

Joshua
Leader Guide
(NASB AND ESV)

CONQUERING
YOUR ENEMIES

Joshua Leader Guide (NASB and ESV)

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USING LEADER GUIDES

Leader Guides are intended for you, the leader, to guide your Precept Upon Precept® and In & Out® discussions. They are designed to help you reason through the content of the lessons and to ensure you have understood what your group should have learned from their study. The guides offer effective plans for leading discussions.

The Holy Spirit is your guide as you prepare. He is the one who knows what your group needs to apply to their lives. Pray for them as they study and for yourself as you prepare to lead the discussion.

These guides can be used for either the NASB or the ESV edition of the courses. ESV words follow the NASB after a slash / or are set off with parentheses.

Leader Guides include the following:

- Lesson emphasis
- A logical order for the discussion
- Discussion questions
- Suggested visual aid(s)

Practical tips for using the Leader Guide:

- **Don't simply "do" the lesson.**
Stay with the lesson until you have a good understanding of it. This will give you a better grasp of how the Leader Guide takes you through the lesson.
- **You don't have to ask every question in the guide.**
Often one question will be covered while discussing another question so there is no reason to ask it. Your goal is not to ask every question, but to ask enough questions to make sure your group understood the lesson and to help them apply the truths to their lives.

Using the Leader Guide with In & Out


When your entire group uses In & Out

Compare an In & Out lesson with the Leader Guide. Use what relates to the In & Out lesson as a guide for the discussion. Don't teach what's not in In & Out lessons. Remember your goal in the discussion is for your group to discuss what they've learned, not for you to lecture on what you learned.

For groups studying both Precept Upon Precept and In & Out

Use the Leader Guides as designed for PUP, knowing that the In & Out assignments will be covered in the discussion. Make a note in the Leader Guide of what is not in the In & Out.

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JOSHUA
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 1

Lesson emphasis:

- Joshua 1
- Joshua
- The land

JOSHUA 1

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group how Joshua 1 begins.

After Moses' death, the Lord spoke to Joshua.

Who was Joshua?

The son of Nun
Moses' servant / assistant

He was crossing the Jordan with the people of Israel to the land God gave them.

Before going any further in the text, you can ask what they learned from the cross-references about Joshua.

Exodus 17:8-16

Joshua was the leader of Israel's army. He led Israel to defeat Amalek in battle.

Exodus 24:12-13 and Numbers 11:28

He was Moses' servant, his attendant from his youth.

Numbers 13 and 14

He was the son of Nun from the tribe of Ephraim, one of Joseph's sons.
His name was Hoshea, but Moses called him Joshua.

He was chosen to be one of the twelve spies to go look at the land. Only Caleb and he gave a good report saying Israel could take the land as the Lord said.

Therefore, Caleb and Joshua, out of a whole generation of men 20 years old and up when Israel came out of Egypt, were the only two who entered the land of promise. The others died in the wilderness during the 38 following years.

The book of Joshua is at the end of the 40 years of wandering in the wilderness.

Numbers 27:15-23

The Lord told Moses to commission Joshua as the leader of the nation of Israel. He was described as a man in whom was the Spirit. Moses commissioned him in the sight of all Israel.

Numbers 32:11-13

Joshua was also described, along with Caleb, as one who followed the Lord fully / wholly.

Numbers 34:16-17 and Deuteronomy 1:34-39

After going into the land, Joshua and Eleazar the priest were the ones who would apportion the land to the twelve tribes for their inheritance. He would be the one who would cause Israel to inherit the land.

Deuteronomy 3:18-29; 31:1-8, 14-23

He saw what the Lord did to the two kings of the Amorites that Israel defeated in battle on the east side of the Jordan. He knew the Lord was the one fighting for Israel.

Moses was told by the Lord to charge, encourage, and strengthen Joshua because he would go across the Jordan at the head of Israel as they crossed into the land of promise.

Moses told Joshua to be strong and courageous because he'd lead the people into the land. Then the Lord commissioned Joshua.

Deuteronomy 34:5-9

Joshua was filled with the spirit of wisdom because Moses laid his hand on him. Israel listened to Joshua as their leader.

Lead your discussion back to Joshua 1:3-4. What are these verses about?

The land God gave to His people Israel

In verse 4 the Lord again gave the boundaries of the land, from the wilderness to Lebanon and from the Euphrates to the Great Sea.

Tell your group to look at their map and chart from the lesson as visual aids.

Ask what they learned about the land from the cross-references they studied.

Genesis 12:1-7

The Lord told Abram to go to the land He would show him. He led Abram to the land of Canaan and promised it to his descendants / offspring. This is how it came to be known as the "promised land."

Genesis 13:12-18

The Lord told Abram He would give the land to him and his descendants / offspring forever.

Genesis 15:7-21 and 17:1-8

The Lord made a covenant with Abram when he asked how he would know that he, his descendants / offspring, would possess the land.

The Lord prophesied that his descendants would be enslaved for 400 years, which happened in Egypt; then in the fourth generation they would return to the land of Canaan, the promised land. The iniquity of the Amorites would be full by that time, and Israel would be used by the Lord to destroy them. Joshua's generation was the fourth one from the twelve sons of Jacob, Israel.

The boundaries were from the river of Egypt to the Euphrates River.

God changed Abram's name to Abraham.

Genesis 26:1-5

The land was promised to Isaac and his descendants / offspring, not Ishmael.

Genesis 28:1-4, 13-16

The land was promised to Jacob's descendants / offspring.

Later the Lord changed Jacob's name to Israel. Therefore, the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob (Israel) are the ones the Lord gave the land.

Exodus

The Lord refers to the land promised to the fathers Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. He remembered His covenant and brought Israel out of Egypt. He was the one who brought them to the land and drove out their enemies.

The boundary was from the Red Sea to the sea of the Philistines (the Mediterranean Sea), and from the wilderness to the Euphrates River.

Leviticus

Israel was not to defile the land when they took possession of it. They were not to practice the abominations of the nations who were in the land before them nor those things which took place in Egypt. If they did, then the land would spew them out just like the other nations before them. Relate this to Genesis 15. Abraham's descendants would return to the land when the iniquity of the Amorites was full.

Israel's land was one flowing with milk and honey, a fruitful land. They were to live in it according to the commands of the Lord. Every 7th year the land was to have a sabbath rest, and every 50th year the land was to return to its original owner, the family to whom it was originally given. The Lord was calling the nation to be holy in their holy land because He is a holy God.

They would live securely on the land as long as they obeyed the Lord, and the land would yield its produce for them. They were not to permanently sell the land because it belongs to Him.

Numbers

Israel was clearly told by the Lord to drive out all the inhabitants of the land of their inheritance when they went into it to possess it. If they did not, then those enemies would trouble them in their land.

The land was to be apportioned / divided by lot among the tribes of Israel.

The borders in Numbers 34:1-15 are for the inheritance in the land God gave them. This was the part of the land they were to possess and live in. The Lord gave all of the land from the Euphrates to the Mediterranean, but the inheritance was what is detailed in these verses.

Deuteronomy

Again the Lord told the second generation of those who came out of Egypt (the first generation died in the wilderness because of rejecting the land and rebelling against the Lord) that He would clear away the nations before them, but they would need to be strong to go in and possess it.

Deuteronomy 11:12 is an especially interesting verse as it tells of the Lord's special care for this land. His eyes are always on it. He called it the good land. The days of Israel would be prolonged on the land, as long as they obeyed the Lord.

At the end of Deuteronomy, the book right before Joshua, the Lord showed Moses the land which He swore to give Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. This was the land of promise, the fair and good land, the holy land. This was the land given by the Lord as their everlasting possession.

How does Deuteronomy 34:4 relate in time to Joshua 1:1?

Moses died, Israel mourned for him 30 days in the wilderness, and then the Lord told Joshua to lead Israel into the land.

Verses 5-9

What else did the Lord tell Joshua?

No one would be able to stand before him; no one could defeat Joshua.

The Lord assured him that as he had seen Him be with Moses for the 40 years in the wilderness, He would be with Joshua as well.

God assured Joshua He would not fail / leave or forsake him.

The first time the Lord told Joshua to be strong and courageous is in verse 6.

strong—*chazaq*, “to be or grow firm”¹

“to be bound fast, be attached; make firm; be valiant; conquer”²

¹Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). H2388.

courageous—*amets*, “to be stout, strong, bold, alert”³

The Lord gave him these commands because of the rest of what He said in verse 6. He was the one to give the people possession of the land of promise for the first time. Israel had been promised this land for hundreds of years, but they had never possessed it as their own. There were enemies in the land, enemies that had to be fought and conquered.

The Lord repeated in verse 7 the need for Joshua, the leader, to be strong and very courageous.

What is that command connected with in verse 7?

Joshua was to obey all the law which the Lord had given to Moses. He was to keep it so he would have success conquering the land as their possession.

Verse 8 is also about keeping the Law, meditating on it day and night. Joshua was to constantly be thinking about the Word of God.

The Lord told Joshua that if he were obedient to all that was written in the book of the law, then he would make his way prosperous and he would have success.

Give time at any point in this discussion for your group to discuss relevant application.

In the context of this passage, the Lord specifically spoke to Joshua about conquering and possessing the land. This cannot be applied to people today who only want to be prosperous. But it is true for believers in regard to spiritual success, victory.

What is repeated and commanded in verse 9?

Be strong and courageous is repeated the third time in this chapter.
Another command is not to tremble / be frightened or be dismayed.

“dismayed”—*chathath*, “to be shattered”⁴; “to be broken, abolished; to be afraid; . . . terrify. . . The meaning ranges from a literal breaking to destruction, to demoralization, and finally to panic.”⁵ “To *prostrate*; hence to *break* down, either (lit.) by violence, or (fig.) by confusion and fear”⁶

² Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1994), Hebrew 2388.

³ Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). H553.

⁴ Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). H2865.

⁵ Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1994), Hebrew 2865.

⁶ James Strong, *The New Strong's Dictionary of Hebrew and Greek Words* (Nashville: Thomas Nelson, 1997, c1996). H2865.

Why was Joshua not to tremble / be frightened or be dismayed?

The Lord was with him wherever he went; also in verse 5. He was the one the Lord had chosen to lead His people into the land He had promised them.

Ask if there is any relevant application for Christians now.

Verses 10-11

What is the main point of these verses?

Joshua commanded the officers, who in turn commanded the people to be prepared.

In three days they would cross the Jordan River to enter the land.

Verses 12-16

Who said what to whom?

Joshua addressed the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh.

They were the ones given a possession of land on the east side of the Jordan. They were already in the land they would possess. So Joshua reminded them of their responsibility for their valiant warriors to help in conquering of the rest of the land for their brothers.

NOTE: If your group has not studied Numbers, they might not be aware that after Israel conquered the land of Sihon and Og (two Amorite kings, Numbers 21) the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh asked for that land, because it would be good land for their livestock. Moses said they could have it if their fighting men first crossed and helped the other tribes conquer the land of Canaan (Numbers 32).

Verses 16-18

What did the two and a half tribes reply to Joshua?

They agreed with him and were willing to be sent wherever they were needed on the west side of the Jordan.

They said that they would obey Joshua as they had Moses. They desired that the Lord be with Joshua as He had been with Moses. Anyone rebelling against Joshua was worthy of death, as they stated.

They recognized that Joshua was the leader of their nation as their great leader Moses had been.

The chapter ends with their requesting of Joshua that he be strong and courageous.

To end your discussion, you can ask what your group learned from the cross-references in the New Testament about being strong and how it applies to their lives.

Hebrews 13:5-6

The Lord will never leave or forsake believers, just as He told Joshua that same thing. There is no reason to be afraid of what man might do if the Lord is the Helper, not leaving or forsaking believers.

2 Thessalonians 3:3

God is faithful to strengthen / establish and protect / guard believers from the evil one. He is the protector of His people now as with Joshua.

John 16:33

The reason believers can take courage in the present world is because Jesus overcame the world. There will be tribulation in the world, but that is not to be the focus of Christians.

Ephesians 6:10-11

This is a command to be strong in the Lord, in the strength of His might. Put on God's armor to stand against the devil.

1 Corinthians 16:13

This calls believers to maturity, to act like men. It calls them to be firm, alert / watchful, and strong. It's another command to be strong.

Remind your group that the command to Joshua to be strong and courageous was connected to his obedience to the Word of the Lord, the book of the Law. This is also true for them.

Ask what they noted as the theme of this chapter on their Joshua at a Glance chart. It was probably something like:

Joshua, be strong and courageous; the Lord is with you

Encourage them to continue their study of Joshua to understand more about how to be strong and courageous.

**JOSHUA
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 2**

Lesson emphasis:

- Joshua 2–5

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, you might ask your group about what they remember about Joshua 1. Tell them to look at their Joshua at a Glance chart and the map as visual aids for this discussion.

A theme for Joshua 1 should be similar to:

Joshua, be strong and courageous; the Lord is with you

The Lord commanded him to be strong and courageous because he was going to take Israel into their promised land.

He was to obey the book of the law written by Moses so that he would be successful.

The Lord was with him, and the people were ready to follow him. He had led them into battle before and had been victorious over Amalek and the two kings of the Amorites.

JOSHUA 2

Ask your group what they noted as a main theme for this chapter on their Joshua at a Glance chart.

Joshua sent 2 spies to Jericho; Rahab

Verses 1-7

What do these verses tell about?

Joshua sent two spies from the camp at Shittim on the east side of the Jordan to look at the land, especially Jericho.

They went to a harlot's / prostitute's house and stayed there.

The king heard about it and sent to ask Rahab about the men.

She hid and protected the two men.

NOTE: It's not helpful to debate Rahab lying to the men of Jericho who were looking for the two spies. The Scripture does not condone her lying, only the fact that she hid the spies. She was living in a pagan society that did not have God's laws.

Men of Jericho went away to look for the spies.

Verses 8-21

What did Rahab say to the two spies?

Tell your group to look at their lists about her on Day Two of the lesson.

She told the spies she knew the Lord had given the land to Israel.

Terror / fear of Israel had fallen on the people in Jericho.
All the land's inhabitants had melted before Israel.
They were afraid of them.

The Lord dried up the Red Sea; that was 40 years earlier.
Israel destroyed the two Amorite kings, Sihon and Og.
Hearts melted, no courage remained.

She knew the LORD is God in heaven and on earth.

Ask your group what they learned from the cross-references about her.

In almost every passage about her she is referred to as Rahab the harlot / prostitute. Perhaps the reason she is called Rahab the harlot / prostitute is to remind all who read about her that there is none so defiled that he or she cannot come to faith in the Lord. It shows God's grace.

Hebrews 11:31

By faith she didn't perish along with the disobedient.
She believed what she said about the Lord and acted on her belief.

James 2:25

Her works of receiving and protecting the spies showed her faith, justification.

Joshua 6:22-25

Because of her faith and helping the spies, Rahab and her family were spared when Jericho was destroyed. She lived with the people of Israel after that.

Matthew 1:5

Rahab married an Israelite, and had a son named Boaz who later married Ruth.
Rahab was the great-great grandmother of King David, and she's in Jesus' genealogy.

Lead your discussion back to Joshua 2:12-21.

What was the pledge (ESV—sure sign) Rahab and the spies made?

The two men swore safety for her and her father's household before they left her.

She told them what to do to return safely to the camp of Israel. She tied the scarlet cord in the window of her house on the wall as soon as they left, even though she knew the defeat of Jericho would not be for at least 3 more days. She knew Jericho would fall to Israel, and she did not perish with the disobedient.

Verses 22-24

What was the report the spies gave Joshua?

After the two hid for three days and then returned to Joshua, they told him what they'd heard.

The land was given to them by the Lord.
The land's inhabitants had melted away before Israel.

Give time for your group to discuss relevant application at any point during this discussion. Tell them to look at their chart "Insights about God" (Day Five) as they discuss these chapters.

JOSHUA 3

Ask what they put on their Joshua at a Glance chart as the theme of this chapter.

Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground

Verses 1-4

What are these verses about?

Israel went from Shittim to the Jordan River.

After three days (relate to Joshua 1:11), the officers went through the camp commanding the people what to do.

The priests would carry the ark.

The people would follow it at a distance of 2,000 cubits, approximately 3,000 feet. That's a little over half a mile.

There was to be some distance between the ark and the people following because they did not know where they were going; they had not been that way before. They had been wandering in the wilderness for the previous 40 years, but this was the first time they had entered the land, except for Joshua and Caleb and the two spies who went to Jericho. But Joshua and Caleb had entered the land from Kadesh-barnea, the southern part, instead of entering over the Jordan from the east.

Why the ark of the covenant first? Ask your group what they learned from the cross-reference about the ark.

Exodus 25:10-22

The ark was the place where the Lord met with Moses when He gave him the commandments for Israel. It contained the tablets of stone on which the Lord wrote the Ten Commandments. The mercy seat covered the ark, mercy over the law, where God met with man.

Israel had entered into covenant with the Lord at Sinai, then the new generation did the same in the plains of Moab, their position at the time they started to cross the Jordan. The ark of the covenant with the presence of God led them.

Verses 5-13

What did Joshua tell the people?

Joshua told the people to consecrate themselves; the next day the Lord would do wonders among them. Then he told the priests to take the ark and go ahead of the people.

The Lord exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel on the day he led them to cross the Jordan on dry ground.

At that point, they recognized that the Lord was with him just as He had been with Moses when the Red Sea was dried up and they crossed on dry ground. The Lord demonstrated that He was with Joshua on that day.

The Lord is the one who exalts His leaders. No one else is able.

Joshua told the people they would know the living God was among them. The ark of the Lord of all the earth was crossing the Jordan ahead of them.

When the priests' feet rested in the Jordan, the waters will be cut off and stand in one heap. Joshua told them in detail what would happen before it did.

Verses 14-17

What happened?

When the priests carrying the ark went into the Jordan, the water stopped and the people crossed on dry ground. It was dry until all the people crossed.

NOTE: Some in your group might remember or know that Numbers 26:51 said there were 601,730 men twenty years old and upward; so with wives and children, many think there were at least 2 million people.

The Lord of all the earth dried up the Jordan River for Israel to cross on dry ground. Is there anything too difficult for Him?

He kept His promise, did the miraculous, assured the new generation with as great a miracle as drying up the Red Sea.

JOSHUA 4

Again, ask how your group summarized the theme of this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

Memorial: 12 stones at Gilgal

Verses 1-7

What are these verses about?

After crossing the Jordan River on dry ground, one man from each of the twelve tribes of Israel took a stone from the middle of the riverbed, carried it to the other side, and laid it down in the place where they lodged that night. These were for a sign when their children asked about them. They were a memorial that the Lord had dried up the water of the Jordan for the nation to cross on dry ground into the land.

Verses 8-13

Who did what?

Joshua also set up twelve stones in the middle of the Jordan at the place where the priests carrying the ark of the covenant stood in the riverbed.

The tribes who had been given land on the east side of the Jordan also crossed that day, 40,000 men of war. They were to help their brothers take the land from the nations living in Canaan. These were the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh.

Verses 14-18

Ask your group what they learned about the Lord exalting Joshua. Some of them might have comparisons between Joshua and Moses. Use the chart in the lesson as they discuss this.

Just as the Lord had exalted Moses in the sight of Israel as he led them out of Egypt by the hand of the Lord performing miracles through him, the Lord also exalted Joshua through the crossing of the Jordan River. People could see that He was with Joshua as He had been with Moses. At that point they revered Joshua just as they had Moses.

The Lord is the one who exalts His leaders in the sight of His people. Some try to exalt themselves, but those who are truly of the Lord are exalted in His time, in His way, according to His calling and His Word. Joshua was an obedient servant of the Lord, who kept His Word and knew Who He is.

Ask how people today can apply the examples of these two leaders to their lives, especially if they are in a leadership position or preparing for a leadership role.

Verses 19-24

How does this chapter end?

The 10th day of the first month, Israel camped at Gilgal in their land. It was close to Jericho. Joshua set up the 12 stones as a memorial there.

Crossing the Jordan on dry ground, as crossing the Red Sea on dry ground, was to demonstrate who the Lord is.

All peoples of the earth should know that the Lord’s hand is mighty. This is also seen in Joshua 5:1. Compare this with what Rahab said in Joshua 2:11. By His mighty hand the Lord exalted Joshua, but melted the hearts of his enemies.

It was also so that His people would fear Him forever. The memorial was to remind them constantly of what He had done.

You might ask your group if any want to briefly share a “memorial” they have set up to remember what God has done in their lives.

JOSHUA 5

What is the theme of this chapter?

Circumcision and Passover at Gilgal

Verses 1-9

What happened in these verses and why?

The Lord told Joshua to circumcise all the men after they came into the land. Joshua’s obedience showed his complete trust in the Lord as their protector since they were in “enemy territory.”

The place was named Gilgal because there the Lord rolled away Egypt’s reproach from Israel.

Ask what your group learned about circumcision from the cross-references in the lesson.

Genesis 17

Circumcision was the sign of the Abrahamic covenant and would remind them of that covenant; the land was part of the promise of that covenant. Any man of Israel who was not circumcised was cut off from his people because he had broken the covenant.

Exodus 4:24-26

The Lord almost killed Moses because he had not circumcised his son.

Verses 10-12

What other important event took place at Gilgal?

On the 14th day of the 1st month, four days after crossing the Jordan, Israel celebrated the Passover in the land of promise. The first Passover was when they came out of Egypt, 40 years earlier. The Passover was a reminder to them of how the Lord brought them out with a mighty hand and delivered them from death by the lamb's blood over their doors.

The day after Passover the manna stopped, the manna they had gotten every day for the last 40 years. For the first time they ate the produce of their own land. The provision of both the manna in the wilderness and the produce of the promised land showed God's faithfulness to provide for His people.

Verses 13-15

How does this chapter end?

Joshua saw the captain / commander of the Lord's host / army with a drawn sword in his hand.

NOTE: The captain / commander of the Lord's host / army is thought by some to be a "Christophany," a pre-incarnate appearance of the Lord Jesus Christ. Others think not; don't let your group get into a debate over this. Just discuss the significance to Joshua and how this also compares to Moses' encounter at the burning bush.

This was warrior to warrior; Joshua was the leader of Israel's army.
The captain / commander of the Lord's host / army led him.

As the Lord told Moses he was standing on holy ground, so He told Joshua he was in the holy land, the land long ago promised to his people by the Lord of all the earth.

And the Lord saw to it that Joshua defeated his enemies and possessed the holy land.

Joshua worshiped the Lord of all the earth as the captain / commander of the Lord's host / army.

To end this discussion, ask what your group learned about the Lord and how it applies to them. Ask if they learned from Joshua's example, and how that applies to their lives.

JOSHUA
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 3

Lesson emphasis:

- Joshua 6–8

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group what they remember from Joshua 1–5. Tell them to look at their Joshua at a Glance charts as a visual aid. Another helpful visual aid for this whole discussion is the map.

Joshua 1 Joshua, be strong and courageous; the Lord is with you
The Lord told Joshua He would not fail or forsake him, and no one would be able to stand against him all the days of his life. Joshua was to obey the law to succeed in giving God's people their land.

Joshua 2 Joshua sent 2 spies to Jericho; Rahab
Rahab recognized that the Lord had given the land to Israel. She was to be spared because she knew the Lord is God in heaven and on earth. The hearts of Jericho's people melted away, and no courage remained in any man because they had heard of the Lord drying up the Red Sea and of Israel defeating the two Amorite kings.

Joshua 3 Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground
The living God, the Lord of all the earth did a miracle for the generation He led into the land similar to one He did for the generation He led out of Egypt. He dried up the Jordan River for Israel to cross into Canaan.

Joshua 4 Memorial: 12 stones at Gilgal
On the 10th day of the 1st month Israel entered the land and camped at Gilgal.

Joshua 5 Circumcision and Passover at Gilgal;
Captain / commander of Lord's host/ army
Passover was on the 14th day of the 1st month.

The captain / commander of the Lord's host / army appeared to Joshua and told him he was standing on holy ground.

JOSHUA 6

Ask what they noted as the theme of this chapter.

Joshua destroyed Jericho, spared Rahab

Verses 1-5

How does this chapter begin?

Jericho was tightly shut because they feared Israel. No one went out or came in. Rahab was not the only one who heard of what the Lord had done. She was just the only one who sought refuge in Him, believing in Him.

The Lord told Joshua exactly what to do.

The armed men were to go before 7 priests with 7 trumpets preceding the ark of the covenant, followed by a rear guard. All Israel's men of war were to participate.

NOTE: According to Numbers 26, there were 601,730 men of war in Israel.

They were to circle Jericho once a day for 6 days in silence except for the trumpets.

On the 7th day they were to circle the city seven times and shout when the trumpets were blown. As a result, the walls of Jericho would fall down flat so the men of Israel could go into the city.

There is a comparison chart at the end of this lesson's guide which you can use as a visual aid for this discussion. Complete it as your group discusses each point on it.

Verses 6-11

What are these verses about?

Joshua told the priests and the people what the Lord told him.

Priests were to carry the ark.

Seven other priests were to carry seven ram's horn trumpets and blow them.

All of those priests were in the middle of the 600,000+ men of war.

They all did what the Lord said on the first day.

Verses 12-14

When are these verses about?

They did what the Lord said on the second through sixth days.

Verses 15-21

What happened on the seventh day?

They marched around Jericho seven times.

Then, in verses 16-19, Joshua told his people that the city was under the ban (ESV—devoted to destruction).

Everything in it belonged to the Lord; they couldn't take anything for themselves.

Only the silver and gold, bronze and iron were holy and to be put into God's treasury.

At this point, ask your group what they learned about “under the ban” / “devoted to destruction.”

under the ban / devoted to destruction— *cherem*
“devoted thing”¹

“. . . something devoted unto divine service; a ban, a curse, extermination; a person or thing which has been marked for destruction, a net, an enticement. The essential meaning is ‘forbidden’ or ‘prohibited.’ It was an object which was surrendered to God and to His service or something declared for utter destruction.”²

Deuteronomy 7:22-26

Moses told Israel not to take anything under the ban (devoted to destruction) or they would become like it. The context is destroying all in the cities they conquered in their land.

Deuteronomy 13:12-18

God's anger would be against anyone taking things under the ban (devoted to destruction). It was all to be destroyed.

Joshua 22:20

God's wrath came because of taking things under the ban (devoted to destruction).

Lead your discussion back to Joshua 6:17.

Who was the exception?

Rahab and all in her house would be allowed to live.

What happened in verses 20-21?

The priests blew the trumpets, the people shouted and the wall of Jericho fell down flat so Israel could enter the city.

They destroyed everything in it as the Lord said to do.

Verses 22-25

Who are these verses about? What happened?

Rahab and her family were brought out. Then Israel's men of war burned Jericho.

¹Robert L. Thomas, *New American Standard Hebrew-Aramaic and Greek Dictionaries: Updated Edition* (Anaheim: Foundation Publications, Inc., 1998, 1981). H2764.

²Spiros Zodhiates, *The Complete Word Study Old Testament* (Chattanooga, TN: AMG Publishers, 1994), Hebrew 2764.

Verses 26-27

How does this chapter end?

Joshua made the people of Israel take an oath (ESV—laid an oath on them) that anyone trying to rebuild Jericho would do so at the price of his firstborn and youngest sons.

The chapter ends with a statement about Joshua's fame being in all the land because the Lord was with him. Relate this to Joshua 1:5 and 9.

JOSHUA 7

What is the theme of this chapter?

Israel was defeated at Ai; Achan took things under the ban (ESV—devoted things)

Verse 1

How does this chapter continue from the one before?

God's anger burned against Israel because of what Achan did.

Verses 2-5

What happened in these verses?

Joshua sent spies to Ai. They reported to him that Israel only needed two to three thousand men of war for this city. So, he sent 3,000 men.

According to the map, Ai was not as close to Israel's camp as Jericho had been.

They went to Ai, where thirty-six of Israel's men were struck and the rest fled. So their hearts melted. Compare with Joshua 2:9, 11 and 24.

Verses 6-15

What did Joshua do?

He went to the Lord and asked why.

The answer was that Israel had sinned. They couldn't overcome their enemies until the sin was taken care of.

Verse 12 says they were accursed (ESV—devoted for destruction).

The Lord told Joshua what to do to consecrate the people.
The guilty were to be burned.

Verses 16-21

What happened?

Going through Israel's tribes, families, and men, the Lord showed Joshua who was guilty. Achan admitted his sin and told how it came about.

He saw the things.

He coveted them.

He took them.

He hid them.

Ask your group what they learned from the cross-references associated with this.

Genesis 3:1-7

Eve gave in to temptation because of what she saw.

She desired the forbidden fruit, so she took it and ate.

Then Adam and Eve made themselves clothing to hide their nakedness.

2 Samuel 11:1-6; 12:9-12

King David saw a beautiful woman.

He took another man's wife and committed adultery.

Then he tried to hide what he'd done.

Although done in secret, the consequences were very public.

Ephesians 4:22-32

Giving in to deceitful desires was part of the old self, former manner of life for believers.

Believers are not to participate in the sins listed in this text.

1 John 1:9

If believers confess their sins, God will forgive and cleanse.

Verses 22-26

What was Achan's punishment?

Achan, his family, and all that belonged to him were stoned and burned.

Evidently they knew what he had done since the things were hidden in his tent.

No one confessed until the Lord made it clear who had sinned.

Achan is remembered for bringing trouble on the whole nation of Israel.

You might ask your group what they learned about God from studying this event about Achan.

JOSHUA 8

What is this chapter about? The theme?

Joshua destroyed Ai

Verses 1-29

How did this battle take place?

The Lord told Joshua to take all the men of war to go against Ai.
He gave him a battle strategy. It was very different from how Jericho was defeated.

The Lord had not failed or forsaken Joshua. He was still with him.

Jericho was defeated by miraculous means.

Ai was defeated by an ambush built on Israel's previous retreat from the city.
The details were specified by the Lord, but didn't look as "miraculous" as Jericho.

The captain / commander of the Lord's host / army was leading Joshua in his successes,
because Joshua was not turning to the right or to the left from following the Lord's word.

30,000 of Israel's valiant warriors went out at night to be ready to ambush the city
from behind. They went at night to the west side of Ai, between Bethel and Ai.

Early the next morning the others would go like they did at first, and pretend to
retreat. 5,000 men were then sent for ambush on the west of Ai.

NOTE: These 5,000 might have been set to cut off any who came from Bethel to aid Ai.

When the men of Ai left the city in pursuit, the ones behind it went in and took it.

When Joshua pointed to Ai with his javelin, the men set for ambush entered the
city and set it on fire.

Then the others stopped the retreat and turned to fight the men of Ai.
The others came out of the city so the men of Ai were trapped in the middle.

Ai was also burned and made a desolation.

Israel was allowed to take some spoil from this battle.

Give time for your group to discuss how God led Joshua to take Jericho and Ai in two different
ways. Is there application for how He leads believers in their lives?

Verses 30-35

What happened in these verses? Compare this with Deuteronomy 27.

Joshua built an altar in Mt. Ebal and offered burnt offerings on it and sacrificed peace offerings to the Lord, the God of Israel.

He was commanded to do this in Deuteronomy 27.

He wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses.

Half of the people stood in front of Mount Ebal and half stood in front of Mount Gerizim. Joshua read all of the law of Moses to the people there.

The blessings and the curses were so all would know what would happen for obedience and for disobedience.

To end this discussion, ask your group what they learned about God and from Joshua's example.

JERICHO	AI
<p>Lord told Joshua what to do march around city for 6 days 7th day, 7 times</p> <p>Walls fell flat, city burned</p> <p>Rahab spared</p> <p>Curse on anyone who rebuilt Jericho</p> <p>Achan took things under the ban (devoted to destruction)</p>	<p>Defeat on first attempt, sin</p> <p>Lord told Joshua what to do ambush</p> <p>City burned, destroyed</p> <p>None spared</p> <p>A desolation</p>

JOSHUA
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 4

Lesson emphasis:

- Joshua 9–12

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group what they remember from Joshua 1–8.

NOTE: These reviews at the beginning of your discussions can help your group remember the main points of the whole book of Joshua by the time they finish this course.

Tell them to look at their At a Glance charts as visual aids.

Joshua 1	Joshua, be strong and courageous; the Lord is with you
Joshua 2	Joshua sent 2 spies to Jericho; Rahab
Joshua 3	Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.
Joshua 4	Memorial, 12 stones at Gilgal
Joshua 5	Circumcision and Passover at Gilgal; Captain (Commander) of Lord's host (army)
Joshua 6	Joshua and Israel destroyed Jericho; spared Rahab
Joshua 7	Israel was defeated at Ai; Achan took things under the ban (devoted things)
Joshua 8	Joshua and Israel destroyed Ai

What do Joshua 6–8 have in common?

Battles to take the land

What were chapters 1–5 about?

Joshua and Israel's preparation to take their land; crossing the Jordan

Show your group the first column for Segment Divisions on Joshua at a Glance. It's divided between chapters 5 and 6. Show them how to note what

1–5 are about—Preparation to take the land; crossing the Jordan
6–12 are about—Conquering the land

JOSHUA 9

While they're looking at their At a Glance charts, ask what the theme of Joshua 9 is.

Covenant with Gibeon

Use the map "Occupying the Land" as a visual aid.

Verses 1-2

How does this chapter begin?

When the kings of the land heard about what Israel had done to Jericho and Ai, they gathered to fight Israel.

Verses 3-15

Who and what are these verses about?

When the inhabitants of Gibeon heard, their actions were different from the others. They acted craftily (ESV—with cunning) and deceived the leaders of Israel.

They went to Joshua at Gilgal and pretended to be from a (ESV—distant) country far away. But they were some of the ones close by who Israel was to destroy.

The Gibeonites asked for a covenant with Israel.

A covenant is a solemn, binding agreement made between two parties.

What is important about verse 14?

Israel didn't ask the Lord's counsel.

They made peace with people living in their land because they were deceived. Deception led them into a violation of what the Lord had said.

Give your group time to discuss any relevant application of this.

Verses 16-21

What happened in these verses?

Three days after making the covenant, Israel heard that the Gibeonites were living in their land. Israel went to their four cities—Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim.

They couldn't attack because of the covenant they'd made.

Israel's congregation grumbled against the leaders because of that.

The Gibeonites became Israel's wood hewers / cutters and water drawers; they became Israel's slaves.

At this point in your discussion, ask what your group learned from the cross-references about “covenant.”

Exodus 23:20-33

The Lord told Israel not to make a covenant with the inhabitants of Canaan. If they did, it would lead to sin, serving other gods. They knew the boundaries of the land, so they knew the territory of their enemies. They also knew that if any nations lived within that land, they were to destroy them.

2 Samuel 21:1-14

During King David’s reign, there was a famine for 3 years. When David asked the Lord about it, He said it was because Saul, the king of Israel before David, had killed the Gibeonites. Saul broke the covenant of Joshua 9; therefore, the Lord’s wrath was on Israel in the form of a famine for three years.

David asked the Gibeonites what they wanted to atone for what Israel did. Saul’s descendants paid the price for him breaking the covenant, killing the Gibeonites. Mephibosheth, Saul’s grandson by Jonathan, was spared because of David’s covenant with Jonathan.

1 Samuel 20:15-17, 23, 42

In these verses the words “covenant,” “vow,” “agreement,” and “sworn” are somewhat synonymous. Jonathan, King Saul’s son, made a covenant with David. And it was sworn in the name of the Lord. It was a covenant between two who loved each other better than brothers, and it was a covenant forever between their descendants.

Matthew 26:26-28

Jesus said that His death, His blood, was for the new covenant of salvation, forgiveness of sins.

Hebrews 10:14-22; 13:5-6

In the new covenant of salvation the law is written on believers’ hearts. The Lord no longer remembers sins; instead there is forgiveness.

New Testament (covenant) believers can enter into the presence of God, not having to go through a priest with a sacrifice to the tabernacle. Believers can enter the holy place through the veil, the torn flesh of the Lord Jesus Christ, the perfect and complete sacrifice for sins.

The Lord will never break this covenant with His people, true Christians. As He told Joshua, He will never leave or forsake His own. Therefore, believers are not to be afraid of whatever comes into their lives because the Lord is their helper, their covenant partner.

How does Joshua 9 end? What are verses 22-27 about?

Joshua confronted the Gibeonites who were content to be Israel’s slaves.

JOSHUA 10

What is the theme of this chapter?

Joshua and Israel defeated 5 Amorite kings

Verses 1-5

How does the chapter begin?

Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem heard about Ai, Jericho, and Gibeon.
The result was fear; the common result of all in the land who heard.

He sent for four other kings of Amorites to help him attack Gibeon.
So they did.

Verses 6-14

What happened in these verses?

The king of Gibeon sent to Joshua for Israel to come and save them.

The Lord assured Joshua of victory, and Israel left Gilgal to answer Gibeon's call for help. Because of the covenant made by Israel's leaders, they were obligated to fight Gibeon's enemies. That also brought Israel against more Amorites.

This is a great illustration of how the Lord fights for His people.
He confounded / threw them into a panic,
slew / struck them with a great blow,
chased them,
threw hailstones on their enemies,
and even caused the sun to stand still and the moon to stop on that unique day.

That day the Lord listened to (ESV—heeded) the voice of a man, His chosen leader, Joshua, who was walking in His commands, doing His will.

Give time for your group to discuss what they learned about the Lord and any relevant application.

Verses 15-27

What happened after the battle?

Joshua and Israel returned to Gilgal.
The five Amorite kings hid in a cave at Makkedah.

After trapping the kings in the cave, Israel's men pursued any who fled the battle.
Then they went back to the cave at Makkedah.

Israel's chiefs of war put their feet on the kings' necks, which was a custom showing victory.

Joshua commanded his men with the same commands as the Lord said to him in chapter 1. Then they killed and hung the five kings and buried them in the cave.

Verses 28-43

What is the rest of this chapter about?

Joshua and Israel destroyed
Makkedah
Libnah
Lachish
Horam king of Gezer
Eglon
Hebron
Debir

Hill country, Negev(b), lowland, slopes
From Kadesh-barnea to Gaza, Goshen to Gibeon

Tell your group to look at their map “Conquering the Land” as a visual aid.

Because the Lord fought for Israel, they conquered all these in one campaign before returning to Gilgal.

Give time for any application discussion.

JOSHUA 11

Ask them what they noted as the theme of this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

Joshua and Israel destroyed Hazor and northern kingdoms; whole land had rest

Verses 1-15

How does this chapter begin?

Jabin, king of Hazor, also heard of Israel’s victories. Hazor was formerly the head of the northern kingdoms.

Jabin gathered the northern kings to battle against Israel at Merom.

Again the Lord assured Joshua by telling him not to be afraid because He would deliver them into his hand. He did so the next day. Joshua and his men utterly destroyed the cities and their people and left no survivors.

Then they went to Hazor, Jabin’s city, and burned it.

This northern campaign in verses 1-15 is the #3 arrow on the map “Conquering the Land.”

Verses 9, 15, 20, and 23 all speak of Joshua doing as the Lord had told him to do — keeping His commands, not turning to the right or to the left. Relate this to Joshua 1:7.

Verses 16-20

What happened in these verses?

Verse 18, this was not accomplished in only a few weeks. These wars took a long time.

Verse 20 also mentions again that Israel was carrying out His commands to bring judgment on the ungodly nations of that land. The phrase “harden their hearts” literally is “make strong.”¹ It was the Lord who initiated those kings coming against Israel. They deserved no mercy; they were evil.

Why did Israel leave no survivors? Ask your group what they learned from the cross-references.

Deuteronomy 20:10-18

The Lord told Israel that when they fought the cities nearby, they were not to leave alive anything that breathed. This was so they not teach Israel all the detestable things they had done. It was God’s protection for Israel.

The cities far away from Israel could be offered peace.

Colossians 3:3-10

Believers have died to self, and their lives are hidden with Christ in God. The believer is to be dead to immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, greed / covetousness which is idolatry.

He is to put aside anger, wrath, malice, slander, abusive speech, lying.
All of that was part of the old self.

These are some of God’s commands for those who belong to Him as they fight spiritual battles.

Verses 21-23

How does this chapter end?

Joshua also killed the Anakim, giants.

Joshua 11:23 is the end of the conquest section of the book.

Joshua took the whole land, and he gave it for inheritance to Israel as the Lord had spoken to Moses. Therefore, the land had rest from war, but it took a long time (11:18).

¹ *New American Standard Bible: 1995 update*, marginal note (Josh 11:20) (LaHabra, CA: The Lockman Foundation, 1995).

JOSHUA 12

What is the theme of this chapter?

Joshua and Israel defeated 31 kings in all.

How does Joshua 11:16–12:24 fit together?

It's a summary of conquering the whole land of Canaan.

How is chapter 12 divided?

Verses 1-6

Land and kings on the east side of the Jordan River

Sihon and Og were the first Amorite kings to be defeated by Israel.
Their land was given to Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh.

Verses 7-24

Land and kings on the west side of the Jordan

Joshua gave the land on the west of the Jordan as a possession to the rest of Israel.

There were 31 Amorite kings destroyed by Israel, beginning with Jericho and Ai.
The places of the battles, as well as the borders of the lands are described.

The Lord kept His promise to give the land to His people.

To end this discussion, ask your group what they learned about the Lord and what they learned from Joshua's example.

JOSHUA
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 5

Lesson emphasis:

- Joshua 13–17
- Caleb

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group what the main segments of Joshua 1–12 are. Tell them to look at their At a Glance charts as visual aids.

Joshua 1–5 is about Joshua’s and Israel’s preparation to take their land. They crossed the Jordan.

Joshua 6–12 is the battles to conquer the land.

What are chapters 13–17 about?

Joshua apportioned the land as inheritance to the tribes of Israel.

JOSHUA 13

What is the theme of this chapter?

Inheritance to 2 ½ tribes east of Jordan

Along with the At a Glance chart, tell your group to look at their map as a visual aid for this discussion.

Verses 1-7

What are these verses about?

Joshua was old and advanced in years as the Lord spoke to him. Much of the land was still to be possessed although the major cities had been defeated and destroyed by Israel.

Verses 1-6 describe the land that was left for Israel to possess, but Joshua was too old to do it.

Therefore, verse 7 says that he was to apportion / divide that land to the 9 ½ tribes as an inheritance.

At that point, some of the land was not taken from the Canaanites living there and still needed to be possessed by the tribes which inherited it.

Verses 8-31

What do these verses describe?

Verses 8-14 The land on the east side of the Jordan

Verses 15-23 Reuben's inheritance

Verses 24-28 Gad's inheritance

Verses 29-31 half of Manasseh's inheritance

Verses 32-33

How does this chapter end?

There was one tribe which did not receive any land for their inheritance, the tribe of Levi. The offerings were an inheritance for them according to verse 14, and the Lord Himself was their inheritance, verse 33.

At this point in your discussion, you might ask what your group learned from the cross-references they studied about the Levites.

Deuteronomy 18:1-8

The Levites were to have no land because they could eat from the offerings brought to the Lord by the people. They were the ones chosen by the Lord to serve Him.

Deuteronomy 17:8-13

The priests were part of the Levites. They were to make judgments and especially to teach the law, the Word of the Lord to the people.

Malachi 2:4-7

The Lord made a covenant with Levi because he revered / feared the Lord and stood in awe of His name. Again the responsibility of the priest is stated: to preserve / guard knowledge and give instruction as a messenger of the Lord of hosts.

Give time for your group to discuss any relevant application.

JOSHUA 14

What is the theme of this chapter?

Inheritance to Caleb

Verses 1-5

What do these verses describe?

This is an overview of the inheritance given to all the tribes.

Joshua, Eleazar the priest, and the tribes' heads apportioned the inheritances.

It was done by lot as the Lord commanded Moses to do for the 2 ½ tribes on the east side of the Jordan.

Both of Joseph's sons, Ephraim and Manasseh, received an inheritance of land as part of the twelve tribes of Israel.

NOTE: Joseph was given a double portion because of receiving the birthright, and Joseph's father Jacob (Israel) adopted his two sons right before he died (Genesis 48).

Verses 6-15

Tell your group to look at their "Profile on Caleb" page as they discuss what they learned about Caleb. Ask about the cross-references also.

Caleb was of Judah's tribe.

He reminded Joshua of what Moses had said about his inheritance.

Caleb was 40 when he was sent into Canaan by Moses as one of the twelve spies.

Numbers 13-14 tell about that time.

Caleb, as well as Joshua, had been one of the 12 spies. Only the two of them gave a good report and were willing to go in and possess the land of promise.

Caleb followed the Lord fully / wholly then as well as 45 years later at the time of Joshua 14. He was 85 years old and still he said that he was as strong for war as he had been at Kadesh-barnea.

NOTE: From this chapter it can be calculated that the conquest of the land had taken 7 years. Caleb was 40 when he spied out the land in Kadesh-barnea. Deuteronomy 2:14 says it was 38 years from Kadesh-barnea to Zered. Caleb would have been 78 years old then. After Israel crossed the River Zered, they began the conquest with the land of Sihon and Og east of the Jordan. Seven years later when Caleb was 85, the events of Joshua 14 took place.

Moses had promised Caleb the land on which his feet had been as a spy. Joshua gave Hebron to him as his inheritance.

JOSHUA 15

Ask your group what they noted on their At a Glance chart as the theme of this chapter.

Inheritance / allotment to Judah

Verses 1-12

What is described in these verses?

The land apportioned as the inheritance or allotment for the tribe of Judah.

Verses 13-19

Who and what are these verses about?

Not only did Caleb take the hill country of his possession, but he also drove out three of the sons of Anak, giants. He knew that the Lord would be with him if he were doing what he had been commanded to do.

Othniel, Caleb's nephew, became his son-in-law because he captured Kiriath-sepher. Caleb gave his daughter a blessing of more than her inheritance, water springs. The Negev / Negeb is in the southern part of Israel and very hot.

Ask your group what they learned about Caleb and Othniel from the cross-references in Judges.

Judges 1:11-21

As part of the tribe of Judah, Caleb must have been one of the warriors who helped the tribe of Simeon destroy Zephath in their part of the land.

Judges 3:1-11

Othniel judged Israel for 40 years. God's Spirit was on him. The land had rest while he was the judge.

Verses 20-53

What are these verses describing?

Judah's cities

Verse 63 says that there were Jebusites living in Jerusalem because Judah didn't drive them out.

Judges 1:19

Judah could not drive out the inhabitants of the valley because they had iron chariots.

Israel had the Lord God behind them. They were strong, but rather than following the Lord fully, they did not completely drive out the Canaanites, but made them forced laborers.

JOSHUA 16

What is the theme of this chapter?

Inheritance / allotment to Ephraim

Ask your group what they learned from this chapter.

Ephraim did not completely drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer.

Canaanites lived in their midst and became forced laborers.

Genesis 48:17-20

Ephraim was Joseph's youngest son who his father blessed above his firstborn Manasseh. His descendants were to become a multitude.

JOSHUA 17

What is the theme?

Inheritance / allotment to Manasseh

Verses 1-6

Who and what are these verses about?

Gilead and Bashan are in the land on the east side of the Jordan, verses 1 and 5.

Zelophehad only had daughters who went to Eleazar, Joshua, and the leaders to ask for their father's inheritance. It was given.

Verses 7-13

What do these verses describe?

Manasseh's land on the west of the Jordan River

Verses 12-13 say that Manasseh also didn't drive out all of the Canaanites living in their land.

Verses 14-18

What are these verses about?

Joseph's sons, the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, asked for more than one portion of land because they were numerous. Joshua told them to go clear a place to add to their land. But they protested because of iron chariots belonging to the Canaanites living in Beth-shean and the Valley of Jezreel.

Joshua agreed that they were numerous and needed more land. But he told them they had the power to take it.

NOTE: Numbers 26 lists the people of Manasseh as 52,700 and Ephraim as 32,500. Together there were 85,200 descendants of Joseph. The largest single tribe was Judah with 76,500 people.

Judges 3:1-11

The Lord left some of the nations of the Canaanites to test Israel that they might be taught war and to find out if they would obey Him. It's a sad statement that Israel allowed the Canaanites to live among them in the land of promise.

To end this discussion, ask your group what they learned from the cross-references on Day Five.

Deuteronomy 20:1-4

God, through Moses, cautioned Israel that they were not to be afraid when they saw horses and chariots because He was with them. He was the one who brought them out of Egypt. He's the one who went before them to fight their enemies and save them.

Psalms 20:7

Boasting in His name makes one stronger than those who boast in horses and chariots.

Proverbs 21:28-31

The horse is for battle, but the victory of the battle belongs to the Lord.

Psalms 60:11-12

He treads down the adversaries of His people.

Psalms 78:9 (5-11)

The men of Ephraim were archers, but turned back in battle.
They didn't put their confidence in God, but forgot His works, His miracles.

Psalms 105:5

Remember His wonders and judgments.

You might ask your group if they have been fainthearted, afraid, in a panic, or trembling from fear. What is the prevention?

Encourage them to put their confidence in Him.

To end this discussion, you might ask what they learned about God or what they learned from Joshua's or Caleb's example.

JOSHUA
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 6

Lesson emphasis:

- Joshua 18–21
- Cities of refuge
- Manslayer and blood avenger

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, ask your group what the main segments of Joshua 1–17 are. Tell them to look at their At a Glance charts as a visual aid.

Joshua 1–5

Joshua's and Israel's preparation to take their land
They crossed the Jordan.

Joshua 6–12

Joshua led the battles to conquer the land.

Joshua 13–17

Joshua apportioned the land as inheritance to the tribes of Israel.

How do chapters 18–21 compare with the last segment?

Joshua 18 and 19 are part of the segment about apportioning the tribes' inheritances.

Chapters 20 and 21 are about the cities for priests, Levites, and refuge.

This is about apportioning the priests' and Levites' inheritance.

These chapters are also part of the last segment.

JOSHUA 18

Ask your group what they wrote on their At a Glance charts as the theme of this chapter.

Benjamin's inheritance

Tell them to look at the map in the lesson as another visual aid for this discussion.

Verse 1

How does this chapter begin?

Israel set up the tent of meeting, the tabernacle, at Shiloh. The land was subdued.

What do the cross-references say about the significance of Shiloh?

Genesis 49:10

This is part of the blessing for Judah by his father Israel, Jacob. Judah is the ruling tribe of Israel.

Shiloh is mentioned for the first time in the NASB. The footnote gives other possible translations—“until he comes to Shiloh” or “until he comes to whom it belongs.”

The ESV says “until tribute comes to him.” There is a footnote that gives other possibilities—“until Shiloh comes” or “until he comes to Shiloh.”

Deuteronomy 12:10-14

Moses told Israel about after they were in their land and God gave them rest. God would choose a place for His name to dwell.

The first place the tabernacle was set up in the land was at Shiloh.

Verses 2-10

What are these verses about?

There were seven remaining tribes that had not divided their inheritance. Judah, Ephraim, Manasseh, Gad, and Reuben had already done that.

Joshua asked how long they were going to put off taking possession of their land.

He told them to send three men from each tribe to see the land and write a description for seven divisions.

Then he would cast lots for them at Shiloh.

Verses 11-28

Who and what are these verses about?

This describes the inheritance given to Benjamin.

His land was north of Judah and south of Ephraim.

At any relevant point in your discussion, give time for your group to talk about application.

JOSHUA 19

What is the theme of this chapter?

Inheritances for Simeon, Zebulun, Issachar, Asher, Naphtali, and Dan

How is this chapter divided? Discuss which tribe got land where.

Verses 1-9

Simeon had land in the midst of Judah's inheritance.

NOTE: In the prophetic blessing Jacob pronounced on Simeon, Genesis 49:5-7, he said that Simeon and Levi would be dispersed in Israel.

Verses 10-16

Zebulun's inheritance is described, toward the north between the Sea of Galilee and the Mediterranean Sea.

Verses 17-23

The fourth lot fell to Issachar. His land was south of Zebulun's inheritance.

Verses 24-31

Asher was given land north of Zebulun close to the Mediterranean and just southeast of Sidon.

Verses 32-39

The 6th lot fell to Naphtali. His inheritance was between the Jordan on the east, Zebulun on the south, and Asher on the west. Asher and Naphtali had the most northern land.

Verses 40-48

Dan was the last tribe to be given his inheritance. His land was west of Benjamin toward Joppa.

Verses 49-50

These verses detail the inheritance given by the Lord to Joshua. His land was in the hill country of Ephraim, his tribe.

Verse 51

They finished dividing the land.

JOSHUA 20

Ask what your group put as the theme for this chapter on their At a Glance chart.

Six cities of refuge

Verses 1-6

How does this chapter begin?

The Lord spoke to Joshua after the land was divided.
He told him to designate the cities of refuge that Moses spoke about.

Tell your group to look at their lists on the Manslayer and Blood Avenger along with the map as visual aids.

These cities of refuge were for a person who unintentionally killed another person. He could flee to a city for refuge from the avenger of blood.

The blood avenger was the one who avenged the death of a blood relative.

The manslayer had to stay in the city of refuge until the death of the high priest. Then he was free to return to his home, and the blood avenger could not kill him.

Ask what they learned from the cross-references.

Deuteronomy 19:1-13

If a person guilty of murder fled to a city of refuge, the city elders gave him to the blood avenger to kill. That would purge innocent blood from the land.

Numbers 35:9-34

The congregation of the city would decide if the manslayer was guilty of murder or unintentional manslaughter.

If they judged him guilty of murder, then he was handed over to the blood avenger to be put to death justly.

If he was not guilty of murder, then he had to stay in the city of refuge until the death of the high priest.

If he left before that time and the blood avenger found him outside the city, then he could be put to death.

What does this provision indicate about the Lord?

Give time for your group to discuss what they learn about Him from these references.

Verses 7-9

Where were the cities of refuge?

There were 6 cities of refuge designated by the Lord in the land of Israel, 3 on the east side of the Jordan River and 3 on the west side.

On the west side of the Jordan were Kedesh, Shechem, and Hebron.

East of the Jordan were Bezer, Ramoth, and Golan.

They were all centrally located for easy access by one needing refuge for safety.

JOSHUA 21

What is the theme of this chapter?

48 cities for the priests and Levites

Tell your group to look at the diagram of Levi's family tree in the lesson as well as their map.

Verses 1-8

How does this chapter begin?

Although the Levites were given no specific land for an inheritance, they were given certain cities to live in.

These cities were within the inheritance of the other tribes of Israel.
Relate this to Joshua 13:14 and 33.

Levi had three sons, Kohath, Gershon, and Merari.
Aaron and Moses were from the line of Kohath.
The priests were only of Aaron's descendants / offspring.

Verses 9-40

Who, what, and where are these verses about?

Verses 9-19

Aaron's lot came first. The priests were given 13 cities from Judah, Simeon, and Benjamin.

Verses 20-26

The rest of the Kohathites were given 10 cities from Ephraim, Dan and half of Manasseh—the half on the west of the Jordan River.

Verses 27-33

Half of Manasseh on the east of the Jordan, Issachar, Asher, and Naphtali gave 13 cities to the Gershonites.

Verses 34-40

Zebulun, Reuben, and Gad gave 12 cities to the Merarites.

Verses 41-45

How does this chapter end?

48 cities in all were given to the Levites, and they were scattered throughout Israel.

Relate this to what your group studied in a previous lesson about the responsibility of the Levites and priests. They were to teach the law of the Lord to the people. If they were scattered throughout the land, then all everywhere would be taught the Word and commands of the Lord, about who He is and what He had done for His people Israel.

Verses 43-45

All the Lord promised to Israel came to pass, nothing failed of what He said. He gave them rest on every side after they conquered the land of promise.

How do the cross-references in Ephesians and 2 Peter relate to this?

Ephesians 1:13-14

New Testament believers are sealed with the Holy Spirit of promise, a pledge or down payment of their inheritance.

2 Peter 1:2-4

God has given believers everything pertaining to life and godliness. An inheritance.

It is His promises by which Christians are to live.

His promises never fail; therefore, believers can live godly lives by the divine nature within, the Holy Spirit.

There is escape from the corruption of the world.

But this comes by being obedient to what the Word of the Lord has said.

To end your discussion, ask about application.

JOSHUA
LEADER GUIDE
Lesson 7

Lesson emphasis:

- Joshua 22–24

REVIEW

To begin this discussion, tell your group to look at their At a Glance chart. Ask about the segment divisions.

Joshua 1–5
Joshua's and Israel's preparation to take their land
They crossed the Jordan.

Joshua 6–12
Joshua led the battles to conquer the land.

Joshua 13–21
Joshua apportioned the land to the tribes of Israel.

You might also ask what they remember about the Lord from Joshua 1–21. Give time for them to share.

What are Joshua 22–24 about? Are these chapters another segment?

Joshua 22	2 ½ tribes built an altar
Joshua 23	Joshua spoke to Israel—keep the law, cling to God, love Him
Joshua 24	Joshua made a covenant; died

This is a segment about the land at rest. Joshua said his final words to Israel.

JOSHUA 22

Tell your group to look at the chart on Day Two in the lesson as a visual aid to discuss this chapter. You can also encourage them to look at the map in the Appendix.

Verses 1-9

Who and what are these verses about?

Joshua gathered the Reubenites, Gadites and half of Manasseh, those who had land on the east side of the Jordan River. He commended them for obedience in fighting to help the other tribes take the land for their inheritance. He blessed them and sent them home.

How does Numbers 32:1-33 relate to this?

After Israel defeated Sihon and Og, Amorite kings east of the Jordan, the two and a half tribes asked Moses for that land.

They agreed to leave their families there and go with the rest of Israel into Canaan to fight the enemies there until all were defeated.

In Joshua 22, all the land was in Israel's control. The two and a half tribes had kept their promise.

Verses 10-20

What happened?

Reuben, Gad, and ½ of Manasseh returned to their possession on the east side of the Jordan, and on the way built a large altar on the west side of the Jordan River.

Phinehas the son of Eleazar the priest led ten chiefs from the other tribes to confront Reuben, Gad, and the half of Manasseh about the altar they built. These from the nine and a half western tribes were prepared to go to war against their brothers because they thought that it was in rebellion against the Lord.

Two former acts of rebellion were mentioned in verses 17 and 20.

The iniquity of Peor was when Israel sinned with the Midianites who were connected with the worship of Baal Peor. Phinehas was the one who put a stop to the plague. He drove a spear through an Israelite man and a foreign woman who the man brought into his tent within Israel's camp.

Achan also brought the Lord's anger on the whole of Israel when he sinned at Jericho.

Why was Israel prepared to war against their brothers? What does Deuteronomy say?

Deuteronomy 13:12-16

If they heard worthless men had seduced the inhabitants of a city to serve other gods, then they were to investigate thoroughly. If it were true, they were to destroy the city and all in it. The 9 ½ tribes investigated before going against the 2 ½ tribes.

How does 1 Corinthians 5:1-2 relate to this?

Just as Phinehas and the leaders of the ten tribes were concerned about sin among their people, the church also should confront sin within it.

The Lord commands the church to remove sin. He is still a holy God.

Verses 21-34

What happened?

When Israel confronted their brothers, they discovered they had been wrong in their assumption of rebellion.

Does this kind of thing happen now? Ask if any of your group have been in a misunderstanding because of not gathering all the facts before acting.

In this case the 9 ½ tribes were not wrong to confront the other tribes.
But the other 2 ½ tribes were not wrong in what they did either.

If the truth had not been investigated, there would have been terrible results.

What was the reason they built the altar?

It was for a witness for future generations of Israel, east and west of the Jordan River, to remember that the tribes on the east were also a part of the land and the nation.

The altar was called “Witness,” a witness between them that the Lord is God.

The Lord is also called the Mighty One in this chapter.

You might ask your group if they know Him as the Mighty One, or how this name of the Lord relates to the events of this chapter.

JOSHUA 23

Tell them to look at their chart “Joshua’s Words in Chapter 23” as a visual aid to discuss this chapter.

Verses 1-13

What are these verses about? Ask about cross-references where relevant.

Israel had rest, peace. Joshua was old, and he spoke to the leaders.

He reminded them of what the Lord did for them—He fought for them.
They had their land; each tribe had its inheritance.

Deuteronomy 7:17-24

God promised to clear out the nations and give Israel the land.
He did it.

He told them about what the Lord would do for them as they took possession of their land. He would still fight for them.

Verses 6-11 contain a list of commands.
Obey what is written in the Law.
Cling to the Lord.
Be diligent to love Him.

There are warnings associated with these commands.
Don't turn from the Law.
Don't associate / mix with the nations or their gods.
Don't cling to the nations, intermarry.
They'll be a snare and a trap until Israel perishes from the land.

2 Corinthians 6:14–7:1

There is no partnership
fellowship
harmony / accord
agreement
nothing in common between believers and unbelievers

Believers are to be separate from the unbelievers as far as being bound with them.

Believers live in the world, but are not to be partners with it, because the Lord is holy.

Give your group time to discuss application.

Verses 14-16

How does this chapter end?

Joshua was about to die and he reminded Israel that all God's promises to them were fulfilled. None failed.

Then there is a contrast.

When you transgress, you'll perish from the land. Joshua told them what they would do in the future. All of the things in verses 15-16 Israel did, and the Lord drove them from the land.

JOSHUA 24

Tell your group to look at their map as a visual aid and ask what this chapter is about. Discuss cross-references and application where relevant.

Verses 1-13

What are these verses about?

Joshua called for / summoned Israel's leaders to Shechem.

Genesis 12:6

It was the first place recorded in Scripture where Abraham stopped in Canaan, and the Lord promised Abraham the land for his descendants / offspring. There Abraham built an altar to the Lord.

Genesis 33:18-20 and 35:4

Jacob, Israel, bought the piece of land when he returned from Paddan-aram. He also built an altar there, El-Elohe-Israel; meaning “God, the God of Israel.”

Jacob also had his entire household bury the idols they had brought with them into the land.

Joshua 20:5-9 and 21:20-21

Shechem was a city of refuge given to the Levites. It was a resting place for Israel.

It was near Ebal and Gerizim where Israel read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse. At Shechem they buried Joseph’s bones brought with them from Egypt.

Joshua reminded Israel of all the Lord did to bring them to rest in the land.

He took Abraham from his land to Canaan, gave him descendants / offspring and especially Isaac.

God gave Jacob and Esau to Isaac.

To Esau He gave land—Mount Seir / hill country of Seir.

He sent Moses and Aaron and plagues to bring His people out of Egypt.

He brought them to the Amorites’ land and gave them to Israel.
He delivered Israel from Balak and Balaam.

He gave Jericho and the rest of the land to them.

Compare this with God’s promise in Deuteronomy 6:10-15. Give your group opportunity to discuss application.

Verses 14-15

What did Joshua say in these verses?

He commanded and challenged Israel.

Fear and serve the Lord in sincerity and truth / faithfulness.

Put away other gods.

Choose for yourselves whom you will serve.

Joshua challenged the people to make a choice for themselves. They had followed the Lord because of Joshua's following Him, but Joshua was about to die.

He wanted them to serve the Lord and not the gods which were not gods at all. He pointed out that they, Israel, were in the land of those gods. The Lord God of all the earth had given it to them, and there was nothing so-called gods could do about it.

Verses 16-18

What was their response?

Israel agreed to serve the Lord.

Verses 19-28

How did Joshua respond to that?

He said they'd not be able to serve the holy and jealous God, and He would not forgive them if they forsook Him for other gods.

He knew what was in the future for them. He warned them again what would happen if they turned away from serving the Lord as the only God.

Deuteronomy 29:14-21

There is no forgiveness for one who turns from God in his heart and lives like an unbeliever. He actually is an unbeliever and will suffer the consequences.

Then Joshua made a covenant with the people as a witness in Shechem.

Verses 29-33

How does this book end?

29-30

Joshua died at 110 years of age and was buried in his inheritance.

31

Israel served the Lord as long as Joshua and the elders were alive who had known His deeds / work.

32-33

Joseph's bones were buried at Shechem, and Eleazar the priest died. The Lord chose Phinehas to be the next high priest of Israel.

Genesis 50:22-26; Hebrews 11:22 and Exodus 13:19

Joseph's (Israel's) bones were buried in the land of Israel.

The last assignment of the course asks about Joshua 1 and some other references in Joshua. Ask your group what they learned from this.

The Lord promised Joshua that no man would be able to stand before him all the days of his life. Just as He had been with Moses He would be with Joshua.

The Lord promised He would not fail or forsake Joshua. In Joshua 24 it is clear that He kept all of His promises to Joshua.

He commanded Joshua to be strong and courageous, meditate on His Word and be careful to do it, not tremble or be dismayed. There was only one time recorded in the book of Joshua that he did not ask the Lord's counsel, and that was with the Gibeonites. In Joshua 24 he ended his life as a faithful servant of the Lord.

Moses was called the Lord's servant in Joshua 1, and Joshua was called His servant at the end of the book. They were both great leaders of God's people, but the summary of their lives is in the phrase "the servant of the Lord."

Joshua 11:21-23

Joshua took the land and it had rest from war.

Joshua 19:51

He finished dividing the land.

Joshua 21:43-45

The Lord gave Israel all the land, and they possessed it, lived in it.

Joshua 23:14-16

This is a warning to Israel. They would perish from the land if they disobeyed.

Joshua 24:25-28

Joshua dismissed the people, each to his own inheritance.

The Lord did not fail Israel, but fulfilled all of His promises to them.

He did not fail Joshua, but also fulfilled the promises to him personally.

To end your discussion, ask your group what they learned from this study and how it applies to their lives.