

Growth Group Guide

Topic: Blessings and Battles – Joshua 16–17

Opening Question:

When have you experienced God's blessing but still found yourself facing a battle? How did that shape your trust in Him?

Key Scripture:

- Joshua 16:10 (CSB): However, they did not drive out the Canaanites who lived in Gezer, so the Canaanites still live in Ephraim's territory today as forced laborers.

- Joshua 17:13 (CSB): When the Israelites grew stronger, they made the Canaanites serve as forced laborers but did not drive them out completely.

- Joshua 17:17–18 (CSB): So Joshua said to Joseph's family—that is, Ephraim and Manasseh—"You have many people and great strength. You will not have just one allotment, because the hill country will be yours also. It is a forest; clear it, and its outlying areas will be yours. You can drive out the Canaanites, even though they have iron chariots and are strong."

- Deuteronomy 11:22–23 (CSB): For if you carefully observe every one of these commands I am giving you to follow—to love the LORD your God, walk in all his ways, and remain faithful to him—the LORD will drive out all these nations before you, and you will drive out nations greater and stronger than you.

- James 1:22 (CSB): But be doers of the word and not hearers only, deceiving yourselves.

- Galatians 6:9 (CSB): Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up.

Main Points:

1. God's blessings often come with battles—inheritance requires faith and obedience (Josh 16:10; 17:13).
2. Partial obedience limits the fullness of God's blessing (Josh 16:10).
3. God calls His people to act in faith even when the opposition looks strong (Josh 17:17–18).
4. Faithfulness brings fruitfulness—God's promises are realized through trust and perseverance (Deut 11:22–23; Gal 6:9).
5. True obedience is wholehearted—doing what God says completely (James 1:22).

Key Takeaways:

- God's promises require participation—He gives the land, but we must trust Him to possess it.
- Partial obedience leads to partial blessing.
- Faith acts even when strength seems small, knowing God's power completes the work.

Discussion Questions:

1. What do Joshua 16–17 reveal about the dangers of partial obedience?
2. How does Joshua's encouragement to Ephraim and Manasseh (Josh 17:17–18) challenge your view of faith and effort?
3. What areas in your life feel like 'unfinished battles'? How can you invite God's strength into them?
4. Why do you think God often connects blessing with responsibility and effort?
5. How can your group help one another move from hearing God's Word to doing it (James 1:22)?

Next Steps:

****This week, join us in prayer:** Ask God to give you courage to fully obey Him and to trust His strength in the areas where you still face battles.**

Individual: Identify one area where you've settled for partial obedience. Commit to take a step of faith this week.

Accountability: Share your 'unfinished battle' with your group and ask them to pray for perseverance and faith.

Scripture: Memorize Galatians 6:9 (CSB): 'Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up.'

LIVE SENT: Encourage someone who is weary in their spiritual journey—remind them that obedience brings blessing in God's time.