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WHEN HAVE YOU EXPERIENCED A TOUGH-ACT- TO-FOLLOW SITUATION?

Joshua: A Faith Rooted
in God's Word

The
POINT ➤

Faith is grounded in obedience
to God's Word.

➤ JOSHUA 1:1-9,16-18

¹After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, ²"Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. ³Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. ⁴From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. ⁵No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. ⁶Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses

my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. ⁸This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

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¹⁶And they answered Joshua, "All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. ¹⁷Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you, as he was with Moses! ¹⁸Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death. Only be strong and courageous."



THE BIBLE MEETS LIFE

FACT:

Abraham Lincoln is regarded by many as the greatest President in US history.

However, you might not know that he was also a talented wrestler and is in the National Wrestling Hall of Fame.¹



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // GOD

Because God is holy, He is altogether separate from and infinitely above people who are sinful, and He deserves our reverence and obedience.

There's a common saying, "That's a tough act to follow." Though the history of the National Football League (NFL) has a long list of great players, one player is commonly regarded as the greatest of all time—Tom Brady of the New England Patriots. In his twenty seasons with the Patriots, Brady won six Super Bowl games.

Cam Newton had the great honor (or dishonor, depending on how you see it) of following Brady. Newton was a college national champion and Heisman Trophy winner. Before joining the Patriots, he led his former team to a Super Bowl, and he still holds the record for most rushing touchdowns by a quarterback. Despite all this, Newton never achieved the same kind of success as Brady; his time at New England left the fanbase feeling frustrated. After all Brady's success, the fans' expectations were likely unreasonable and impossible to live up to.

Moses was an incredible leader and a tough act to follow. He led God's people in ways that no other leader (except Jesus!) ever could. Joshua was chosen as Moses's successor, and though it was a high calling, he had observed Moses's faith, humility, and boldness in action. Through it all, Joshua had learned to base his faith and leadership on God's Word.

JOSHUA 1:1-5

1 How do you think Joshua might have felt about being called to lead Israel after Moses?

2 How does your life demonstrate faith in God's promises?

JOSHUA 1:6-9

3 How are you living so that God's blessings are passed through you to others?

4 What does it mean to "observe carefully" God's commands? How are you living this out?

5 How are you pursuing God's presence?

To experience the victory God desires for us, we must understand and faithfully obey God's commands. #BSFLRisk-Takers

JOSHUA 1:16-18

6 When have you struggled to believe that God might make a difference in someone's life?

7 Why is obeying God such a serious matter?

8 How are you living as an example to the people around you?





LIVE IT OUT



LEVELS OF BIBLICAL LEARNING // GOD

Because God is holy, He is altogether separate from and infinitely above people who are sinful, and He deserves our reverence and obedience.

We are saved by grace through faith, and true belief is tied to obedience. God calls His people to be like Him, and we fulfill this purpose when we, by faith, live in obedience to God's Word.

>CHRIST

It might seem harsh that Joshua's officials said that anyone who disobeyed Joshua's commands would be put to death. However, obedience is of highest importance—all people who refuse to obey God as an expression of true faith will suffer eternal judgment.

9 How does your life show a commitment to obeying God?

GOD

JESUS

HOLY SPIRIT

BIBLE

SALVATION

CREATION

CHURCH

PEOPLE

FAMILY

COMMUNITY
& WORLD

10 What steps is God calling you to take to express a more whole-hearted commitment to obeying Him? How will you put this into practice this week?

> COMMUNITY

Growing in obedience to God often involves learning from others.

11 This week, have a conversation with a trusted friend or leader. Share your desire to grow in obedience to God and invite that person to speak into your life.



> CULTURE

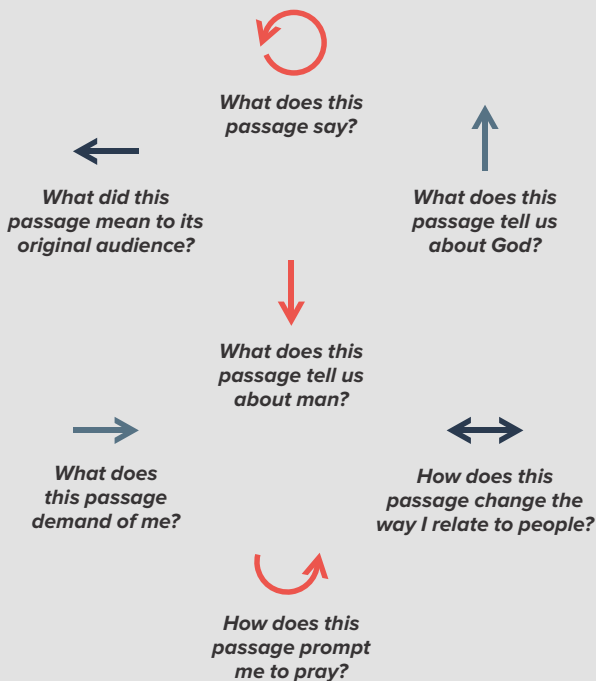
Engaging lost people around us isn't merely a suggestion in Scripture but a command. In fact, the mission Jesus has called us to is to make disciples of all nations.

12 As an act of obedience this week, how will you work to reach someone who is far from God?

DAILY DEVOTIONS



The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Day One JOHN 14:12

The word *Christian* points to the fact that we are to be like Christ as Jesus's followers. We are to live in the same ways that Jesus lived. Therefore, it makes perfect sense that the works He did we will naturally do as well. However, it might not be easy to grasp that we will do "even greater works" than Jesus. Jesus is God, and the things He did—healing and casting out demons, multiplying food and walking on water, living a perfectly righteous life and rising from the dead—were miraculous! But when we really understand what Jesus is saying, it makes sense. Though Jesus is fully God, He is also fully human because of His incarnation, and in taking on our humanity, He also set aside certain divine powers and privileges and accepted the weaknesses and limitations associated with the human condition. "Greater works" doesn't mean bigger and better works but more in number. As a human, Jesus was limited to being in one place at one time. But Jesus's followers who carry on His mission after His ascension do countless works in His name for the glory of God. For those who truly believe, we will do our part in carrying out these great works.

- **What does it mean that Jesus's followers will do even greater works than He did?**
- **What is the connection between belief and doing the works of Jesus?**

Day Two

JOHN 14:13-14



It's pretty common for Christians to end their prayers with the words "in Jesus's name, amen." Many times, we might mouth these words but with little thought of what they actually mean. To pray—or to live, for that matter—in Jesus's name means to ask or act in ways that reflect the heart of Jesus. Here's Jesus's point in this verse: When we ask God for things that are in line with what Jesus Himself would ask for, then it's as good as done. At times, we might tend to pray selfishly with little consideration for Jesus's desires and purposes. If we pray this way, then we have no reason to confidently expect God will answer with a "yes." But when we truly seek after and pray for the will of God in and through our lives, we can pray with a different kind of confidence.

➤ **What does it mean to pray in Jesus's name?**

➤ **How can we have confidence when we pray?**

Day Three

JOHN 14:15

Love is a complicated word. In the English language, it has many different meanings, including romantic desire, familial affections between family members, commitment between friends, and covenantal devotion between spouses within marriage. God's love for His people is steadfast and sacrificial, and in response to God's grace and mercy, we are called to love Him with all we are. Love is an internal reality, something like a feeling or emotion. However, real love never stays inside but flows out in the ways we relate to others. The way we demonstrate our love for Jesus is through following His teachings and His example. Where there's a lack of obedience, there's a lack of love. And where there is love for God, it will always be tied to a lifestyle of following His commands.

➤ **In your own words, what is love?**

➤ **Why does Jesus emphasize the importance of following the commands of Scripture?**

Day Four

JOHN 14:16

At this time when Jesus was talking with His disciples, He knew He'd be leaving them soon. Jesus also knew that the Holy Spirit would come in His place to minister to all Christians. He referred to the Holy Spirit as the "Counselor," and in the original language, it means someone who comes alongside to help. The Spirit ministers to Jesus's followers in many ways, including opening our eyes to the truth, convicting us of sin, comforting us when we suffer, providing encouragement to press on, leading us in the right ways to live, giving strength to live well, and more. The Holy Spirit is truly our Helper, and when we strive to follow Jesus, we can trust the Spirit will help us to fulfill God's purposes in our lives.

➤ **How do we put ourselves in the position to receive the Spirit's help?**

➤ **How have you experienced the Spirit's help in your own life?**

Day Five

JOHN 14:17



Here, Jesus emphasized one of the central ministries of the Holy Spirit: He opens our eyes to the truth. In John 8:44, Jesus calls the devil "a liar and the father of lies." The world is under the control of the devil (1 John 5:19), and apart from the Spirit opening people's eyes, they're blind to the truth about Jesus. This is because they choose to suppress the truth, and their thoughts and desires have become dark and worthless (Rom. 1:18,21). This is why the world is unable to receive the Spirit. Followers of Jesus, on the other hand, know the Spirit. In humility, we've refused the lies of the world and have invited God to help us see the light of Christ. And in response to what we understand, we strive to live like Jesus every day. True faith is fundamentally tied to obeying God's commands. Thankfully, for those who've trusted Jesus, the Spirit is in our lives guiding us and giving us the strength to obey.

➤ **Why is the world unable to receive the Spirit?**

➤ **How, specifically, does the Spirit help us to follow Jesus?**