

# Joshua

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## A note of introduction...

Joshua was a man of valor. He was valiant not because of his personal determination but because he relied on God to provide him everything he needed to fight the battles of his life. Joshua's motto could have easily been Joshua 1:9, where God tells him, "Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

Joshua was a man of war. From the beginning of his life as a slave in Egypt, to his death in the Promised Land, Joshua fought the flesh and blood battles God directed him to fight. He led the Israelites into the Promised Land and he directed them, under God's guidance, into their inheritance.

We are a people of war. Ephesians 6:12 tells us "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." Although our fight is in a different realm from Joshua's fight, in many other ways it is the same. And, just like the Israelite nation, we are awaiting our inheritance (I Peter 1:4).

If you want to be valiant, if you want to be strong and courageous as you fight the battles of life, if you are anxious to enter into your inheritance, join us as we examine the life of Joshua.

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Like all other Illumination studies, this workbook is written from the New International Version. You should be able to answer all the questions by either examining the text or examining your life. Please be sure to pray before you begin each lesson.

We would like to add a word of explanation about the introductory boxes and the last section of each lesson entitled The Joshua Connection. The boxes at the beginning of each lesson are to help you set your mind for that lesson. They all have a New Testament reference, helping to tie the Old Testament book of Joshua to the New Testament. The Joshua Connection includes questions to show how the book of Joshua relates to life today.

Our lives have been so blessed by this study of Joshua. Both of us have learned things about God and about ourselves that we have never noticed before. We hope you will receive the same blessing by your study of this book.

**Connie Barker and Karla Taylor**

# Commands & Promises

# Joshua

## Lesson #1 Joshua 1:1-18

GOD exhorts Joshua to continually be in His will and word. Just like Joshua, we need to daily immerse ourselves in GOD's word, apply it to our lives for successful living, and communicate it to the rest of GOD's people. The Great Commission given by Jesus in Matthew 28:18-20 echoes many of these exhortations given to Joshua.

### I. Living Courageously. Read Joshua 1:1-9.

1. What roles did Joshua have that prepared him for leadership?

Exodus 17:8-10 \_\_\_\_\_

Numbers 11:28 \_\_\_\_\_

Numbers 13:16-17 \_\_\_\_\_

Numbers 27:15-24 \_\_\_\_\_

2. Describe the relationship between Moses and Joshua.

3. a. Put yourself into both sets of shoes, or in this case, sandals. Privately think about whom you are mentoring for GOD. What are some steps you can take to improve your influence? See Titus 2:1-10 for ideas.

- b. Privately think about who is mentoring you. What are some steps you can take to be more receptive to that influence?

4. a. What did the Israelites have to **do** to take the land GOD said He was going to **give** them (verses 2 & 6)?

4. b. What do we have to **do** to claim the salvation GOD promises to **give** us?

Matthew 7:21 \_\_\_\_\_

Mark 16:16 \_\_\_\_\_

Romans 10:9 \_\_\_\_\_

II Timothy 1:8 & 9 \_\_\_\_\_

Additional passages \_\_\_\_\_

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5. What were the commands and promises GOD gave Joshua for successfully taking the land of Canaan?

Commands	Promises

6. Give scriptures in the New Testament that state similar commands and promises to us.

## **II. First Things First. Read Joshua 1:10-15.**

7. What tribes were given special instructions?

8. What is the agreement made between Moses and these tribes in Numbers 32:1-5 & 20-22 that is repeated in Joshua?

9. These tribes were commanded to help the rest of Israel obtain their promises. What can you learn from these ancient people about helping others receive their promises?

10. a. Why did the 2 ½ tribes not get to enjoy their reward after receiving it (verses 14 & 15)?
- b. How are the faithful who have gone on before like the 2 ½ tribes (I Thessalonians 4:13-17; Hebrews 11:39-40)?

### **III. Commitment to GOD's Leadership. Read Joshua 1:16-18.**

11. What admonition did Israel give to Joshua that had already been given to him?
12. a. Using the response of the 2 ½ tribes as an example, how can you behave when changes come to church leadership?
- b. Discuss the importance of leaders receiving support from their people.

### **IV. The Joshua Connection.**

13. What message could serve as the theme for Joshua 1?
14. What tools has GOD given to enable us to be strong and courageous?
15. Joshua was first a servant before he became a leader. In Matthew 20:28 Jesus tells us he came to serve. Why do you think being a servant is a prerequisite to being a leader?