



JOSHUA

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INTRODUCTION

Overview

Joshua was a famous leader in the Bible, charged with bringing God's people into the Promised Land. But it wasn't easy. He encountered problem after problem that we can learn from as we strive to advance the kingdom of God in our world today.

Preparation

In preparation for your group meetings, here are three essentials.

1. Attend weekly services or watch online if you miss a week. As you take in the sermon, take notes and write down ideas to make your group meetings as effective as possible.
2. Read through the group questions BEFORE you lead the group, even if it's an hour before people show up. Give yourself time to orient yourself to each lesson so you can be better prepared to engage people in a dynamic discussion, and skip or rewrite questions that don't make sense to you ☐
3. Pray for your group time and the people in your group, that God would speak through the discussion, that friendships would form and that God's Spirit would be present and active as you meet together. Try it! Even a 10 minute prayer can make a world of difference.

Furthermore, make sure to be ready well before your group is scheduled to begin. Have refreshments available if possible, and make sure you have everything you need. Welcome participants as they arrive, and help them to feel comfortable and right at home.

Question Levels for Discussion

Level 1 Discussion Questions are meant to introduce the topic in a fun, lighthearted way. Do not spend a great deal of time with these questions. Simply use them to get people talking, laughing, and intrigued with the lesson.

Level 2 Discussion Questions are designed to introduce the key lesson principle from the Bible. It provides the foundation of what the participants need to know about God and His Word if they are going to effectively apply it to their lives.

Level 3 Discussion Questions bring the group to a very personal, spiritual and practical level. This is where the group needs to spend the greatest amount of time

and focus. It is at this stage participants take the key lesson principle and determine what they're going to do with it in their own lives.

Be very purposeful in how you advance from one level to the next. If you skip Level 1 questions, you run the risk of getting too personal too fast, and the group will clam up. This is especially true of newcomers to your group. If you skip Level 2, you run the risk of group members coming up with answers and solutions for their lives that are not grounded in the word of truth. Obviously, the Level 3 questions are the heart and soul of the material, and are essential for transformation.

Owner's Manuals

Owner's Manuals are available at our church office for each member of your group. They are also available at our weekend services. The manuals contain the Bible texts and discussion questions for each week. Please obtain a few extra copies to bring to your group.

Prior to the start of your group, make sure you have enough Owner's Manuals for everyone in your group. Encourage your participants to bring their manuals to group each week.

Announcements and Attendance

At the end of each section in your Leader's Guide there are announcements for you to make to your group. If you are unsure about any particular activity, please contact our staff for more information.

Please take attendance each week using Planning Center. Be sure to keep your group information and roster updated each series for accurate tracking by our Administration Department.

Creative Elements

Feel free to use any creative elements you come up with to make your group more intriguing and enjoyable. As you come up with ideas, please email them to Adam Julch at ajulch@me.com, and he will forward them to our Life Group Leaders.

GOD'S LEADER

Life Group Questions

Level 1 Discussion Questions/Activity (10 minutes)

Level 1 Discussion Questions are meant to introduce the topic in a fun, lighthearted way. Do not spend a great deal of time with these questions. Simply use them to get people talking, laughing, and intrigued with the lesson.

- Which one (living) person do you most look up to?
- Who is a historical leader that you respect?

Level 2 Discussion Questions (10 minutes)

Level 2 Discussion Questions are designed to introduce the key lesson principle from the Bible. It provides the foundation of what the participants need to know about God and His Word if they are going to effectively apply it to their lives.

- Each person share what they would consider to be the theme of the sermon on Sunday morning.
- Leaders, please read a book overview of Joshua or watch the Bible Project video. Link to video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JqOqJIFF_eU Link to written bible hub overview <https://biblehub.com/summary/joshua/1.htm>
 - Seriously though, try the video. They're a hit :)
- Read Joshua 1:16-18. What characters are involved?
- Are there any repetitive words or themes?
- How do these themes relate to our walk with Christ?
- How many times does the phrase "strong and courageous" appears in Joshua chapter 1?
- What do you think is the significance of the phrase "be strong and courageous?"
- How might someone apply this phrase to their daily lives?

Level 3 Discussion Questions (20 minutes)

Level 3 Discussion Questions bring the group to a very personal, spiritual and practical level. This is where the group needs to spend the greatest amount of time and focus. It is at this stage participants take the key lesson principle and determine what they're going to do with it in their own lives.

Leader Tip: *Since these questions are often very personal, use a variety of techniques to get people to answer them.*

- Split the group into smaller groups (men with men, women with women, pairs or triads, etc.)

- Give people the opportunity to answer the questions privately in a journal or notebook (put some music on and encourage them to spread around the room) and let anyone who wants to share what they wrote down, do so when the group gets back together.

- What kind of leader has Jesus been in your life?
- What is easier for you: to hear and sense where Jesus is leading you, or to follow Jesus when you hear or sense him?
- If you were trying to convince someone to follow Jesus, what might you say?
- Who needs to start following Christ that we can pray for tonight?

- **Wrap-Up** (5 minutes)
- **Pray**
- **Announcements**
 - Bonfire and Chili Cookoff this Friday at 6pm.

GOD'S PROMISE

Life Group Questions

Level 1 Discussion Questions/Activity (10 minutes)

Level 1 Discussion Questions are meant to introduce the topic in a fun, lighthearted way. Do not spend a great deal of time with these questions. Simply use them to get people talking, laughing, and intrigued with the lesson.

- What gets broken without being held? (*a promise*)
- When growing up, who were you most scared or nervous to disappoint?

Level 2 Discussion Questions (10 minutes)

Level 2 Discussion Questions are designed to introduce the key lesson principle from the Bible. It provides the foundation of what the participants need to know about God and His Word if they are going to effectively apply it to their lives.

- What was your takeaway from Sunday's sermon?
- Read Joshua 1:3. Who is speaking? To whom?
 - Joshua 1:1
- Read Joshua 1:5. What are some observations?
- What do you think it means when it says "No one will be able to stand against you?"
- What would be a right or wrong way to apply this verse to our lives today?

Level 3 Discussion Questions (20 minutes)

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Leader Tip: *Since these questions are often very personal, use a variety of techniques to get people to answer them.*

- *Split the group into smaller groups (men with men, women with women, pairs or triads, etc.)*
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- If you can, name a promise of God from the Bible that stands out to you?
- What part do you play in the fulfillment of that promise?
- How does it feel to know that God is committed to you through his covenant promise?

Wrap-Up (5 minutes)

- **Pray**
- **Announcements**
 - One of the best ways to move to the center is to select a life goal from the transformation matrix and meet with a life coach. We recommend that everyone get coached at least twice a year for ongoing spiritual growth in every area of life. Sign up online at flatlandchurch.com.

GOD'S PROVIDENCE

Life Group Questions

Level 1 Questions (10 minutes)

Level 1 Discussion Questions are meant to introduce the topic in a fun, lighthearted way. Do not spend a great deal of time with these questions. Simply use them to get people talking, laughing, and intrigued with the lesson.

- How many states have you traveled to?
- If you could live anywhere, where would that be?

Level 2 Discussion Questions (10 minutes)

Level 2 Discussion Questions are designed to introduce the key lesson principle from the Bible. It provides the foundation of what the participants need to know about God and His Word if they are going to effectively apply it to their lives.

- What are your thoughts about Sunday's sermon?
- Read Joshua 10:6-8. What stands out? (observations)
- What is happening? Why?
- Read Joshua 10:12-14. What do you notice about God in this passage?
- Why do you think God decided to intervene in this particular battle in this particular way?
- What could someone take away from this story and apply to their lives?
- From what we've read so far this series, what are the main events?

Level 3 Discussion Questions (20 minutes)

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Leader Tip: *Since these questions are often very personal, use a variety of techniques to get people to answer them.*

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- Give people the opportunity to answer the questions privately in a journal or notebook (put some music on and encourage them to spread around the room) and let anyone who wants to share what they wrote down, do so when the group gets back together.

- How have you seen the providence of God work in your life?
- Joshua faced many battles he would have lost without God's providence. What battles are you facing right now?
- What might God be up to in those battles?
- How is God calling you to be "providential" to someone else?

Wrap-Up (5 minutes)

- **Pray**
- **Announcements**
 - Core classes begin November 4, work towards completing them all. Sign up at flatlandchurch.com.
 - Freedom in Christ with Pastor Rob @ 9:30am
 - The Holy Spirit with Stef Keator @ 11:00am

GOD'S JUDGEMENT

Life Group Questions

Level 1 Questions (10 minutes)

Level 1 Discussion Questions are meant to introduce the topic in a fun, lighthearted way. Do not spend a great deal of time with these questions. Simply use them to get people talking, laughing, and intrigued with the lesson.

- Would you rather be a judge or a lawyer?
- Have you ever been called to sit on a jury? What was that like?

Level 2 Discussion Questions (10 minutes)

Level 2 Discussion Questions are designed to introduce the key lesson principle from the Bible. It provides the foundation of what the participants need to know about God and His Word if they are going to effectively apply it to their lives.

- What was the main idea of the sermon this week?
- Read Joshua 10:40-42. What do you observe?
- Why do you think this destruction is happening? What is the context?
- Read Deuteronomy 20:10-18. How does this add to your understanding of the passage in Joshua?

Level 3 Discussion Questions (20 minutes)

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Leader Tip: *Since these questions are often very personal, use a variety of techniques to get people to answer them.*

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- What questions do you have about God's judgment?

- Leader's Note: Allow the group to share their honest feedback about this topic, sometimes just feeling the freedom to express and verbalize concerns and ask difficult questions in and of itself helps people move closer to God. Don't feel like you have to have all the answers but here are some quick bullet points that may help in tackling this difficult topic.
 - God is more concerned about the eternal than the temporal - his goal is not to keep as many people alive on earth as long as possible. *John 6:40 For it is my Father's will that all who see his Son and believe in him should have eternal life. I will raise them up at the last day."*
 - Jesus preached to the souls of those who died in the Old Testament. We don't know much more detail than that but we read about it in *1 Peter 3:19-20 19 So he went and preached to the spirits in prison— 20 those who disobeyed God long ago when God waited patiently while Noah was building his boat. Only eight people were saved from drowning in that terrible flood.*
 - No one knows what it's like to sit in God's seat as much as we like to pretend we know what is best. *Romans 11:34 For who can know the LORD's thoughts? Who knows enough to give him advice?*
 - We have to make a decision to trust that in the end God is a good judge who will do what is right. *Genesis 18:25b Will not the Judge of all the earth do right?"*
- How do you personally resolve the tension of God being both a loving, heavenly Father and a righteous Judge?
- The Bible says to rejoice in the Lord always (Philippians 4:4). How can you rejoice in God for His judgment?

Wrap-Up (5 minutes)

- **Pray**
- **Announcements:**

- Water baptisms on November 11. This is a very important step in the life of all believers. Let me know if you are considering getting baptized.

GOD'S PORTION

Life Group Questions

Level 1 Questions (10 minutes)

Level 1 Discussion Questions are meant to introduce the topic in a fun, lighthearted way. Do not spend a great deal of time with these questions. Simply use them to get people talking, laughing, and intrigued with the lesson.

- Which room in your home is your favorite?
- Which portion of your job do you love the most?

Level 2 Discussion Questions (10 minutes)

Level 2 Discussion Questions are designed to introduce the key lesson principle from the Bible. It provides the foundation of what the participants need to know about God and His Word if they are going to effectively apply it to their lives.

- How would you summarize this book (or put the series) so far into your own words?
- Read Joshua 14:6-14. Who is Caleb? What do you notice about his request?
- What all do you think his portion of land represents?
- What is the balance between accepting your lot in life and seeking God for more?
- How else do you think this passage could relate to our lives today?
- In what practical ways could verse 12 be applied to someone's life?

Level 3 Discussion Questions (20 minutes)

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Psalm 16:5-6 ESV

⁵ The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup;
you hold my lot.

⁶ The lines have fallen for me in pleasant places;
indeed, I have a beautiful inheritance.

- Think about the portion God has assigned to you. What are you most grateful for?
- What part of your portion could you be a better steward of? What would that look like?
- How have you been a home of influence this series?

Wrap-Up (5 minutes)

- **Pray**
- **Announcements:**
 - Water baptisms on November 11. This is a very important step in the life of all believers. Let me know if you are considering getting baptized.
 - The Oasis is Wednesday, November 7, at 7:00pm.

Key Scriptures

Week One:

Joshua 1:16-18 (NLT)

16 They answered Joshua, “We will do whatever you command us, and we will go wherever you send us. **17** We will obey you just as we obeyed Moses. And may the Lord your God be with you as he was with Moses. **18** Anyone who rebels against your orders and does not obey your words and everything you command will be put to death. So be strong and courageous!”

Week Two:

Joshua 1:1-5 (NLT)

1 After the death of Moses the Lord’s servant, the Lord spoke to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ assistant. He said, **2** “Moses my servant is dead. Therefore, the time has come for you to lead these people, the Israelites, across the Jordan River into the land I am giving them. **3** I promise you what I promised Moses: ‘Wherever you set foot, you will be on land I have given you— **4** from the Negev wilderness in the south to the Lebanon mountains in the north, from the Euphrates River in the east to the Mediterranean Sea[a] in the west, including all the land of the Hittites.’ **5** No one will be able to stand against you as long as you live. For I will be with you as I was with Moses. I will not fail you or abandon you.

Week Three:

Joshua 10:6-14 (NLT)

6 The men of Gibeon quickly sent messengers to Joshua at his camp in Gilgal. “Don’t abandon your servants now!” they pleaded. “Come at once! Save us! Help us! For all the Amorite kings who live in the hill country have joined forces to attack us.” **7** So Joshua and his entire army, including his best warriors, left Gilgal and set out for Gibeon. **8** “Do not be afraid of them,” the Lord said to Joshua, “for I have given you victory over them. Not a single one of them will be able to stand up to you.”

9 Joshua traveled all night from Gilgal and took the Amorite armies by surprise. **10** The Lord threw them into a panic, and the Israelites slaughtered great numbers of them at Gibeon. Then the Israelites chased the enemy along the road to Beth-horon, killing them all along the way to Azekah and Makkedah. **11** As the Amorites retreated down the road from Beth-horon, the Lord destroyed them with a terrible hailstorm from

heaven that continued until they reached Azekah. The hail killed more of the enemy than the Israelites killed with the sword.

12 On the day the Lord gave the Israelites victory over the Amorites, Joshua prayed to the Lord in front of all the people of Israel. He said,

“Let the sun stand still over Gibeon,
and the moon over the valley of Aijalon.”

13 So the sun stood still and the moon stayed in place until the nation of Israel had defeated its enemies.

Is this event not recorded in *The Book of Jashar*^[a]? The sun stayed in the middle of the sky, and it did not set as on a normal day.^[b] **14** There has never been a day like this one before or since, when the Lord answered such a prayer. Surely the Lord fought for Israel that day!

Week Four:

Joshua 10:40-42(NLT)

40 So Joshua conquered the whole region—the kings and people of the hill country, the Negev, the western foothills,^[a] and the mountain slopes. He completely destroyed everyone in the land, leaving no survivors, just as the Lord, the God of Israel, had commanded.**41** Joshua slaughtered them from Kadesh-barnea to Gaza and from the region around the town of Goshen up to Gibeon. **42** Joshua conquered all these kings and their land in a single campaign, for the Lord, the God of Israel, was fighting for his people.

Week Five:

Joshua 14:6-14 (NLT)

6 A delegation from the tribe of Judah, led by Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite, came to Joshua at Gilgal. Caleb said to Joshua, “Remember what the Lord said to Moses, the man of God, about you and me when we were at Kadesh-barnea. **7** I was forty years old when Moses, the servant of the Lord, sent me from Kadesh-barnea to explore the land of Canaan. I returned and gave an honest report, **8** but my brothers who went with me frightened the people from entering the Promised Land. For my part, I wholeheartedly followed the Lord my God. **9** So that day Moses solemnly promised me, ‘The land of Canaan on which you were just walking will be your grant of land and

that of your descendants forever, because you wholeheartedly followed the Lord my God.’

10 “Now, as you can see, the Lord has kept me alive and well as he promised for all these forty-five years since Moses made this promise—even while Israel wandered in the wilderness. Today I am eighty-five years old. **11** I am as strong now as I was when Moses sent me on that journey, and I can still travel and fight as well as I could then.

12 So give me the hill country that the Lord promised me. You will remember that as scouts we found the descendants of Anak living there in great, walled towns. But if the Lord is with me, I will drive them out of the land, just as the Lord said.”

13 So Joshua blessed Caleb son of Jephunneh and gave Hebron to him as his portion of land. **14** Hebron still belongs to the descendants of Caleb son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite because he wholeheartedly followed the Lord, the God of Israel.

Transformation Matrix™ Life Goals

CHARACTER

Love – I find it easy to be very understanding of people who criticize me and fail to live up to the standards I hold for them.

Joy – I find pleasure in most everything I do and I am content with all that God has given to me.

Peace – It is easy for me to forgive myself and others, and I am free from stress, anxiety, depression and fear.

Patience – I am quite capable of handling periods of suffering and pressure without becoming irritable or frustrated.

Kindness – I am quick to lend a hand when someone is in need or in trouble, expecting nothing in return.

Faithfulness – I maintain my commitments to and think highly of those in authority over me and those who depend on me.

Gentleness – I allow others to make mistakes without becoming withdrawn or angry when it is necessary to confront them.

Self-Control – I manage my time and finances well without the interference of addictive or immoral behavior.

HOME

Marital Situation – I am very content with my current marital situation, and I do not wrestle with any type of sexual immorality.

Immediate Family – I have excellent relationships with everyone in my immediate family and communicate with them regularly.

Finances – I view my finances and possessions as blessings from God, giving generously and spending wisely with no indebtedness.

Free-Time – I regularly take time for myself, engaging in activities that strengthen and refresh me rather than trying to temporarily escape.

Spiritual Formation – I actively welcome God into my home, set a godly example and encourage the faith of my family members.

Personal Development – I strive to learn new things and deepen my current pool of knowledge, encouraging my family to do the same.

Health – I have a healthy lifestyle in regard to diet, exercise, grooming and cleanliness without an excessive preoccupation with them.

Hospitality – I welcome friends and acquaintances to my home, using the opportunity to strengthen and encourage them in life's journey.

RELATIONSHIPS

Social Network – I have a solid group of friends who keep me accountable, encourage me and strengthen my relationship with God.

Relatives – All my relationships with my extended family and in-laws are vibrant and healthy. I enjoy spending time with them.

Tolerance – I have strong relationships with people who are quite different than me, and I do not wrestle with bias or bigotry of any kind.

Being Mentored – There are several people more experienced than me who personally influence my life on a regular basis.

Mentoring Others – I have a positive, personal influence on the lives of several people with less experience than me.

Compassion – I am generous with and quick to respond to the needs of my friends and family without expecting anything in return.

Receiving Criticism – I like to be challenged by my peers and am willing to accept criticism without lashing out or harboring bitterness.

Forgiveness – When I am hurt or offended, I am quick to confront the responsible person in love and do not speak ill of them to others.

INDUSTRY

Education – I am well-educated with regard to my work and I am continually learning and applying new information as it develops.

Gifts Match – My work is a perfect match with my areas of giftedness. What I do for a living comes rather natural for me.

Contribution – I thoroughly enjoy serving the people who benefit from the results of my labor. My work is a tremendous blessing to others.

Employee Relations – I have terrific relationships with everyone I work with regardless of their position. We truly are a team.

Empowerment – Whenever things are not going right, I am able to influence positive change without offending or ostracizing others.

Goals – I am motivated by compelling, realistic goals that stretch my abilities and challenge me to work with excellence.

Time Management – I work with diligence, completing my tasks in a timely manner, yet leaving sufficient time

