

# JOSHUA

## Introduction:

Joshua provides great insight into how we are to listen to God as we walk with Him. God told Joshua to be brave and to trust Him. Joshua obeyed and the rest is history. In a number of ways, Joshua is a picture of Christ. His Hebrew name, Yeshua, is the Hebrew equivalent of the name "Jesus," which means "Yahweh is salvation." Just as Joshua succeeded Moses and won the victory that Moses did not attain, so Christ succeeded the Mosaic law and won the victory that the Mosaic law could not attain. "For the law was given through Moses, grace and truth came through Jesus Christ" (John 1:17).

As we study Joshua, let us consider the significant truths that we can draw from each chapter we study. Then as we discuss key questions, let us apply these truths to our own lives.

## Week One

### Be Strong and Courageous

#### Significant truths:

**1. The awareness of God's presence stimulates and motivates us as we deal with life's challenges.**

God does not ask us to go alone. He is present with us. "I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you." (Joshua 1:5) When we do God's will in God's way with God's help, no one and nothing can stand in our way as we daily walk with Him dealing with the challenges and demands that we face. We succeed because He charts the course, He prepares the way, He opens the door, and when we acknowledge His presence, it motivates us to do His will and energizes us in dealing with life's challenges.

**2. Stand strong and be courageous because others are depending on you to lead and care for them.**

When we study Joshua, we typically do so in terms of leadership. But let us consider a few questions that are critical as we move forward. First, what does it mean to be a leader? Are you a leader? What situations do you consider yourself to be a leader? Are others depending on you?

A leader is nothing more than one who guides the way for others. They are aware of the presence of God and have a clear vision of His will. In the midst of life circumstances, it is the one who stands pointing the way toward living life in a way that makes a true difference, and one in which others will hopefully follow.

Now do you see how this expands the horizon of a leader. A leader is the person who helps another one say; "no" when faced with temptations from so-called friends. A leader is the one who in the face of adversity, brings peace and comfort to those who suffer. A leader is the one who teaches his or her brother to swim. A leader is a mom, a dad, a friend, a teacher, a student minister, and yes, even you. We are all leaders, and we are called to stand strong and be courageous. (Joshua 1:6-9)

**3. Inner strength and courage flow from both an awareness of God's presence and knowledge of God's word.**

God calls us to be obedient to His word. How can we be obedient if we do not know God's word? That is why we are to read and meditate on God's word daily. As we grow in His word, we gain inner strength and courage. And we are to pray regularly seeking God's will and His direction, asking Him to draw near to us as we feel His presence in our life. Others are depending on us, and for them to see Jesus working in us giving us strength and courage to face life's challenges will be a comfort and inspiration to them.

**4. Obedience to God builds unity and brings others into God's presence so that together we can tackle life's challenges and do God's will.**

Obedience is an act of doing. We are called to study God's word, to meditate on His word and to put it to heart so that when the time comes, when we are called to act or to serve Him then we do so willingly, with joy and great enthusiasm. Obedience is truly the tough part. Why? Because God is working through others to accomplish His purposes. Leaders must be like Joshua, demonstrating strength and courage, following God's word as they step out in faith to accomplish His will. Think about what that means? When one does so without confidence, without courage, without heart, then will others follow? Probably not. But when they are strong and courageous and demonstrate Godly character, then others will be obedient and follow in unity and great things can be accomplished for God's glory. (Joshua 1:16-18)

**Questions and Discussion:** Look at the key truths provided in Chapter 1 of Joshua and consider the following questions for discussion:

- Everyone leads something, it may be just themselves. Do you consider yourself to be a leader?
- Does your response change when you ask the question, "Are others depending on me?" Think about who might be depending on you and consider the impact you have on their lives?
- Think about what it means to have inner strength and courage as presented in Joshua. How do you reflect inner strength and courage?
- For parents, how important is it to lead families with strength and courage?
- What is one step you can take to apply these truths to your daily life and help you develop strength and courage as you lead and guide your family or others?
- What happens when society rejects Godly leaders? In what way can you step in and lead more effectively? How do we get more Godly leaders to follow your influence and to step up and lead with Godly strength and courage?