

Sermon Study

JOSHUA: Generations – The Salvation Story Continues

Joshua 1:1,2,5,7

vision

Eastview
Christian
Church is a
fearless church
of Christ
followers whose
ridiculous love
and dangerous
witness are
irresistible.



Author's Note

Moses was a superstar. But superstars don't stick around forever. So what happens once the trusted, main event, superstar leader is gone? Is God's story just...over? Is success still possible without Moses? In this study, we'll unpack Joshua 1:2 so your group can discuss a practical plan for stepping into your role in God's ongoing salvation story.

Gather (your group getting to know each other)

Share an example of a time when you either led (or were part of) a team that accomplished something successfully.

Go

(your group on mission)

Are there any glaring problems or transitions in your group's sphere of influence that you can identify and promptly address?

Sometimes the most impactful witness to a watching world is when Christians see a need and meet it, without talking themselves out of it.

Grow

(your group growing as Christ-followers)

Key Scripture

"Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you..."
(Joshua 1:5, ESV)

Discussion

1. Have someone begin the discussion time by leading the group in prayer, then read Joshua 1:1-7.

2. Again, we'll be spending most of our time in verse 2, so the first thing to notice is that there's a **problem**. "Moses my servant is dead," says the Lord to Joshua. Something's wrong. Something has changed. Moses, the leader, the superstar, the hero, is dead. Can you share a time when an important leader in your life departed (not necessarily died, but left in some way)? Maybe it's someone with whom you had a deeply personal connection, like a family member, mentor, or friend. Or maybe the connection wasn't as personal, but you still knew the departure would have important ripple effects in your life, like a director, or CEO, or a company? Big picture, when have you felt an uncomfortable, uncertain void of leadership that you knew would affect you somehow? And how did you feel during that time?

3. So we have a problem: Moses is dead. How long does God wait to begin addressing this? What's the next word in verse 2? *Now...* The response to the problem is **prompt**. What is your experience when faced with problems? Are you prompt or passive? Why?

4. There's a problem, we're considering it promptly...now what? *Therefore* arise... Let's call this a posture of preparation and planning. The imagery is of confidently standing up and getting ready. How good are you at preparing and planning to address problems? Do you wing-it, or do you prepare? Do you try to role-play how certain difficult conversations might go, or do you improvise? Are you more strategic or spontaneous? Why?

5. Now it gets hard. We can identify a problem, look at it promptly, prepare and plan to tackle it...but in order for any of that to matter, we have to actually proceed. We have to *go*, as God next tells Joshua in verse 2. Do you struggle with putting your plans into practice? Why? What holds you back? Share examples of times when you've known what to do and done it, and also times when you've known what to do but failed to do it.

6. God tells Joshua to go...over what? *The Jordan River*. This is no small task. It's a big river currently overflowing its banks (Joshua 3:15). The truth is, as we proceed, we will still face **predicaments**, impediments, obstacles. Do you know anyone who hasn't made positive changes because they claim it's "too hard?" And when encouraged to change, they say something like, "It's not that easy?" Have you ever said those things? What obstacles and predicaments are currently holding you back? Which ones have you already overcome? Is it supposed to be easy?

7. Now we come to the *who*. You're not proceeding through these predicaments alone. It's you and all these **people**. Who are your people? Who are the people you're leading (in some way)? Who do you have the ability and opportunity to influence?

8. So where are we all going? We're proceeding through predicaments with our people toward...what? God tells Joshua they're going "into the land." So there's a destination, a goal, a **prosperous purpose** up ahead. Where are you going with your people? Think of an activity you're involved in right now (maybe short term projects, or medium term things like mentoring or careers, or even long term things like parenting). What's the destination, what's the goal, what's the purpose? Where are you hoping to go? How could having a destination in mind change your approach?

9. And over all of this, of course, is God. How is Joshua going to possess this land? Because God says, "I am giving it to you." This is God's **promise**. But how could Joshua be sure? Verse 5: "Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you." This is God's **presence**. Is God still with you? How can you be sure? Read Matthew 28:18-20 and John 14:15-17 and discuss what you think it means (or looks like) for God's presence to be with you.

10. To wrap up, as from Moses to Joshua, this is often how the salvation story continues through the generations. We will keep being presented with problems. They will require prompt attention marked by a posture of preparation and planning. And then we must proceed, persisting through pain and predicaments, with our people, toward a prosperous purpose, promised by God and protected by His presence. The question is: how can you put that pattern to work in your life right now? What is God's next movement in the salvation story of your family? Of our church? Of our community? What issues, problems, or transitions are occurring around you that you can step into like Joshua stepped into his role?

Give

(your group serving each other)

There were a lot of big questions tonight that might require some revisiting. Serve your group members this week by following-up with encouragement on some of the goals, visions, and destinations they may have mentioned.