time. The key Greek words in 2 Corinthians 10:3–5 (*weapons, warfare, mighty, strongholds*) are also used to describe a military conflict in which the prisoners are taken captive.

- b. Answers will vary.
- 7.
- a. Servant, assistant.
 - b. Answers will vary.
- 8.
- 1. He was a man of courage and obedience (Exodus 17:8–10).
 - 2. He was a man of faith and patience because he waited for forty days for Moses when he was on the mountain (Exodus 24.12–18).
 - 3. He was a man of faith in God because he saw the circumstances that appeared overwhelming to others as an opportunity to trust Him (Numbers 13:16–14:9). He was also a man of character and conviction because he stood against the majority when they were not willing to trust God (Numbers 13:16–14:9).
- 9.
- 1. God promised them all the land that Joshua set his foot upon (Joshua 1:3–4).
 - 2. God said no army would be victorious against them if Joshua and the Israelites obeyed Him (Joshua 1:5).
 - 3. God said He would not fail them or forsake them (Joshua 1:5).
- 10.
- a.
 - 1. Joshua was to be strong and courageous (Joshua 1:6–7, 9).
 - 2. Joshua was to be very careful to obey all that God had commanded him through Moses (the Law).
 - 3. Joshua was to fulfill all his responsibilities as leader of God's people and not to allow himself to become sidetracked (turned to the right or the left; Joshua 1:7). To do this he was to meditate on the Word of God and not allow the truth to get away from his thinking.
 - b.
 - 1. Joshua would soon face the pressures of leading a large mass of people into a hostile land. The normal pressures of meeting the needs of the nation could have easily caused Joshua to forget that God would not forsake or fail him.
 - 2. There would be those within the group who would question and resist Joshua's leadership decisions. Joshua needed to be

reminded that it was God who was going before him, and his responsibility was not so much his to lead the people as it was to follow the Lord and the people would then follow this example.

3. Israel was a traveling nation that was not a hardened army. Many of the nations they were about to face presented a formidable enemy for Israel and Joshua needed to be assured of victory through God's provision. No doubt he felt responsible for the safety and welfare of the nation and needed to be assured of victory.
 - c. Observe to do according to all.
11. A believer is successful if he maintains a dynamic personal love for the Lord Jesus Christ. If a Christian makes this his priority, he will naturally begin to do the things that are pleasing to God. Jesus said, **If you love me, you will keep ...** (Greek: future tense, which describes expectation; John 14:15). The believer may be tempted to put service before devotion (Revelation 2:1–7), but a successful Christian maintains a close personal relationship with Christ, and fruitful service will be an effective by-product of his devotion.