



**STEPPING**

**UP**

**STEPPING**

**OUT**

**COURAGEOUS ACTION FOR KINGDOM PURPOSE**



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UP  
STEPPING  
OUT**

COURAGEOUS ACTION FOR KINGDOM PURPOSE

A Community Groups Study  
of Crossline Community Church



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Prologue	01
How to Get the Most Out of This Study	02
Ingredients for a Great Group	03
Time to Dive In	05
Foreword	06
<b>Session One:</b>	
God PREPARES us for Courageous Action	08
<b>Session Two:</b>	
God CALLS us to Courageous Action	28
<b>Session Three:</b>	
God BLESSES Courageous Action	48
<b>Session Four:</b>	
God REFINES Us for Courageous Action	70
<b>Session Five:</b>	
God MULTIPLIES Our Courageous Action	90
Appendices	111



# PROLOGUE

The boy's question was carried by the breeze to his father's ears, "what are those?"

He turned to see what his son was referring to. Though years had passed, the father smiled softly as memories flooded his mind. Those 12 stones, smoothed naturally by the flow of the river, were not just rocks, but rather a monument set in place to beckon the very question that his son now asked.

The man came to his son and bent down so that he was at eye level. "Those, my son, are a sign of the great faithfulness of our God, Yahweh."

"Look around." His hand raised as he said it, pointing to all the surrounding hills and down into the valley.

"All that you see is our home. It is a land promised and given to all Israel by God. Promised long ago to our great ancestor, Abraham, but lost during our time in Egypt. Until, after many years of oppression and wandering in the desert, Joshua led us back." The boy's eyes lit up. He knew of Joshua, "Joshua! The strong and courageous hero of our people! Who slayed giants and brought down the great fortress of Jericho!"

The father chuckled at his youthful enthusiasm and wonder. "Yes, he was strong and courageous, but even Joshua would tell you what I am about to tell you." He paused. "Neither those rocks, nor the rubble of Jericho, or the giants that are now mere dust in the ground are meant for you and I to remember or glorify Joshua, but rather the true hero, Yahweh. The God Almighty. For it was He who opened up the door to this land when He stopped the flow of the waters of the Jordan, from which these rocks were taken, and allowed all of us to cross over on dry ground. Victory already belonged to God. Joshua was just courageous enough to teach us how to take hold of that victory."

The boy had taken up one of the lambs from flock into his arms as he listened closely to his father. As his father finished, he looked up at him.

"What a hero. Can you tell me the story, again, father?"

# HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF THIS STUDY

Welcome to the exciting adventure of studying the Bible! In *Stepping Up, Stepping Out: Courageous Action for Kingdom Purpose*, you will be diving into the Bible as a group of literary and spiritual archaeologists, seeking to uncover the truths about who God really is and how He reveals himself in the story of Joshua. Living a courageous life like Joshua may seem like a challenging endeavor, but with a focused exploration of the Bible, great discussion and the help of the Holy Spirit, you will see how you, too, can leave a legacy of Kingdom purpose.

To make the most of this study, here are some important suggestions:

1. The best way to get the most out of this study is to **ENGAGE**. Come to your community group ready to listen and share. If you are distracted, closed off or too busy to make attendance a priority, we can guarantee you that this experience won't be as rich for you as it could be.
2. Make an intentional effort to do the Daily Devotionals for each week. Each of these readings are written by pastors and ministry leaders in our church, designed to enhance your weekly discussions and spur on your learnings about God. You are likely to connect with these devotions in ways that are different from the other sections of the workbook.
3. Come as you are, wherever you are with your faith journey, and don't let this study burden you! This workbook is designed to be a refreshing, thought-provoking, easy-to-use aid for discussion and study. All the Scripture references are already in the workbook, though you can utilize your own Bible as well.



# INGREDIENTS FOR A GREAT GROUP:

Whether you have been a part of a group like this before or not, please take a look at the following guidelines to help your group function to its greatest possible potential.

- **Don't Miss it!** This first tip is a big one! As a community group, commit to never missing a gathering. And be on time! If you are going to miss or be late, let your host/group know as soon as you can.
- **Assign a timekeeper!** Within the group, someone appreciates organization and timeliness—assign this person to be the timekeeper for group time together. Permit this person to move things along to make sure everything gets done and the group ends on time.
- **Keep it Confidential!** One of the beautiful things about Community Groups is the deep, meaningful conversation that happens. This often means people share sensitive things – please keep it confidential.
- **R-E-S-P-E-C-T!** Your group comprises all sorts of people from different backgrounds—it's one of the great features of your group! As a group, commit to making your group a safe environment with mutual respect. Respect not only your fellow group members and your host but also the home in which you are meeting.
- **Have Fun!** Don't forget to have fun! Laugh! Play games! You can even set aside specific time or additional gatherings to just have fun together.
- **Eat Up!** Food always provides a sense of comfort and unity in group settings, so whether it's a full meal, snacks, dessert, or coffee—eat up!
- **Take Turns!** Many groups find ways for members to take turns on things such as providing food, leading prayer requests, texting reminders, or opening their home for the group. It's always healthy to not have one person in charge of something every time. (You can even assign a group member to coordinate this.)

- **Find your groove!** No two community groups are the same, and that's okay! As a group, find your groove on how you do things and stick with it.
- **Don't let kids control!** If you are a group with kids, make group time a priority. It's easy to become overwhelmed with kids and their schedules and babysitters, but don't let that control your involvement. As a group, figure out the best scenario for childcare early on so that you can fully participate in the group (e.g. individual babysitters, group babysitter(s), putting on a movie in the back room, etc.)

# TIME TO DIVE IN

These 5 weeks are not only designed for learning more about who God is, but to also dive into community, an essential need of humankind. When the weight of the world comes down upon us, it is a community--one that deeply knows and loves us--that enables us to stand. Consider the wise words of King Solomon,

*“Two are better than one,  
because they have a good return for their labor:  
If either of them falls down,  
one can help the other up.  
But pity anyone who falls  
and has no one to help them up  
Also, if two lie down together, they will keep warm.  
But how can one keep warm alone?  
Though one may be overpowered,  
Two can defend themselves.  
A cord of three strands is not quickly broken.”*  
(Ecclesiastes 4:9-12)

Whether you are stumbling over poor habits, struggling with destructive thinking, or being spiritually attacked, there is security in belonging to a community that is for you.

With that in mind, we strongly urge you to take ownership in making space for true community. This is not something that leaders or hosts are solely responsible for; this is the conviction that must be woven into every person participating in this study. This means compassionately taking responsibility to walk alongside those you meet that are looking for a group and inviting them to the table. This means that groups must be open to receiving newcomers. This means that new hosts and leaders must rise up from existing groups that get too large. This means that we need to be sacrificially thinking of the needs of others above our own needs. When we do this, everyone can receive a blessing.

# FOREWORD

Welcome to Stepping Up, Stepping Out: Courageous Faith for Kingdom Purpose, a 5-session small groups curriculum from Crossline Community Church. Although you can do this curriculum individually, it is best in the context of a small group of people. We pray that this content will bless you and assist you in your process of discipleship.

In this Study, your group will have the chance to journey through the story of Joshua. Some of you may have read his story more times than you can remember, while some of you might be reading it for the first time. No matter how familiar you are with the narrative of his life, we believe that this study will help you see with greater depth and clarity how God was shaping him for remarkable things. More than the miraculous events that accompany Joshua's story, we will zoom in on Joshua himself, a simple man who was empowered by a miraculous God when he responded to the call to be strong and courageous. This study will get personal and challenge you to have courageous faith in order to accomplish the heavenly Kingdom purposes that God has in store for you.

In addition to the written content in this workbook, videos accompany each session and can be accessed through the RightNow Media platform (see page 113) or by going to [crosslinechurch.com/SteppingUp](http://crosslinechurch.com/SteppingUp)





**SESSION  
ONE**

**GOD PREPARES US FOR  
COURAGEOUS ACTION**

## INTRODUCTION:

I remember as a boy sitting on the carpet, wide-eyed and mouth agape, watching John Wayne as the tough-as-nails Rooster Cogburn in True Grit. I couldn't take my eyes off of him. His unflinching courageous demeanor was everything I wanted. I'm pretty sure I was running around with my friends wearing an eyepatch and cowboy hat the next day. I told my friends that we should do four-against-one dodgeball, because I wasn't afraid. That's what courage does. It inspires. We all want that type of fearlessness. Though, courage is not the absence of fear. As John Wayne reminds us, "courage is being scared to death, but saddling up anyway." So that begs the question: where does courage come from?

Courage comes from a conviction for a purpose greater than our fears.

In this study, we are going to learn from the courage of the biblical character of Joshua. It began in his days as a young aide to Moses and developed deep within him throughout the course of his life experiences. If anyone ever told you that following the Lord was easy, they were either lying to you or just plain confused. Following the Lord requires great courage and therefore, great conviction. However, God promises that He is good, and has good plans for us. So, if we believe both are true, we remain confident that He has given us what we need to be courageous and we will see His good plans as we act with courage. He has gone before us and prepared us to be courageous.

Was Joshua scared? Absolutely, but he saddled up anyway. Every time he stepped out in courage, he saw God's faithfulness unfold like puzzle pieces to the path that God was revealing in Joshua's life. Every experience built upon the last, propelling him forward into a heroic Kingdom purpose.

**WATCH THE**



# VIDEO

## SESSION 1

*Use the notes space provided to record key thoughts, questions and things you want to remember or come back to as a group. After Watching, take a moment to initially respond with your thoughts about the video.*

*\*for information on how to stream videos, see pg. 113*

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# READ

## Exodus 17:8-16

*The Amalekites came and attacked the Israelites at Rephidim. <sup>9</sup> Moses said to Joshua, "Choose some of our men and go out to fight the Amalekites. Tomorrow I will stand on top of the hill with the staff of God in my hands."*

*<sup>10</sup> So Joshua fought the Amalekites as Moses had ordered, and Moses, Aaron and Hur went to the top of the hill. <sup>11</sup> As long as Moses held up his hands, the Israelites were winning, but whenever he lowered his hands, the Amalekites were winning. <sup>12</sup> When Moses' hands grew tired, they took a stone and put it under him and he sat on it. Aaron and Hur held his hands up—one on one side, one on the other—so that his hands remained steady till sunset. <sup>13</sup> So Joshua overcame the Amalekite army with the sword.*

*<sup>14</sup> Then the LORD said to Moses, "Write this on a scroll as something to be remembered and make sure that Joshua hears it, because I will completely blot out the name of Amalek from under heaven."*

*<sup>15</sup> Moses built an altar and called it The LORD is my Banner. <sup>16</sup> He said, "Because hands were lifted up against the throne of the LORD, the LORD will be at war against the Amalekites from generation to generation."*

## Numbers 13:16-14:9

*<sup>16</sup> These are the names of the men Moses sent to explore the land. (Moses gave Hoshea son of Nun the name Joshua.)*

*<sup>17</sup> When Moses sent them to explore Canaan, he said, "Go up through the Negev and on into the hill country. <sup>18</sup> See what the land is like and whether the people who live there are strong or weak, few or many. <sup>19</sup> What kind of land do they live in? Is it good*

or bad? What kind of towns do they live in? Are they unwallled or fortified?<sup>20</sup> How is the soil? Is it fertile or poor? Are there trees in it or not? Do your best to bring back some of the fruit of the land." (It was the season for the first ripe grapes.)

<sup>21</sup> So they went up and explored the land from the Desert of Zin as far as Rehob, toward Lebo Hamath. <sup>22</sup> They went up through the Negev and came to Hebron, where Ahiman, Sheshai and Talmi, the descendants of Anak, lived. (Hebron had been built seven years before Zoan in Egypt.) <sup>23</sup> When they reached the Valley of Eshkol, they cut off a branch bearing a single cluster of grapes. Two of them carried it on a pole between them, along with some pomegranates and figs. <sup>24</sup> That place was called the Valley of Eshkol because of the cluster of grapes the Israelites cut off there. <sup>25</sup> At the end of forty days they returned from exploring the land.

<sup>26</sup> They came back to Moses and Aaron and the whole Israelite community at Kadesh in the Desert of Paran. There they reported to them and to the whole assembly and showed them the fruit of the land. <sup>27</sup> They gave Moses this account: "We went into the land to which you sent us, and it does flow with milk and honey! Here is its fruit. <sup>28</sup> But the people who live there are powerful, and the cities are fortified and very large. We even saw descendants of Anak there. <sup>29</sup> The Amalekites live in the Negev; the Hittites, Jebusites and Amorites live in the hill country; and the Canaanites live near the sea and along the Jordan."

<sup>30</sup> Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said, "We should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it."

<sup>31</sup> But the men who had gone up with him said, "We can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are." <sup>32</sup> And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, "The land we explored devours those living in it. All the people we saw there are of great size. <sup>33</sup> We saw the Nephilim there (the descendants of Anak come from the

*Nephilim). We seemed like grasshoppers in our own eyes, and we looked the same to them."*

**14** *That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. <sup>2</sup> All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, "If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! <sup>3</sup> Why is the LORD bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn't it be better for us to go back to Egypt?" <sup>4</sup> And they said to each other, "We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt."*

<sup>5</sup> *Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. <sup>6</sup> Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes <sup>7</sup> and said to the entire Israelite assembly, "The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. <sup>8</sup> If the LORD is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. <sup>9</sup> Only do not rebel against the LORD. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them."*

# DISCUSSION

## Observe

1. Exodus 17 is the first mention of Joshua in the Bible. From this story, and how Joshua is introduced, what do we learn about him?
2. According to the passage, why does Moses send the spies into the land of Canaan?
3. What did all the spies agree on about the land of Canaan? What did they disagree about?
4. When the community of Israel heard the bad report from the 10 spies, how did they respond?

## Think

5. Why do you think God wanted to make sure that Joshua heard about what was written on the hill (Ex. 17:14)?

6. The 12 spies came back from the land of Canaan and gave a report. Compare the responses from the 10 other spies (13:27-29, 31) and Caleb and Joshua (13:30, 14:7-9). What are the differences?
  
7. Even though all twelve of the men who explored the land had the same experience, why do you think Caleb and Joshua reacted differently than the others?

## Apply

8. What experiences or challenges have you had in your life that most significantly shaped you into who you are today?
  
9. As you reflect on those experiences and/or challenges, who do you think God is/was preparing for you to be and what has He been preparing for you to do?

**Action Step:** After your reading and discussion, what action step(s) are you prompted to take this week?

# NOTES // PRAYER REQUESTS

A black and white photograph of a mountain range. The mountains are rugged and layered, with some peaks in the distance and others closer. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights. The text 'SESSION ONE DEVOTIONALS' is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**SESSION ONE  
DEVOTIONALS**

## Day 1: Awe-bedience

*Gigi Johnson*

"This weekend, I want you to think about one word." I looked out at the eyes of the women. "One word that communicates who God is, what He's doing, or what He's saying to you while we're here on the mountain together." God was showing off bigtime that retreat weekend as we spent time in His Word and in His presence. I figured that boiling down our takeaways into just one word would really help us remember it all! The words that the women chose were powerful, accurate, beautiful, and personal—just like our God!

"So, what was your word, Babe?" my husband asked as I began unpacking from the retreat that Sunday afternoon. "Oh!" I replied, excited to share, but embarrassed at the fact that I had chosen two words. There was just too much good stuff God was doing! "Awe and Obedience," I announced with a smile, for God had been remarkably clear with me that weekend. It was as if, for the first time, I realized the cycle He intended for me! As I read His Word, learn His character, and experience Him in my life, I find myself in utter AWE of Him. I'm in awe of who He is, what He's done, how He loves, and all He is sovereign over and able to accomplish! It's from that awestruck place that I'm moved to respond in OBEDIENCE. It comes from a deep place where I desire to please and honor the One whom I look to in all things and for all things. Then, through my obedience, the cycle repeats, and I'm given eyes to see how worthy He is of my admiration, respect, and reverence—leaving me, all over again, in AWE of Him!

Josh seemed touched and even inspired as he listened. Then he shifted his focus and responded with, "Really, Queen-of-Blending-Words-That-Shouldn't-Be-Blended? You didn't think to go with 'awe-bedience'?" I fought the temptation to sit in regret at my lack of creativity, and instead decided to immediately and confidently embrace it! "That's it! AWE-BEDIENCE! Yes!"

In **Exodus 17:8-16**, we see Joshua quickly choose obedience to the Lord when Moses, his mentor and leader, tells him to select



men and engage in a battle against the Amalekites, a strong and intimidating army that cruelly attacked the Israelite men, women and children as they traveled together. Joshua's obedience was rooted in his fresh and repetitive awe of the Lord. Right before his eyes, God had split the Red Sea for Joshua and his people to cross, then closed it back up over their enemy. Daily he'd led them through the desert with a cloud by day and a fire by night, rained down manna (bread) and quail to satisfy their hunger, and sweetened bitter waters and brought even more from a rock to satisfy their thirst. Fully prepared to operate in obedience, both Joshua and Moses played their parts in this battle. Moses headed to the mountaintop to pray, God's staff in hand, and Joshua fought the battle on the ground. Together, along with Aaron and Hur who lifted the arms of Moses in his weakness, they experienced God giving them supernatural victory over the Amalekites. And the cycle continued. They saw and were in awe of God's power and again were moved to operate in obedience. Joshua modeled a life of awe-bedience being fueled and inspired to live boldly, faithfully, and courageously for our God.

## Prayer

Mighty God, would You help us shift into this same awe-bedience cycle Joshua lived in? Give us eyes to see things as You see them—through Your word, by Your Spirit, and in our lives. Help us to see and know who You are, what You've done, and how You're moving and working all the time! Then help us respond in awe-rooted obedience! May You receive all the honor and glory as we live lives full of awe-bedience. In Jesus' name we pray, Amen.

## Day 2: Only Fools Rush In

*David Wood*

One of my least favorite parts of Basic Training in the United States Airforce was marching. Somehow, when our drill instructors taught us how to march, I forgot how to walk. I forgot how we naturally swing our arms and move our feet. Constantly being yelled at makes you overthink even the most straightforward task. When it is done right, it is beautiful to see a troop marching in step with one another. Turning, halting, double-time; it is a well-oiled machine. But it's painfully obvious from the outside when one person gets out of step in a troop. They stick out like a sore thumb.

I am a big dreamer. Dreams are necessary. We absolutely need to look forward to the future and what God can do. However, if we do not take the time needed to pause and align our hearts and minds with Jesus and His heart and mind for the dream, we will get out of step with God. As we begin our reading today, Moses and the people of Israel were walking in step with God right up to the edge of the promised land.

"The LORD now said to Moses,<sup>2</sup> "Send out men to explore the land of Canaan, the land I am giving to the Israelites. Send one leader from each of the twelve ancestral tribes."<sup>3</sup> So Moses did as the LORD commanded him. He sent out twelve men, all tribal leaders of Israel, from their camp in the wilderness of Paran.

<sup>17</sup> Moses gave the men these instructions as he sent them out to explore the land: "Go north through the Negev into the hill country. <sup>18</sup> See what the land is like, and find out whether the people living there are strong or weak, few or many. <sup>19</sup> See what kind of land they live in. Is it good or bad? Do their towns have walls, or are they unprotected like open camps? <sup>20</sup> Is the soil fertile or poor? Are there many trees? Do your best to bring back samples of the crops you see." (It happened to be the season for harvesting the first ripe grapes.) **(Numbers 13:1-3; 17-20)**

The people of Israel were on their way to the promised land. They made it out of Egypt. Watched God part the Red Sea. Witnessed the presence of God descending on Mount Sinai. Followed the pillar of fire and cloud of smoke right up to the edge of the Land flowing with milk and honey God had promised His people so long ago.

Their next step was to take the land. To see what it was like and make a strategic and wise course of action as they faced what was to come, the people sent spies to scout ahead (Deuteronomy 1:20-23). God consented to send the spies (Numbers 13:1-3) and wanted His people to move forward with wisdom. I often want to rush ahead. I find out where God is going early and want to get there immediately. Sometimes I forget that God rarely operates at the same pace as I do.

As followers of Jesus, we must learn to discern where God is in every situation. We don't want to get ahead of God. Instead, through prayer and reflection, we discover what God is already doing in the moment, partner with Him, and move forward at His pace, not ours.

## Prayer

Jesus, would You align my heart and mind with Yours? Would You give me your eyes to see what You see in each situation I walk into? And would You help me walk at Your pace? Amen.

## Day 3: Yeah, But...

*Andy Benis*

The great theologian, Indiana Jones, on his Last Crusade, was making good progress toward finding the holy grail. He trusted the ancient manuscripts that he was using to guide him. He trusted the wisdom in those documents and his ability to interpret them. As a result, he had already navigated multiple deadly situations successfully.

Then he turns the corner to face yet another life-threatening challenge. He stands on the edge of a sheer cliff, facing a chasm between him and where he wanted to be. His instructions called for a leap of faith. BUT...

Rewind to the ancient Middle East. In **Numbers 13:17-30**, we read about the 12 scouts sent out to find, and report back on, the land of Canaan that God had promised to the Israelites. And, shocker, God was right (for the umpteenth time). The land was amazing. A fertile land of milk, honey, and fruit. BUT...

Fast forward to today. Your life. My life. We've read the Bible. We believe in God's love, faithfulness, and power. We've even seen them show up in our own lives more than once! Then we turn the next corner and BAM, a new challenge. New anxieties and a new test of faith. We turn to God and say "Lord, I love you and I trust you, BUT..."

But this time, I have no job prospects. But this time, my spouse has left me. But this time, it's cancer.

It's as if we love and trust God, but only to a point. We read his word and trust its truth. We read devotions and grow our hearts closer to his. We recount the times he's shown up for us in the past, BUT...

Like Indiana Jones and some of the Israelite scouts, our feelings and our eyes often override what we know to be true. We fear. We doubt. We stand at the cliff, frozen. Yet Indy succeeded where some of those scouts failed. He knew what he had to do, AND he

stepped out - taking the leap of faith toward a seeming abyss. AND the promises that he relied on proved to be true (again!) AND he made it through (again!)

It might not be like Indiana's giant buzz-saws, death traps, and angry Nazi's, but we all face our fair share in tests of our faith. So therefore, what? THIS time you're up against something God can't handle? THIS time God will abandon you? Of course not. So how do we "make it through" to the holy grail of God's blessings?

More "AND's", less "BUT's". I know what God's word says AND I'll trust in it. I know how God wants me to obey AND I'll do it. God has promised to guard my heart and mind in Christ Jesus AND I'll wait in faith for him to do it.

So, grab your hat, your whip, and your Bible; knowing that in doing these things, you have chosen wisely.

## Prayer

Lord, please forgive me for the moments when I let fear of my circumstances win out over trust in You. I ask You to give me a spirit of peace and bold confidence in Your promises. Remind my heart and my mind that You are above all things, and that You work all things together for good. Your promise to be with me through it all is more than enough. Amen!

## Day 4: Doubt Can Be a Trust Killer

*Holly Mora*

I lay on the floor, staring at my husband. He'd just asked me to consider going back to work full time. His company had been bought by another and everyone was losing their jobs. We had two little boys at home and the thought of leaving them in the care of someone else broke my heart. I felt my calling was to be a mom. That was my plan. I complained. I grumbled. I cried. I fought it. I doubted His goodness. I doubted His guidance. How could this happen Lord? Why me? I felt cheated and robbed. It made me angry. At God and my husband.

"Then Caleb silenced the people before Moses and said 'we should go up and take possession of the land, for we can certainly do it.' But the men who had gone up with him said 'we can't attack those people; they are stronger than we are.' And they spread among the Israelites a bad report about the land they had explored. They said, 'the land we explored devours those living in it.'...all the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron and the whole assembly said to them, 'if only we had died in Egypt! Or in the wilderness! Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword?' ...only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us..." **(Numbers 13:30-14:10)**

Sometimes, when we are feeling let down or disappointed, a shift in perspective is needed. Disappointment can lead to doubt and doubt, unchecked, leads to a rebellious heart. Doubt can be a trust killer if we let it. Doubting that our Heavenly Father has the BEST plan for us, we lose our ability to trust His provision. If we allow ourselves to believe that His provision isn't sufficient, we may choose, unwisely, to try and provide on our own, make our own way and wish for things that used to be. God calls us to endure alongside Him, regardless of the circumstance. Through this endurance we build strength, character and a deeper relationship with our Creator. Maybe we need to ask ourselves "How does God see this situation?" and bring our doubt to Him and His word

before it takes us somewhere else. In the end, I was able to shed my doubt and trust in what He was doing, even though what my eyes saw appeared to be a giant blocking the path of the life I had planned. I leaned in and trusted that this 'new way' was the way that God had intended, and He blessed it. My anger turned to adoration and in being obedient,

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your word. Thank You for covering every doubt and disappointment with Your loving grace and mercy. Open our eyes Lord to see things the way You see them. Shift our perspective to Yours. Help us to trust You more and more as we absorb scripture and become more attuned to the guidance of Holy Spirit. We pray for You to be with us every step of the way and we know that Your provision is enough. In Jesus name, amen.

## Day 5: Numbers 14:11-38

*Jason Park*

We are going to look at the book of Numbers, chapter 14, verses 11-38. In chapter thirteen, a group of men, one from each of the twelve tribes, was sent to spy out the land of Canaan, which was promised by God. They were there for forty days. This number is important. They returned and reported that the land did in fact flow with "milk and honey", but it was also the land of the big and strong. Only Caleb and Joshua believed they would be victorious. Moses and Joshua tried to convince them the Lord would bring them safely into Canaan, but the congregation was not having it. They threatened to stone Joshua and Moses, but the glory of the Lord appeared.

It's clear that God was done with the whining and lack of faith. He told Moses He was going to destroy the children of Israel with a plague and make a whole new nation, but Moses appealed to God. He told God how the Egyptians would hear about His strength, the miracles, and the pillar of cloud in the day and fire by night. However, He would be remembered by how He slaughtered them because He was unable bring them into the land He promised.

Thankfully, God heard Moses and agreed to pardon them. However, this would not come without consequence. The lack of faith and persistent whining would result in Joshua and Caleb to be the only men allowed to enter the land promised to their fathers. All the other men over the age of twenty would die in the wilderness. The spies who came back with the negative report died of a plague. Additionally, they all would be forced to wander in the wilderness for forty years, one year for every day they spied out the land of Canaan.

So, what are some things we can learn from this section of the Bible?

God hears our prayers. Despite their sins, God was willing to hear the prayer of Moses and spare the children of Israel from



annihilation. God hears our prayers, and we are called to go boldly go to God with them.

God is a loving and gracious God, but He is a God of JUSTICE. The sins of the children of Israel were forgiven, but by God's justice they would make amends for their sins. Just because our sins are forgiven by God does not mean we are alleviated by their consequences. This should provide motivation for our obedience.

Lastly, God rewards obedience. Joshua and Caleb were allowed to enter the promised land because they were obedient. Our obedience in the face of opposition is rewarded by God.

## Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father. We acknowledge Your greatness and your power. We thank You for Your willingness to hear our prayers. We thank You for Your grace despite our sinful behaviors. I pray we would be like Joshua and Caleb and live obedient lives. I pray that we would not allow the circumstances in our lives to cloud our eyes from seeing Your presence, Your power, and Your plan for our life. We thank You and we love You, amen.



**SESSION**  
**TWO**

**GOD CALLS US TO  
COURAGEOUS ACTION**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Pep talks--we have all experienced them--and sometimes they are just what we need to perform at our best quality. Whether that is huddled-up listening to a coach right before the championship game, talking to your supportive co-worker in preparation for your presentation to the executives, or gripping onto your husband or mom's hand as you head into the labor and delivery room. Pep talks speak truth into who you are and what you are capable of. They are meant to drown out the negative, anxious thoughts that keep us from stepping up and stepping out. That's exactly what our enemy, the devil, wants. He wants to steal, kill and destroy.

As we learned in the last session, Joshua had been prepared through experiences that he had in his apprenticeship under Moses. However, when the book of Joshua begins, the torch of leadership had been passed to him and he is given the task to lead the Hebrew people into the land of Canaan, filled with intimidating foes. I think it's safe to say that he is feeling somewhat shocked and terrified by the responsibility that had been given to him. What does he need? A pep talk! Though, not just any pep talk. He gets the pep talk, from the ultimate, Heavenly Pep-Talker.

Just as God had spoken to Moses, He now was speaking to Joshua. He knows the exact truth about who Joshua was and what he was capable of. He calls Joshua to live into that truth with strength and courage. Perhaps God's words to Joshua are exactly what we, also, need to hear right now.

**WATCH THE**



# VIDEO

## SESSION 2

*Use the notes space provided to record key thoughts, questions and things you want to remember or come back to as a group. After Watching, take a moment to initially respond with your thoughts about the video.*

*\*for information on how to stream videos, see pg. 113*

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# READ

## Joshua 1:1-11, 16-17

*After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: <sup>2</sup> "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. <sup>3</sup> I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. <sup>4</sup> Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. <sup>5</sup> No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. <sup>6</sup> Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.*

*<sup>7</sup> "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. <sup>8</sup> Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. <sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."*

*<sup>10</sup> So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: <sup>11</sup> "Go through the camp and tell the people, 'Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own.'"*

...

*<sup>16</sup> Then they answered Joshua, "Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. <sup>17</sup> Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you as he was with Moses.*

## Hebrews 12:1-3

*Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles. And let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us, <sup>2</sup> fixing our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of faith. For the joy set before him he endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God. <sup>3</sup> Consider him who endured such opposition from sinners, so that you will not grow weary and lose heart.*

# DISCUSSION

## Observe

1. In Joshua 1:1-16, what instructions and promises does God give to Joshua?
2. After Joshua charges the people with God's plan, what is their response in Joshua 1:16-17?
3. According to Hebrews 12:1-3, what helps us not grow weary and lose heart in living out the purpose that God has called us to?

## Think

4. In Joshua 1:1-9, God repeats three times the command to Joshua "to be strong and courageous." Why do you think God repeats the command three times?
5. Based on Joshua 1:7-8, what priority should we give to God's Law in our lives? How do you think God uses His Word to make us prosperous and successful?

## Apply

6. Joshua received marching orders from the Lord and he obeyed. Do you believe that you are yielded to the Lord's authority and willing to follow His instructions?
  
7. What territory do you believe the Lord is calling you to take for His name?
  
8. What sin or habits hinder you from "running the race marked out for you"?
  
9. How can you keep your eyes fixed on Jesus, receive His strength and courage and step into the calling God has for your life?

**Action Step:** After your reading and discussion, what action step(s) are you prompted to take this week?



# NOTES // PRAYER REQUESTS

A black and white photograph of a mountain range. The mountains are rugged and layered, with some peaks in the distance and others closer. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights. The sky is dark and overcast. The text 'SESSION TWO DEVOTIONALS' is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**SESSION TWO**  
**DEVOTIONALS**

## Day 6: God Has Something Better For Us

*Greg Munck*

In 2000, I found myself at a crossroads, I knew God was calling me to full-time ministry, but it meant giving up a \$300K/year job at qLogic to step into full-time ministry for \$65K annually. I loved being the Asia Pacific Regional Manager and the comfort that provided my family, but I knew a full-time ministry opportunity would enrich my family and I in a different way. The path to embrace this opportunity was riddled with uncertainties, those closest to me encouraged me to stay. Doubts and fears crept in, making me question whether it would be the best decision to care for my growing family.

I vividly recall this time in my life when I stood on the cliff of uncertainty, unsure of what lay ahead. It was a moment that demanded trust and courage, echoing the words of Joshua 1:9 "Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." With my wife's support, reflecting on this verse, I was drawn to remember the faithfulness of God and the incredible power that lies in trusting His promises.

In the midst of my turmoil, I turned to Joshua 1:1-6, where God encourages Joshua as he steps into leadership, affirming His promise to be with him. As I meditated on these verses, I realized that God's promise to Joshua extends to all of His children, including me! It is a promise that transcends time and circumstance, offering unwavering support and guidance.

Just as Joshua faced the daunting task of leading the Israelites into the Promised Land, I also had a choice to make. Would I let fear paralyze me, or would I trust in the promises of God and step forward in faith? With a renewed sense of courage, I chose to trust God's leading, knowing that He would guide my wife and I every step of the way. He did and now I'm the co-founder and lead pastor of Crossline, it's a truly incredible journey.

"After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: 'Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.'" **(Joshua 1:1-6)**

In these verses, we witness God's commission to Joshua, reassuring him of His presence, provision, and unwavering support. Just as God promised to be with Joshua, He promises the same to us today.

When we face uncertainties, challenges, or moments of change, we can find solace and strength in God's promises. He assures us that His faithfulness transcends circumstances and that He will equip us for the journey ahead.

## Prayer

God, thank You for the promises You have given us through Your Word. As we face uncertainty, fear, and doubt, we humbly come before You, seeking Your guidance and strength. Help us to trust in Your promises, knowing that You are with us every step of the way. Fill us with courage to face the challenges that lie ahead, knowing that Your faithfulness endures forever. In Jesus' name, Amen.

## Day 7: God's Word, My Flourishing

*Alexandra Gash*

Where do you look for truth and life and guidance?

How easy it is to see so much apparent evil in our world. It is rampant everywhere you look! It doesn't take long to be discouraged by the craziness of our culture today. If you don't know where to get the truth, or have a strong Biblical foundation, how can you remain hopeful, steadfast, and unwavering by what life throws at you? You might be looking in the wrong places and in the wrong people to get the help you need.

Thankfully, we have a good God who is not shaken by our evil culture. Nor does He want you to be either. He has given us "Truth", because He is the Truth. In His goodness and kindness, He gave us His Word as our guide. To learn it and obey it is to love Him. Learning it and obeying it will help navigate life's every twist and turn.

"Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked or stand in the way that sinners take or sit in the company of mockers, but whose delight is in the law of the LORD, and who meditates on his law day and night. That person is like a tree planted by streams of water, which yields its fruit in season and whose leaf does not wither—whatever they do prospers." (Psalm 1:2-3)

Wow! Rather than finding community, camaraderie and counsel from those whose way is against God, this righteous person seeks God's Word as the ultimate source for all his answers. And, He flourishes because of it! To know and follow God's Word IS TO FLOURISH like an evergreen tree that is constantly being hydrated and producing fruit! Doesn't that sound refreshing and nourishing? God's Word is our spiritual food that teaches us, grows us, heals us and keeps us "hydrated" when the surrounding terrain is trying to make us anything but that.

## Prayer

Oh God, how we love You and thank You for giving us Your Word, the Bible. We thank You for sending Your Son Jesus as the “Word made flesh” as John chapter 1 says. We believe that Your Word is alive and active. It leads us to truth by revealing our sin, our need for a Savior, and promises salvation by grace through faith in Jesus Christ. It comforts and encourages us in our troubles, and guides us to live righteously through Christ. May we not neglect reading it, learning it, and most of all obeying it as You call us to do. Following Your Word requires strength and courage as Joshua 1 says, which we pray Your Holy Spirit will provide as we seek to stand apart from this world. Thank You. Amen.

## Day 8: Where are we headed next?

*Josh Johnson*

After about a month or so of starting a new job at a startup company, I noticed the people all around the office were being let go. I instantly wondered if I was next, or at the very least would I be let go at the end of my project. I remember sitting at my desk as my office mate was packing her things looking down between my monitors and seeing Joshua 1:9 written on a stone paperweight.

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” **(Joshua 1:9)**

I was confident God had led me to this company so I decided right then, I would not be afraid or discouraged by what was happening around me. Instead, I would do all my work for Him. If it lasted another day, week, month, a year, or longer, He brought me here for a purpose and I was going to do my best to be strong and courageous to do it.

Today’s scripture reminded me that there will always be times in our lives when we feel like we are at the mercy of our circumstances that things just aren’t going our way, or we are just unsure of what will happen next. It is in these times that we need to remember that God is with us and will always be with us.

It is our job, no matter the circumstances, to be strong and courageous, look to Him for where we are to go next, and share who he is with the people around us through our actions, attitudes, and words. If we are being obedient in where God has us and where He has called us to step into next, He promises to be with us always.

Nine months after being at that company I was told by the CEO, “We had no idea the positive impact you would have on this company. Your attitude and actions have far exceeded our expectations and you can expect to go very far with us.” Three months later, on the anniversary of my hire I received a call from

the CEO and HR informing me that because of COVID lockdowns my employment would come to an end. I was sad, but I also knew that since God had led me to that job, that he would also lead me to something else. I knew that I didn't have to be anxious or unsettled because of these circumstances. Instead, I was excited to see where God would lead me next and, boy, what an amazing journey it has been! I only want to be where God leads me and doing what he has asked me to do. My prayer is that you can find that place as well.

## Prayer

Dear Lord, thank You for leading me where You want me to go despite myself. Thank You for emboldening me to be strong and courageous when I want to get angry and run. Keep my eyes and heart focused on the plan You have for me rather than where I feel comfortable. Teach me how to lead those around me to a relationship with You. And thank You for always being with me while I do it. Amen



## Day 9: Assembly Required...

*Jacqueline Champlin*

After our honeymoon, we were eager to make our first apartment our own. We did what most young couples do and bought unassembled furniture from IKEA. It was 10:00 p.m. and we had spent hours building bookshelves, chairs, and tables. Our energy was depleted, frustration arose, and my husband was ready to quit. However, I was determined to finish our final piece of furniture – our home office desk. Believing I was now an expert at building IKEA furniture, I threw the manual aside and built that desk in record time. You know where this is going. Our desk ended up with an inoperable drawer. Call it impatience or overconfidence but I got in my own way by ignoring the manual and we lived with a dysfunctional desk in our home for years.

In today's scripture, God is impressing upon us the principal of trusting Him alone.

“Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to him, and he will make your paths straight.” **(Proverbs 3: 5-6)**

Our understanding is limited, we can't always foresee the potholes up ahead, but our God sees the whole path of our life and knows the best way for us. Most of us know this, but somehow, we walk out our front doors, and the temptation to fall back on our own understanding sideswipes us. The influence of our culture, circumstances, the people we surround ourselves with, our hurts, fears, and desires all have voices that are shouting out directions for us to take. If we aren't careful, those voices can start to sound like wisdom. And if counterfeit wisdom starts to shape our relationships, family, job, time, and treasures, we can quickly be robbed of our peace, health, and the straight path God had intended for us. God knows this about us, He knows we are tempted to lean on our own limited and insufficient understanding. And so, in His great love, He reminds us over and over again to lean on Him. He's penned His instruction to you in scripture, uses your Christian brothers and sisters to point out weaknesses you can't

see, the Spirit whispers gently to you in prayer, He speaks boldly to you at church all because He loves you! Hide His words in your heart so you know His voice from any other so you can live courageously.

## Prayer

Lord, thank You for Your instructions, that You have made so accessible. Thank you that You desire to straighten our paths, bring peace, wholeness, and overflowing blessings to our lives as we submit and trust in You. Reveal to me anywhere in my life that I'm cutting corners or listening to counterfeit wisdom rather than seeking You and the path You have planned for me. Who else can I go to but You for direction? Help me to see Your path clearly, trust that your guidance is good, and that You will always be more than enough. Amen.

## Day 10: ONE OF GOD'S GREATEST "DON'TS"

*Sergio Serrano*

You have probably heard of the "golden rule" of treating others the way you would want to be treated. Maybe it was from a parent, a coach or your favorite podcast, but we have all heard it at some point. However, it is in the gospels where we find Jesus' original standard of the golden way of treating others (Matthew 7:12 and Luke 6:31). He says, "do unto others as you would have them do unto you." Christianity takes this proactive approach.

There are so many ways and places where God calls us to be proactive in being life-bringers and life-givers towards others by loving them in the way He has loved us. Whenever we encounter one of God's "do" commands in the scriptures, its purpose is so often to bring about life to others or to our own souls. However, there are also God's "don'ts" in the scriptures. God uses these 'don'ts' to help us avoid the opposite, which is life-draining situations. In Psalm 37, we hear one of God's greatest "don'ts", don't fret, three times

"Do not fret because of those who are evil or be envious of those who do wrong; for like the grass they will soon wither, like green plants they will soon die away. Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land and enjoy safe pasture. Take delight in the Lord, and he will give you the desires of your heart...Be still before the Lord and wait patiently for him; do not fret when people succeed in their ways, when they carry out their wicked schemes. Refrain from anger and turn from wrath; do not fret—it leads only to evil. For those who are evil will be destroyed, but those who hope in the Lord will inherit the land. (Psalm 37:1-4, 7-9)

Don't fret. In other words, don't be anxious or worry about who is getting ahead in life or who is not, in comparison to you. This is a great one for me to live by. To not fret is to rest in the sweet surrender of our visions, plans and thoughts for His ways. In either case, whether God is saying "do" or "don't", we can rest on the

truth that when it comes to Jesus, it's already been done. It all points to Him and the finished work at the cross.

Uncertainty of the future or insecurity about the present, it's been taken care of by the work done at the cross. It provides us with a hope of our future and a confidence in the present because all injustices and wrongdoings are redeemed at the cross. We get joy for pain and life instead of despair. This is the beauty and the power of the gospel. All our cares and worries have been overcome at the cross, through Christ. Because of this gospel power, dare we have the ability, to go beyond not fretting for a moment or season, but to have such a nature where we find ourselves unable to fret because He is trustworthy.

## Prayer

Lord, thank You for Word that brings life and perspective. It's always speaking life into me. I surrender all my plans and hopes to You. I trust You have good things ahead and even in the struggles or sufferings, I will trust that You are able to turn and redeem anything around for Your glory and for our good. In Jesus name, amen.





**SESSION**  
**THREE**

**GOD BLESSES  
COURAGEOUS ACTION**

## **INTRODUCTION:**

Most of us are familiar with the TV show, Shark Tank, where entrepreneurs bring an innovative product or service to a panel of wealthy and highly successful business industry leaders. Sometimes the “Sharks” all pass on an idea, and sometimes they all compete to broker a partnership—and, of course, TV likes to hype up the drama of those moments. However, though it is called Shark Tank, the stars of the show are not these wealthy, fancy-dressed men and women. Rather, the stars are the normal people of all ages, cultures and backgrounds that believe they have something to offer the business world. The Sharks add funding, networks, marketing and business know-how. With the right partnership, the results can be staggering and inspiring. A strong partnership is the path to strong results.

When we last saw Joshua, he was before the Lord, who was inviting him into the strongest partnership deal of his life. “Be strong and courageous” he tells him and affirms, “I will be with you, wherever you go.” As Joshua steps up and steps out in faith, he will witness the miraculous results, propelling him forward.

Have you ever really stopped to contemplate that God wants to be with you and for you wherever you go? And if God is with us and for us, how can we see anything as impossible? When we understand God’s closeness to us and choose to act in light of that understanding, we are guaranteed to see our lives blessed by the Lord’s mighty power as we advance His Kingdom purposes.

**WATCH THE**



# VIDEO

## SESSION 3

*Use the notes space provided to record key thoughts, questions and things you want to remember or come back to as a group. After Watching, take a moment to initially respond with your thoughts about the video.*

*\*for information on how to stream videos, see pg. 113*

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# READ

## Joshua 3

*Early in the morning Joshua and all the Israelites set out from Shittim and went to the Jordan, where they camped before crossing over. <sup>2</sup> After three days the officers went throughout the camp, <sup>3</sup> giving orders to the people: “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God, and the Levitical priests carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. <sup>4</sup> Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before. But keep a distance of about two thousand cubits between you and the ark; do not go near it.”*

*<sup>5</sup> Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.”*

*<sup>6</sup> Joshua said to the priests, “Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on ahead of the people.” So they took it up and went ahead of them.*

*<sup>7</sup> And the LORD said to Joshua, “Today I will begin to exalt you in the eyes of all Israel, so they may know that I am with you as I was with Moses. <sup>8</sup> Tell the priests who carry the ark of the covenant: ‘When you reach the edge of the Jordan’s waters, go and stand in the river.’”*

*<sup>9</sup> Joshua said to the Israelites, “Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God. <sup>10</sup> This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites. <sup>11</sup> See, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth will go into the Jordan ahead of you. <sup>12</sup> Now then, choose twelve men from the tribes of Israel, one from each tribe. <sup>13</sup> And as soon as the priests who carry the ark of the LORD—the Lord of all the earth—set foot in the Jordan, its waters flowing downstream will be cut off and stand up in a heap.”*

*<sup>14</sup> So when the people broke camp to cross the Jordan, the priests carrying the ark of the covenant went ahead of them.*

*<sup>15</sup> Now the Jordan is at flood stage all during harvest. Yet as soon as the priests who carried the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, <sup>16</sup> the water from upstream stopped flowing. It piled up in a heap a great distance away, at a town called Adam in the vicinity of Zarethan, while the water flowing down to the Sea of the Arabah (that is, the Dead Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho.*

*<sup>17</sup> The priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD stopped in the middle of the Jordan and stood on dry ground, while all Israel passed by until the whole nation had completed the crossing on dry ground.*

#### **Joshua 4:14**

*That day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel; and they revered him all the days of his life, just as they had revered Moses*

#### **Joshua 5:13-6:20**

*<sup>13</sup> Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"*

*<sup>14</sup> "Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come." Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, "What message does my Lord have for his servant?"*

*<sup>15</sup> The commander of the LORD's army replied, "Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so.*

**6** *Now the gates of Jericho were securely barred because of the*

Israelites. No one went out and no one came in.

<sup>2</sup> Then the LORD said to Joshua, "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands, along with its king and its fighting men. <sup>3</sup> March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. <sup>4</sup> Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. <sup>5</sup> When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in."

<sup>6</sup> So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant of the LORD and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it." <sup>7</sup> And he ordered the army, "Advance! March around the city, with an armed guard going ahead of the ark of the LORD."

<sup>8</sup> When Joshua had spoken to the people, the seven priests carrying the seven trumpets before the LORD went forward, blowing their trumpets, and the ark of the LORD's covenant followed them. <sup>9</sup> The armed guard marched ahead of the priests who blew the trumpets, and the rear guard followed the ark. All this time the trumpets were sounding. <sup>10</sup> But Joshua had commanded the army, "Do not give a war cry, do not raise your voices, do not say a word until the day I tell you to shout. Then shout!" <sup>11</sup> So he had the ark of the LORD carried around the city, circling it once. Then the army returned to camp and spent the night there.

<sup>12</sup> Joshua got up early the next morning and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. <sup>13</sup> The seven priests carrying the seven trumpets went forward, marching before the ark of the LORD and blowing the trumpets. The armed men went ahead of them and the rear guard followed the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets kept sounding. <sup>14</sup> So on the second day they marched around the city once and returned to the camp. They did this for six days.

<sup>15</sup> On the seventh day, they got up at daybreak and marched around the city seven times in the same manner, except that on that day they circled the city seven times. <sup>16</sup> The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the city! <sup>17</sup> The city and all that is in it are to be devoted to the LORD. Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall be spared, because she hid the spies we sent. <sup>18</sup> But keep away from the devoted things, so that you will not bring about your own destruction by taking any of them. Otherwise you will make the camp of Israel liable to destruction and bring trouble on it. <sup>19</sup> All the silver and gold and the articles of bronze and iron are sacred to the LORD and must go into his treasury."

<sup>20</sup> When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.

# DISCUSSION

## Observe

1. What obstacles did Joshua face as he was initially entering the promised land?
2. God speaks to Joshua and gives him instructions in Joshua 3:7-8, 5:15, 6:2-5. What do you observe about what God says and why?
3. The Ark of the Covenant plays a significant role in Joshua's obedience to the Lord. In each of these stories, where is the Ark located?

## Think

4. What would you say is the theme of these passages and why?
5. What role does Joshua play in the Israelites conquest? Why do you think the Israelites exalted and revered Joshua (4:14)? Be specific.

6. Based off these passages, do you think God's blessings are conditional or non-conditional?

## Apply

7. Have you ever felt like God has instructed you to do something that didn't make sense to you? What happened?
8. Where in your life are you hoping and asking God for a miracle? What part might you play in seeing that miracle come to fruition?

**Action Step:** After your reading and discussion, what action step(s) are you prompted to take this week?

# NOTES // PRAYER REQUESTS



**SESSION THREE**  
**DEVOTIONALS**



## Day 11: Excitingly Terrifying Faith

*Matt Fager*

I have always considered myself a shy person. I was timid growing up and that often expressed itself as being very introverted. As I get older, I'm starting to realize that what I perceived as shyness was actually anxiety. I have an irrational fear of not being good at things and that often paralyzes me and stops me from wanting to jump into new and scary circumstances.

In 2008, I placed my faith in Jesus and was saved by his amazing grace. I distinctly remember the feeling of awe and wonder as I looked around at the world we live in and could finally see it for what it is--God's creation. I also remember starting to feel more comfortable with being uncomfortable, like my anxiety was beginning to go away, then--BAM--I got asked if I would lead a mission trip to Mexico. Since I was more open to saying yes to scary things, I did. I had no idea what a mission trip was and I was a far cry from a leader. I was a shy and anxious introvert, but I had something new in my life. I had someone that I could trust and depend on - God.

I fumbled my way through this adventure and God was glorified. Everyone made it there and back safely (which is always a win) and activities were planned for the kids we visited. These kids were blessed and they blessed us with their enthusiasm and joy. For me, this is one of many moments in my life that I can look back on where I said yes to God even though every inch of my being wanted to say "no". God wanted us to go remind His children that He loves them and I trusted that God would provide a way to make this trip a success even though I couldn't fathom how. We stepped out in faith, relied on Him each step of the way, and got to witness His will be done in an incredible way.

Let's take a look at our scripture for today and see what happened when Joshua reached the banks of the Jordan River:

Then Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you." And he

said to the priests, "Take the ark of the covenant and go on ahead of the people." So they carried the ark of the covenant and went ahead of them...Now the Jordan overflows its banks throughout the harvest season. But as soon as the priests carrying the ark reached the Jordan and their feet touched the water's edge, the flowing water stood still. It backed up as far upstream as Adam, a city in the area of Zarethan, while the water flowing toward the Sea of the Arabah (the Salt Sea) was completely cut off. So the people crossed over opposite Jericho. **(Joshua 3:5-6, 15-16)**

Joshua was a man of faith, leading God's people through the final stretch of a decades-long journey to the land they were promised and they were at the finish line. What was ahead of them though was the Jordan River during a time when the water was raging and impassible on foot. This, no doubt, caused some anxiety and had some wondering how they would overcome such a terrifying obstacle. Nevertheless, they trusted that God would make a way, regardless of how scary the situation was, and He did. They marched closer and closer towards God's presence as it pushed back the raging river and allowed them to cross on dry land. All along God was accomplishing His will, fulfilling His promise, and giving His people a beautiful memory of how He can make a way when His people walk by faith.

## Prayer

Lord, please continue to challenge me in ways that give me the opportunity to say yes to You and no to fear so that I can witness Your sovereignty and authority. You are good. You are holy. You are just. You are loving. You are moving, and I want to move with You. Amen.

## Day 12: Never Forget God's Faithfulness

*Kymbry Munck*

In life, we often encounter moments that shape our faith and leave a lasting mark on our hearts. These significant experiences become spiritual landmarks, reminding us of God's faithfulness, provision, and miraculous works. In Joshua 4:1-14, we find the Israelites standing on the banks of the Jordan River, witnessing God's power in a profound way. This passage not only recounts an historic event but also holds valuable lessons for us today as we reflect on the importance of remembering God's faithfulness in our lives.

In August of 2007, our son, Elijah's appendix ruptured, and he became very sick and was in the ICU for 13 days. Elijah had become septic. The doctor told us that he was not sure if Elijah would make it through this which is news no parent ever wants to hear. The thought of losing a child was overwhelming and caused doubt and anxiety to flood into my heart. I had always been a person of strong faith, but this was one of the hardest experiences of my life. Immediately upon hearing this earth-shattering news, Greg and I began to cry out to the Lord, pleading with Him to turn this around and save our son. We turned to His word, and we were captivated by God's faithfulness in the stories we read there.

I leaned on the promises and miracles in God's word. I desperately wanted to see God do for us what He had done for the Israelites in Joshua. On the evening of the 11th day, it was not looking good. Greg's mom came to the hospital to sit with Elijah while Greg and I went down to the cafeteria to get some quiet time alone. There, we prayed and cried out to God for a few hours. We asked God to do what only He could do. The very next day, Elijah turned a corner in a positive way and was released from the hospital one day after that!!

As God brought us through this valley, we never wanted to forget the miracle he did in Elijah and in turn in our lives. Like the Israelites who used stones as a spiritual landmark, we wanted to create a landmark to be sure we never forgot this miracle. We mark the

date in August on our calendars each year and look through the pictures from that time. We do these things so that we will always remember the precious gift we were given in Elijah's complete healing from that illness.

"When the whole nation had finished crossing the Jordan, the Lord said to Joshua, 'Choose twelve men from among the people, one from each tribe, and tell them to take up twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan, from right where the priests are standing, and carry them over with you and put them down at the place where you stay tonight'...In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever." **(Joshua 4:1-3, 6-7)**

I was drawn to Joshua 4 that night in the cafeteria. The story of the Israelites' miraculous crossing of the Jordan River. The twelve stones were set up as a tangible reminder of God's faithfulness and power. This made me realize the importance of establishing spiritual landmarks in my own life; something to remind me of stories and circumstances that tell of God's goodness and faithfulness in my life. Just as the Israelites set up stones as a memorial to God's faithfulness, we too are called to remember His mighty works in our lives.

## Prayer

Dear Lord, Thank You for Your faithfulness. Thank You that even in times that we don't feel it, You are working and fighting on our behalf. I pray that You would help me to recognize and remember the spiritual landmarks, moments where Your presence, provision, and miraculous works have been evident. Give me the faith to trust in Your promises, even when circumstances seem overwhelming. In Jesus name, Amen.

## Day 13: Should We Build an Altar?

*Nancy Matossian*

Have you ever read, perhaps in elementary school, the poem, Alexander and the Terrible, No Good, Very Bad Day? Alexander experienced multiple things wrong in a day which simply resolves in his mom saying, "some days are like that." My teenage daughter had a similar experience on her last week of school this past year. All in one morning, she forgot her final project at home, had her plans cancelled because of her sister's boyfriend, a motorcycle officer flashed his lights instructing her to slow down (she thought he was going to pull her over) and she ran over a snake in the street and split it in half! ALL this before school started! There is truth in Alexander's mom's reaction, but it is missing a major opportunity to remember to lean into the power God makes available to each of us.

"For the Spirit God gave us does not make us timid, but gives us power, love and self-discipline." **(2 Timothy 1:7)**

Our passage for today is found in Joshua chapter 4. We see the story of God's people being saved through God's power and we see God turned a "no good, very bad day" into a display of his provision and power.

He did this, so all the people of the earth might know the hand of the Lord is powerful, and so we might always fear the Lord our God. (Joshua 4:24) And Joshua set up at Gilgal the twelve stones they had taken out of the Jordan. He said to the Israelites, "In the future when your descendants ask their parents, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them, 'Israel crossed the Jordan on dry ground.'

They built an altar as a reminder. Our reminders of God's power today may not look like their 12 large altar stones, but they are just as important. My personal reminders of God's power in my life look like sticky notes on windows, artwork portraying God's word, crosses and boxes of notes. What do yours look like? I would love to challenge you to take a few minutes today to look around for those reminders in your life. Most of them may be overlooked on

a daily basis. Perhaps take some time as a family or as a group of friends to walk down memory lane together, remembering the power God has shown in your lives.

## Prayer

Dear Heavenly Father, thank You for Your power. Thank You that we have access to it every day of our lives. Good days and bad days, You are still powerful. We watch and trust that You are providing for us, caring for us and making incredible things happen from good or bad days. Lord, help us to have faith-leaving room for Your power to work in our lives. As we see Your power at work, guide us to make altars so we will go back and remember Your love and power displayed in our lives. As we remember, we ask for our WOW moments to be worship to your heart. In Jesus Name, Amen.

## Day 14: You Want Me to do What?

*Jake Futral*

I grew up with an almost nonexistent respect or even an understanding of authority. Being told what to do was not my favorite thing to say the least. I remember once being told to wait 30 minutes to get back in the ocean because I had just eaten a sandwich and seconds later, I was running like the wind straight to the shoreline. There are far too many examples I could give you, but I'll let you come up with some on your own and we can discuss them on the patio anytime if you attend Crossline Church. In all that rebellion and lack of obedience there was one huge exception. If you were a peer of mine or had traits I wanted, I would do just about anything with you or for you. "You think you can snag a 20 from your dad's wallet?" "Jake! Go pull the fire alarm." "You wanna \_\_\_\_\_?" to which I would respond - "YES, OK, and YOU KNOW IT!"

I reflect on my experiences back in 2016. In comes Jesus and all he kept asking of me was faith and obedience. It had to be the Holy Spirit because I hated being told what to do and now I was beginning to genuinely enjoy it! Obedience gave me freedom over and over and over again. God was not shy in what he asked for either. I'd ask constantly if that was really what I should do and without fail He would show up and give me anything I needed.

"The commander of the Lord's army replied, 'Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.' And Joshua did so." (**Joshua 5:15**)

"March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in." (Joshua 6:3-5)

Reading through this scripture in Joshua just affirms God wants

us to listen and obey no matter what He asks of us. Nobody could bring down those walls down but God could. The commander of the Lords army starts it off strong by telling him to take off his Air Jerusalem 1s. Following that up with a huge brain buster. 7 days of marching and trumpets and a loud shout will bring down that wall. How? Why? No Way! But Joshua does it because God said it and he believed it! I love looking at the why.

“To magnify his own power, that he might be exalted in his own strength.” **(Psalm 21:13)**

No trenches are to be opened, no batteries erected, nor battering rams drawn up, nor any military preparations made, TRUST ME I've got this, and I've got you! Joshua was obedient and God delivered Jericho into his hands.

## Prayer

Lord, search me and remove any part of me that would delay my obedience. Help me to be filled with faith and trust that You are capable of all things. Give me the courage to step out in Your name and do even greater things. Thank You for Your desire to speak to me and move me out of my comfort zone to bring You glory. Amen.



## Day 15: The Victory is Hidden in Obedience

*Olivia Stern*

My grandpa started a church in the Central Valley of California about 30 years ago. I remember a time when I was young that a spirit of apathy hit the church. There was dullness. A lack of joy. I would even go as far as to say depression. One Sunday, my mom in the middle of worship heard the Lord whisper to her to start dancing. She obeyed, and in a moment busted into dance in the front row as worship was going on. Later that day in prayer, she heard the Lord say that she was to "dance, every Sunday until the dullness lifted off of the body". As a woman who was not a dancer, she was shocked! That next Sunday and every Sunday after that she danced through the 45 minutes of worship and sometimes in the back of the sanctuary during the message. Can you just imagine the stares as she danced completely undignified?! At the end of that year, just as the Lord promised, joy was unleashed in the body. There was celebration, like a river flowing through the sanctuary, everybody dove in. People were in tears on their knees in joyful repentance, everyone was singing, dancing, jumping, and spinning before the Lord as he released his spirit. From that Sunday on, the church went through a season of what we called "Jubilee" that lasted many years. It was an act of faithful, daily, committed obedience to a word of the Lord that made way for his might to breakthrough in victory over the body.

In Joshua 6, the Lord gives Joshua a specific word and blueprint for victory against the fortified city of Jericho. The Lord tells him:

"I have given you Jericho, its king and all its strong warriors. You and your fighting men should march around the town once a day for six days. Seven priests will walk ahead of the Ark, each carrying a ram's horn. On the seventh day you are to March around the town seven times, with the priests blowing the horns. When you hear the priests give one long blast on the rams' horns, have all the people shout as loud as they can. Then the walls of the town will collapse, and the people can charge straight into the town". **(Joshua 6:2-5)**

We know what happened. Joshua and the Israelites did exactly what they were commanded. Joshua was given a specific blueprint from the Lord that he moved in immediate faith and obedience to. I know there have been moments in my life where I am given a direction from the Lord and I was passive, lazy, or would push it off with no urgency. To my amazement, every time I halt in obedience, I find a halt also in the breakthrough! The victory of Jericho was won, no doubt, by the might of God. Yet, it was a willing and yielded vessel he partnered with to accomplish his works. God is not a transactional, egotistical God, He is a Father seeking relationship with hearts that are fully his, hearts given over to wholehearted obedience and surrender.

I wonder if there are areas in our lives where we have been given direct instruction and have delayed in following through? What walls have lingered long in your life and the Lord is just waiting for a wholehearted "yes" in surrender?

Let's be like Joshua and obediently yield to the instruction of the Lord, because he loves it when we partner with him!

## Prayer

Lord, thank You that You give me victory! Thank You that You are always leading me with so much compassion and grace into deeper intimacy and friendship with You through every trial. I ask Lord that You would mold my heart to obey Your word, joyfully and immediately. I ask that I would hear Your voice so clearly because I know that the sheep hear the shepherd's voice. Today I yield to You! I choose to hear and obey and watch as You move. You are the leader and I trust You to lead me daily into greater knowledge of You.



A dramatic landscape featuring a lightning storm over a field. The sky is dark and stormy, with bright yellow lightning bolts striking down. The ground is a field of golden-brown grass, with a large tree on the right side. The overall mood is intense and powerful.

# **SESSION FOUR**

**GOD REFINES US FOR  
COURAGEOUS ACTION**

## INTRODUCTION:

In church culture, we call someone's story about how they came into a relationship with Jesus a "testimony," defined simply as evidence in support of a fact or statement. Essentially, it's a person saying, "Jesus saved my life and here's why/how." Life is full of surprises and trials, so no two testimonies are the same. However, every testimony has two things in common: pride and the Lord's revelation of it. Whatever facade pride is wearing—arrogance, entitlement, greed, hypocrisy, contentment, anger, lust, fear or the like—it slips into our lives to wreak havoc and Jesus comes to reveal it. Our lives cannot be ruled by both the Lord's sovereignty and our selfish desires. The call is to complete submission.

But we all have our moments caught in the middle, right? Joshua did.

Even in our prideful, selfish moments, the Lord is a gracious God that encourages us where we are strong and grows us where we are weak. Sometimes we face obstacles and challenges where our strength and courage dwindle, such as long-lasting insecurities or unwelcomed curve balls that cause fear. In the aftermath of the Jericho victory, in a time when Joshua's confidence was likely soaring, he is shocked and disheartened when his forces are easily overpowered by the city of Ai. This unexpected turn of events sends him spiraling downward into doubt and discouragement. He is anything BUT strong and courageous. Before Joshua could see it, God saw that there was still work to be done in his spirit. The infection of pride is quickly revealed with a test of adversity. Fortunately, God wasn't done with the Kingdom purpose that He had for Joshua.

Even when you feel like you are spiraling, turn your ear to the Lord's voice and trust that He will lead you into the revelation and refinement that may be just what you need to be stronger and more courageous going forward.

**WATCH THE**



# VIDEO

## SESSION 4

*Use the notes space provided to record key thoughts, questions and things you want to remember or come back to as a group. After Watching, take a moment to initially respond with your thoughts about the video.*

*\*for information on how to stream videos, see pg. 113*

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# READ

## Joshua 7:1-13

*But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the LORD's anger burned against Israel.*

<sup>2</sup> *Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, "Go up and spy out the region." So the men went up and spied out Ai.*

<sup>3</sup> *When they returned to Joshua, they said, "Not all the army will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary the whole army, for only a few people live there." <sup>4</sup> So about three thousand went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai, <sup>5</sup> who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted in fear and became like water.*

<sup>6</sup> *Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the LORD, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads. <sup>7</sup> And Joshua said, "Alas, Sovereign LORD, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan! <sup>8</sup> Pardon your servant, Lord. What can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies? <sup>9</sup> The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. What then will you do for your own great name?"*

<sup>10</sup> *The LORD said to Joshua, "Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? <sup>11</sup> Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied,*

they have put them with their own possessions. <sup>12</sup> That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction.

<sup>13</sup> "Go, consecrate the people. Tell them, 'Consecrate yourselves in preparation for tomorrow; for this is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: There are devoted things among you, Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove them.'

### **Joshua 8:30-35**

Then Joshua built on Mount Ebal an altar to the LORD, the God of Israel, <sup>31</sup> as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the Israelites. He built it according to what is written in the Book of the Law of Moses—an altar of uncut stones, on which no iron tool had been used. On it they offered to the LORD burnt offerings and sacrificed fellowship offerings. <sup>32</sup> There, in the presence of the Israelites, Joshua wrote on stones a copy of the law of Moses. <sup>33</sup> All the Israelites, with their elders, officials and judges, were standing on both sides of the ark of the covenant of the LORD, facing the Levitical priests who carried it. Both the foreigners living among them and the native-born were there. Half of the people stood in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, as Moses the servant of the LORD had formerly commanded when he gave instructions to bless the people of Israel.

<sup>34</sup> Afterward, Joshua read all the words of the law—the blessings and the curses—just as it is written in the Book of the Law. <sup>35</sup> There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read to the whole assembly of Israel, including the women and children, and the foreigners who lived among them.



## **1 Peter 1:3-7**

*Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead,<sup>4</sup> and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade. This inheritance is kept in heaven for you,<sup>5</sup> who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.<sup>6</sup> In all this you greatly rejoice, though now for a little while you may have had to suffer grief in all kinds of trials.<sup>7</sup> These have come so that the proven genuineness of your faith—of greater worth than gold, which perishes even though refined by fire—may result in praise, glory and honor when Jesus Christ is revealed.*

# DISCUSSION

## Observe

1. How does Joshua respond to the defeat at Ai? How does this reveal Joshua's human reaction, feeling like God did not meet his expectation?
2. What is God's response to Joshua's behavior? What does this reveal about God's nature and plan?
3. Why do you think the Israelites were defeated at Ai? What was required of Joshua to fix the problem?

## Think

4. Do you see any pride in Joshua's actions in Joshua 7? Do you think it is possible to attempt serving God, yet to be motivated by the wrong reasons?
5. What did Joshua do at Mount Ebal in Joshua 8:30-35? Why do you think this is significant in the account of Joshua's second attack and subsequent victory over Ai?

6. What is promised to God's followers in the 1 Peter 1:3-7? How ought these promises change the attitudes and behaviors of followers of Jesus Christ?

## Apply

7. What life circumstances or challenges tend to tempt you to "melt with fear"?
8. Why do you think we sometimes forget God's promises and previous victories when we face challenges and trials?
9. In what ways can we "consecrate" ourselves in preparation for the Lord's work?
10. How is the Lord personally calling you to obey right now in your life?

**Action Step:** After your reading and discussion, what action step(s) are you prompted to take this week?

# NOTES // PRAYER REQUESTS

A black and white photograph of a mountain range. The mountains are rugged and layered, with some peaks in the distance and others closer. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights. The text 'SESSION FOUR DEVOTIONALS' is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

SESSION FOUR  
**DEVOTIONALS**

## Day 16: Courageous Confrontation

*Malisa Hendry*

Confrontation. Just writing and saying the word stresses me out. Definitions of the word vary. The Cambridge dictionary describes it as a difficult situation dealt with face to face, while Wikipedia characterizes it as a conflict where parties engage in a dispute. Both definitions describe a time when I found myself at odds with a women's ministry director. I attended a women's conference that felt wrong, chaotic, and blasphemous. After a few speakers, I became alert and nervous. The Holy Spirit beckoned me to leave. Concerned and confused for the spiritual guidance of the women at my church, I confronted the leader who promoted the event, and we scheduled a meeting. I spent days preparing, pouring over God's Word, and seeking His wisdom. I contacted mentors for guidance and direction. The meeting came and went. We did not agree and could not find a solution. As a result, my family and I stopped attending that church. From that moment on, God created in me a deep desire to know His Word, apply it and teach it.

But the Israelites were unfaithful in regard to the devoted things; Achan son of Karmi, the son of Zimri, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of them. So the LORD's anger burned against Israel.<sup>2</sup> Now Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth Aven to the east of Bethel, and told them, "Go up and spy out the region." So the men went up and spied out Ai.<sup>3</sup> When they returned to Joshua, they said, "Not all the army will have to go up against Ai. Send two or three thousand men to take it and do not weary the whole army, for only a few people live there."<sup>4</sup> So about three thousand went up; but they were routed by the men of Ai,<sup>5</sup> who killed about thirty-six of them. They chased the Israelites from the city gate as far as the stone quarries and struck them down on the slopes. At this the hearts of the people melted in fear and became like water.<sup>6</sup> Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell facedown to the ground before the ark of the LORD, remaining there till evening. The elders of Israel did the same, and sprinkled dust on their heads.<sup>7</sup> And Joshua said, "Alas, Sovereign LORD, why did you ever bring this people across the Jordan to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy

us? If only we had been content to stay on the other side of the Jordan!<sup>8</sup> Pardon your servant, Lord. What can I say, now that Israel has been routed by its enemies?<sup>9</sup> The Canaanites and the other people of the country will hear about this and they will surround us and wipe out our name from the earth. What then will you do for your own great name?”<sup>10</sup> The LORD said to Joshua, “Stand up! What are you doing down on your face?<sup>11</sup> Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions.<sup>12</sup> That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction. **(Joshua 7:1-12)**

Within the church, the decisions of others affect us. Their choices influence our experience at church and the growth of our faith. Joshua couldn't understand how he lost a battle and 36 men when he had God on his side. But Joshua didn't know there was sin within one man that infected the whole army. One man's choice led an army to defeat and death. Living right with God amongst fellow Christians is difficult. We have our own personalities, likes and dislikes. That is fine, and we need to be loving and gracious toward one another. But, if sin or sinful influence becomes evident, we must confront it, work through it, and lovingly seek restoration. The health of our church and its members is at stake. Like Joshua, we need to be strong and courageous to be victorious Christians who know, understand, and obey God's Word testing and approving God's pleasing and perfect will (Romans 12:2).

## Prayer

All powerful God, guide and direct us as we seek You. Keep our eyes on You. Help us know you, your Word, and walk in your ways. Give us strength in weakness and courage in confrontation. Let us be an example of Godly living and live in humility. Cover us, protect us, and guide us. In Jesus Holy Name, Amen.

## Day 17: The Devoted Things

*Moshelle Carlson*

“The Lord said to Joshua, ‘Stand up! What are you doing down on your face? Israel has sinned; they have violated my covenant, which I commanded them to keep. They have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen, they have lied, they have put them with their own possessions. That is why the Israelites cannot stand against their enemies; they turn their backs and run because they have been made liable to destruction. I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction...this is what the Lord, the God of Israel says: There are devoted things among you, Israel. You cannot stand against your enemies until you remove them.’” **(Joshua 7:10-13)**

I often hear Christians lament “the enemy is winning” when they survey our culture, our communities, sometimes our church and even our own families. We like to point to the flaws of others as the cause of our current loss, chaos, hardship and even broken relationships. At least, I know I do. But today’s scripture convicts me to be more self-reflective and consider the question, “What are the devoted things in my life?” Is there something I covet more than a right relationship with the Lord? If I feel like the enemy is winning in my life, might the problem be me? Sounds like a Taylor Swift song to me!

In our passage of scripture today, the specific wrong to be addressed was done by a man named Achan who took a Babylonian robe, because he thought it was pretty. He also took a significant amount of gold and silver. Then he buried it in the ground. Why? What purpose do these things serve if you have to hide them? My guess is he thought these items would one day provide him with security, identity and position. Three normal desires of the heart meant to be met by our Lord, not in things or relationships, or job success or being proven right, or feeling like I’m in control, or scheming to keep everything seemingly perfect just to name a few with which I’ve struggled.



The sacred words are clear, anything or anyone I put between me and my relationship with the Lord becomes a devoted thing to destruction. And if my heart is devoted to destruction, even if it's unwittingly, I still have no power to stand against my enemies. So, we have to ask ourselves, "What will it look like in my life to have a heart devoted to the Lord"?

## Prayer

Dear Lord, help me discern what my heart and life are devoted to. If anything, anyone or any idea in my life has become a devoted thing of destruction, give me the power and wisdom to remove it. Guard me from the temptation to covet what others have, to take it, to hide it, to look to it for my security, peace, identity, position, or control. Lord, I want my heart and my life to be a devoted thing to You.

## Day 18: It's Not About the Money

*Michelle Hilde*

"But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, sold a piece of property. However, he kept back part of the proceeds with his wife's knowledge and brought a portion of it and laid it at the apostles' feet.

Then Peter said, 'Ananias, why has Satan filled your heart to lie to the Holy Spirit and keep back part of the proceeds from the field? Wasn't it yours while you possessed it? And after it was sold, wasn't it at your disposal? Why is it that you planned this thing in your heart? You have not lied to men but to God!'"  
**(Acts 5:1-4)**

Ananias and Sapphira were doing what other brand-new Christians were doing at this time (see chapter 4). They sold their property and brought the money to the apostles presenting it as if they were giving the entire proceeds. This story is not one of greed alone, but of hypocrisy and heart. The Jewish culture was steeped in rules and traditions to win God's approval. Most believed they had to live and love God a certain way for God to accept and love them. Jesus came to break all those barriers and set us free from the bondage of sin and separation from God because of our unrighteousness. We could never fulfill all of the Old Testament laws but Jesus did, for us! Jesus' harshest words came to those who portrayed themselves to be something they were not. In other words, hypocrites. He especially had harsh words for those who claimed to have an "in" with God, yet truly knew nothing about Him. This is an example of a couple trying to short cut their way to an 'in" with God and man. What's ironic was Ananias and Sapphira missed one of the biggest and most important commands that God gave us in Deuteronomy 6:5. 'And as for you, you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength'. In this verse that they would have said every day, two times a day, God states they are to love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength.

I can't pretend to know what Ananias and Sapphira's motives were to lie to the apostles, but their heart showed that they did not love God with all of their heart. They were craving the love of man. When we love God with all our hearts, we don't need to impress man. When our motives are only to impress man and portray ourselves as something we are not, we lie to God. He and He alone truly know our hearts and our motives. Ananias and Sapphira's sin was not the amount of money that they gave to the church. The widow simply gave two mites, and this is what Jesus said in Luke 21.

"He looked up and saw the rich dropping their offerings into the temple treasury. He also saw a poor widow dropping in two tiny coins. 'I tell you the truth,' He said. 'This poor widow has put in more than all of them. For all these people have put in gifts out of their surplus, but she out of her poverty has put in all she had to live on.'" **(Luke 21:1-4)**

Jesus wants us to have the courage to give from a place of trust and gratitude for what He has done and for our love for Him, no matter what that amount is. If Ananias and Sapphira had given from those places and not from a place of pleasing man or having an "in" with God, I believe their story would have ended very differently.

## Prayer

Father, I pray that I would always look to You for my motives. Help me to seek You and love You with all of my heart soul and mind. Create in me a clean heart and reveal to me any blind spots that would keep me from fully and courageously surrendering everything to You.

## Day 19: The Thorns

*Richard Perez*

We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or rejoice that thorn bushes have roses. My precious mom had a rose garden and I remember being a young boy and seeing her carry in batches of fresh cut roses but with her forearms cut from the thorns. She would say something like, "To enjoy the rose, you have to endure the thorns". To have the rose clippings came with a cost. My mom's joy for the roses was bigger than the pain of the thorn. In a spiritual sense, the joy of becoming more like Jesus should be greater than the difficulty of training and discipline of our heavenly Father.

"Speak to the entire assembly of Israel and say to them: 'Be holy because I, the LORD your God, am holy.'" **(Lev. 19:2)**

"Do not conform to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will." **(Rom. 12:2)**

As a young boy, hanging out with friends in the neighborhood, I couldn't help but notice the different types of discipline from the various sets of parents. Mikey & his younger brother came from an outlaw biker family. Jimmy & his parents were the most buttoned-up and well-to-do. The Gill brothers had a dad that worked long hours & then there was my working alcoholic dad & mom. Mikey's family never appeared to discipline him and allowed him great freedom. Jimmy's mom and Mrs. Gill were similar disciplinarians and could be heard saying, "You just wait 'til your dad gets home" which rarely happened. My dad was usually out "doing his thing" so my mom was the kingpin (the disciplinarian). Another friend that lived further away had a mom that was like mine. Meaning, if we got caught red handed, you got disciplined immediately! In fact, what was worse was each mom gave the other permission to correct both of us! YES! And I don't mean "time out stuff". Even further, we got disciplined again when we got home because the moms filed crime reports to each other. Double discipline! Talk about scared straight!

One day, when we were a little older, me and the boys were sitting on the curb eating our ice cream when witnessed a shocking event. About 5 doors up the street, Mikey suddenly ran out into the street between two parked cars and not looking both ways got hit by a car and was whisked away by ambulance. After the shock settled, I remember one of us saying, "I never saw Mikey get disciplined!". All agreed. That was a key moment! You see, each of us used to comment on how lucky Mikey was because he never got spanked. What freedom! But that day, we looked at our parents in a little different light. The thorns of correction from our parents made a little more sense that day. Mikey made it out ok, but the severe price was a damaged leg. The lack of discipline came at a cost.

A reminder note on my desk reads: Jesus died for us, because He loves us. He disciplines us, because He loves us. Remember: He disciplines those He lives.

## Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for the discipline that protects and educates us to draw us near and be transformed to be like Jesus. Amen.

## Day 20: Where we Place our Gaze

*Grant Gunther*

We have all seen it, everyone knows what I am about to reference. It is the thing where you are driving along, then all of a sudden, the car in front of you starts slowly drifting toward the next lane over before abruptly swerving back into the middle of the lane. Heck, if we are being honest (and I am totally guilty of this) we have probably found ourselves in that same position more than a few times. Of course, the other all too familiar moment is when you are at a stoplight and the light turns green, but the car ahead of you does not notice and you end up having to honk at them to go. Again, we are also all probably guilty of that same blunder though... What gives, what is the deal? Two words, our phones! Let's be real, cell phones and driving are probably one of the worst duos to ever exist. If we remember back, there is a reason why the old adage, "Keep your eyes on the road," was drilled into us during our drivers training, because where our eyes are, our focus is. Why do we jerk the wheel to correct our car's drift? Because we were looking at our phones and our car simply followed where we had placed our eyes. Probably because we were scrolling on our phone and not paying attention to our surroundings.

Our focus, where we choose to place our attention, can tremendously affect the trajectory of our lives. Now, while my driving examples above were a little more light-hearted in tone and nature, the unfortunate reality is that driving accidents have gone up as smart phones have become more ubiquitous. Just as our cars go where our eyes are, so do the decisions we make in life tend to follow where we place our gaze. We see an example of this in the beginning of Joshua 7 right after the Lord had destroyed the city of Jericho for the Israelites. God had said that the spoils of the city were to be set apart for Him, but Achan, an Israelite, chose to keep some of the plunder for himself. After losing their next fight at Ai, the Lord speaks to Joshua and tells him they failed because they had not kept His word regarding all of the riches of Jericho. Following a winnowing process with the whole nation, Achan is finally singled out for his sin. Listen to what he says to Joshua here in chapter seven.

"So Joshua said to Achan, 'My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and make a confession to Him. I urge you, tell me what you have done. Don't hide anything from me.' Achan replied to Joshua,

'It is true. I have sinned against the LORD, the God of Israel. This is what I did: When I saw among the spoils a beautiful cloak from Babylon, 200 silver shekels, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, I coveted them and took them. You can see for yourself. They are concealed in the ground inside my tent, with the money under the cloak.'" (Joshua 7:19-21)

"When I saw..." If we are being honest, Achan focused his eyes on some pretty tempting items. From the beautiful (and most likely highly valuable) robe, to the precious metals of gold and silver, it is not hard to understand why Achan chose to keep these spoils for himself. Yet again, actions tend to flow from where we are placing our focus. Achan beheld this expensive bounty, then he began to desire, to covet, which, in addition to breaking the tenth commandment, led him to disobey the direct command of God to set aside ALL of the plunder of Jericho for the Lord. For his sin, Achan and his whole family lost their lives. Like Achan though, all of us are guilty of placing our attention on things other than God, and letting these things take control of our lives. Thankfully, Jesus takes the punishment we deserve for our wandering eyes, so, unlike Achan, we can be spared from judgment. In light of this beautiful gift of grace given to us, Jesus' sacrifice, let us heed the words of Hebrews 12 and fix our eyes on Him. By setting our gaze on Christ would our lives be marked by faithful obedience and conformity to Him, rather than disobedient and rebellious wandering.

## Prayer

Lord, I am reminded of the hymn, "Come Thou Fount of Every Blessing," and the words, "Prone to wander, Lord, I feel it. Prone to leave the God I love." Father, how quick I am to set my gaze on objects other than You, and to let these things control the steps of my life and lead me astray. Praise You Lord for being compassionate and gracious, slow to anger, and rich in faithful love and forgiveness. Would the kindness of the cross lead me to fix my eyes on You, Jesus. Rather than walking my own way, would my focus be on You, Jesus, that I would walk in step with Your Spirit.



**SESSION  
FIVE**

**GOD MULTIPLIES OUR  
COURAGEOUS ACTION**



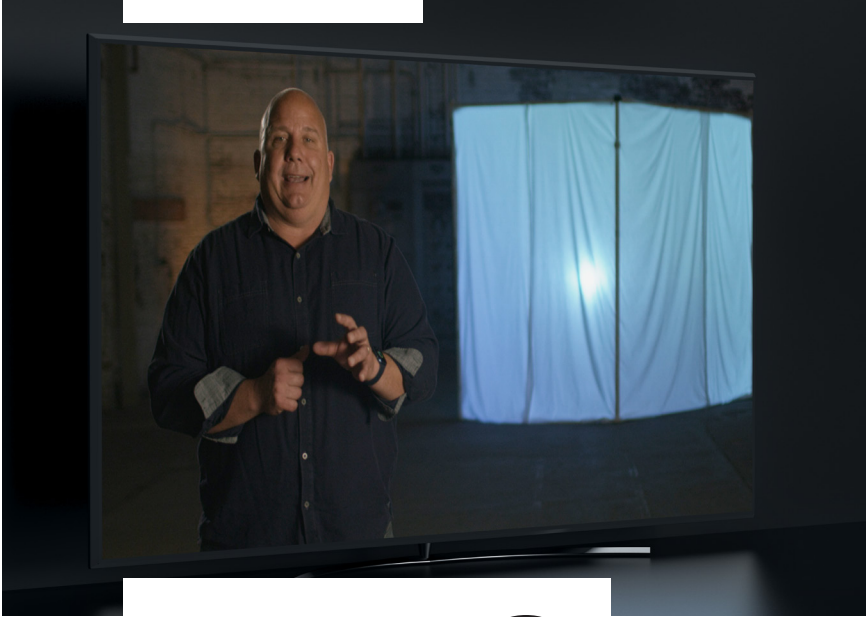
## INTRODUCTION:

I'm sure that you have heard the phrase "you can't judge a book by its cover". Fundamentally, it is communicating that first impressions aren't always the tell-tale sign of quality or personality. That said, I want you to look at the cover of this workbook. What you are seeing is the result of a lot of thinking and ideas. Many different designers and concepts contributed to the final result. You may like the cover or you may not. Or you may be the type of person that doesn't pay much attention to those sorts of things. Regardless, great consideration of the font, colors, design and tone went into this because attraction and creativity of the cover will entice someone to know more about what is inside. The most important piece is the content, not the cover, but it's important that what is on the outside is consistent with what you see on the inside. You will not find a recipe book with galaxy imagery on the cover, or a hiking trail guide with a picture of ballroom dancers. First impressions may not be everything, but they are something.

Is what you are displaying on the outside consistent with who you are and what you stand for on the inside? Does the culture or the crowds around you morph what you present to spectators? Those spectators could be your kids, employees, pickleball pals, or your social media followers. Is it clear to them what you stand for?

Throughout this study of Joshua's life, we have learned how he's stepped up and stepped out into God's call. As he nears the end of his life, he wants to ensure that Israel knows what he stood for and what his life and his household is marked by. Like Joshua, we all hope and pray that how we spend our lives impacts the next generation, inspiring those around us with our courageous choices and actions. Each of us have Kingdom purposes that God wants us to step into, especially if we want to leave a legacy of strong and courageous actions in spite of all obstacles, set-backs, and seemingly impossible odds. "No, in all these things, we are more than conquerors through him who loved us." (Rom. 8:37)

**WATCH THE**



# VIDEO

## SESSION 5

*Use the notes space provided to record key thoughts, questions and things you want to remember or come back to as a group. After Watching, take a moment to initially respond with your thoughts about the video.*

*\*for information on how to stream videos, see pg. 113*

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# READ

## Joshua 23:1-24:31

*After a long time had passed and the LORD had given Israel rest from all their enemies around them, Joshua, by then a very old man,<sup>2</sup> summoned all Israel—their elders, leaders, judges and officials—and said to them: “I am very old.<sup>3</sup> You yourselves have seen everything the LORD your God has done to all these nations for your sake; it was the LORD your God who fought for you.<sup>4</sup> Remember how I have allotted as an inheritance for your tribes all the land of the nations that remain—the nations I conquered—between the Jordan and the Mediterranean Sea in the west.<sup>5</sup> The LORD your God himself will push them out for your sake. He will drive them out before you, and you will take possession of their land, as the LORD your God promised you.*

*<sup>6</sup> “Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left.<sup>7</sup> Do not associate with these nations that remain among you; do not invoke the names of their gods or swear by them. You must not serve them or bow down to them.<sup>8</sup> But you are to hold fast to the LORD your God, as you have until now.*

*<sup>9</sup> “The LORD has driven out before you great and powerful nations; to this day no one has been able to withstand you.<sup>10</sup> One of you routs a thousand, because the LORD your God fights for you, just as he promised.<sup>11</sup> So be very careful to love the LORD your God.*

*<sup>12</sup> “But if you turn away and ally yourselves with the survivors of these nations that remain among you and if you intermarry with them and associate with them,<sup>13</sup> then you may be sure that the LORD your God will no longer drive out these nations before you. Instead, they will become snares and traps for you, whips on your backs and thorns in your eyes, until you perish from this good land, which the LORD your God has given you.*

<sup>14</sup> "Now I am about to go the way of all the earth. You know with all your heart and soul that not one of all the good promises the LORD your God gave you has failed. Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed. <sup>15</sup> But just as all the good things the LORD your God has promised you have come to you, so he will bring on you all the evil things he has threatened, until the LORD your God has destroyed you from this good land he has given you. <sup>16</sup> If you violate the covenant of the LORD your God, which he commanded you, and go and serve other gods and bow down to them, the LORD's anger will burn against you, and you will quickly perish from the good land he has given you."

<sup>24</sup> Then Joshua assembled all the tribes of Israel at Shechem. He summoned the elders, leaders, judges and officials of Israel, and they presented themselves before God.

<sup>2</sup> Joshua said to all the people, "This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: 'Long ago your ancestors, including Terah the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River and worshiped other gods. <sup>3</sup> But I took your father Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him throughout Canaan and gave him many descendants. I gave him Isaac, <sup>4</sup> and to Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. I assigned the hill country of Seir to Esau, but Jacob and his family went down to Egypt.

<sup>5</sup> "Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I afflicted the Egyptians by what I did there, and I brought you out. <sup>6</sup> When I brought your people out of Egypt, you came to the sea, and the Egyptians pursued them with chariots and horsemen as far as the Red Sea. <sup>7</sup> But they cried to the LORD for help, and he put darkness between you and the Egyptians; he brought the sea over them and covered them. You saw with your own eyes what I did to the Egyptians. Then you lived in the wilderness for a long time.

<sup>8</sup> "I brought you to the land of the Amorites who lived east of the Jordan. They fought against you, but I gave them into your hands. I destroyed them from before you, and you took possession

of their land. <sup>9</sup> When Balak son of Zippor, the king of Moab, prepared to fight against Israel, he sent for Balaam son of Beor to put a curse on you. <sup>10</sup> But I would not listen to Balaam, so he blessed you again and again, and I delivered you out of his hand.

<sup>11</sup> “Then you crossed the Jordan and came to Jericho. The citizens of Jericho fought against you, as did also the Amorites, Perizzites, Canaanites, Hittites, Girgashites, Hivites and Jebusites, but I gave them into your hands. <sup>12</sup> I sent the hornet ahead of you, which drove them out before you—also the two Amorite kings. You did not do it with your own sword and bow. <sup>13</sup> So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build; and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant.’

<sup>14</sup> “Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. <sup>15</sup> But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.”

<sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, “Far be it from us to forsake the LORD to serve other gods! <sup>17</sup> It was the LORD our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we traveled. <sup>18</sup> And the LORD drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the LORD, because he is our God.”

<sup>19</sup> Joshua said to the people, “You are not able to serve the LORD. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God. He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. <sup>20</sup> If you forsake the LORD and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.”

<sup>21</sup> *But the people said to Joshua, "No! We will serve the LORD."*

<sup>22</sup> *Then Joshua said, "You are witnesses against yourselves that you have chosen to serve the LORD."*

*"Yes, we are witnesses," they replied.*

<sup>23</sup> *"Now then," said Joshua, "throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel."*

<sup>24</sup> *And the people said to Joshua, "We will serve the LORD our God and obey him."*

<sup>25</sup> *On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people, and there at Shechem he reaffirmed for them decrees and laws. <sup>26</sup> And Joshua recorded these things in the Book of the Law of God. Then he took a large stone and set it up there under the oak near the holy place of the LORD.*

<sup>27</sup> *"See!" he said to all the people. "This stone will be a witness against us. It has heard all the words the LORD has said to us. It will be a witness against you if you are untrue to your God."*

<sup>28</sup> *Then Joshua dismissed the people, each to their own inheritance.*

<sup>29</sup> *After these things, Joshua son of Nun, the servant of the LORD, died at the age of a hundred and ten. <sup>30</sup> And they buried him in the land of his inheritance, at Timnath Serah in the hill country of Ephraim, north of Mount Gaash.*

<sup>31</sup> *Israel served the LORD throughout the lifetime of Joshua and of the elders who outlived him and who had experienced everything the LORD had done for Israel.*

# DISCUSSION

## Observe

1. As you read Joshua's address in chapter 23, compare the promised outcomes for obedience and for disobedience.
2. As you observe Joshua's words in these passages, is he giving commands or exhorting them to actions and behaviors?

## Think

3. Go back and read Joshua 1:2-9 from Session 2. How do God's words to Joshua relate to the words that Joshua speaks in these passages?
4. What do you think are the "other gods" that we are tempted to worship in our modern-day culture?
5. Joshua does a recap of the Israelites' history in Joshua 24:1-13, why do you think that was important to his message to the people? How does remembering God's faithfulness in the past motivate us for the present?

6. Read Joshua 24:31, why do you think this is significant, especially in light of what we have learned about Joshua throughout this study?

## Apply

7. In what ways is Joshua an excellent example for us to follow?
8. Who are the people that you hope to inspire and influence with the way that you live your life? What will it take for you to be successful in this desire?
9. How are we to respond to naysayers within the church and to those who criticize our commitment to follow the Lord?
10. How can you daily strengthen yourself to be courageous in the Lord?

**Action Step:** After your reading and discussion, what action step(s) are you prompted to take this week?



# NOTES // PRAYER REQUESTS

A black and white photograph of a mountain range. The mountains are rugged and layered, with some peaks in the distance and others closer. The lighting is dramatic, with strong shadows and highlights. The text 'SESSION FIVE DEVOTIONALS' is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

**SESSION FIVE  
DEVOTIONALS**

## Day 21: Drive with Extreme Caution

*Donna Jones*

The phrase has been repeated so often it's become a family motto: "Drive with extreme caution."

The warning began with my mother (and continues to this day) as the second to last thing she says to all her children and grandchildren when we leave her house. She smiles warmly while warning us, standing on her driveway waving goodbye until we're out of sight; sometimes she'll even laugh when she says it. But we all know she's not kidding. Why the warning? Because she loves us and she's keenly aware of the dangers when one doesn't drive with extreme caution.

In Joshua 23, Joshua gives his fellow Israelites a similar warning. Now, a very old man, Joshua stands not in his driveway, but in the presence of Israel's leaders. Joshua reminds the people of all God had done for them, then assures them that God would fulfill His promise to give them possession of the Promised Land, with one stipulation: they must continue to heed the warning.

What warning? Be very careful. What, exactly, were they to be careful about?

First, they were to "be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left" (v 6). Joshua didn't warn them to merely know, or even to understand, the Book of the Law, but to obey it. They were to follow God's instructions wholly, and whole-heartedly. To veer off the course of God's path -either to the right or left- would lead to certain destruction just as veering out of our lane on the freeway will cause a crash.

Second, Joshua exhorted them to "be very careful to love the Lord your God" (v 11). At first glance this warning seems easy enough; after all, why wouldn't they love the God who rescued them from slavery, parted the Red Sea, walked with them through the wilderness, and had begun the process of allowing them to

take possession of the Promised Land?

Simple: the lure of other gods worshipped by other people. It's the same temptation we face today.

Joshua doesn't mince words about idolatry,

"But if you turn away and ally yourselves with the survivors of these nations...you may be sure that the Lord your God will no longer drive out these nations before you. Instead, they will become snares and traps for you, whips on your backs and thorns in your eyes..." **(Joshua 23:12-13)**

Plain and simple, a heart turned away from God to any other "god" won't lead to freedom but to bondage. Eventually, the joy of the Promised Land will be replaced with a joyless existence outside its boundaries.

And so, the warning: Live and love with extreme caution. My mom's admonition to drive with extreme caution is always the second-to-last thing she says as we leave, but the last words she calls out as we drive away are these: I love you! I suspect that's why God gives us His warning to be careful, too.

## Prayer

God, I commit myself to be careful to follow You, obey You, and love You, because I know You love me and want me to take possession of all Your promises for me. Amen.

## Day 22: Beware the Marshmallow

*David Wilson*

Perhaps you have seen the videos. 1 or 2 children are placed in a room, a large marshmallow or candy is placed before them and they are told not to eat it, but to wait until the parents return and they will be rewarded with something even greater. Then the parents leave the room, and we all watch via hidden camera as hilarity ensues. The temptation is great and more children cave to the pressure of what they can see right before their eyes, which they find “good” and the promises by their loving parents are all but forgotten.

I, too, find these videos funny, but if I boil them down, as believers, we probably should find them sad because we know better. We’re watching the brokenness of the human spirit, struggling to be obedient. They completely lose sight of the promises given by the very people that have proven their love and provision over and over. On the one hand, these exercises in these videos are completely harmless; it’s just a marshmallow. On the other hand, they perfectly reflect man’s treatment of the commands and blessings of our Father in Heaven.

As believers, it’s our fundamental understanding that it’s not by works that we are saved, but by the free gift of grace through faith (Ephesians 2:8-9). This truth is essential: our salvation, when granted, is always secure. However, as Paul reminds us in 1 Corinthians 3:10-15, our blessing isn’t intended to just stop at salvation from hell—rather, we are intended to thrive with reward!

Throughout scripture, we see that God rewards faith and obedience with blessing. However, we also see that reward (different from grace) is conditional, and sometimes the inverse is true. Disobedience comes at a cost.

In Joshua 23:8-16, we see this conditional blessing outlined explicitly as a word from the Lord. Be Courageous! For I have gone before you! Nothing can stand in your way as long as I am with you. This is My promise! And you know this about Me...you’ve

seen Me follow through! But... obey My commands, and don't look upon what the world has. Don't say 'it is good' when I've said it's bad. If you do, I will pull back My hand, and it will cost you.

We may not always be faced with real enemies as Israel was in that time, but we experience this same dilemma today - the temptation to choose the world's offering over God's calling. Perhaps you are asked to bend your convictions for the sake of work. God wants me to advance and provide, right? Maybe you are single, and in today's dating scene, your boundaries place you at odds with some "great" potential partners. Surely God wants you to find someone and be happy.

God calls us to live courageously because we can trust in Him! Frequently, it's our obedience that indicates just how much courage we really have to put our trust in Jesus over our own wisdom and ability especially in the small things. In other words, to walk faithfully obedient to His commands requires faith in His character and promises, despite what seems easy and right in our eyes.

## Prayer

King Jesus. I bend my knee to Your authority and trust You in Your promises and character to provide for me and to bless me. Give me courage to believe You and to choose You over the opportunities the world places before me. Amen.

## Day 23: Choose God or Choose Your Alternative

*Luis Jonas*

I would like to encourage you to read Joshua 24:1-15. After reading through these verses, we learn that Idolatry, a particular sin category for the Old Testament people of God, that can easily creep into our lives. We may not realize it, but we can start to put our trust in things other than God, such as self-sufficiency and self-interest. God is greater than our past, present, future, education, money circumstances, failures, successes, and what people think, say or do.

Joshua was a great leader because he knew how to challenge his people without being overbearing. He laid out the facts and encouraged them to decide for themselves. He didn't try to manipulate or pressure them into choosing his way.

We can learn from Joshua's example by allowing others to make their own decisions. We can't force people to follow God, but we can share our faith with them and pray that they will choose to follow Him.

I like Joshua's style in Joshua 24:14-15 where it says, "Choose you this day whom ye will serve." It is a deliberate calculation, not something into which you drift easily.

There are some personal applications and action steps that we can take to avoid idolatry and follow God. Be aware of the idols in your life. What are the things that you put your trust in more than God? Confess your idols to God and ask Him to help you overcome them. Spend time in God's Word and prayer. This will help you to grow in your relationship with God and to rely on Him more. Always serve others. This is a great way to keep your focus on God and show your love for Him.

## Prayer

God, we pray that You would help us avoid idolatry and follow You wholeheartedly. We confess that we have put our trust in things other than You and ask for Your forgiveness. Please help us be aware of our lives idols and overcome them. We want to put our trust in You alone. We pray that You will help us grow our relationship with You. We want to spend time in Your Word and prayer. We want to know You more and to love You more. We pray that You will use us to serve others. We want to show our love for You by serving others. Help us to be a light in the darkness and to point others to You. In Jesus' name, Amen.



## Day 24: Joshua's Call to Choose and Serve God

*Chad Smith*

The passage in Joshua 24:12-24 captures Joshua's final address to the Israelites, where he reminds them of God's faithfulness and calls them to make a choice regarding whom they will serve. Let's explore the significance of Joshua's message, highlighting the key aspects of his leadership and the timeless lessons that resonate with Christians today.

**Joshua's Leadership and Background:** Joshua's name changed from Hoshea to Joshua and it means "the Lord saves." As one of the twelve spies sent to Canaan, Joshua demonstrated unwavering faith in God's promise to deliver the land to them. Joshua served as Moses' loyal assistant, including being present during the receiving of the Ten Commandments.

**Joshua's Role as a Leader:** Following Moses' death, God appointed Joshua as the leader of the Israelites. Joshua led the conquest of Canaan, dividing the land among the twelve tribes of Israel. He served not only as a military leader but also as a spiritual guide, emphasizing obedience to God's commands and recounting His faithfulness.

**Joshua's Call to Choose and Serve God:** Joshua challenges the Israelites to make a choice: whether to serve God or follow other gods. The Hebrew word for "serve" also carries the meaning of "worship," emphasizing the importance of wholehearted devotion. Joshua's proclamation, "as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord," underscores the significance of leading his family in worship.

**Setting up the Stone as a Witness:** Joshua sets up a stone as a witness to the Israelites' commitment to serve God. The Hebrew word for "stone" can also mean "witness," signifying the solemnity of their oath.

**New Testament Connections:** Joshua's call to choose and serve

God parallels Jesus' teachings in the New Testament. Jesus emphasizes the choice between serving God or worldly pursuits, urging his followers to commit to him. Public declaration of faith is vital, as it showcases one's allegiance to Christ, as stated by Jesus himself.

**The Faithfulness of God:** The passage in Joshua serves as a reminder of God's faithfulness throughout Israel's history. This faithfulness extends to Christians today, even when human faith wavers, as affirmed by Paul in 2 Timothy 2:13.

Joshua's impassioned address to the Israelites encapsulates his leadership, urging them to choose and serve God wholeheartedly. His call to make a public declaration of faith and his emphasis on God's unwavering faithfulness remain relevant to Christians today. Just as the Israelites faced the choice between serving God or idols, believers are called to follow Jesus and proclaim their faith, secure in the knowledge that God remains steadfast.

## Prayer

Father God, please give me a wholehearted and unwavering devotion to You. Help me to make choices that demonstrate my faith in You. My future is secure with You and I know that You have good plans for me! Amen.

## Day 25: Imagination in the Harness of Faith

*Jordan Gash*

Here you are--day 25--and you have gone through five weeks of learning about Joshua. The question then gets laid on my heart and mind: what do I want to leave you with? Friends, there is nothing more that I want to bless you with than hope—powerful, sustaining hope. Because no matter what you face in this life, nothing and no one can rob you of a rooted hope in Christ. It will drive you to stand through suffering and persevere in purpose. It was what got me through months of pain in my previously-unafflicted body after major injuries I sustained from a 20-foot fall into a crevice. Hope in the Lord. It was what got my wife through her mom's seven-year battle with cancer, which wreaked havoc on her body and eventually brought her home to Jesus. Hope in Lord. It is what got Joshua through the responsibility of leading God's people into the hostile lands of Canaan to claim it as their own. Hope in the Lord. As God's beloved, we rejoice in the hope of the glory of God (Rom. 5:5).

Eugene Peterson, a pastor who is most popularly associated with his authorship of the comprehensive biblical interpretation that is known as *The Message*, wrote another fantastic book about the Christian life, titled *A Long Obedience in the Same Direction: Discipleship in an Instant Society*. In it he states, "Hoping does not mean doing nothing. It is not fatalistic resignation. It means going about our assigned tasks, confident that God will provide the meaning and the conclusions. It is not compelled to work away at keeping up appearances with a bogus spirituality. It is the opposite of desperate and panicky manipulations, of scurrying and worrying. And hoping is not dreaming. It is not spinning an illusion or fantasy to protect us from our boredom or our pain. It means a confident, alert expectation that God will do what he said he will do. It is imagination put in the harness of faith. It is a willingness to let God do it his way and in his time."

These words from Peterson are reflective of the same attitude that the apostle Paul has in our passage for today, as he exhorts his disciple Timothy in his leadership of the Ephesian church. He writes

to Timothy,

“In fact, everyone who wants to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted, while evildoers and impostors will go from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived. But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.”

**(2 Timothy 3:12-15)**

There is a guarantee, if you desire to live a godly life in Christ, that challenge and difficulties lie ahead. The culture that we are living in is becoming more and more blatantly opposed to faith in Christ. The path we are walking is becoming muddier and more arduous. Whether you have known the scriptures since “infancy” or you are brand new to this, my plea for you, child of God, is that as you act and live according to God’s call, that you are propelled by hope. The world needs an army of people whose eyes are fixed on Christ and His eternal Kingdom. For this, I pray.

## Prayer

Lord Jesus, fill us with hope. May our confident hope fuel our actions of faith. May Your Holy Spirit shield us from the enemy’s arrows of despair and apathy. We offer our lives to You and we desire to impact the world and the next generation for Your Kingdom purposes.

A grayscale photograph of a mountainous landscape. The terrain is rugged and hilly, with various ridges and valleys. The lighting is soft, creating subtle shadows and highlights on the slopes. The overall tone is muted and atmospheric. The word "APPENDICES" is overlaid in the center in a bold, white, sans-serif font.

# APPENDICES

# HOW TO ACCESS RIGHTNOW MEDIA:

RightNow media is your all-inclusive ticket to tens of thousands of streaming videos with vetted and fantastic Christian content. There is no topic you can't find a Bible Study or training about. It's basically the Netflix of Christian Content.

The wide breadth of content can be accessed via a web browser or the app available for iOS, Android, Roku TV, Apple TV, and Fire TV.

Furthermore, if needed, you can access content simultaneously with others, all online, with *RightNow Media Virtual Groups*.

## TO START YOUR RIGHTNOW MEDIA EXPERIENCE:

### In a web browser...

1. Go to [Crosslinechurch.com/Community-groups](https://crosslinechurch.com/Community-groups)
2. Find the link to gain RightNow Media access
3. Create an account, login, and you are ready to go!

### On your phone...

1. Text "RightNow Crossline" to 41411
2. Create an account and you are ready to go!

\*\*\*Streaming videos for ***Stepping Up, Stepping Out: Courageous Action for Kingdom Purpose*** will be found on your RightNow Media landing page or can be found with a simple search in the search bar.

We encourage you to look around the many different libraries for content that is appealing to you. Happy browsing!

# A WORD TO HOSTS/ LEADERS OF THE GROUP

Beginning to lead this 5-week community group study, you likely have a wide variety of emotions going through you right now. Some of you are beyond excited and rejoicing that this study is finally here. Some of you may be terrified and uncomfortable, questioning why you've decided to do this. Wherever you are now, allow us to share one thing we know with great confidence—**you and your group will be blessed because you stepped out in faith!**

We have a specific encouragement for you: **YOU CAN DO THIS!** Our enemy, the devil, would want you to believe that you can't or that you should be afraid, but God is with you, and He has great plans for you and each person in your group! The Bible states that "[You] can do all things through Christ who strengthens [you]" (Philippians 4:13). The Lord proclaims over you, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." (2 Corinthians 12:9).

In addition, you are not alone. Take full advantage of the Church that God has put around you. Reach out to fellow hosts, key volunteers, leaders, or church staff. We all want to come alongside you and help you lead a fruitful study. Don't try to do this in isolation, but instead link arms with your brothers and sisters. May the Spirit of the Lord be upon you as you host and shepherd the group of people God has entrusted to you!

# CREATING A MULTIPLYING GROUP:

“Every day, they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.” (Acts 2:46-47)

The traditional and most widely accepted understanding of a small group in Western culture is that it is a place for you to find friends from your church that you can grow close to over the course of years as you study the Bible. It is a social gathering with a spiritual emphasis. Then, once you find the right mix of friends, you protect it so that you can have an inner-circle community that you can do life with; we believe this is a central part of small groups.

However, this definition is not fully complete because it is lacking the missional purpose of a small group. As we see in the passage above, the Lord added daily those who were being saved as a response to the fellowship of believers meeting in their homes and in the temple courts. As a follower of Jesus, isn't it your greatest hope to see people saved? If we collectively share this hope, we must acknowledge that it needs to be a core emphasis of our small group gatherings.

Similarly, small groups of believers must also have the same heart and attitude as Christ, who compassionately saw the crowds of Israel as “sheep without a shepherd” (Matt. 9:36) and who pulled the outcasts and overlooked into community with him. So, whether it's someone lost in sin or an uninvited brother or sister, small groups of God's people must have open doors.

Anything healthy and attractive will grow. If your group is healthy, you should expect it to grow. That said, here are five helpful tips that you can weave into the leadership of your group that will create a culture of multiplication while still maintaining closeness with those in the group.



- **Communicate the vision:** One of the essential parts of creating a multiplying group is to be clear about the mission and purpose of your group. This means that it would be wise to communicate the vision for your group at the start of each new study and check in with your group members about that vision.
- **Stay flexible:** Be very careful not to get too rigid in the structure or makeup of your group, which would prohibit newcomers from participating and stunt growth. Instead, be open to changing things up and check in with your group members often.
- **Share the air:** An essential part of being an inclusive group is ensuring everyone has the opportunity to speak and contribute to discussion. Be mindful of overtaking conversations, and if you notice someone who may be introverted or reluctant to speak up, gently provide some encouragement. It may be just what they need!
- **Celebrate newcomers:** If you or one of your group members happens to bring a newcomer (after first notifying the group), celebrate their participation! Be sure to extend loving hospitality that makes them feel genuinely welcome. Do your very best, as a group, not to come off as cliquey or exclusive.
- **Train up the members of your group:** As a leader, you should always be seeking to train the group members to lead as well. You can do this by asking them to facilitate conversation, lead prayer, set up the meeting schedule, select and lead a study, etc. Then be sure to follow up with them about it. If you are doing everything yourself, you are not creating a multiplying group
- **Plant seeds of leadership:** One of the biggest reasons people do not lead or serve in ways they are capable of is that they are not asked. As you begin to notice certain members of the group evidencing leadership skills and spiritual maturity, it may be time to ask them if they would consider leading a group of their own. That can mean passing the torch of leadership to them OR having them

start their own group OR splitting/subgrouping the group (which is growing) and having them lead the other group out of the split.

- **Recognize and address when a group is too big:** Every group is different and every group has differing capacities based off their host homes or time availability. What that means is that there is no official number of members that quantifies a group being “too big”. A group is “too big” when the quality of the group time begins to diminish through members not being able to share, discomfort in the space, or a lack of depth. Try and be keen to notice when that begins and don’t be afraid to have real conversations about potential solutions. It’s hard to think about changing a small group that you know and love, but it also something you can rejoice in, knowing that your group is multiplying! (\*If you are running a two-hour group duration, a common number of members that you will begin to notice diminishing quality is 16.)

Having a multiplying group in which you truly see people connected and brought to salvation is wildly rewarding. I fully understand that it may seem to be disruptive to the closeness of your group. Still, counterintuitively, it brings a group much closer as you engage in mission together and see God working through it. Don’t feel like you have to start over every time your group grows, but rather, just pull people on board for the journey that you are already on and trust the Holy Spirit!

# COMMITMENT CONTRACT:

(Some groups may want to consider utilizing this simple commitment contract as a way of keeping each other accountable to healthy group participation.)

- I commit to taking this group seriously.
- I commit to being intentional with my attendance to this group.
- I commit to engaging in conversation.
- I commit to respecting my fellow group members and keeping everything I hear confidential.
- I commit to being honest.
- I commit to all the things listed above because I value community, and I desire to grow closer to all those in my group.

Sign: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# THE ROMANS ROAD: AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE GOSPEL

As we look at the book of Romans, written by the apostle Paul, we can see that it provides a detailed map for our salvation and eternal fellowship with God. Just follow these steps:

1. We must acknowledge God as the Creator of everything, accepting our humble position in God's created order and purpose. **Romans 1:20-21**

*"For since the creation of the world His invisible attributes are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even His eternal power and Godhead, so that they are without excuse, because, although they knew God, they did not glorify Him as God, nor were thankful, but became futile in their thoughts, and their foolish hearts were darkened."*

2. We must realize that we are sinners and that we need forgiveness. None of us are worthy under God's standards. **Romans 3:23**

*"For all have sinned, and fall short of the glory of God."*

3. God gave us the way to be forgiven of our sins. He showed us His love by giving us the potential for life through the death of His Son, Jesus Christ. **Romans 5:8**

*"But God demonstrates His love toward us, in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us."*

4. If we remain sinners, we will die. However, if we repent of our sins, and accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior,

we will have eternal life. **Romans 6:23**

*"For the wages of sin is death, but the gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."*

5. Confess that Jesus Christ is Lord and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead and you are saved.

**Romans 10:9-10**

*"That if you confess with your mouth the Lord Jesus and believe in your heart that God has raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For with the heart one believes unto righteousness, and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation."*

# OTHER CROSSLINE GROUPS RESOURCES:

If you enjoyed this series, you might also enjoy the other small group studies produced by Crossline Community Church. Small-Group workbooks are available at Crossline Community Church. You can access all the content and arrange a pickup of hardcopy workbooks by going to [Crosslinechurch.com/community-groups](http://Crosslinechurch.com/community-groups)

## **Getting to Know Series**

*The Man. The Myth. The Legend. Getting to Know the Real Jesus*

*I AM: Getting to Know the God of the Bible*

## **Acts 1-4 Series**

*Expectation: Living as Children of Promise*

*Outpouring: Unleashed with Holy Spirit Power*

*Advancement: Moving in Authority and Confidence*

## **XII. Experiencing your Best Relationship with God and Others**

### **FAITH. Against All Hope**

# ABOUT THE EDITORS:

**Jordan Gash** is the Community Life Pastor at Crossline Community Church in Laguna Hills, CA. He graduated from Azusa Pacific Seminary with a M.A. in Pastoral Studies. Jordan has been working in both the Church and Christian organizational spheres since 2006. In his role as Community Life Pastor, Jordan oversees and shepherds a vast network of Community Groups. He has contributed to multiple adult small group curricula, including authoring the fifteen sessions of the Crossline-produced series on Acts 1-4, as well as several youth ministry groups' curricula. As a speaker at conferences and camps, he is passionate about encouraging practical application to Biblical truths. He is married to his wife, Alexandra and has three young sons.

**Dr. JP Jones** is the founding Senior Pastor of Crossline Church in Laguna Hills, CA. JP has served as a Pastor in Southern California for more than thirty years. A former staff member with Campus Crusade for Christ, JP has traveled the world sharing the gospel, teaching the Bible, and training leaders. JP received his Doctor of Ministry in Theology and Apologetics from Liberty University and completed his Post-Graduate studies in Pastoral Ministry from Talbot School of Theology. JP's radio and podcast ministry, Truth that Changes Lives, is listened to in more than 160 countries. For over 25 years, JP has been an Adjunct Professor of Biblical Studies at Biola University and Talbot Seminary. JP is the author of numerous small group studies and the men's book, Facing Goliath, published by Baker Books. JP is a popular speaker at Men's Events, Marriage Retreats, and Family Camps. JP is married to his wife, Donna, and they have three children and three grandchildren. To listen to JP's teaching ministry you can podcast, Truth that Changes Lives, or go to [oneplace.com](http://oneplace.com) and listen on internet radio. JP's small group studies are available at [rightnowmedia.org](http://rightnowmedia.org) and his book, Facing Goliath, can be ordered at [amazon.com](http://amazon.com) or any Christian book outlet. To find JP's blog and other resources, go to [pastorjppjones.com](http://pastorjppjones.com).

# CROSSLINE COMMUNITY CHURCH:

Three words describe the history of Crossline Church: Prayer, Faith and Relationships. In the fall of 2004 I began to seriously pray about the future God had for me and my family. I was at a crossroads in ministry and needed clear direction from God. I went to Forest Home, a Christian conference center in the San Bernardino Mountains and earnestly sought the Lord. Praying on the spot where God spoke to Billy Graham, I asked God to speak to me about where and how He wanted me to serve Him. That time of prayer launched a 10 day period of prayer and fasting to seek the confirmation and leading of God. True to His Word, God spoke to me and others about the vision to start a church that would reach both seekers and committed disciples with the life-changing message of Jesus Christ. For a period of four months, a weekly prayer meeting gathered to pray and dream about God's direction. Following the pattern of the early disciples in Acts 1-2, the founding core group of Crossline spent a focused 10 day season of prayer before it launched the first public worship services in February of 2005.

Our new congregation grew over the next 4 years to a little over 1,000 in attendance. With growth came good challenges and once again we spent a focused period of prayer concerning a move from the high school campus to a permanent home for our church. That season of prayer was answered miraculously by God and Crossline now meets at its 25 acre home in Laguna Hills, CA. Our congregation has grown to over 2,000 and prayer continues to be a core value for the daily life of Crossline, its vision and its future.

Crossline began as a commitment of faith. Not sponsored by any denomination, foundation or church, the Pastors and volunteers stepped into an initial ministry with a million dollar a year budget. Having no meeting place, offices or staff, within a few months God miraculously answered prayer and provided everything we needed to be a mobile church. From its inception, Crossline has had a core commitment to believe great things about God, to ask great things of God and attempt great things for God! What



began as a prayer meeting with 16 people has grown to a local church of over 2,000.

Crossline Church is a body made up of ordinary people who believe in an extra-ordinary God. We believe that everyone is on a spiritual journey and whether you are a first time visitor or have been with us from day one, you are a vital part of our church right now and of the community He is shaping us to be for the future. At Crossline it our desire to connect people to Jesus Christ and to one another. Our motto is, "Love God, love people and have a blast!" We would love for you to join us. Together we can do great things for God!

Dr. JP Jones  
Founding Senior Pastor

# Sunday Services:

## Main Services

9:00am & 11:00am - Worship Center

9:00am (*Classic/Traditional*) - Chapel

## Information:

23331 Moulton Parkway  
Laguna Hills, CA 92653

(949) 916-0250

[crosslinechurch.com](http://crosslinechurch.com)

**"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9**

The Lord calls us to be strong and courageous in our life as His followers. It's as true for us as it was for Joshua, who was responsible for leading the Israelites into a land promised to them, but filled with enemies and obstacles. As we go through this series, we will explore how God prepares and empowers those who are willing to be courageous to step up to God's calling and step out in faith to overcome the obstacles that try to hinder them from God's Kingdom purposes.



**CROSSLINE**  
COMMUNITY CHURCH