

SOUTHLAND CHURCH

THE BOOK OF
JOSHUA

21 Day Devotional



foundations
daily devotional



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DAY 1**READ:** Numbers 13-14

Numbers 13 and 14 contain important background information for the Book of Joshua. The Israelites have left Egypt and are in the wilderness waiting to enter the Promised Land. Moses, in obedience to God's direction, sets apart one man from each tribe to spy out the Promised Land. Their mission is clear: "See what the land is like, and whether the people who live in it are strong or weak, whether they are few or many" (13:18). Each of the spies is a leader from their respective tribe (13:2). Right away Moses draws special attention to Hoshea the son of Nun. He gives Hoshea the new name Joshua. Renaming an adult was a noteworthy practice of prophetic blessing in ancient Israel. Abram (Abraham), Sarai (Sarah) and Jacob (Israel) all received new names at turning points in their lives. These new names typically had a significant meaning. The meaning of Hoshea is "salvation." The meaning of Joshua is "Jehovah is salvation." This re-naming was a reminder that it was not Joshua's job to save Israel – that could be done by the Lord alone. Joshua would need to rely on God's strength to complete his mission.

The twelve men are obedient and go spy on the land. They even bring back grapes, pomegranates and figs to prove that the land is indeed good (13:23). However, they are afraid of the land's inhabitants. When they report back, the majority of the spies recommend that Israel not invade their land. They believe that Israel will surely fail and be eliminated as a nation. While Caleb tries to convince the people that they should trust God and His promises, the influence of the other spies is greater. All of Israel begins to protest against Moses and Aaron. Surely returning to slavery in Egypt is more appealing than imminent death. Here Joshua and Caleb stand up to remind the people to follow God, trusting that He is capable of leading them to victory.

The Lord is not pleased when He sees Israel's rebellion. He tells Moses that because of their rebellion and lack of faith, Israel will be struck down with pestilence (14:11-12). Moses' response demonstrates the power of intercession. He cries out on behalf of Israel. Because of Moses' prayers, the Lord lessens the sentence on Israel. The spies are struck down immediately for leading Israel to rebellion (14:36-37). Joshua and Caleb are spared because of their faith and attempts to lead Israel to obedience (14:24, 30). The rest of Israel will not see the Promised Land – they will wander in the wilderness for forty years, ultimately dying there. However, God promises to not entirely wipe out Israel. The next generation will inherit the promises of their fathers and enter the Promised Land (14:30-34).

The announcement of God's verdict is a sad moment for Israel. They begin to realize that they had sinned by complaining (14:40), but they refuse to accept God's judgment. They still desire to enter the Promised Land. Despite Moses' express denial of such an attempt, some of the Israelites ventured forth to Canaan that morning. According to the Lord's proclamation, they were met with immediate defeat at the hands of the Amalekites and Canaanites (14:45).

**JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

- It is crucial that we use our influence for good. The ten spies were judged more harshly than the rest of Israel because they led others into sin. Think about the areas of your life where God has given your influence (home, work, school, recreational activities, etc.). How can you influence people in these areas to obey God?
 - Pray that leaders in your life would use their influence for good rather than evil.
- Once Joshua was re-named wherever he went he heard people say, "Jehovah is salvation." He had a constant reminder that leading Israel was God's work; he needed

only to follow and obey. Pray a prayer of submission to God. Acknowledge that He is in control over your life and commit to faithfully following Him. Ask the Holy Spirit to fill you and help you to follow Jesus today.

3. Even when God had declared His verdict, the Israelites refused to obey. They admitted their guilt (14:40) but were not truly repentant. Have you ever heard God's direction (in prayer or through the Scriptures) and agreed with your mouth but failed to change your actions and your heart? Confess this to God and ask Him to teach you genuine repentance.

DAY 2

 **READ:** Numbers 27:12-23 and Deuteronomy 31

These passages recount the calling and commissioning of Joshua as the leader to replace Moses. In Numbers 27:12-23 the Lord leads Moses up the mountain of Abarim. Moses already knew he wouldn't enter the Promised Land because he had disobeyed God (Numbers 20:1-13). However, even when He disciplines us, God remains merciful and gracious. Here God gives Moses the chance to catch a glance of the promise. Moses can take comfort in this sight, even though he knows he will pass on to his ancestors soon.

When Moses is atop Mount Abarim he petitions God to send a new leader for Israel. The human heart is deceitful. Without godly community headed by Spirit-empowered leaders we will surely turn astray from the true God (Num 27:17). God responds to Moses' prayers by telling him to commission Joshua. Moses is to lay hands on Joshua as a symbol of transferring authority to him. This laying on of hands is also a means of imparting a gift, in this case a spirit of wisdom (Deut 34:9). Requiring Joshua to go before Eleazar, the high priest, was a reminder to rely on God's counsel. Joshua cannot lead Israel or conquer Canaan by his own strength. But the Lord is faithful and will guide Joshua continually.

Deuteronomy 31 tells us of Moses' last words before the assembly of Israel. He begins with an encouragement. The task ahead will be exceedingly difficult, but God will be there to lead you and provide you strength. Moses next gives Joshua a special encouragement. Moses knew the trials of leadership and urged Joshua to take courage because of God's character. After charging the Levites with the public reading of Scripture, Moses and Joshua approach God. God's presence as a pillar of cloud signifies His divine approval of Joshua. In our human minds we would expect God to build Joshua up here, perhaps giving him congratulations or some practical leadership tips. What God does is vastly different. He gives a prophetic warning that Israel will turn from the true God and play the harlot with Canaanite gods. Despite this foreknowledge, God will still lead them into the Promised Land. He will remain faithful to His Word and patiently merciful, giving Israel a chance to repent and worship Him wholeheartedly. Moses' last task is to share a song with Israel (Deut 32). This song would serve as a both a warning against sin and a prompting to repent after falling into sin.

JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Even before he officially took up leadership, Joshua was told that Israel would turn away from God. He had to make a choice. Would he lead diligently, following God and helping as many Israelites as possible remain faithful? Or would he resign himself to fatalism (belief that the future is already determined and we cannot change it), lead without diligence or hope and fall into sin himself? As we will see in the Book of Joshua, he took the right path. Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart. Are there any places where you've fallen into fatalism (ex. giving up hope for renewal in our country or for loved ones to receive salvation)? Confess this to God and ask Him to help you have hope.

2. As God gave Moses vision of the Promised Land, He also desires to give us glimpses of the good He has for each of us. This includes how He is going to use a trying situation for good, ways He is answering our prayers or speaking to us about heaven. Pray for such a gift today. Ask God to show you something that can give you hope and motivation to press on in the fight of faith.
3. Moses could have prayed for anything before he passed away. He chose to have compassion on Israel and pray for a leader (Num 27:17). Read Matthew 9:36-38 where Jesus echoed these sentiments. Spend time praying today that God would send labourers into the harvest in our community, region and country.

DAY 3

 **READ:** Joshua 1

Note: While reading Joshua it will be helpful to use a map of Israel's conquests. There are excellent maps in many study Bibles, in libraries and on the internet. Locating the events in Joshua on a map A) helps us follow the story and keeps us from getting confused about what Israel is doing at any given time and B) reminds us that these are real, historical events, not man-made myths.

The Book of Joshua begins with Israel in the plains of Moab. The Promised Land is only a short journey east across the Jordan River. It had been forty years since God delivered Israel from captivity in Egypt. Because of the people's rebellion, they had to spend this time wandering throughout the desert. Now the Promised Land was in sight! One can only imagine the excitement and anticipation that was in their air at the camp. Before the story continues there is a pause to remind us of an important message: God was in control of these events, not humans. The first chapter of Joshua contains one of the Old Testament's most well-known exhortations from God. Half of the chapter recites God's words to Joshua: "I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous" (v 5-6). God, in His wisdom, knew that challenging times of battle lay ahead. Joshua, like any leader, needed to know that he was not alone. God would ultimately guide Israel, Joshua needed merely to follow God.

JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Joshua did not have to be afraid of what was to come because he could trust in God's character and His promises. Joshua knew that God was faithful and all-powerful. Relying on an intimate knowledge of God can empower us to follow Him, even in the most difficult situations. Re-read Joshua 1:5-9, asking the Holy Spirit to speak to you personally through these words.
2. God's promises in Scripture are often conditional on our obedience. He promises us life and eternal reward if we will follow Him wholeheartedly (v 8). Spend some time in confession today. Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart for any hidden sin. Then ask God to speak to you about the consequences for sin and the rewards for obedience.
3. The Western Church often fails to understand the importance of personal holiness and the painful consequences of sin. How we conduct ourselves reflects a heart of either worship or rebellion. Spend some time in confession today on behalf of the Church in Canada. Take a few moments to reflect on what to confess and then repent of these sins before God on behalf of the Church. After you've done this, pray for an awakening in the Body of Christ in the area of personal holiness.

DAY 4 **READ:** Joshua 2

The action in the Book of Joshua begins in chapter two as Joshua sends out spies to the Promised Land. He secretly sends two men to obtain information that would help the Israelites successfully conquer Canaan. The spies are specifically told to get information about Jericho. Jericho was a highly fortified town located just west of the Jordan River. It was a key strategic battleground for the Israelites. As long as Jericho remained unconquered, the Canaanites could use it to maintain a foothold in the region and launch attacks against Israel.

As they enter Jericho, the spies decide to stay at the house of a woman named Rahab – a prostitute. By choosing a harlot’s home for lodging, the spies could avoid the attention that foreign visitors would inevitably attract. The first quality we see in Rahab is her bold hospitality. When the king of Jericho demands the men be handed over, she risks her life to hide and protect them. As the king’s men leave to pursue the Israelite spies elsewhere, the story shifts focus to Rahab’s conversation with the spies. In this conversation, Rahab unveils the true reason why she is protecting them: she fears the God of Israel. Word of His deeds had spread throughout Canaan and Rahab knew He was more powerful than her nation’s gods.

After revealing her heart, Rahab asks the spies for a promise of protection. She will help them safely return to the Israelite camp if they will ensure the safety of herself and her family during the invasion of Jericho. The men agreed to this under three conditions. Rahab must not share her knowledge about Israel’s impending attack with anyone. Her family must remain in her house during the attack. Finally, she must hang a cord of scarlet out her window so the Israelites would have a means to distinguish her home from the others. Rahab agrees to their conditions and sends the men on their way.

After hiding from their pursuers for three days, the spies return to Israel. Their report to Joshua is a promising one: “Surely the Lord has given all the land into our hands, and all the inhabitants of the land, moreover, have melted away before us” (v. 24).

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. The spies needed great courage to investigate Jericho. They were motivated by a strong dedication to a cause. They were willing to sacrifice their lives to see Israel in the Promised Land. Ask God to show you an area where He wants you to be brave. When He shows you something spend some time reflecting on why this area is important to Him.
2. Rahab also showed courage by housing the spies. She was motivated by a fear of the God of Israel. Because of her courageous pursuit of the God of Israel, Rahab was one of five women mentioned by name in Jesus’ genealogy. In pursuit of intimacy with Jesus and knowledge of His love for us (both of which are exceedingly important for believers) we often lose sight of the holiness and power of God. Spend some time today praying that the Church in Canada would grow in fear of the Lord. Ask God to reveal His sovereignty, majesty and power to us. Pray that we would respond with open hearts, hungry to know Him for all He truly is.
3. Does your definition of God include His sovereignty and power? Does it include His justice, kingship and holiness? If you struggle to believe these things, confess it to God. Ask Him to help you know Him more and to give you a heart of worship for all aspects of His character.

DAY 5 **READ:** Joshua 3

Here we read the story of Israel crossing the Jordan River into the Promised Land. First Joshua rises early and leads Israel to the banks of the Jordan River. They wait here three days, observing the Jordan River at its mightiest time of year (v 2, 15). The Israelites clearly trust Joshua, as they still do not know how he will lead them over. After the three days have passed, the officers go throughout the camp giving instructions to follow the Ark of the Covenant when it moves. Joshua further exhorts Israel to consecrate themselves “for tomorrow the Lord will do wonders.” A godly leader can only function in the strength and guidance of the Almighty. Thus we see a pause in the story where Yahweh speaks to Joshua, giving him encouragement and direction (v 7-8).

Next Joshua addresses Israel, sharing the reason why they will cross the Jordan River in such a miraculous way. Beginning their conquest of Canaan with miraculous help from God is meant to encourage them that God will deliver them in their future endeavors (v 10). The Israelites will be able to look back on their personal witness of God’s power should they be faced with doubt in the future. The moment the priests’ feet stepped into the Jordan, the waters piled up. God displayed His power so greatly that He caused the water to stop flowing at Adam, roughly thirty miles upstream from where Israel was crossing (v 16). The priests stood in the dry riverbed with the Ark of the Covenant until everyone had crossed to display that it was God’s power alone that caused this miracle.

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. Reflect over what you read in Scripture today. God clearly displays His power here. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you what other characteristics of God are revealed in this chapter. Spend some time praising God for these things.
2. Do you trust God? Sometimes He leads us to situations that are impossible to overcome on our own so that He can display His glorious power. Ask God to give you a heart that trusts Him even when you don’t understand.
3. Throughout Scripture we see that God loves helping His people learn to trust Him. He often does so through miracles. Think of someone you know who is facing a seemingly impossible situation. Pray for them today, asking God to work a miracle in their lives. Pray that He would help this person to trust Him.

DAY 6 **READ:** Joshua 4

Our faith-building experiences are not intended only for ourselves. In Joshua 4 the people of Israel have just finished crossing the Jordan River. The chapter opens with a directive from God to Joshua. He wants a memorial built. Joshua obeys. One man from each tribe is commanded to return to the riverbed, to the spot where the priests are standing. Each man must pick up one stone. These stones will be placed at Gilgal as a monument to what the Lord had done this day. This monument will remind future generations of what God had done, “that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the Lord is mighty, so that [they] may fear the Lord your God forever” (v 24).

Midway through the chapter there is a pause to record the specifics of how Israel just crossed the Jordan. We are reminded that the priests went first with the Ark. Next, the tribes of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh crossed. These tribes had settled

east of the Jordan, on the condition that they would help their fellow Israelites in battle (Numbers 32). The men of these tribes faithfully obeyed, leaving their homes behind to aid Israel in conquering Canaan. The rest of Israel followed and once they reached dry land the priests also left the river.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Whenever God works a miracle he wants to bless two sets of people. First, He wants to bless those who directly receive the miracle, leading them to Himself. Second, He wants to draw other people to Himself as they hear the story re-told. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you one story or situation where God has come through for you personally. Ask Him who you need to share this story with.
2. Building monuments can be beneficial in our own lives. When we are faced with seasons of doubt or attacks from the enemy one of the tools we can use is remembering the truth of what God has done in our lives. Holding fast to our personal experience with Jesus can help us weather any storm. There are countless different ways we can set up reminders for ourselves of who God is and what He has done. For example, some people keep journals of their experiences that they read through periodically, others have artwork in their homes that remind them of God. Ask God how you can set up such a reminder in your life.
3. Pray for the parents and children in our church family today. God clearly wants older generations to teach younger generations how to follow Him (v 6-7, 21-24). Pray that parents would humbly and prayerfully decide how to raise their children in righteousness.

DAY 7



READ: Joshua 5

Chapter 5 tells us that the kings of the Amorites and Canaanites are fearful because they have heard of how Israel crossed the Jordan (v 1). While they were afraid of Israel before (2:9-10), they were able to keep some sense of security because their land bordered the Jordan River. Surely, they thought, it would be impossible for an entire nation to cross. Now they have seen God's power at work and must be uncertain about their other military defenses. This fear prevents the kings from attacking immediately, giving Israel a chance to pause in their campaign and rest in their camp. During this time of rest, Joshua is commanded to circumcise the nation. The men of Israel had not been circumcised in the desert. They are about to inherit the land God promised them in His covenant with Abraham. Undergoing circumcision signifies their choice to live wholly by this covenant, forsaking their own will (Genesis 12 and 15).

This time of rest before engaging in the inevitable military campaign also allowed Israel to fulfill another part of God's law: observing the festival of Passover. This serves as a reminder that even though they will soon go forward as soldiers, the Israelites are first and foremost children of God. Once the Passover ends, the Israelites eat some of the food they find in Canaan. At this point the heavenly provision of manna ceases. Where God once provided manna to sustain Israel, He is now providing land on which they can settle and grow food.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Again, we are reminded that the sons of Israel perished in the desert because they did not listen to God's voice (v 4-6). Obedience is crucial in walking intimately with Jesus. Spend some time in confession today, asking the Holy Spirit to show you where you have turned from His ways.
2. Everything we have is a gift from God. We have nothing apart from what He has provided for us. Make a list of all the blessings in your life (food, clothing, shelter, relationships, work, etc.). Thank God for each of these blessings. Save this list and go back to it regularly, adding things as they come to mind and thanking God for all He has given you.
3. In Joshua 5 we see that Israel's course of action was directly affected by how the kings viewed God. Spend some time praying for our government today. Pray that our leaders would get a personal revelation of who God is. Pray that out of this revelation they would learn how to go to Him for insight, wisdom and strength in leading our country, province and city. Pray that our government would see how the true definitions of goodness and morality come from God's character and that they would work to see this goodness and morality enacted.

DAY 8



READ: Joshua 5:13-6:27

The time has come for Israel's conquest. They have been waiting for God's direction to move forward and He will not leave them to be shamed for their faith. The story begins when Joshua is met by the host of the Lord's armies. The angel's title reminds us that the battles we face are not merely against flesh and blood, but are also being waged in the heavenlies (Ephesians 6:12). Before hearing the angel's message we are reminded that the inhabitants of Jericho are terrified. They have sealed themselves in and will not leave to make a first strike. Interestingly, they also do not leave the walls to offer peace. This suggests that, while they were scared, the citizens of Jericho firmly believe that they will be triumphant because of the strength of their walls. The angel begins by assuring Joshua that the victory has already been won. Even though the walls stand and the people of Jericho remain, the Lord has already delivered Jericho into Joshua's hands.

The angel then proceeds to give Joshua the Lord's directions for Israel. These directions are highly unorthodox for an offensive manoeuvre. Seven priests are to march around the city blowing trumpets, followed by the Ark of the Covenant. They will be preceded and followed by armed men. They will do this for seven days, and then repeat this act seven times on the seventh day. All the while, none of the Israelites can say a word until Joshua gives the command. Imagine the sight for the people of Jericho. What lunacy it would appear to be! Surely any rational leader would plan a military strategy, not a parade. Again, we see that God's ways are higher than human ways. On the seventh day, after the seventh time circling Jericho, Joshua gives the command and the people let out a shout. At their shout, the walls of Jericho tumble. God chose to act in a way that would increase the Israelites' dependence on Him instead of increasing their dependence on human power or weapons. Surely He also intended this as a test of faith, obedience and patience. Obeying God's command, even when it seems foolish, displays a heart that earnestly longs for God's salvation. It was because of their faith that the walls of Jericho fell (Hebrews 11:30).

The story of Jericho closes with a warning. Except for certain items which will go into the Lord's treasury, everything is to be destroyed. All humans and living creatures are to be killed (with the notable exception of Rahab and her family – see 2:17-19). Everything

else must be burned. At the time it was standard practice to take spoils from victorious battles. It was considered the victor's right. Refusing to take Jericho's goods made a bold statement. Israel was a separate nation dedicated to God. They were not to meddle with the new cultures and religions of Canaan.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. When the walls of Jericho fell they likely killed many of the townspeople. The very thing the people relied on for protection wound up being their downfall. Ask God if there is anything you are relying on in your life that keeps you from relying on Him. What are your "walls of Jericho"?
2. Go back to your list of blessings from yesterday. Thank God for these things again. Today, try to go into specific detail in your thanksgiving. For example, you can thank God that food not only nourishes our bodies, but it also comes in a variety of flavours which we can enjoy. You can thank Him that your home not only provides shelter, but it is a place for your family to grow in unity and for you to show hospitality to others. When we really think about our thanksgiving instead of just rattling off a list, our hearts begin to grow in genuine gratitude.
3. Pray for our church family today. Ask God to grow us in faith and obedience. He wants His Body to do great things in His name! Great faith and great obedience are required for this.

DAY 9



READ: Joshua 7

Now that Israel has conquered Jericho, they are ready to continue advancing into Canaan. Their next target is Ai. After sending spies, Joshua determines that Ai will be an easy victory. Only two or three thousand men need to go to battle. It should have been a simple victory. So why did Ai win, killing thirty-six of Israel's men? This was Joshua's question. He approached the Lord in a state of mourning to inquire about this. The answer was simple. God had decreed a ban on the things of Jericho and somebody in Israel had disobeyed. Somebody stole goods under the ban and deceived the rest of Israel. Because of this the entire nation was living under judgment. God's help and protection did not go with them in battle against Ai.

Thus, the entire nation is called forth. First the tribe of Judah is chosen by lot. Then the family of the Zerahites. Next, the household of Zabdi, and finally, the lot falls to Achan. As all is revealed, we find out that Achan had indeed stolen goods from Jericho and was hiding them under his tent. Joshua pronounces judgment. Achan, along with all living things in his household and all of his goods are to be stoned and then burned with fire. No trace of Achan's sin may remain in the camp.

This passage contains a piece of information that many people struggle to accept. In verse 24 we see that Achan's sons and daughters are stoned for his sin. In order to interpret this verse we need to take it in context of what the entire Bible says on this topic. Some passages seem to indicate that God does punish children for their parents' sins (Exodus 20:5, 34:6-7). Others clearly state that each person will have to give account for their own sins, not for anyone else's (Ezekiel 18:20, Deuteronomy 24:26). God's Word is infallible, so both of these statements must be true. The key lies with the difference between consequence and punishment. Nobody will face punishment for anyone else's sins. We must each face judgement for our sins alone (unless we are cleansed by Jesus' blood, which sets us free from eternal judgment!). However, it is true that children do feel the

effects of their parents' sins. For example, if one parent commits adultery, surely the children will be affected. Joshua 7:24 shows Achan's children receiving punishment, so we can reason that they have also sinned. While we must hold our thoughts loosely if they are not explicitly written in the Bible, it is safe to assume that Achan's children knew about their father's sin. The objects in question were stored under the floor of his tent – not exactly a concealed hiding spot. If Achan's children knew about his sin and did not bring it to light then they were guilty of lying. They chose to hide their father's sin over ensuring the well-being of their entire nation.



JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. God is the same yesterday, today and forever (Hebrews 13:8). If he dealt justly with sin in the Old Testament we can be assured that He will deal justly with sin in our lives. Ask the Holy Spirit to search your heart for hidden sin. Confess this to God and ask for His forgiveness.
2. Jesus is so good to us. If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and purify us from all unrighteousness (1 John 1:9). Meditate on this truth today. You do not have to live under condemnation if Christ has set you free!
3. Go back to your blessings list again. What does it say about God's character that He would choose to bless us in these ways? Write your answer down in your journal and thank God for who He is.

DAY 10



READ: Joshua 8

God does not condemn those who repent. Israel turned from the sin of Achan and all was restored. The first words God speaks to Joshua after this incident are encouragement, "Do not fear or be dismayed. Take all the people of war with you and arise, go up to Ai; see, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land" (v 1). According to the Lord's command, Joshua rallies his troops. Rising early in the morning, Joshua and his people go out to Ai. When the king of Ai saw them, he advanced into battle. After such an easy victory the last time they battled, Ai must have wondered why Israel would even try. Every man of Ai left in pursuit of Israel. When Joshua's men retreated, the men of Ai continued advancing. They would not allow a mere retreat, giving Israel a chance to attack another day. This day the victory would belong to Ai once and for all. However, the king of Ai was unaware of the lynchpin of Israel's strategy. An Israelite ambush lay in wait. The ambush arose and set the empty city on fire. They advanced from the rear, surrounding the men of Ai. What seemed like an easy victory for Ai ended in a catastrophic defeat instead.

This time Israel followed the Lord's commands faithfully. This time God went with them into battle, claiming the victory as His own. Joshua's response shows that he knows it is God who brought them into victory. Joshua builds an altar on Mount Ebal and sacrifices peace offerings to Yahweh. He also inscribes the altar with a copy of the Law of Moses. Here Joshua fulfills the command Moses had given while Israel was wandering in the desert (Deuteronomy 27:4-6). All those in Israel are present as witnesses. Joshua also takes this occasion to read aloud the Book of the Law to the Israelites, another command given by Moses (Deuteronomy 31:12). They have been reminded of the blessings and curses associated with the Law. They have also been reminded of God's promises. Though there is much land left to conquer, this ceremony marks a shift in mindset for Israel. The land is theirs. Here they will worship God and witness the fulfillment of His promises.

**JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. Ask God to reveal His heart for you today. Write down whatever you receive, even if you do not fully believe it yet. Thank God for how he sees you and loves you!
2. Israel experienced victory at Ai because they obeyed God's directions. Ask God what directions He has for you today. Commit to following through on whatever He shows you.
3. Pray for Christians in our area today. The Bible is vital to knowing Him personally and obeying Him wholeheartedly. Ask God to give Christians a burning desire to study and meditate on His Word. (You can also pray this for yourself when reading the Word seems dry!)

DAY 11**READ:** Joshua 9-10

In Joshua 9 we see the danger of making major decisions without the counsel of the Lord. Word is quickly spreading about Israel's military victories. They have crossed the Jordan River, defeated Jericho and crushed Ai. Israel is a force to be reckoned with. A group of men from Gibeon decide that instead of facing Israel's military, they will deceive Israel into a peace treaty. Joshua falls for their tricks and enters into a peace covenant with these men. Notably, he fails to seek the Lord on this decision. When the truth comes out, Israel is bound. They cannot go back on their word and therefore are unable to conquer the Gibeonites.

Despite the Israelites' lack of submission, God remains faithful and sovereign. In chapter 10 we see how He works on behalf of Israel. A coalition of five Amorite kings hears about Israel's treaty with the Gibeonites. They are afraid because both Israel and Gibeon have proven to be powerful military players. The five kings decide to strike first. As a result, Joshua leads troops to defend Gibeon. This is where God reveals His supremacy. He grants victory to Israel by confusing their enemies. Further He sends hailstones so large that they kill more people than the Israelite soldiers do! His resolve increased by this victory, Joshua proceeds to lead the Israelites to conquer the southern territory of the Amorites. Instead of condemning Israel for their poor decision, God used it to bless them by giving them more land!

**JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. What decisions are you facing right now? Ask God for His insight. He is sovereign and all-knowing. He is capable of protecting us from disaster and leading us onto a good path.
2. It is important to act with wisdom in our daily affairs. When Joshua was approached by the Gibeonite men his first response was, "How can we be sure you don't really live in the land?" It would have served Joshua well to investigate these men's claims more thoroughly before making a peace treaty with them. God often guides us through the voice in our minds that tells us to act wisely. Ask God to fill you with His wisdom and give you the ability to discern between godly, biblical wisdom and the wisdom of the world. Pray that as you read His Word it would enable you to grow in discernment.
3. Pray for the young people in our church family today. Pray that they would seek the Lord for His will, thereby avoiding the kind of mistake Israel made in chapter 9. Pray that God would give them patience in waiting on His will. Pray that they would grow in wisdom and avoid rash decisions.

DAY 12**READ:** Joshua 11-12

Joshua 9-10 describe how God delivered the southern region of the Promised Land into Israel's hand. Joshua 11 tells us how He delivers the northern regions. When Jabin, king of Hazor, hears that Israel is quickly conquering the region he decides to take action. He rallies his fellow northern kings to go into battle. This has the makings of a fearsome sight – their armies were "as many as the sand that is on the seashore" (11:4)! Yet God tells Joshua to not be afraid. In only one day, Israel will have victory. Strengthened by this promise from the Sovereign Lord, Israel goes forth into battle. God, who is ever faithful, delivers the enemy into Israel's hand. The people are conquered and their kings executed. Hazor's destruction is given special mention because they led the northern coalition against Israel. Those who lead others into evil deeds and fail to repent will receive their due judgment, be it on earth or in eternity.

This truth about reaping what we sow helps us interpret a difficult verse: "For it was the LORD himself who hardened their hearts to wage war against Israel, so that he might destroy them totally, exterminating them without mercy, as the LORD had commanded Moses" (11:20). We know from Genesis 15:16 that God allowed the inhabitants of the Promised Land time to repent. Four hundred years passed between the time God gave His covenant to Abraham and the time Joshua entered the land. In this time the Canaanites remained unrepentant. We know from historical sources that the Canaanites' sin was all-consuming and repulsive. It reached to the point of sacrificing their own children to their idols. God gave them time to repent. The Canaanites knew of the God of Israel (2:9-11; 5:1; 9:1, 3; 10:1; 11:1). Further, the story of Rahab shows us that if there was any chance of the Canaanites repenting, God would have rejoiced. He desires all to repent (2 Peter 3:9). God would only harden the hearts of people who had already gone so deep into sin that they had, effectively, hardened their own hearts. As Bible scholar Roger Ellsworth sums it up, "[God's] patience ensures that his judgment comes slowly, but his righteousness guarantees that his judgment comes surely."

Joshua 12 gives us a summary of Israel's time in the Promised Land up to this point. It begins with reminding us how Israel conquered land east of the Jordan during Moses' leadership (v 1-6). Verses 7-8 give us a map of the areas of the Promised Land under Israel's stewardship. Verses 9-24 list the names of kings conquered by Israel – 31 in all. When we reflect on this chapter we see two themes. First, God sovereignly delivered the land to fulfill His promise to Israel. He is faithful. Second, God sovereignly executed judgment on the wicked kings of Canaan. He is holy and just.

**JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. It is easy when we read these chapters to assume victory came immediately. At times God worked quickly in Israel's favour (11:6). However, there were also times when God required Joshua to lead Israel in battle for long periods of time (11:16-18). The same is true in our own lives. Sometimes God gives us immediate victory and sometimes He asks us to fight in His power for a long time. In some situations we will only receive the fullness of victory when we see Jesus face to face in heaven. Ask God what situation in your life requires perseverance. Pray for Him to fill you with steadfastness and resolve in this area. Ask if there are any steps He wants you to take in this area.
2. Spend some time doing a heart check today. The Canaanites were so deep in sin that they could not repent. We must take this soberly, as a warning. Not one person has reached a level of maturity that it is impossible for them to fall away. Is your heart soft

or hard towards God? Some things to consider are: Do you eagerly await His leading and follow with joyful obedience? Do you delight in spending time with Him? Are your purpose and identity founded in Christ? Confess as necessary.

- We too were once dead in our transgressions (Eph 2:1-5) but, praise God, He has brought us to life in Christ Jesus! Spend some time in thanksgiving for this today. After thanking God for your salvation, pray that the people in our church family would grow in softness toward God. Finally, pray for someone you know who is still living in sin, apart from Jesus. Pray that they would find God's greatest gift: salvation through faith in Christ Jesus (Eph 2:8).

DAY 13

 **READ:** Joshua 13

Despite the amazing victories Israel has experienced so far, the job is not yet finished. Chapter 13 opens with God speaking to Joshua. God lays out exactly what parts of the Promised Land Israel does not yet possess (v 1-5). The areas God lists are scattered throughout the Promised Land. They are also the most populous Canaanite regions. With Joshua's age, it is apparent that he will not live to see Israel in complete control of the land. Yet God makes a promise, "I will drive them out before the sons of Israel" (v 6). There are several possible reasons why God told this to Joshua. It would lead the Israelites to love and worship Yahweh – He is good to them! A constant reminder that God's will is best would prevent the Israelites from settling for second best. Following God would be far better than making treaties or intermingling with the Canaanites. Finally, this message from God would remind the Israelites to be prepared for war. They could not fully rest until they had received their full inheritance.

God then commands Joshua to apportion the land. This will partially be a prophetic act, since Israel does not yet possess all of the land. It will be an act of faith that God will come through. Joshua will apportion land by lot. First, we are reminded that the other tribes are not left without provision. As Reuben, Gad and the half tribe of Manasseh were first to receive their land, their borders are recounted first (v 15-32). This description provides a model by which Joshua will divide the land west of the Jordan River.

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

- Spend time in worship today. Praise God for being a good father and wanting the best for His children. Think of the ways God has revealed Himself to you recently and worship Him for this. If it helps, play some worship music and praise God through this.
- Persevering until we see the fulfillment of God's promises requires strength and determination. It is not always easy. However, the greatest rewards are set aside for those who persevere until the end. This is true of our prayer lives. When we begin to see good fruit we are too often satisfied and stop praying. However, God intends these firstfruits to be a taste of the greater things He has to come! Ask God what He wants you to persevere in prayer for. Commit to interceding for this person, situation, etc. until God tells you to stop.

DAY 14

 **READ:** Joshua 14

In chapter 14, Joshua begins to divide the land. Before Joshua can apportion land to each of the tribes, Caleb comes with a request. Apart from Joshua, Caleb is the only Israelite alive from the time in the desert. Caleb faithfully served God as a spy and was promised a reward for this (v 7-8). Here we see the fulfillment of this promise – forty-five years after it was initially given. In this long time span he did not lose hope. Caleb remained confident in God's promised reward. This confidence enabled Caleb to be faithful in fighting for God and for Israel (v 10-11). Now that Israel is in possession of the land, Caleb can make his request. He asks Joshua to grant the hill country of Hebron to him and his children. Caleb promises to drive out any Anakim remaining there if his request is granted (v 12). Ever submissive to God's will, Joshua grants Hebron to Caleb.

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

- Like Caleb, we can be motivated by God's promised rewards. While God gives us a taste of his goodness on earth, the fullness of His promise awaits us in heaven. Ask God how you can grow in living your life on earth to better your life in eternity.
- When God speaks something, we can be fully confident in it. Reflect on how you read the Bible. Do you have full confidence in every word of Scripture? Where the answer is yes, thank God for giving you the ability to have faith in Scripture. It is only by His grace that we are able to believe and obey. Where you cannot fully say yes, bring this to God with honesty and humility. Ask Him to help you believe the Bible in its entirety. If we are willing to be humble, God will help our fragile hearts believe His Word!
- Spend some time interceding for the person, situation, etc. that God revealed to you yesterday. Ask God how you can pray for this area today. When you receive something, pray it with shameless boldness. When God reveals something to you, you can trust it!
 - Find a place to record your prayer points for this area. For example, you can use a section of your journal, a small notebook, a computer document or a smartphone app. Whenever you intercede for this area record the date and the specific things you pray for. When God shows you an answer to your prayers record this also. This way you can look back one day and have a testimony of your time with God and how He revealed His faithfulness!

DAY 15

 **READ:** Joshua 15

Joshua 15 describes Judah's inheritance. Judah's lot is described in much more detail than any of the other tribes' allocations. This reflects the prominent position the tribe of Judah has throughout Scripture (see Gen 49:8-12). Further, Judah receives land that is centrally located. This will guarantee Judah a position of influence over the other tribes of Israel. Judah did not receive such a wonderful land allocation due to favoritism, greed or any other sinful motive. God knew that Joshua was a wise, faithful leader. However, He also knew Joshua was a human with a sin nature. Joshua, like any human in a position of great power, could have faced external temptation to abuse his power. One aspect of God's grace is providing us whatever we need to serve Him and follow His will. God gave Joshua grace by requiring the casting of lots to allocate the land. This would guarantee that it was God who made the decision, not Joshua. Not only would this produce the best outcome for Israel, it would protect Joshua from any temptation to abuse his position of influence.

**JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. In the middle of describing Israel's land, the writer pauses and speaks about Caleb. Such interjections remind us how important Caleb's example is. Reflect on Caleb's story (see Joshua 14 and/or Numbers 13-14 if you need a refresher). Why is it so important? Why do you think Caleb is so highly esteemed in Scripture? Ask the Holy Spirit to show you how you can become more like Caleb.
2. God is a God of order and details. As people with differing interests and personalities, some of us naturally love this about God and others have difficulty understanding why this is good. That is okay – God made us all unique! However, we cannot use our unique design to ignore parts of Scripture. Read 2 Timothy 3:16-17. The next few chapters in Joshua contain large amounts of detail. Pray that God would help you grow in appreciation of these portions of Scripture. Pray that He would speak to you through this section in Joshua.
3. Every person has influence. If we are not careful, it is easy to use this influence for selfish motives. Search your heart – do you do this? Confess it to God and ask Him for one practical step to grow in selflessness with your influence over others.

DAY 16**READ:** Joshua 16-17

Joshua 16 and 17 describe the allocation of land to the tribes in Joseph's lineage – Ephraim and Manasseh. Chapter 16 details the land to be inhabited by Ephraim. Chapter 17 focuses on Manasseh. Half of the tribe of Manasseh had already settled east of the Jordan. The second half of the tribe is not forgotten. They receive a portion in the Promised Land alongside their Israelite brothers. Both Ephraim and Manasseh receive land, even though they come from the same son of Jacob. This ensures twelve allotments of land despite the Levites not receiving land. Before Jacob died he gave Joseph a generous blessing (Genesis 49:22-26). Here we see the blessing fulfilled as his family is given the honour of receiving two portions of land. Another specific blessing is fulfilled in the allotment to Joseph's sons. Moses had promised land to the daughters of Zelophad (Numbers 27:1-11). Here Joshua faithfully gives the daughters of Zelophad their due (17:3-4). God has always loved both women and men!

Chapter 17 closes with a petition from the sons of Joseph. They believe they have not received enough land. Their population is far too numerous for their allotment. Joshua's character is exemplified here again. Rather than disregarding the sons of Joseph, Joshua offers a solution. They can go to the hill country and clear more land for themselves. The sons of Joseph are resistant at first. The hill country is home to powerful Canaanites. Instead of rebuking Ephraim and Manasseh for their fear, Joshua simply states that his verdict is final. If they want more land, they will need to take courage and fight the Canaanites. Surely, with God's help, they will prove victorious (17:18).

**JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. Several times in these chapters we are reminded that the Canaanites still lived in the land (16:10; 17:12-13, 15-18). The Israelites' work was not complete. They could not yet rest. Ask God to show you any areas where you have become too comfortable and stopped working for His kingdom. Confess this and ask for His forgiveness.
2. Ask God for a step you can take today to spread His kingdom. Commit to following his direction.

3. Pray for Israel today. Israel is not merely a historical people group we read about in the Bible. They are a people and nation today! Scripture clearly states that whoever blesses Israel will be blessed and whoever curses Israel will be cursed. Pray for the Israeli government, pray for protection as a country and pray that many Jews would come to know Jesus as Yahweh.

DAY 17**READ:** Joshua 18-19

Years have passed since Israel first crossed the Jordan River. Now the time has come for them to settle in their tribal inheritances. Chapter 18 opens with a gathering of the entire nation. Joshua goes before the assembly and addresses them: "How long will you put off entering to take possession of the land which the Lord, the God of your fathers, has given you?" (17:3). Israel had been wandering for forty years in the wilderness. Now they are physically present in the Promised Land, but have not settled and established permanent homes. Many are accustomed to a nomadic lifestyle. The idea of settling surely came with some fear of the unknown. Joshua addresses this fear directly by requiring a number of the Israelites to assist in the process of allocating land. Three men from each of the nine remaining tribes go to survey the land. They return with recommendations for how Joshua should divide the remaining land. With these recommendations in hand, Joshua casts lots and grants the Israelites their inheritance (18:10-19:48).

Chapter 19 closes with a description of how Joshua received his own inheritance (19:49-50). Upon further reflection we see that these verses contain much significance. Joshua was a prophetic picture, or a foreshadow, of Israel's true leader – Jesus Christ. Joshua led the people to defeat their enemies and claim Israel's promised inheritance. The fulfillment of this prophetic foreshadowing is Christ defeating Satan and leading us into our eternal inheritance. It is easy to stop here, but the parallel continues. Joshua chose his inheritance and the people of Israel granted it to him. So too, Jesus chose His inheritance; He chose each of us. Jesus could have chosen anything for an inheritance (and surely Jesus will receive everlasting dominion). His Father is the maker and owner of the entire universe. Yet, in His love, Jesus desired us above all else. As Joshua chose his city, so Jesus chose us. As Israel freely gave Joshua his city in return for what he had done for them, so too we must freely give ourselves to Jesus for what he has done for us.

**JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. Jesus chose you as His inheritance! Reflect on that today. He sees you as more valuable than anything in the entire universe! What does this mean for your life? How should you live in response to this?
2. We are only told of two men who received a personal inheritance – Caleb and Joshua. Both men acted faithfully and obediently throughout their entire lives and God rewarded them for this. Ask God about your character today. Let Him affirm your good qualities and lovingly correct your weaknesses.
3. Pray the lost today. Specifically, pray by name for the people in your life who do not walk with Jesus. Pray that they would come to know the amazing privilege of an intimate relationship with Him. Pray that they would know the joys of having their identity rooted in Him. Pray that they would come to Him to find true life.

DAY 18

 **READ:** Joshua 20-21

Joshua 20 describes the cities of refuge set apart by God. If any person unintentionally killed another, they could flee to a city of refuge. In this city, they would receive protection from anyone seeking to kill them because of their accident. This is a perfect example of how God's justice surpasses our own. While He had already set apart laws and consequences, God knew people would still be tempted to take justice into their own hands. God set apart these cities to protect the innocent from wrongful death. Further, he allowed both Israelites and foreigners to enter this protection. God's perfect justice extends to every nationality!

Joshua 21 recounts the how God set apart cities for the Levites. God was their inheritance, so the Levites did not receive a land allocation as the other tribes did. However, He also cared about their practical needs (Matthew 6:31-33). He knew that the Levites would need places to live and land to grow food. He had promised them cities and pastureland through Moses (21:2, Numbers 32:5-8). So here we see lots cast to distribute cities to the Levites, fulfilling God's promise.

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. Thank God for His justice. Ask Him how you can rely on His justice more. Ask Him to show you how you can let go of the need to fight for yourself and instead trust Him more fully.
2. Re-read 21:43-45. This is the reason why God included such detailed lists in Joshua. They serve as evidence of His faithfulness. Think back over how you read Joshua 12-21. Were there any times when you skimmed, not trusting the goodness of these passages? If so, confess it to God, knowing He forgives. He is patient with us as we learn to study His Word! Reflect on 21:43-45. Ask God what He wants to say to you through these verses.
3. While God had promised the Levites cities and pastureland, the Levites had to take action to make this happen (21:1-3). Look back over your prayer assignment from days fourteen and fifteen of this devotional. If you have been faithfully praying for this area, thank God for giving you grace to persevere! If you have struggled to continue, confess this and receive God's forgiveness. One of the primary ways God has us "take action" in His kingdom is through prayer. Ask God how you can pray for this area today, then spend time interceding.

DAY 19

 **READ:** Joshua 22

Chapter 22 begins with Joshua summoning the Reubenites, Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh. He commends them for faithfully fighting for Israel. Now that their fellow Israelites have been settled, the Transjordan tribes may return to their homes. Joshua gives them one charge: "Only be very careful to observe the commandment and the law which Moses the servant of the Lord commanded you, to love the Lord your God and walk in all his ways and keep His commandments and hold fast to Him and serve Him with all your heart and with all your soul" (v 5). The most important admonition Joshua could give was to honour God above all else. When we serve God first, He will guide us to the right path in every other area of our lives.

When the Transjordan tribes arrive at their homes, they join forces to erect a large altar. This alarms the tribes west of the Jordan. They assume this altar is to a foreign god, so they send a delegation to rebuke the Transjordan tribes (v 13-20). After the delegation speaks, the sons of Reuben, Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh respond. Indeed, they did not build this altar to a foreign God. They were concerned for future generations. Perhaps Israelites west of the Jordan would one day have scoffed at Israelites east of the Jordan. The tribes east of the Jordan built an altar to signify that they were, indeed, children of Yahweh. The altar would serve as a monument to maintain unity in Israel, not a temple for false idols.

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. Joshua could have said anything to the Transjordan tribes in his send-off speech. The advice he gave them was simple: be careful to obey everything in God's law. Reflect on how you respond when someone shares their struggles with you or asks for guidance. Are you quick to offer advice or do you point them to the Word of God? Ask God how you can grow in leading others to His Word.
2. The tribes west of the Jordan River acted rashly. Motivated by memories of Peor (Numbers 25) and Achan (Joshua 7), they nearly started a civil war. When we act rashly instead of taking time to pray and assess the situation, it can have dire consequences. Look at how you make decisions. Are you someone who jumps into things quickly and alter regrets it? Maybe you're someone who waits unnecessarily long to make decisions and lets life slip you by. Ask God to speak to you about how you make decisions.
3. Pray for unity in the Church. This is one of God's greatest desires. Ask Him to help our primary allegiance to be to Him, not to denominations, traditions or church walls. Pray that Christians would be quick to forgive each other and make amends. Pray that our unity would be our greatest testimony to unbelievers.

DAY 20

 **READ:** Joshua 23

Joshua is now advanced in age. He is nearing death and is settling his affairs. First he calls the leaders of Israel together. Joshua wants to leave a legacy. He wants Israel to continue following God in his absence. The most effective way to ensure this legacy is to train others to lead Israel in following God. Joshua reminds the leaders of all that God has done so far. They have seen His power and His faithfulness. Now they must be careful to serve Him. Joshua gives them both a blessing and a warning. God is holy and just. If Israel obeys Him, he will surely drive out the nations before them. However, if Israel strays from God and takes on the traditions of other nations, God will surely punish them.

 **JOURNALING AND PRAYER**

1. Re-read this chapter. Ask the Holy Spirit to speak to you personally through these words. Write down any verses that stick out for your life and anything the Holy Spirit says to you through these verses. Respond to what He shows you – have a conversation. Thank Him for speaking to you today.
2. The best legacy we can leave is encouraging others to serve Jesus wholeheartedly. Ask God for a step you can take to do this today.
3. Pray for the parents in our church family today. Pray that the importance of leaving a

godly legacy would sink deep into their hearts. Pray that they would love Him first. The ability to parent well can only come from their relationship with Him. Pray that God would give them creative strategies to raise each of their children. Pray that He would give them physical, mental and emotional strength. Pray that He would surround parents with godly, supportive community. Pray that parents who have struggled to live like this would know that their families can be redeemed by Jesus.

DAY 21

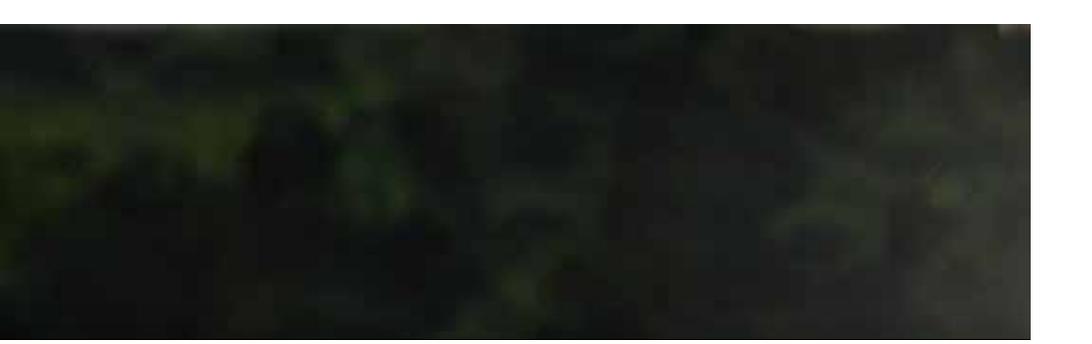
 **READ:** Joshua 24

After addressing the leaders of Israel, Joshua assembles the entire nation for his final talk. Joshua begins by sharing a word from the Lord for them. From Abraham to today, Israel has seen God move in mighty ways. God has guided and cared for Israel. He has called them and protected them. Joshua's final call to Israel is this: choose who you will serve. In light of the revelation you have of God, will you serve him or will you turn to others gods? The people responded with a passionate cry: we will serve Yahweh! However, God does not want rash commitments. Joshua encourages Israel to count the cost of following Yahweh. If they commit to following Him, they must also submit themselves to His judgment should they turn from Him. Even so, the people declare that they will serve God. Instead of celebration or congratulations, Joshua gives them a serious charge. Now you must rid yourself of foreign gods. You must serve Yahweh completely. Israel will be held accountable for their response to the revelation of God. Joshua then sets up a monument to this moment. This monument will be a witness against Israel if they turn from Yahweh. After this, Joshua dismisses the people, sending them back to their homes.

The book of Joshua concludes with Joshua's death. After faithfully serving God for 110 years, Joshua is buried in the land of his inheritance. We are told that Israel continued to serve God "all the days of the elders who outlived Joshua and had known all the work that the LORD did for Israel" (v 31). This provides foreshadowing for the Book of Judges, where Israel repeatedly turns away from the Lord. Ending on such a solemn note reminds us that we are not only responsible for our own walks with Jesus. We must also work to leave a legacy of faith for those who will follow us.

JOURNALING AND PRAYER

1. Have you counted the cost of following Jesus? We cannot fully serve God without counting the cost (Luke 14:25-33). Spend some time doing this today. What do you need to lose in order to follow Him? Read Matthew 16:24-26. Are the benefits of following Jesus worth these costs to you?
2. Reflect on your time reading Joshua. What are one or two major themes that stuck out to you? What did God speak to you through this book? How did you change or grow as a result? Reflecting on such things reminds us of God's goodness and protects us from the enemy's attempts to steal what we have learned. Thank God for what He has done for you in your devotional life recently. Ask Him for strategies to grow in your devotional life.
3. Pray for pastors and church leaders in Canada. Pray that they would grow in their personal relationships with God and their ability to faithfully lead their churches. Pray that God would also show them how to raise up leaders for the next generation. Pray that they would learn how to train and prepare other leaders to minister to their communities. Pray that our pastors and leaders would leave a lasting legacy of faith in their communities.



The Book of Joshua

The Book of Joshua records how Israel took possession of the Promised Land. Amidst the stories of spies, military campaigns and the organization of a new nation we see God's faithfulness, holiness and power displayed. He fulfilled His promises and gave victory to the Israelites. Above all rises a call to careful obedience. As we grow in our knowledge of God we must honor Him with personal and corporate holiness.

Joshua 23:6 (NIV)

"Be very strong; be careful to obey all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, without turning aside to the right or to the left."



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