



"REASONS TO REJOICE"

"Your words were found and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart." Jeremiah 15:16

KEEP CALM AND MARCH ON!

Marching through the Book of Joshua: Lesson 2

In last week's lesson we met Joshua, captain of Israel's army and assistant to Moses. We learned many things about his character, his faith, and his courage. We also learned about the many lessons that God had to teach him before he could assume the responsibility that was ahead. This week we are going to continue studying more about Joshua and what he was learning in his season of "leadership training." Before you begin, ask the Holy Spirit to prepare your heart for all the lessons He has for you this week.

First Day

Today we are going to review one of the most well-known stories in the Bible. This story gives us a glimpse of Joshua's faith and trust in His God.

1. Read Numbers 13 and 14 in one sitting. Who are the main characters in this story?
2. Why was Moses sending out spies?
3. How many spies were sent? Describe the land itself. Was it all that God had promised?
4. Describe the conflicting reports that Moses received. Who were the two that disagreed with the majority?

5. What was the people's reaction? Who did they believe? Why?
6. What did they want to do to Joshua and Caleb? (Numbers 14:1-10)
7. Why were Joshua and Caleb so sure that they could overtake these people? (Numbers 14:6-9)
8. What were the people showing a lack of?
9. What was God's reaction to the people's attitude? (Numbers 14:11-12)

Joshua and Caleb believed God's promise that they would inherit the land. They trusted in His Word, which gave them the courage to stand up for what they knew was right. They were definitely the minority, but God was on their side. (Actually, I think it might be better to say that they were on God's side!) It doesn't matter how many people are doing something, if God's Word is telling us to do something else. Choosing God's way is not always the popular way, is it? Joshua and Caleb believed God, and they were blessed for their faith and obedience. They were looking at the giants that faced them through God's perspective, and the giants were no longer giants.

Now was the time that Israel was supposed to go and take possession of the land. The Israelites had traveled to Egypt to Mount Sinai in two months. They remained at Sinai for one year, learning about the law, and many other things about their God. During that time, the Israelites had been disobedient many times. They had complained about the bitter waters (Exodus 15:22-25), and about wandering in the wilderness (Exodus 16:3). They had collected more than their daily allotment of manna (Exodus 16:20), and had made an idol of a golden calf (Exodus 32:7-10). Now they refused to move forward and obey God, so the Lord disciplined all of them, with the exception of two ... Joshua and Caleb.

10. How did God chastise the Israelites? Read Numbers 14:26-38, Psalm 95:8-11, and Hebrews 3:16-19.

11. Why did Moses intercede for the people?

12. When you are upset with those around you who are doubting God, how do you respond? Do you pray for them, or do you get upset and frustrated? How is Moses an example for us?

In this story, we see how our attitudes can affect those around us. The ten spies' lack of faith was contagious. It, along with the people's own lack of trust, caused them to rebel against the Lord and suffer major consequences.

13. How do you look at problems? Do you automatically see the negatives, or do you try to look for the positives and the blessings? Do you think about what God **can't** do, or what God **can** do?

14. Think about the last time you were in a trial. (Maybe that's today!) How is your attitude affecting those in your home? How is our attitude a reflection of Christ? (Or supposed to be?)

15. Are there any "giants" in your life right now? (Be specific) Will you choose to look at them through God's eyes? (If you feed the giants, they grow and grow!)

16. How did God describe Caleb in Numbers 14:24?

Caleb and Joshua "fully" followed the Lord. They didn't follow Him with half a heart, but with their entire being. This is what enabled them to make the right decisions. When we are totally committed to the Lord, we are better able to discern God's will from our own.

The Israelites were made to wander in the wilderness for 38 more years, until every man over the age of 20 (except the team of two) had died. God wanted a whole new generation to enter the land. God wanted a fresh start. What a clear picture of how a lack of trust, faith, and doubting God's Word can take us clear off the path of the Lord.

Hopefully, you now know Joshua a little better. Let me ask you one more question to think about ... What did you learn about yourself today? Are you "fully" following the Lord?

Memory Verse of the Week: "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it." **Numbers 13:30**

Second Day

Review this week's memory verse. Is there a promise that God has given you that you have not take possession of?

Moses knew that he would not be entering the land with the new generation. He was concerned about the people having a leader to guide them. He again intercedes for Israel, asking God to give this flock of sheep a new shepherd.

1. Read Numbers 27:12-22.
2. Why was it important for Joshua to be ordained in front of all the people?

The Book of Deuteronomy is Moses' farewell speech to the children of Israel. They are now camped on the east side of the Jordan River, in view of Canaan, in the land of Moab (Deuteronomy 1:5). Moses spent 40 days, first speaking, then writing these sermons to convince a new generation of

Israelites to obey God's law. The land ahead was filled with people who had their gods, and Moses urged them to be true to the one and only Living God.

3. Why did God want to destroy the Canaanites? Read Leviticus chapter 18 for some insight about the people of Canaan. Name some of the abominations that were taking place.

Moses reminded the children of Israel of their responsibility to possess the land that God had given them. (The word "land" is used 200 times in the Book of Deuteronomy!) He spent time reflecting on who God is, and what He had already done for His people. He reminded them of their deliverance from Egypt, the parting of the Red Sea, and God's provision for them in the wilderness. God had been so incredibly faithful to them, and He knew how important it was for them to remember that. Remembering God's faithfulness in the past gives us hope and courage for the future.

Moses was trying to stir up their love for God and exhort them to keep His commandments. He reviews the law with them, emphasizing the Holiness of God.

4. Spend some time reflecting on God's faithfulness in your life. How does this give you hope? Find a Scripture that talks about the benefits of reflecting on what God has already done.
5. Read Deuteronomy 6:1-9. What is the greatest commandment and Moses' greatest exhortation? (vs 5)
6. Reread Deuteronomy 6:6-9. The word "diligently" stands out in verse 7. Define "diligent." Are you diligently teaching your children how to love God with all their heart, soul, and strength? Do you talk about Him every opportunity you get? Meditate on this question, asking the Holy Spirit to show you any areas that you might need to improve.

7. Why was it so important to Moses to pass on all he knew about God to the next generation? Why is it so important for us also?

8. Most athletes train for their sport very diligently. Explain this concept of training and how it relates to the training of our children.

9. How diligent are you in your own studies? How often do you spend time with the Lord? Do you commune daily with Him? In what areas is diligence and discipline needed in your own life?

Moses climbed to the top of Mount Nebo and got a view of the entire Promised Land. He couldn't enter, but he could see the beauty. He then died in the land of Moab (Deuteronomy 34:1-5). The Lord buried Moses Himself, and no one, to this day, knows where.

10. Why do you think God didn't tell anyone the whereabouts of Moses' body? What would happen if people knew where it was?

We are now on the doorstep of the Book of Joshua. Aren't you excited? Can't you just feel the excitement of a whole generation? Is Joshua nervous? Is he afraid? Does he feel ready to step into the shoes of his leader/friend Moses? I don't know about you, but I would be scared to death! Now is where the rubber will meet the road. What will Joshua do?

What about you? Are you afraid? Are you nervous about something? I pray that you have already learned something from the life of Joshua to encourage you to move forward. Let's "Rejoice" in what God has already done for us, and may it give us hope to face tomorrow.

Third Day

Review your memory verse.

There are many people and locations in the Book of Joshua that are very significant. **Alan Redpath** points out some very interesting points. He says, "Think of the analogy between the land of Canaan and the land of full salvation which is the portion of every believer in the Lord Jesus Christ. First of all, we realize that Canaan was the goal to which God was leading His people. When He appeared to Moses in the burning bush, He pledged Himself not only to deliver the Israelites from the bondage of Egypt, but also to bring them into a land of milk and honey (Exodus 3:7-8). In other words, the deliverance from Egypt was only in preparation for the enjoyment of Canaan."

In Scripture, we know that Moses represents the law, and it was impossible for the law to lead the children of Israel into the land of Canaan. In Romans 7, Paul tells us that the law is powerless to save us from our sins (7:7-14). The law was used to point out our sin, but salvation cannot be found in keeping the law (Galatians 3:19-25). We cannot be made new by keeping certain rules and regulations, or earn our way to Heaven by doing good. Whereas Moses could not lead them into the Promised Land, Joshua, a type of Christ, could. Jesus Christ came, not to abolish the law, but to fulfill, or perfect the law (Matthew 5:17). When Jesus expounded on the law in Matthew chapter 5, saying, "But I say unto you" He was not adding to the law, but simply giving a deeper understanding of why God gave the law in the first place. The law shows us that we cannot be good in ourselves, but we can become righteous through belief in His Son, Jesus Christ. Through Him we are accepted into the Kingdom of God, by His merit, not ours. It is Jesus Christ that leads us into Canaan, which represents the Christian life as it should be; a life of victory, faith, obedience, and rest. All spiritual blessings have been given to Jesus Christ, all power, and all authority. We are joint heirs with Christ, so we, too, have an awesome inheritance (Romans 8:12-17). Canaan does not represent Heaven, because Canaan was a place of

battle and conquest. There is no more fighting in Heaven, only complete rest. Therefore Canaan is the picture of a Christian life that is fully yielded to Christ, one who is appropriating all the riches that Christ has for them to enjoy now!

The **wilderness** represents the life of a Christian who is not yet surrendered his all to the Lord. He is not entering into the rest that he is promised, thus living a life of unbelief and disobedience. **Warren Wiersbe** says, "They were delivered from Egypt, but Egypt was still in their hearts." They continually go back to their old life, remaining a defeated Christian. **Irving Jensen** describes those who are choosing to be "wilderness" Christians as simply saved from the penalty of sin, and will miss the richest blessings from the Book of Joshua. Those who are determined to be saved also from the power of sin will receive much strength and encouragement from this book.

Egypt, of course, is a picture of our souls before we are saved. It's a place of bondage and slavery to sin. This is exactly how we are before Christ ... in bondage to our sins, with a need to be delivered (Romans 6:17-23). A lamb's blood painted on their doorpost delivered the Israelites from death (Exodus 12:21-24), just as the blood of the Lamb of God (John 1:29) cleanses us from our sin, delivering us from eternal death.

Where are you living? Are you in **Canaan**, experiencing God's blessings and believing His promises? Are you experiencing defeat as you wander in the wilderness, not yet allowing God to consume your entire heart? Or are you still in **Egypt**, never truly repenting from your sins and asking for forgiveness and deliverance? **John 3:3** says that you must be born again to enter the Kingdom of God. To become "born again" you must first acknowledge that you're a sinner (Romans 3:23). You then need to confess your sin before the Lord, asking for His forgiveness (**1 John 1:9**). **Romans 10:9-10** says "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." **Romans 10:13** says that "whoever calls upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." Our sins are as red as scarlet, but when Jesus forgives you, He gives you a clean slate, and makes you "white as snow" (**Isaiah 1:18**).

Jesus Christ is God, in the flesh, who became man for us (John 1:1-5). He came to earth and died on the cross, paying the penalty for all of our sins, once and for all (John 3:16-17). He paid a debt that He didn't owe, and we owed a debt that we could not pay. After the third day He rose again, according to the Scriptures (1 Corinthians 15:3-4). Because He lives, we also can live forever with God in Heaven. We have access to God the Father through Jesus Christ (1 Timothy 2:5-6). Jesus is the only way that we can have a relationship with God (John 14:6). By accepting Jesus Christ and what He did on the cross, we become part of God's family and receive eternal life (1 John 5:11-13).

If you have never asked Christ into your life, I pray that today will be the day of your salvation (2 Corinthians 6:2)! Think about it. Talk to your group leader if you have any questions. They would love to help you in any way they can. The one thing they can't do is make that commitment for you. The decision to become a Christian is between you and God. You are not saved because your parents were, or because you live in a so-called "Christian" country. The decision to follow Christ is made individually by each person. You will be accountable before God on that decision (Philippians 2:9-11). Think about it. It can mean either life or death (Romans 6:23).

It is important to understand that Joshua is a type of Christ, as we continue our study of this book. It is also important to understand the significance of Egypt and Canaan so we can apply the truths that are taught in this book to our own lives.

1. What stands out in your mind about the man Joshua?
2. In what ways is Joshua an example to you? Are you faithful? Are you loyal? Are you committed?
3. Name some specific stepping stones that God used in your life to prepare you for where you are today.

4. Write out a short prayer, thanking God for saving your soul and choosing you to be one of His kids. What an awesome privilege it is to belong in the family of God. What a huge "Reason to Rejoice"!

Fourth and Fifth Day

Write out your verse by memory. What does this Scripture mean to you?

For the next two days we will be doing an overview on the Book of Joshua. It's important to remember that it was not Joshua's intention to write a full account of his own life and his own accomplishments. Joshua wrote this book to show us how God made good on all of His promises. Joshua wrote to show the history of Israel's conquest of the Promised Land and to give glory to God.

Today and tomorrow we will be doing quite a bit of reading. Hang in there! It's essential to look at the book as a whole before we begin to break it down. It helps us to understand the big picture.

Read the entire **Book of Joshua** in one sitting, if possible. You may skim chapters 12 through 21, if you like. **What** are some of your first impressions of the book? (For example, what kind of book is it? Dull or exciting? Is there any action in it? What is the mood and the tone of the book? Is it easy to understand? Who are the main characters?) **Write** down any questions you have while you're reading it. **Notice** any repeated words, phrases, or ideas. Do you find any re-occurring themes? Upon first reading, what application did you find for your life today?

As you read through, give each chapter a title and write a one-sentence summary that states the main point of that chapter. This will help you become familiar with the book. Remember, just do what you can. If you can read a few chapters, that's good! If you can read through them all ... fantastic! **Just don't get discouraged!** Pray and do what you can!

Chapter 1 **Title:**
(sentence)

Chapter 2 Title:
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Chapter 3 Title:
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Chapter 4 Title:
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I pray that you got a good idea of what this book is generally about and became familiar with the subject matter. No one should ask what a Scripture passage means until he knows what it says. I hope you now know some of "what it says."

Next week we will begin with Joshua chapter one. I pray that each of you will be diligent in your study of God's Word. Some days you will have more questions to answer, while other days you will be assigned more reading. I pray that God does a great work in your heart as you learn more about living in the Promised Land!