

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

STENGTH. COURAGE. LEADERSHIP. FAITH.

Joshua 14 Will we follow wholeheartedly?

Small group questions

Leaders: choose some, but not all of the following questions. Email me with any questions. Mark.

In the very busy nature of this life, it is possible – feasible – to be wholeheartedly devoted to one thing? See vv8, 9 and 14. What stands out for you regarding this description of Caleb? Why do you think we're told this three times?

Whatever else following God wholeheartedly means, from Caleb's example, we see it involves:

1. Trusting his plans

- a. 10 spies saw disaster. Caleb trusted God's plans to bring his people into the Promised Land. What led Caleb to this deep trust and big perspective? (v10 and refer to sermon)

God has plans for us: to transform us into the likeness of Jesus (Romans 8:29) and to take us into the new heavens and new earth (Revelation 21:1-4).

- b. What can help us trust those plans even when we go through the toughest of times? (See Romans 8:28, Romans 8:31-32). What practical steps can we take to remind ourselves of God's plans for us? (Consider creating a list of daily reminders or scriptures that can help.)

2. Claiming his promises

Caleb had been promised an inheritance in the land. It had been a long time coming but his wholehearted devotion and his trust in God's plans, led him to claim the promise – v10.

- a. What practical actions can we take to overcome fears and doubts, fostering a deeper trust in God's promises? (Share specific strategies such as prayer, meditation, journaling, etc.)
- b. What are some of the promises he has made to us we should be claiming? Refer sermon.
- c. Has there been a time in your life when you have claimed a promise from God and rested and revelled in it with great blessing? Share with the group.

3. Depending on his strength

Caleb has a task before him – to take the land promised.

- a. How does Caleb at age 85 expect to take his share of the Promised Land which was already occupied? See v12
- b. For what sort of things should *we* be depending on the Lord? (see 2 Tim 4:16 and Philippians 4:12-13.) Refer also to the sermon at this point.
- c. Identify areas of your life where you have struggled to depend on God's strength. How can you shift your mindset to rely more on Him?

Being wholeheartedly devoted to the Lord is not about more activities, more hours, and more commitments. It's about where your heart is. It's about love and relationship. It's about passion and heartbeat. It's about what defines – what drives you. How will you foster wholehearted devotion?

Take some time to pray that we will be people who trust God's plans, claim his promises and depend on his strength. Pray for one another that we will single minded and totally focused in heartfelt devotion to God.