



Good Shepherd  
Sermon-Based Study Guide  
Joshua | Aug 3, 2025  
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## I. Introduction to this Study

This week in our *Ordinary* series, we explore the story of **Joshua**—someone we get to see at various stages of his life and service to the Lord. Joshua begins as Moses’s assistant after the exodus from slavery in Egypt (in the books of Exodus and Numbers), and eventually becomes the leader of the nation during the conquest of the promised land, which is the main content of the book of Joshua. Like so many biblical characters, Joshua has his ups and downs, his good days and his missteps. But, somewhat unusually, Joshua finishes well! As a result, he gives us a model that we can learn from as ordinary people in relationship with an extraordinary God.

## II. Connecting with One Another

The motto for the sermon was: “Joshua served God and others, even amidst mistakes, by listening to the Lord and then humbly taking action.” Are there any people in your life that exhibit these traits of serving God, serving others, spending time with the Lord, and/or acting in humility?

## III. Study the Text

*Read Joshua 1:7-9, 14-15*

- What were the elements of God’s commissioning of Joshua?
- Thinking about Joshua’s life (including his times with Moses in the tent of meeting and fighting the battle against the Amalekites, in Exodus), would you describe him as someone acting individually, or living in community and relationship with others?



*Read Joshua 5:13-15*

- As Joshua gets commissioned for his military role, what instructions, questions, or encouragements arise?
- Joshua was about to become the conqueror of the promised land, yet God invited him to lay down his claim to the land for himself and to remain subservient to the Lord (this is what is pictured in removing his sandal). Based on what you've seen in Joshua's life up to this point, do you think acquiescing his rights under the Lord's leadership was easy to do, or challenging?

*Read Joshua 9:14-19*

- How did Joshua's lack of inquiring of the Lord in how to deal with the Gibeonites misalign with his previous experience and instructions from God?
- How did Joshua deal with the consequences of his misstep: did he blame shift, compromise, or did he seek to maintain integrity?

*Read Joshua 24:14-18*

- What challenges did Joshua give to the nation of Israel as he came to the end of his life?
- On what bases did the people of Israel choose to follow the Lord?

*Reflect and Respond*

- In what ways does Joshua remind you of Jesus?
- Joshua was a fighter, he longed to spend time with God, he was faith-filled, he challenged others in their faith, but he also had times when he didn't stop and listen to the Lord. Where do you feel similarities and/or differences between Joshua and yourself?
- Are you desperate to spend your days in God's presence, like young Joshua lingering in the tent of meeting long after Moses left? (Exod 33)
- Is your faith fixed on God, even when there are huge obstacles, like giants in the land? (Num 14)
- Do you fight, do you labor, for God's causes, upheld by the prayers of others, like when Joshua led the army while Moses kept his arms lifted up? (Exod 17)
- Will you meditate on God's Word, as Joshua was commissioned to do (1:8)?
- Will you maintain a posture of subservience to God, serving under Him, for His glory and His purposes (ch 5)?



- What about when decisions come, when wisdom is needed, when circumstances aren't clear: will you seek the Word of the Lord, like Joshua didn't? (ch 9)
- How is the trajectory of your life as you think about finishing well, like Joshua did? (ch 24)

#### IV. Prayer

*Spend time in prayer together:*

- Pray that you might see the opportunities the Lord provides for you to serve Him and others.
- Intercede for each other to be bold, to do the things the Lord has for you to do.
- Repent of times that you may have misstepped and not listened to the Lord.
- Pray for opportunities to encourage others in their faith, to challenge them toward faithfulness in the Lord.
- Intercede for those who do not yet know the Lord, who don't have a relationship with Jesus.
- Ask for grace to finish well, by walking with the Lord throughout your life.

#### V. Digging Deeper

*For additional reflection:*

- **Hebrews 11:30** — This verse doesn't mention Joshua by name, which is unusual in this "Hall of Faith" chapter. What message or emphasis might that give to this reference to the fall of Jericho?
- **Hebrews 4:1-11** — This is one of the two New Testament mentions of Joshua. The fulfillment of the Promised Land was a big deal, but Israel didn't get to stay there, getting exiled and then returning. How does the Promised Land promise contrast with God's provision of and invitation to Sabbath?
- **Acts 7:44-53** — This other New Testament mention of Joshua highlights the tabernacle and temple, which were a big part of Israel's national character and at the center of their relationship with the Lord—remember, Joshua loved spending time in the Lord's tent (Exodus 33)! But what is the ultimate truth about where God dwells and how we are to know and relate to Him?

