

The Book of Joshua: From Here to There

Week 1: Joshua 1:1-18

Icebreaker

Think about a time when you were literally lost or had trouble finding your intended destination. What was the cause of your problem? How did you eventually find your destination? What were your feelings during the process?

Understanding Joshua

Read and reflect on Joshua 1:1-9 and respond to the following questions.

1. What stands out to you in the text? What questions does the passage raise? What does it make you think about?
2. As you think about Joshua's call to follow Moses and lead the people into the promised land, what do you think was going through his mind? What conflicts—both internal and external—was he facing?
3. What does God promise to Joshua? Is the promise unconditional or conditional? Why?
4. What specific instructions and commands does God give to Joshua? Why do you think those commands are so important?
5. What is to be the source of Joshua's strength and courage? Why do you think God reminds him of this?
6. Read Joshua 1:10-18 (if time permits). How does Joshua respond? How do the people respond?

Gospel Connection

- Read Luke 24:17. How does Joshua point to Jesus?
- Read Ephesians 1:11-14. What is the "inheritance" that Paul is referring to? What role does the Holy Spirit play in our "inheritance"?

Processing and Applying God's Word

As you think about what God is calling Joshua to do, to lead the people from a position of wandering—and all the worry, wasted time, and whining that comes with it—consider the following sets of questions.

- As you think about the past week (or even the past month or year) where do you feel like you have wasted time? Why do you feel now like that time spent was wasted? If you could have half of that time back now, what would you do with it? As you think about the week ahead, how might the group help you stay focused? Try to be as practical and concrete as you can here.
- As you think about this "here to there" movement from "wandering to worship," what does this look like for you? What does your "here" look like? In what areas of your life are you struggling to be obedient? In what areas of your life are you struggling to have faith? What does your "there" look like? What would a life of greater obedience and faith look like for you? How might the group help you grow in this process?
- As you think about God "breaking new ground" through you, who comes to mind as someone God wants you to take with you on your faith journey? Maybe it's someone

already close to you—a family member, a friend, someone already in your group—or maybe it's someone God may be leading you to build a closer relationship with. Whatever the case, what step is God leading you to take this week? How might the group help you think through that next step?

Personal Prayer and Reflection

Memorize Joshua 1:9 this week and consider praying in this way.

Lord,

I confess that I have relied on my own _____ as the source of my strength and courage. I have been discouraged by _____. Forgive me for failing to really believe that you are with me wherever I go.

I believe that just as you brought the people of Israel into new ground, you will break new ground in and through me.

Help me to be strong where I am weak. Give me courage where I am afraid. Help me to give you the worth that You and You alone deserve. May my desire for _____ fade and my desire for You grow. Holy Spirit, work in me to reveal where I need to change. Show me who I can help.

In Jesus' name, I pray.

Amen.