



MONDAY 30 APRIL 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Faith & Courage

Read: Deuteronomy 34 & Joshua 1:1-6

Plug In...

We begin a new series, the book of Joshua. It flows immediately after Deuteronomy.

Remember, Deuteronomy is a big sermon from Moses to all the Israelites on the Plains of Moab about to cross over the Jordan River to take the Promised Land.

Chew It Over...

Remind yourself of how Deuteronomy ends (Deuteronomy 34). Moses is held up so high in the Scriptures, yet how does his life end?

Imagine being one of the Israelites. With Moses dead, what worries might emerge? Consider God's first words to Joshua. How do they reveal the worry and answer it?

Circumstances always produce a set of worries, fears, and doubts. What does this tell us about God and what we must do when worried about something, fearful about something, doubting something?

Prayer Suggestion

Ask God to remind you of His promises and evaporate your worries.



TUESDAY 1 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Faith & Courage

Read: Joshua 1:1-6

Plug In...

The Jordan River Valley is the deepest valley on the surface of the earth. God telling Joshua and the Israelites to *prepare to cross it* is a big ask.

Verse 3, “I will give you every place you set your foot” implies they will be able to cross it (just like the Red Sea). The Land on the other side God has promised and will indeed give.

Verse 5 suggests there will be opposition, yet any one that stands up against them will come off second-best.

Chew It Over...

Life is changing for the Israelites. There are big asks coming from God. God says, “Be strong and courageous”. But how? Where do you find such grit?

Notice what God says immediately before the charge to be strong and courageous? What from these verses do you need to know from God if you are going to risk things for God?

The New Testament tells us we are heading to an ‘inheritance’ that is better than Joshua’s Promised Land – ours is not temporary, won’t spoil, or fade ([1 Peter 1:3-5](#)). Yet that is fully in the future, right now there can be sufferings and trials ([1 Peter 1:6](#)). This means we can get involved in all kinds of sin simply because we are trying to sure-up our current life (we might chase money at the expense of God; we might chase power in a person at the distrust of God). Read [Hebrews 13:5-6](#) to see how the same promise God gave to Joshua, God gives to Christians.

Prayer Suggestion

Ask God, that despite how things look, you will trust Him in everything, knowing He's with you, for you, and knows the wisest, most good and perfect way to bring about His promises.



WEDNESDAY 2 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Faith & Courage

Read: Joshua 1:7-9

Plug In...

Being strong and courageous comes from listening closely to what God says. Both what He has done and what He said He will do.

Chew It Over...

Consider how God levels with us.

We've got no chance of being strong and courageous if we don't eat up all God's Word. What will we experience instead?

We will not be successful and prosperous as Christians unless we set God's Word as our centre, our absolute guide. It works like this. The Israelites are not going risk life and limb unless God tells them and shows them that He is most powerful. We will not risk all in following Jesus unless God tells us that despite what happens you will rise again – and shows us that Jesus rose from the worst possible situation.

How central is God's Word in the rhythms of your life?

Where can you see God's Word is making a difference in how your life works out?

Prayer Suggestion

Ask God to move you by His Spirit to meditate on God's Word. To structure your life, actions, thoughts, attitudes, behaviours around Jesus, confident that Jesus has you covered.



THURSDAY 3 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Faith & Courage

Read: Joshua 1:9

Plug In...

Joshua 1:9 “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Chew It Over...

Face today with a resolve to follow Jesus’ commands. Whether it is forgiving someone, loving an enemy, sacrificing something for the advantage of another, risking a relationship as you mention Jesus, let this truth drive you forward.

Prayer Suggestion

Thank God that He is with us. Ask to be strong. Request the courage of the Spirit. May God propel us with no fear in confidence that He has it all in hand.



FRIDAY 4 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Faith & Courage

Read: Joshua 1:10-15

Plug In...

The land conquered as the Israelites approached the Jordan - some tribes asked Moses if they could keep it. The LORD told Moses they could, but warned them not to duck being involved in the rest of the campaign ([Deuteronomy 3:1-20](#)).

Joshua reminds these tribes who already have received land to remember what they have is tied to their involvement with the whole of God's plan.

Chew It Over...

The book of Philippians keeps reminding us that God doesn't make a Christian, but makes Christians (plural). They are joined together, they partner ([Philippians 1:3-5](#)). Joshua stresses the unity that all God's people have. No matter what you already have, you are invested in the outcome.

Think about how you are invested in God's purposes through His church?

What reasons do we have for holding back? Let verses 14-15 help you work out whether they are legitimate or not.

Prayer Suggestion

Thank the Lord for all that He has given you. Ask His Spirit to help you join with meaningful ministry that makes a difference to the team of God's people and is invested in the outcomes God has set.



WEEKEND 5-6 MAY 2018

SERIES: Joshua – Faith & Courage

Read: Joshua 1:16-18

Plug In...

All Israel say they will obey the LORD through Joshua. They mean it too! For they indicate how they will be active in keeping the community tight and on track.

Chew It Over...

We are not there yet – remember [Philippians 3:2-14](#)? So, take time this weekend to renew your commitment to God's purposes. To not be on the side-lines; to be sold-out – engaged, shoulder-to-shoulder with God's people helping one another persevere to the end.

Notice the tribes of Gad, Reuben, and Manasseh and ask what you can do to encourage all God's people? What would leaning out look like at church? What would leaning in look like?

Prayer Suggestion

Ask the Lord to build thick bonds of partnership in the Gospel amongst our church. That He will help us help one another stay full-throttle for Jesus' name.