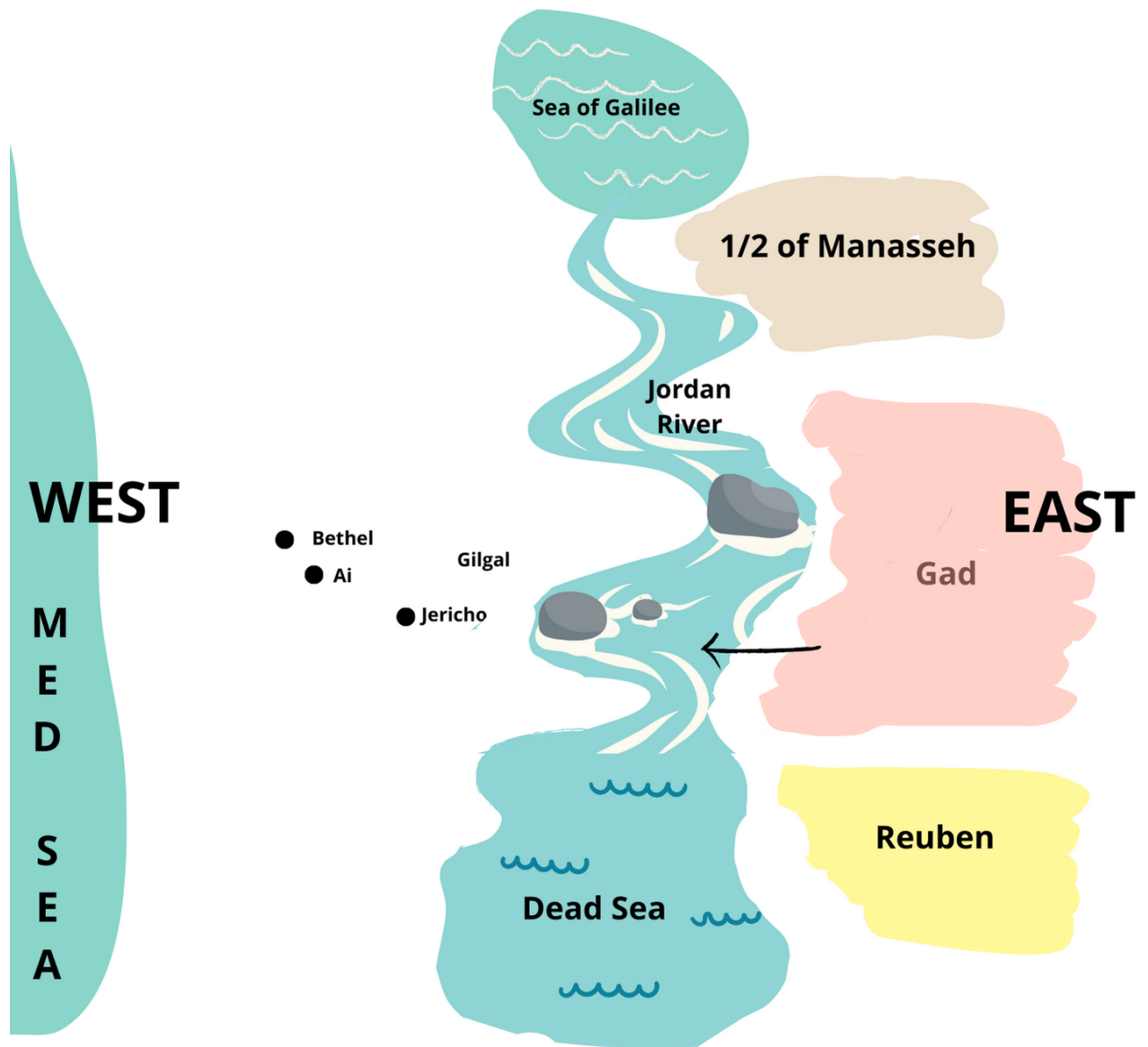


NORTH



SOUTH

Be Strong and Courageous

Joshua 1

The Children of Israel, having been delivered from their bondage in Egypt, have spent the last 40 years wandering in the wilderness as a refining punishment for their lack of faith and grumbling against God. Now they are positioned east of the Jordan River, awaiting directions.

Read Joshua 1:1-5. Notice that Moses is described in verse 1 as “the servant of the LORD.”

1. Read Hebrews 11:23-29. What examples from Moses’ life can you apply in your own life so that you can be a servant of the Lord as well?

2. Read the following verses and detail what the Holy Spirit is teaching you personally about what it means for you to be God’s servant.

John 12:26

Colossians 3:12-24.

3. **THINK:** Read about the death of Moses in Deuteronomy 34:1-7. Considering the years the Israelites spent in Egypt, why do you think God chose to bury Moses the way He did?

4. What does Deuteronomy 34:9 tell us about Joshua, and what reason is given for this?

We are introduced to Joshua in Exodus 17 as he fights against the Amalekites shortly after the children of Israel had left Egypt and crossed through the Red Sea.

5. Read Exodus 17:8-13. What was the outcome of this battle, to whom should the outcome be attributed, and why?

In the book of Numbers, the LORD tells Moses to send 12 spies to spy out the land of Canaan (the land promised to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-7). When the spies return, ten of them give a report of fortified cities, giants, and the certainty of failure if they try to take the land. Two of the spies, Joshua and Caleb, were grieved by this report and tore their clothes.

6. Read Numbers 14:6-9 and record why they felt they should proceed as planned.

7. **THINK:** Can you recall a time when you were certain failure was imminent if you were to proceed with something God had put on your heart to do? Briefly describe the details of that situation. If you proceeded, how did things work out?

8. What are some tangible things you can do to remember God's faithfulness and those times when He proved Himself to be faithful?

9. Read Joshua 1:1. Forty years later, how is Joshua described?

10. **THINK:** What comes to mind when you think about the role of an assistant? What are some of the characteristics you expect to find in a good assistant?

11. Read Joshua 1:2-5. How did God reward Joshua's dedication to the mentorship he received from Moses, and what was God's promise to him moving forward?

12. No matter our age, young or old, there is a dual role for us in the mentoring relationship. We should be open to the mentorship of women who have gone before us, and we should be willing to offer mentorship to those coming after us. What does Titus 2:3-5 tell us about mentorship among women?

Take a moment to pray and ask the Lord to show you His heart for you in mentorship, then take any steps you need to in obedience to Him. If you are seeking a mentor (someone you can call for advice and prayer) or wish to be there for someone younger than you, and the Lord places a name on your heart, I encourage you to reach out to them.

13. What two things did the Lord want Joshua to do? (v. 2)

Arise - To arise, become powerful, come on the scene, to stand, to maintain oneself, to be established, be confirmed, endure, to be fixed, to be valid, to be proven, to be fulfilled, to persist, to be set, be fixed

14. **THINK:** When you consider the definition of the word *arise*, how do you think the Lord wanted Joshua to approach the taking of Canaan?

15. What made it possible for Joshua to arise and go with confidence? (v. 5)

While this promise was given directly to Joshua, it reflects the ongoing heart of God.

Read Joshua 1:6-9.

Strong - be firm, courageous, confident

Good Courage - Imperative be bold always

16. Three times Joshua is told to be strong and courageous; record each of the reasons why he was instructed to do so.

“Be strong and of good courage...” (v. 6)

“Only be strong and very courageous...” (v. 7)

“Be strong and of good courage...” (v. 9)

Joshua needed to be strong and courageous if he wanted to be successful in completing the mission God had given him. We read in verse 9 that his strength would come directly from God’s promise to never leave him.

17. Record Ephesians 6:10. Consider memorizing this Scripture.

18. What were the three things Joshua was commanded not to do? (v. 7, 9)

Right Hand - moral deviation

19. How can moral deviation, fear, and being dismayed derail us from God's will?
(1 Peter 2:11, Proverbs 29:25, Mark 10:17-22)

20. **THINK:** Why do you think it takes strength and courage to observe (obey) the law?

21. What are some potential dangers if our courage and confidence come from a source other than God, or if we fail to be careful to observe God's laws in the pursuit of victory?

22. What would be required if Joshua was going to be successful in observing the law?
What would this look like in your own life? (v. 8)

23. Summarize the repeating message that God wanted Joshua (and us) to fully embrace and understand before moving forward with his God-given mission.

Read Joshua 1:10-11.

24. What were the Children of Israel commanded to do before they crossed over the Jordan? (v. 11)

Prepare - fix, so as to be ready, make ready

Often, God calls on us to do something, but first, we need to be prepared. Over and over again, we find examples of this in the Old and New Testaments. David is a perfect example. David was anointed to be the next king of Israel in 1 Samuel 16, but didn't become king until 2 Samuel 5; a span of approximately 17-20 years.

25. Using the headings in your Bible, scan the pages between 1 Samuel 16 and 2 Samuel 5, and record some of the events and circumstances God used to prepare David for his role as king.

26. **THINK:** Can you think of a time when God called on you to do something, but then you found yourself waiting while He prepared you for it? If so, share the details of your experience.

27. According to verse 11, why were they crossing over the Jordan and how would it be accomplished?

The Children of Israel were about to cross the Jordan River and begin their military campaign to take the land from the Canaanites. They had spent 40 years waiting for this moment. They would go on to possess the land, BUT it would be the LORD who would give it to them.

Read Joshua 1: 12-18

Reubenites, Gadites, ½ of the Tribe of Manasseh – 2½ groups of Israelites that settled in the land east of the Jordan River.

28. Turn to Numbers 32 and answer the following questions. (See map at the beginning of this lesson.)

- a. Why did the Tribes of Reuben, Gad, and ½ of Manasseh want to settle on the east side of the Jordan? (v. 1-5)

b. What was Moses' concern? (v. 6-7)

c. What was their promise in exchange? (v. 16-18)

29. Back to Joshua 1, what did Joshua want these two and a half tribes to do? (v. 13-17)

30. How did these tribes respond to Joshua? Be specific about all they did. (v. 16-18)

31. **THINK:** How can keeping promises serve as a light and a witness for God?

32. Review Chapter 1 and record everything you learned about God.

33. What can you learn from the example of Joshua, and how will you apply what you have learned to your life moving forward?

34. What can you learn and apply from the two-and-a-half tribes who settled east of the Jordan?

A Closer Look at: I Will Not Leave You or Forsake You Joshua 1:5

35. Read Joshua 1:5 and write out the promise.

Leave - let the hand drop, abandon

Forsake - to leave, loose, to depart from, leave behind, let alone, abandon, neglect

36. A similar promise is given in verse 9. What is it?

37. What conditions can be remedied by God's promise in verse 9?

It was mentioned earlier in this lesson that, while this promise was given directly to Joshua, it reflects the ongoing heart of God. Joshua 1:5 is not the first time we read of this promise.

38. Read Deuteronomy 31:6. We see in these verses that Moses is speaking to the nation of Israel (note the difference in pronouns between Joshua 1:5 and this verse). Why do you think Moses was speaking these words to everyone?

39. The promise is mentioned again in the New Testament. Read Hebrews 13:5-6.

a. What are we commanded to do in this verse?

b. What can we say as a result of God's promise to never leave or forsake us?

The book of Hebrews was written to Christian Jews after Jesus ascended to Heaven. Therefore, God's promise to never leave or forsake is also for us and not just the Israelites.

"For I am persuaded that neither death nor life, nor angels nor principalities nor powers, nor things present nor things to come, nor height nor depth, nor any other created thing, shall be able to separate us from the love of God which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

- Romans 8:38-39

40. Briefly describe what the verses in Hebrews and Romans mean for you as a believer.

41. We see this promise given to many throughout Scripture. Look up the following verses, write the promise and to whom it was given. (You may need to read the surrounding verses for clarity)

Genesis 28:15 was given to _____ by _____.

1 Chronicles 28:20 was given to _____ by _____.

Isaiah 41:17 was given to _____ by _____.

Matthew 28:20 was given to _____ by _____.

Many wrestle with fear and anxiety. There are times when we feel alone, and there is no help. However, Scripture is the best antidote for troubling times. God's promise to never leave or forsake us is the foundation for our trust in Him. We should be comforted by these words and have the courage to persevere through whatever circumstances come our way. The amazing knowledge of God's promised and continual presence is the strength we need to do what God commanded Joshua: to be strong, be of good courage, and meditate on the Word of God day and night.

God's promise to never leave or forsake us is the foundation for our trust in Him.

42. Read Psalm 118:5-8. What truths do you learn from these verses and how can these truths be applied?

43. We all have things in our lives that cause us to fear. God has given us these promises, so we can rest in them. Take some time and write about when God's promises were made known in your life. If you are struggling, write out Joshua 1:9, but put your name in the verse.
