

THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

STENGTH. COURAGE. LEADERSHIP. FAITH.

1. Joshua 1-11 Can we trust God's presence?

Small group questions

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

We were reminded in the message, that God's plan and purpose is to bring God's people, to God's place, where they can enjoy God's presence. This is where the Bible begins and ends. Between the first two chapters of the Bible and the last two, is the remarkable account of our rebellion against God and his plan to restore his people, to his place, enjoying his presence.

At the beginning of Joshua, his people are on the verge of entering the promised land. It's a dramatic and exciting time. Will Joshua trust God's purposes and promises and presence and power? We'll see!!

1. A command and a promise vv1-5

- a. Moses is dead. God tells Joshua appointed in his place to ready the people to cross the Jordan. Do you recall what we were told in the sermon about some of the challenges Joshua would face?
- b. The command was followed by two promises (v5): that no one would be able to stand up against him and that God would be with him. In fact he will never leave or forsake him. How would these promises change things for Joshua if he took God at his word?
- c. Why can't we simply claim the promises to Joshua as having been made for us?
- d. We can however learn of a character trait of God when he gives us a command. See Matthew 28:18-20 and Hebrews 13:5-6 and discuss how these promises ought to impact the way we think about God's presence with us.

2. A command and promise vv6-11

- a. Joshua is told to be 'strong and courageous' at the same time as being told to 'be careful to obey all the law my servant gave' and to 'not let this Book depart from your mouth and meditate on it day and night...' In the sermon it was suggested that these two commands are intertwined. Can you see this? What is the impact of linking the two? (Perhaps see Psalm 1.)
- b. Joshua was promised he would be 'prosperous and successful'? What did this promise mean? And why can't we claim this promise for our business success or our financial prosperity?
- c. What are the principles we can take from this passage which we can take for ourselves?
- d. What might be God calling *you* to today? And what is his promise to you in that?
- e. What are some personal challenges you are facing right now where you need to trust in God's presence and promises?
- f. How can we encourage one another to trust God's promises of his presence and enabling in whatever he's called us to do?

In your prayer following discussion today, take some time to pray that we will be people who delight in and meditate on God's word and therefore be bold and courageous to do whatever God has called us to do. Pray that we will also be people of boldness and courage in the certain and joyful knowledge that God will be with us to bless what we do in his name and to be with us in it.