

# **JOSHUA 1 STUDY NOTES (1/30/22)**

**Joshua's Big Theme:** The Israelites are finally ready to enter into the land that God promised - that God is *gifting* to them - that is currently inhabited by enemy forces which need to be pushed out. Over the course of Joshua, they will learn what it means to be strong and courageous in the Lord as they follow God and trust Joshua in the scariest and most overwhelming of situations.

**Today's Context:** Joshua 1 introduces us to Joshua, God's new leader after the death of His servant, Moses. Joshua is called to submit to God as he seeks to lead God's people into this new homeland.

## **Additional Study Notes:**

- Joshua is the sixth book of the Bible, immediately following the Pentateuch (Genesis - Deuteronomy). It continues the narrative of Israel's journey home.
- Joshua has appeared before, as Moses' aid, in a variety of settings. This includes Exodus 24:13, Exodus 33:11, Numbers 11:28, and most famously, Numbers 14.
- In verses 10-18, Joshua speaks specifically to the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh. Why? Because in Numbers 32, these tribes settle on the *east* side of the Jordan as opposed to claiming territory in the promised land on the *west* side of the Jordan. However, Moses makes a pact with them that they must come and help the rest of their brothers and sisters fight and get settled into the promised land. Here, Joshua is calling them to be faithful to their promise.
- Additionally, why is Manasseh referred to as a half-tribe? How are they a tribe if they aren't one of Jacob's (Israel's) original 12 children? Because Joseph, one of Jacob's original children, never becomes a full "tribe." Instead, his children Ephraim and Manasseh become half-tribes of Israel. Check out Genesis 48 and Joshua 14:4a.
- When the tribes say, "Only may..." in verses 17 and 18, it can sound as if they are giving a conditional commitment. As if they are saying, "We will

*only* follow you if God is with you.” However, the word here is more of a word of encouragement. For instance, the NLT says, “*And may the Lord your God be with you!*” This is a more accurate interpretation.

**For Additional Study (most are available to borrow from CFC):**

- NIV Study Bible
- ESV Study Bible
- Other commentaries available upon request



# Discussion Questions

## CATCHING UP ON LAST WEEK

- (1) What was most significant for you from Psalm 19? What's stuck with you as meaningful or impactful?

## TODAY'S TEXT

### **KNOWING God**

- (2) What questions do you (or members of your group) have about this passage? Discuss.
- (3) What does this passage tell us about God?
- (4) What does this passage tell us about humanity?
- (5) Alpha and Omega Question: What was your major take-away from the book of Genesis? What questions did it leave you with? What are you looking forward to in Exodus?

### **GROWING Together**

- (6)\* *If people in your group are following the Alpha and Omega reading plan, take time to discuss/encourage their reading for 5-10 minutes.*
- (7) The Israelites were facing impossible odds as they prepared to cross the Jordan and fight forces far beyond their own power. Can you name a time in your life when you felt the same sense of fear and overwhelmingness? How did you or didn't you find strength and courage in God?
- (8) What do you think it means that God is "with us" and will not "forsake us" (vv.5-6)? Is this simply a kind sentiment/vague idea or does it give us actual power and comfort? What about in times where circumstances are crippling, devastating, and overwhelming?
- (9) Do you find it hard to submit to God's authority? Do you find it hard to submit to human authority that's placed over you? How do we submit well? How do we submit and obey when we disagree with or doubt the authority that's over us?
- (10) How does Christ lead us home? How does He provide genuine rest? Is that rest now, future, or both?
- (11) What questions, ideas, or themes would you want to study further?

### **SHOWING God to Others**

- (12) What in this passage serves as good news for the world around us?

## **PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK**

- (13) For next week, spend some time reading Joshua 2. What's interesting? What questions do you have?

## **QUESTIONS FOR CHILDREN (from Children's Director Emily Reiser)**

- (14) What stood out to you in this story? What did you find interesting and what was confusing?
- (15) Looking back, Moses was in charge of the Israelites and they had been wandering in the desert for 40 years. What was promised to the Israelites going all the way back to Abraham? Explain to your kids the Abrahamic covenant and the promise of this land. This is God delivering his promises to His people, how does that make you view God?
- (16) In order to go into the promised land the Israelites need to battle their enemies - how might they be feeling about that? How will they make it through? God's people will be strong and courageous when they fight and will know God is with them, do you know that God is with you too? How can you share this truth with the people around you?