

Joshua 11:16–23 Guide Sheet

“A Long Obedience in the Same Direction”

Opening Question

Where in your life have you wanted a quick fix or instant breakthrough—but instead, God seemed to be calling you to stay faithful over time?

Key Scripture

Joshua 11:23 (CSB)

“So Joshua took the entire land, in keeping with all that the Lord had told Moses. Joshua then gave it as an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments. After this, the land had rest from war.”

Philippians 1:6 (CSB)

“I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.”

Isaiah 53:5 (CSB)

“But he was pierced because of our rebellion, crushed because of our iniquities; punishment for our peace was on him, and we are healed by his wounds.”

Main Points

- I. Obedience doesn’t guarantee immediacy—God often works through long processes. Joshua waged war for years; faithfulness was measured in time, not speed.
- II. God is faithful—even when the road is long. From beginning to end, God fulfilled every word He promised to Moses.
- III. God takes sin seriously—and offers redemption through Jesus. Judgment was real and necessary—but Jesus bore it on our behalf.
- IV. What one generation feared, God can help the next generation conquer. The “giants” once paralyzing Israel now fall under Joshua’s leadership.
- V. True rest comes not from conquest, but from God’s completed work. Joshua brings temporary rest; Jesus secures eternal peace.

Discussion Questions

1. Scripture Understanding Question

Read Joshua 11:18–23.

What stands out to you about the length of the battles? Why is the phrase “Joshua waged war a long time” significant in understanding the nature of following God?

2. Group Reflection Question

The chapter shows a faithfulness that stretches across years of battle.

How does Joshua's long obedience encourage you or challenge your expectations about how God works?

3. Personal Application Question

Are there any "giants" in your life—fears, habits, or sins—you've been avoiding?

How might God be inviting you to face them with His strength instead of your own?

4. Practical Implementation Question

What's one area where God may be asking you to slow down and trust His timing rather than rushing for your own solution?

5. Challenge/Growth Question

What would it look like for you to practice "a long obedience in the same direction" this week? What's one faithful step you can take—even if you don't see immediate results?

Key Takeaways

1. God works through long seasons, not just instant moments.
2. Obedience requires endurance—not just action.
3. God is patient with His people, but He also takes sin seriously.
4. The giants you fear today may fall tomorrow if you keep trusting God.
5. Jesus fought the final battle and offers us rest—not through our victory, but His.

Next Steps

1. Prayer/Spiritual Discipline Step

Begin each morning this week by praying:

"Lord, help me be faithful today, even if I can't see the end yet."

2. Individual Action Step

Identify one area where you've been seeking a shortcut. Ask God to give you the strength to remain consistent there this week.

3. Accountability Step

Share with someone in your group one "long fight" you're still in—and ask for their prayers and support.

4. Scripture Memory/Study Step

Memorize Philippians 1:6 — "I am sure of this, that he who started a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus."

5. Live Sent

Encourage someone this week who feels discouraged in their faith journey. Remind them that God is faithful—even when the road is long.