



## Scripture



# Joshua 1:6-9; 3:5-8, 14-17; 4:20-24

6 Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” ... 5 Then Joshua said to the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.” 6 And Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on before the people.” So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people. 7 The LORD said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. 8 And as for you, command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, ‘When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.’” ... 14 So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan

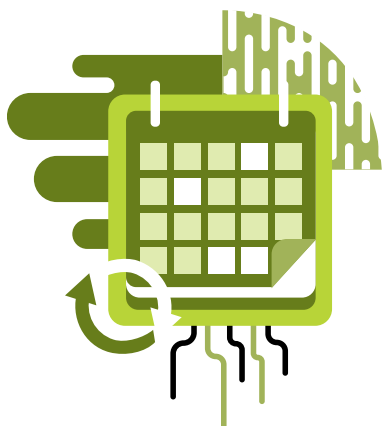
with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, 15 and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), 16 the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off. And the people passed over opposite Jericho. 17 Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan. ... 20 And those twelve stones, which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal. 21 And he said to the people of Israel, “When your children ask their fathers in times to come, ‘What do these stones mean?’ 22 then you shall let your children know, ‘Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.’ 23 For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we passed over, 24 so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever.”

## Unit .08

## Session .01

# The Call to Courage

# Daily Devotions



Day 1

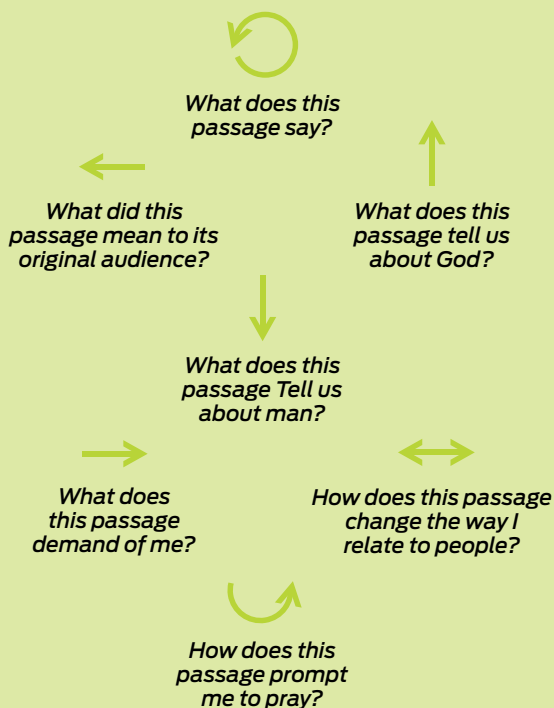
## Joshua 1:1-9

Moses had led the children of Israel for four decades. He was the one constant for a people who had wandered in the wilderness as an entire generation died off. One thing they could depend on. And now, he too was gone. The Book of Joshua opens by stating his death in a rather matter-of-fact manner: Moses was dead and now God spoke to Joshua. But we cannot underestimate the impact his loss surely had on a people who stood at the border of the promised land, preparing to go to war. The people were vulnerable, and this could have been a crushing blow for them, a demoralizing loss.

But God, of course, understood. He knew Joshua would need encouragement and He knew the people would need it as well. But He also knew the people needed something else more—much more. They needed Him. Good leaders are a gift from God. Great leaders are a blessing. But no leader, no matter how good he or she might be, is a substitute for God Himself. Moses was not who the Israelites needed. Joshua was not either. Nor would it be any of the judges, Samuel, Saul, David, Solomon, any other king, or any prophet. The leader the people needed was Christ Jesus—the One who God provided to lead us out of bondage of sin and into the rest of salvation in Him.

**Have you ever lost a significant leader? What was the effect of that loss on you and others?**

## The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



# Joshua 1:10-18

As the children of Israel prepared to enter the land, don't miss God's promise of the rest they would find there (v. 13). Think about it: this was a people who had never had rest. Those who were children forty years before had left slavery in Egypt where there had been no rest. Then for the next forty years, they, and all who were born, were always on the move. Now, at the border of the promised land, they were about to go to war. But God was not just going to give them the land, He was going to give them rest.

We know from the Book of Hebrews, that rest in the promised land was a shadow of the greater rest we find in our salvation in Christ. In Christ, we are able, for the first time ever, to cast aside our labor—our innumerable attempts to be right with God—and rest in Christ instead as recipients of forgiveness and righteousness in Him. This is the rest our souls need. This is the rest the gospel gives.

**What are some ways that you need to stop working and rest in Christ?**

# Joshua 3:1-17

God was about to do a mighty work before His people. They were about to see the swollen banks of the Jordan River become dry. They were about to cross through the dry riverbed as their parents had done forty years before as they passed through the Red Sea to escape Pharaoh's army. But they had to do something first. They had to consecrate themselves. Why? Because if their minds and hearts were not ready—not open to consider the glory of God—they would miss it, even if it was right in front of their faces. Doubt it? Go back and look at what happened to their parents in the Book of Exodus. Time after time, they had seen God's mighty hand work, only to miss it because they were not in the right heart posture to receive it.

And the same can be true of us. We, too, need to consecrate ourselves day-by-day, moment-by-moment. God is at work all around us everyday, but will we see it?

**What are some ways you can consecrate yourself each day to see what God is doing and follow Him?**

# Joshua

## 4:1-16

When you first read Joshua 4:14, you might reflexively read it a second time. Surely you read it incorrectly the first time: God exalted Joshua? Shouldn't it be the other way? The Creator doesn't exalt His creation; creation is to exalt its Creator. The key to understanding this verse is to look ahead to Joshua 4:24. God exalted Joshua, as He had Moses, for a reason: so that He in turn would be exalted even more. What the Israelites would see Joshua do was not intended to stop there—it was to be a conduit pointing people to the One who was truly at work: God.

Do we see ourselves as Joshuas? Do we understand that God has positioned us where He has, and how He has, for a reason—to glorify God? Or are we ever tempted to steal God's glory instead? To take how He has gifted and blessed us and hoard it for ourselves? May we hold loosely to our glory and tightly to God's.

**How can you point others to God this week through how He has blessed and gifted you?**

# Joshua

## 4:17-24

We would be wise to understand this passage in light of Deuteronomy 6:4-9. In that passage, known as the Shema, God had commanded one generation to teach the law to the next. But here we see that it should not stop there. Each generation is also to share what God has done for them. This coupling, the words and works of God together, provides a fuller picture of who God is and helps future generations see His beauty and splendor.

While the primary context of these two passages focuses on parents, it is broader than that. All of us are called by God to disciple others and this is to be our blueprint of discipleship. We are to teach others God's Word, but we are also to testify to how God has been kind to us. We are to talk about His provision, His protection, and His power. We are to celebrate who He is and what He has done.

**What are some of the “stones of remembrance” that you can share with others to point them to who God is and what He has done?**