



A Summary of the Old Testament

within the word

Lesson Seven | Joshua

We are going to look at the story of Joshua, entering the Promised Land, conquering the inhabitants and the division of the property to the tribes. We will see some words of encouragement and some words of warning. Listen carefully to hear all God wants to say to you through this study.

Day One

1. Before we jump into Joshua, it is important to take a quick look back at why the Israelites ended up wandering in the desert for so long.

In Numbers 13, we read Moses assembled a group of 12 men, one from each tribe, to search out the land and report back. The 12 men did exactly as they were instructed. They even brought back fruit from the land to prove what a lush and wonderful land God had given them. Sadly, right in the middle of their glorious report they shift gears from amazed to anxious.

Their report was, *"This is a land flowing with milk and honey **but** the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large."*

So far, so good boys. This was an honest look at a real challenge. Too bad their report didn't stop there. *"They are stronger than we are...we seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."*

Their negativity and lack of faith in God spread to the hearts of all the people. Two of the men, Joshua and Caleb, tried to help them see that God + the Israelites is a power greater than giants and fortified cities.

Unfortunately, the people refused to go. When we take our eyes off our God, we too can suffer crippling fear. When we look at our problem instead of our problem solver we can be easily discouraged.

Is God calling you to go and take some ground spiritually speaking?
Has God called you to do something that will require absolute faith in Him?
If so, what is your next step of faith?

2. Many, many years had passed and now Israel stands on the bank of the Jordan River. Moses has died, and Joshua is now the leader of this great nation. Notice the promises of God given to Joshua. List the three promises God gave Joshua in Joshua 1:5.

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- 3. Now list the instructions he is given in verses 6-9.
Don't miss the fact that one instruction is given three times.

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How important is something that God repeats three times?

- 4. In Joshua 1:16-18 we see the people's response to Joshua's call to arms.
How good it must have been to hear them say, *"Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go."*
They probably should have stopped there but they did not. They continued, *"Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you."*

I am not sure those words would have brought Joshua total comfort since they rarely fully obeyed Moses. They constantly grumbled and complained.

If we are following those who faithfully listen to God, we can trust their leadership. Think about the leaders you are following; according to Hebrews 13: 7, 17, underline the clear instructions given to believers.

Hebrews 13:7 *Remember your leaders, who spoke the word of God to you. Consider the outcome of their way of life and imitate their faith.*

Hebrews 13:17 *Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.*

- 5. Joshua chose two spies to send into Jericho. He had been a part of the first reconnaissance mission many years earlier. He knew how important it was to choose the right men to spy out the city. They must be brave men of integrity.

The two spies went into the house of a prostitute named Rahab. What better place to gather information without drawing attention? Conversations would be unguarded; and information would flow naturally. This house was also strategically located on the city wall, just in case a fast exit was required.

Do you believe there was one more even more important reason they chose Rahab's house?

Read the full story in Joshua 2.

6. As a prostitute, Rahab not only lived on the outskirts of the city, but she probably felt on the edge of rejection by many who lived there. Prostitutes often took in strangers who were looking for a warm place to stay the night. No one would suspect anything of two strangers showing up there.

What stories did Rahab say the people of Jericho had heard?
How had these stories affected them?

Day Two

1. If you were a citizen of Jericho, how would you feel knowing God had defeated the mighty Egyptian army and delivered Israel?
Have you ever found yourself on the wrong side of a fight?
2. God is not done showing the Israelites he is with them and his power is going before them.

Read Joshua 3:9-13 and 4:1-7.

How did God display his power and presence?
What did Joshua instruct the people to do?

3. Joshua 4:6 said the stones were to serve as a sign.

What is the purpose of a sign?
Who did Joshua say would later ask questions about this stack of stones?
What purpose does a sign like this serve for future generations?

4. As you go about your work for the Lord today, why not stop for a few moments and consider all the times God has delivered you, the ways He has gone before you, His provision for you and the ways He has led you?

This would be a good place to stop and write a prayer of thanksgiving.

5. The people living in the land of Canaan had heard about God parting the Red Sea. It is hard to have an event this large occur and word not get around.

How did another event like the parting of the Red Sea cause the inhabitants of the land to feel?

Read Joshua 5:1

Has God ever caused the heart of your enemies to melt with fear?

6. As the Israelites were about to undertake this assignment from the LORD, to take possession of the land he had promised, it was imperative they check their hearts and life to be in line for God's blessing.

Read Joshua 5:7.

What had not been done while traveling in the wilderness?

7. Read Joshua 5:8-10

After allowing 3 days for the men to heal, what important event did the nation celebrate?

8. How might celebrating this remembrance help stir the hearts of the Israelites to see a victory where it looked impossible?

9. Do you help your children remember times of deliverance, protection, and provision in order to build their faith?

Why not lead a dinner discussion with an example of a time God showed up for you? Now let others tell their stories around the table.

Day Three

1. Read Joshua 5:10-12.

What ended here, and why did it end?

If you would like to read the details of this provision, look up Exodus 16.

2. Do you think the people had grown accustomed to this provision?

Change is always a bit difficult.

If you think about it, the generation that is about to go into the Promised Land has only known this kind of provision. Not that there were no other source of food; they had livestock and fruits and vegetables, but their basic provision was manna.

Read John 6:41,47.

Jesus referred to himself as "...the bread of life."

	How is Jesus like manna?
John 1:14 <i>The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.</i>	
Lamentations 3:22-23 <i>Because of the LORD's great love we are not consumed, for his compassions never fail. 23 They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.</i>	
Psalms 19:7-10 <i>The law of the LORD is perfect, refreshing the soul. The statutes of the LORD are trustworthy, making wise the simple. The precepts of the LORD are right, giving joy to the heart. The commands of the LORD are radiant, giving light to the eyes. The fear of the LORD is pure, enduring forever. The decrees of the LORD are firm, and all of them are righteous. They are more precious than gold, than much pure gold; they are sweeter than honey, than honey from the honeycomb.</i>	

3. When Israel arrived at Jericho, they found the city shut up, no one in and no one out.

Read Joshua 6:1-19.

What was the specific plan of attack?

Who was to be spared?

4. What were the specific instructions for anything found in Jericho?

Read Joshua 6:17-25.

Do you recall God's instructions given to the Israelites?

If not, look back to your answer on Day One-question 3.

Now read Joshua 6:20-25.

Briefly, write the details of this event.

5. Joshua 7:1 gives us further details of the battle at Jericho.
What happened?

6. Israel had just defeated and destroyed the walled city of Jericho.

Read Joshua 7.

How on earth could such a relatively small city like Ai be such a problem?

What was the hindrance for victory?

What was the sin in the camp?

The New Testament refers to events like this as, "...yeast that leavens the whole lump."

Do you recall the cleansing of each Israelite home prior to their great exit from Egypt? (Exodus 12:15, 17.)

Each household was to cleanse their home of all yeast; yeast represented sin.

Day Four

1. Have you ever considered what personal sin can do to a nation?

Has God changed in his feelings toward sin?

As an individual we can do little to affect change in our nation, but if all God's people chose to cleanse their heart, and live strong and courageous lives of obedience do you believe we could see change?

Who is the only person you can change?

2. Even if I cannot change a whole nation for good, I do not want to be an Achan, who brings my nation under the judgement of God.

Underline the steps of Achan's sin in the text below:

Joshua 7:21 *When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath."*

3. Compare Joshua 7:21, Genesis 3:6 and Daniel 1:8.
When is the best time to stop sin?

Joshua 7:21 *When I saw in the plunder a beautiful robe from Babylonia, two hundred shekels of silver and a bar of gold weighing fifty shekels, I coveted them and took them. They are hidden in the ground inside my tent, with the silver underneath."*

Genesis 3:6 *When the woman saw that the fruit of the tree was good for food and pleasing to the eye, and also desirable for gaining wisdom, she took some and ate it. She also gave some to her husband, who was with her, and he ate it.*

Daniel 1:8 *But Daniel resolved (purposed in his heart) not to defile himself with the royal food and wine, and he asked the chief official for permission not to defile himself this way.*

Resolve is a strong word, meaning to be devoted to principle and to be committed to a course of action. When Daniel resolved not to defile himself, he was being true to a lifelong determination to do what was right and not to give in to the pressures around him. He had already settled the matter before the temptation ever arrived.

Day Five

1. In Joshua 8-13, we read of several battles and lessons learned. In all 31 kings were defeated and Israel gained control of the land. Now it was each tribe's responsibility to clear the remaining enemies from the land. In Joshua 14:1-5, we read of the division of the land.

Jot down the specific details you see concerning land division in these five verses.

2. The two faithful spies of Numbers 14:30, were Joshua and Caleb. Caleb is now ready to receive his portion of the land.

Read Joshua 14:6-15.

What was Caleb given as his inheritance and why?

What interesting fact did you see concerning this 85-year-old man?

3. Joshua 15-19; were the divisions of the land specifically to each tribe. Joshua 20 mentions cities of refuge.

Read Joshua 20:1-6.

What is a city of refuge?

Is it merely a hiding place or is it also a place of justice?

Isn't God's provision an amazing thing?

4. Read Joshua 23, Joshua has grown old; he summons the elders, leaders, judges, and officials.

What did he remind them about?

What did he warn them about?

What did he tell them was about to happen?

5. Read Joshua 24.

Here Joshua speaks to all the people of Israel. Circle and highlight every time you see the word "I" in verses 2-13.

6. In Joshua 24:14-15, Joshua gives the people a choice.

What was the choice they were given that day?

Isn't this the choice believers are faced with as well?

How is this evident in your life and walk of faith? (Give this question more than a mere passing glance. Our God takes this very seriously.)

7. What was the response of the people in Joshua 24:16-18?

Read verses 19-27.

This is the conversation between the people and Joshua that day.

Highlight or underline the people's response repeated three times in verses 18, 21, 24.

We will see in our next lesson how well they kept their word.

8. As believers what is to be our response to Joshua's challenge to "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve"?

This must be more than merely words. Saying something does not make it so. Living a life of service to the Lord will require something of us. What will this require?

9. Israel is being made into a living example for others to see. It has been said that you may be the only Bible others ever read.

Are they able to see God's mercy, his love, his grace, and his goodness?
Are they able to see the character of God reflected through you?

10. How old was Joshua when he died? Joshua 24:29

11. As we have done each week, add God's character qualities that you have seen to your list on **The Character of God** page. Some of His qualities may be repeated from chapter to chapter but you may also see new ones as well.

Please, do not leave this undone. The purpose of our study is to get to know our God.