

“As for me and my  
house, we will serve  
the LORD”

Joshua 24:15

**MBSF**

**Book of Joshua**

**2022**



# The Lord Commands Joshua - Joshua 1:1-18

## Open It

1. When have you experienced a major change in your life?
2. Why do you think change makes people feel uncomfortable?

## Explore It

1. What prepared Joshua to lead the nation of Israel into the Promised Land? (1:1)
2. What specific steps did the Lord instruct Joshua to take in order to be successful? (1:7)
3. What did God say meditation on the Book of the Law would accomplish? (1:8)
4. How did the Israelite leaders respond to Joshua's instruction? (1:16)
5. What would happen to a person who disobeyed Joshua, according to the Israelite leaders? (1:18)

## Get It

1. How does Joshua's response to God and, in turn, the Israelites' response to Joshua motivate you to respond to overwhelming responsibilities in your own life?
2. What does this passage teach you about how to deal with negative emotions, such as fear, self-doubt, and discouragement?

## Apply It

What concrete action can you take in the next few days to get over fear or discouragement?



## Rahab and the Spies - Joshua 2:1-24

### Open It

1. Why do you think children enjoy the game "Hide and Seek"?
2. Under what circumstances do people usually try to make a deal with God?

### Explore It

1. Why did Joshua send spies to Canaan? (2:1)
2. How did the king of Jericho respond to the message that there were spies in his city? (2:3)
3. What reassurance did Rahab give to the spies? (2:8-9)
4. What were Rahab's beliefs about the God of Israel? (2:11)
5. Who received the credit for the Canaanites' fear of the Israelites? (2:24)

### Get It

1. What is one Christian value that you feel you need to take a stand on to be a more effective witness for Christ?
2. What does the conclusion of this passage teach us about God's faithfulness to believers who take risks because of their faith?

### Apply It

What is one small risk you think God might want you to take in sharing your faith or standing up for what is right?



## **Crossing the Jordan - Joshua 3:1-4:24**

### **Open It**

1. Why do you think family traditions are important to many people?
2. What are some of your special family traditions?

### **Explore It**

1. What is the setting of this story? (3:1)
2. How were the Israelites to know that God was with them and would drive out their enemies from the land of Canaan? (3:10-13)
3. Why did the Lord tell Joshua to choose twelve men from among the Israelites? (4:2-3)
4. How did the people of Israel respond to the miracle God performed on their behalf? (4:14)
5. According to Joshua, for what two reasons did God perform this miracle? (4:24)

### **Get It**

1. What does this passage teach you about the reason God works through believers?
2. What are some tangible things that remind you of what God means to you or what He has done for you?

### **Apply It**

What memorial or sign could you set up to remind yourself of God's work in your life?





## Circumcision at Gilgal - Joshua 5:1-12

### Open It

1. For what reasons have you lost touch with some of your good friends from high school or college?
2. How does it feel to be reunited with a friend you haven't seen for a long time?

### Explore It

1. What did the Amorite and Canaanite kings hear about the God of Israel? (5:1)
2. How did Joshua respond to the Lord's command to circumcise the Israelites? (5:2-3)
3. To whom had the Lord promised the land of Canaan? (5:6)
4. How did the Lord respond to the Israelites' obedience to His command to be circumcised? (5:9)
5. What issue was reconciled through the circumcision of the Israelites? (5:9)

### Get It

1. What does this passage show us about the reliability of God's promises?
2. In what creative ways can we celebrate our reconciliation with the Lord?

### Apply It

Keeping in mind a specific promise from the Lord, how can you remind yourself to claim this promise when you need it most?



## **The Fall of Jericho - Joshua 5:13-6:27**

### **Open It**

1. When has peer pressure motivated you to do something good?
2. What are some Christian traditions or practices that you think might seem unusual to someone who has never been inside a church?

### **Explore It**

1. Whom did Joshua meet outside of Jericho? (5:13-14)
2. What instructions did the Lord give to Joshua about defeating Jericho? (6:2-5)
3. According to Joshua, who gave the city of Jericho over to the Israelites? (6:16)
4. Why did Joshua instruct the Israelites to keep away from the devoted things in Jericho? (6:18)
5. For what reason was Rahab's life spared? (6:25)

### **Get It**

1. What does this story teach us about the attitude God wants us to have whenever we succeed?
2. What does it mean to you to be devoted to the Lord?

### **Apply It**

What is one change you can make in your life to move closer to being completely devoted to the Lord?



## Achan's Sin - Joshua 7:1-26

### Open It

1. What do you think of when you hear the word materialism?
2. How would you describe our culture's attitude toward money?

### Explore It

1. How did the Israelites act unfaithfully? (7:1)
2. How did the nation of Israel react to their loss? (7:5)
3. What most concerned Joshua about the ramifications of Israel's loss? (7:9)
4. Why had the Lord allowed Israel to lose the battle with Ai? (7:10-12)
5. How did the Israelites repent of their sin before the Lord? (7:22-26)

### Get It

1. How would you describe a good attitude toward wealth?
2. How can you guard yourself against the sin of greed?

### Apply It

How can you protect yourself from being greedy?



## **Victory at Ai - Joshua 8:1-35**

### **Open It**

1. What characteristics do you look for in a leader?
2. To what extent do you consider yourself more of a leader or a follower? Why?

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### **Explore It**

1. Why did Joshua need special encouragement when the Lord told him to attack the city of Ai? (8:1)
2. What was Israel's strategy of war to overtake the city of Ai? (8:4-7)
3. What role did Joshua play before and during the war with Ai? (8:9, 13, 18, 26)
4. What was the outcome of Israel's war with Ai? (8:20-23)
5. What did Joshua do following Israel's victory over the city of Ai? (8:30-35)

### **Get It**

1. Following the Israelites' example, how should we respond when the Lord gives us victory over a sin or weakness?
2. In what area of your life do you need a second chance?

### **Apply It**

How can you remind yourself of God's promise of victory over the struggles in your own life?





## The Gibeonite Deception - Joshua 9:1-27

### Open It

1. What does it feel like to be deceived by a friend?
2. How do your friends and coworkers view people who are dishonest?

### Explore It

1. What was the reaction of Israel's neighbors when they heard about the battles Israel had won? (9:1-2)
2. How did the people of Gibeon respond differently to Israel from the rest of their neighbors? (9:3-4)
3. Why did the Gibeonites go to such lengths to make a treaty with Israel? (9:6, 24)
4. What mistake did the leaders of Israel make in dealing with the Gibeonites? (9:14)
5. What compromise were the Israelite leaders forced to make with the Gibeonites? (9:20-21)

### Get It

1. In what circumstances do we tend to rely on ourselves instead of seeking God's wisdom?
2. What do the actions of Joshua in this story teach you about how to deal with your own mistakes?

### Apply It

How can you "inquire of the Lord" the next time you have an important decision to make?



## The Sun Stands Still - Joshua 10:1-15

### Open It

1. When have you had to depend on a friend, and how did it make you feel to admit your need?
2. What is the most exciting answer to prayer you have ever seen or heard about?

### Explore It

1. What did the king of Jerusalem hear about Joshua? (10:1)
2. Why did the five kings of the Amorites join forces? (10:5)
3. What three miracles did the Lord perform to ensure the Israelites' defeat of the Amorites? (10:9-13)
4. How did God answer Joshua's unusual request? (10:13)
5. According to the writer of this passage, what did the delay of the sun and moon demonstrate? (10:14)

### Get It

1. How can we cultivate and increase our faith in God?
2. What does this tell us about God's nature?

### Apply It

What specific step do you think you could take to increase your faith in God?



## **Five Amorite Kings Killed - Joshua 10:16-43**

### **Open It**

1. What will motivate you to go beyond the call of duty?
  
2. What would you say is the most significant accomplishment in your life so far?

### **Explore It**

1. Why were some of the most powerful kings in the region hiding in caves? (10:16)
  
2. Why was Joshua so determined to pursue the Amorites? (10:19)
  
3. What lesson did Joshua teach the Israelites through his actions toward the Amorite kings? (10:25)
  
4. Who gets the credit for all of the Israelites' victories? (10:30)
  
5. Why was Joshua able to conquer the whole region in one campaign? (10:42)

### **Get It**

1. What obstacle or opposition do you now face or expect to face soon?
  
2. What is one battle that you need the Lord to fight for you?

### **Apply It**

How can you remember to "be strong and courageous" because of God's presence with you?



## Northern Kings Defeated - Joshua 11:1-12:24

### Open It

1. What emotions do you feel when you face an overwhelming problem?
2. What problem-solving techniques do you practice at work or at home?

### Explore It

1. How is the combined army of the northern kings described? (11:4)
2. What encouragement did the Lord give to Joshua when he faced this immense army? (11:6)
3. What was the outcome of the battle between Israel and the northern cities? (11:8)
4. In what specific way did Joshua obey the Lord? (11:9)
5. How was the land divided after Israel had won it through battle? (11:23)

### Get It

1. What do Joshua's actions teach us about obedience?
2. What is the one problem you are facing that seems too difficult to handle?

### Apply It

What steps of obedience do you need to take in resolving a problem you are now facing?





## Hebron Given to Caleb - Joshua 13:1-17:18

### Open It

1. Why do you think peer pressure is so powerful?
  
2. What are some of the ways you've seen advertisers use "instant gratification" to sell products?

### Explore It

1. What specific instructions and promise did the Lord give to Joshua about the land that remained to be conquered? (13:6-7)
  
2. How did Joshua know how to divide the land between the tribes of Israel? (14:2, 5)
  
3. What did Moses promise Caleb because of his obedience? (14:9)
  
4. How long did Caleb have to wait before God fulfilled His promise to him? (14:10)
  
5. What was Joshua's response to the tribe of Joseph's request for more land? (17:17-18)

### Get It

1. What is one character trait of Caleb that you would want to develop in your own life?
  
2. What does it mean to follow the Lord wholeheartedly?

### Apply It

In what area of your life do you need to stand up against the pressure of others and do what is right?



## **Division of the Rest of the Land - Joshua 18:1-19:51**

### **Open It**

1. How would you describe a good leader?
  
2. How highly is humility valued in your place of work?

### **Explore It**

1. What did the Israelites do at Shiloh? (18:1)
  
2. Whom did Joshua credit for giving Israel the Promised Land? (18:3)
  
3. Why did the Levites not receive an inheritance of land? (18:7)
  
4. How did Joshua distribute the land among the Israelite tribes? (18:10)
  
5. When did Joshua receive his inheritance in relation to the rest of Israel? (19:49)

### **Get It**

1. What is one characteristic of Joshua that you would like to have in your own life?
  
2. What important decision do you have to make in the near future?

### **Apply It**

What specific steps could you take to rely on God's help in making an important decision?



## Towns for the Levites - Joshua 20:1-21:45

### Open It

1. How does it feel when a friend breaks a promise?
2. How important is it to you that a friend be trustworthy? Why?

### Explore It

1. From what did the cities of refuge offer people protection? (20:3)
2. What role did elders play in a city of refuge? (20:4)
3. How did the Israelites respond to the request of the Levites? (21:3)
4. Why did each of the Israelite tribes give up some of their land to the Levites? (21:8)
5. What specific promise did the Lord fulfill to Israel? (21:43)

### Get It

1. In what specific ways has the Lord provided protection for you?
2. What is one promise you have seen the Lord fulfill in your own life?

### Apply It

What concrete action could you take this week to demonstrate your trust in God's promises?



## Eastern Tribes Return Home - Joshua 22:1-34

### Open It

1. To the best of your knowledge, why is our legal system based on the concept of "innocent until proven guilty"?
2. How do you think you would feel if you were falsely accused of a crime?

### Explore It

1. Why did Joshua summon the Reubenites, Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh? (22:1)
2. How had the eastern tribes been blessed by their obedience to the Lord? (22:8)
3. How did the Israelites resolve their dispute with the eastern tribes? (22:13-14)
4. How did the eastern tribes respond to the accusations of the Israelites? (22:22-23)
5. How did the Israelites react to the news that the eastern tribes were not rebellious toward the Lord? (22:33)

### Get It

1. What lessons can this story teach us about resolving conflicts?
2. What does this passage reveal about the consequences of one person's sin on others?

### Apply It

What could you do to resolve the conflict peacefully the next time you have a misunderstanding with a friend or family member?





## Joshua's Farewell to the Leaders - Joshua 23:1-16

### Open It

1. What is one thing you would want to do if you did not have much longer to live?
2. How seriously would you take a dying friend's last request? Why?

### Explore It

1. Whom did Joshua credit for Israel's success in subduing their enemies? (23:3)
2. How was Israel capable of conquering the powerful nations that occupied the Promised Land? (23:9)
3. What did Joshua say would happen to Israel if they turned away from the Lord? (23:12-13)
4. Why is it significant that Joshua gave this advice to Israel when he thought he would die soon? (23:14)
5. What stipulation was combined with the promise of the Lord's protection of Israel? (23:16)

### Get It

1. What specific steps can we take to insure that we carefully obey the commands God has given us?
2. In what way are the promises and stipulations God gave to Israel applicable to our relationships?

### Apply It

What step could you take to protect yourself against the temptations to compromise with the world?



## The Covenant Renewed at Shechem - Joshua 24:1-33

### Open It

1. What would you list as the three most significant events in your life?
2. What benefit do you see in remembering important events from your past?

### Explore It

1. Why was it necessary for Joshua to remind the Israelites what God had done for them? (24:1-14)
2. Why did the Lord save Israel from the Egyptians? (24:7)
3. What decision had Joshua made about his own faith? (24:15)
4. Why did Joshua doubt the sincerity of the people of Israel? (24:19, 23)
5. What did Joshua do to help the Israelites remember their promise to the Lord? (24:25)

### Get It

1. When is it most helpful for you to be reminded of God's faithfulness in the past?
2. What is helpful about setting up a "witness" to our commitment to serve the Lord?

### Apply It

What sort of witness could you establish to remind you of your commitment to the Lord?

