

KINGDOM MAN

Small Group Teaching Guide
JUNE 11, 2017



PREPARATION

STUDY

Spend the week studying Joshua 1:1-9. Consult the commentary provided and any additional study tools to enhance your preparation..

DETERMINE

Many questions have been included in this guide. Read through this lesson to determine which questions will work best to encourage, push, and grow your group.

PRAY

As you prepare, pray for the preaching of God's Word this coming weekend. Pray also for your time in this week's study and your group's openness to God's Word.

LANDING POINT

The Kingdom Man acts on faith to join God in His kingdom work.



GROUP DISCUSSION

CONFIDENTIALITY | What's said in the group stays in the group.

NO CROSS-TALK | Be considerate of others as they share. Refrain from side conversations and texting during group time.

NO FIXING | We are not in the group to fix each other. Jesus does that part.

SHARING | Be sensitive to the amount of time you share. Don't talk too much or too little. Every person brings something valuable to the group.



INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

This week you will look at what it means to be a Kingdom Man of action. To illustrate what this looks like, you will look at Joshua, a Kingdom Man God used to lead the Israelites in their conquest of the Promised Land. Men, God is calling you to be a Joshua and join Him in the work He is already doing. There are still people and places God wants to claim for His kingdom. Will you join Him?

Q: *What keeps you from taking action in a situation? Why does that hold you back?*

Q: *Think of someone you know who takes action in life. Describe them. What are they like?*



LEARN

Select 2-3 questions from this section to answer.

A NEW LEADER

The Book of Joshua begins with the death of Moses. God called Moses to lead the Israelites out of slavery in Egypt. For forty years, he led them through the wilderness. Because of the Israelites' disobedience, God refused to allow the first generation to enter the Promised Land (the land of Canaan). The next generation would fulfill God's promise. And they do it without their leader, Moses. After Moses' death, God called his assistant, Joshua, to lead the people into Canaan.

READ: *Read Joshua 1:1-9. What stands out to you in this passage?*

A CALL TO BE STRONG & COURAGEOUS

This is a critical moment in Israel's history. They were about to enter a land filled with danger and opposition. There were giants in the land, and the occupants would not give it up without a fight.

Many Israelites were afraid. Wives knew their husbands might die on the battlefield. Imagine the thoughts of some—if not most—of the men. They're about to head into hostile territory and fight an enemy on their own turf. Their army was small in comparison to the many tribes that occupied the land. Their resources were limited compared to those of the enemy.

On the surface, Israel looks like a true underdog. But, in reality, they aren't. Before they enter the land, God speaks to Joshua and reminds him that their victory is certain. All they have to do is obey and be strong and courageous. God would do the rest.

🗣️: *Imagine yourself in Joshua's position. What would that be like for you?*

🗣️: *Have you ever had to lead in a difficult situation? If so, what was that experience like for you?*

🗣️: *God tells Joshua to be strong and courageous three times. Why was it important for Joshua to do this?*



LIVE

Select 2-3 questions from this section to answer.

LET GO, MOVE FORWARD

Moses had been a faithful servant to God, but he was gone and someone had to take his place. The conquest of Canaan was about to begin and God wanted Joshua and the Israelites to look forward, not backward. Kingdom Men learn from the past. They learn from mistakes, failures and successes. But they don't live in the past. They understand that there is kingdom work to be done, and that God has chosen us to be His vessels.

Q: *What keeps people stuck in the past? What helps them forward?*

SEIZE THE INHERITANCE

God promised Abraham and his descendants the Promised Land. Now, he would make good on His word through Joshua. All Joshua and Israel had to do was obey. God would give them the victory. Kingdom Men understand that God has a plan for each of us. He has set us on a path in life. Not only that, but he leads us on that path. And, with every step on that path, the Kingdom Man acts in faith, believing God will be true to His Word.

Q: *What does it mean to act in faith?*

STAY FOCUSED

Sometimes men get so caught up in the everyday details and demands of life that they lose sight of what truly matters. How many stories have you heard of men who slaved away for years at work to provide for their family only to realize that they sacrificed their family in the process?

Of all things, fear is the number one thing that can put men in the ditch and off the path. Fear can paralyze you and make you hold back when God wants you to lean in.

If you want to be a Kingdom Man, you need to stay focused on God and His strength and not be intimidated by whatever opposition you face in life. God promised to be with Joshua, and He promised him success in the mission. Despite the real dangers that were in the Promised Land, God wanted the Israelites to face them with His strength and courage.

Q: *Do you identify with any of the things listed that put men off the path? If so, which ones?*

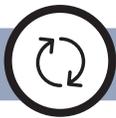
STAY CONNECTED

Joshua had already showed courage. He was one of the twelve spies sent into the Promised Land to inspect it (Num. 13:1-33). While ten of the spies were struck with fear by the size of the giants there, Caleb and Joshua didn't see them as a huge problem. "Let us go up at once and occupy [the land], for we are well able to overcome it."

But notice the source of Joshua's courage – God. His God was bigger than the giants in the land. As the Israelites prepared to take the Promised Land, Joshua needed to stay connected to God. He needed to remember that this wasn't his battle. It was God's.

How to remain strong and courageous as a Kingdom Man? By staying connected to God's Word. That's what God reminded Joshua and all Israel to do in vv.6-9. When we stay connected to God's Word, we see people and problems with a better perspective. The giants don't seem so big after all. And impossible problems become opportunities to exercise faith and expect God to move.

Q: *What's one change you can make to be more connected to God's Word?*



LEAD

Select 2-3 questions from this section to answer.

BAND OF BROTHERS

Joshua was no Lone Ranger. He didn't carry out God's mission alone. He led an army of men and they took the Promised Land together. Every Kingdom Man needs a Band of Brothers with him. God doesn't want him to take on the mission alone. To be alone on the battlefield puts you at a serious disadvantage against the enemy. You're never more vulnerable to the enemy than when you're alone.

Today, men face the same enemy and his tactics haven't changed. He will try to isolate you from others. The Kingdom Man understands this and makes sure he has a band of brothers in his life. These brothers hold one another accountable. They encourage each other, cover each other's weaknesses and stay focused and connected to God.

Q: *What are the benefits of having a Band of Brothers in your life? Write down the names of these men in your life.*



PRAY

Ask God to reveal ways you can be a man of action in your life. Women, ask God for ways to encourage men to be faithful as husbands and fathers. Pray for your group, that everyone would see more clearly the path God has set them on and that each person would walk it in faith.



FOLLOW UP

Midway through this week, send a follow-up email to your group with some or all of the following:

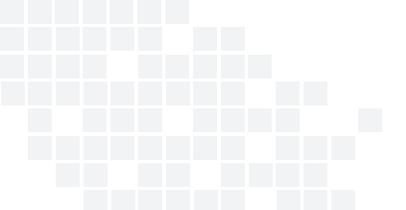
- *Read Numbers 13:1-33 and reflect on the different reactions of the spies when they gave their report about the land.*
- *Ask the group to share any stories or lessons learned where they see God at work in their life.*



COMMENTARY

MORE ON JOSHUA: Joshua means “Yahweh saves” or “Yahweh is salvation” in Hebrew. In Exodus, Numbers and Deuteronomy, Joshua was Moses’ assistant. He assisted Moses in both religious and military matters. Eventually, he succeeded Moses as leader over the Israelites. As a military general, he led the Israelites in their conquest of the Promised Land in Canaan and oversaw the division of the land to the twelve tribes. Outside of the Pentateuch, Joshua and Judges, he is only mentioned twice in the OT. Nevertheless, he is remembered as a faithful and strong leader, and the book that bears his name shows how God is faithful to His promises.¹

GOD’S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM: “Part of God’s covenant with Israel through Abraham (Gen 12:1, 7; 13:15–17; 15:12–21). The promise is inherited by Isaac (Gen 26:3), Jacob (Gen 28:4, 13; 35:12), Joseph (Gen 48:4), and the rest of Jacob’s sons (Gen 46:1–4; 50:24). This land, resembling the Eden that God’s people had lost, would “flow with milk and honey” (Exod 3:8; Num 13:27; Deut 6:3). It is a land otherwise occupied, the land of Canaan, until God gives it as a possession to the Israelites as promised (Gen 12:5; 23:2; Exod 3:17; Lev 14:34; Deut 32:49).”²



THE BOUNDARIES OF THE PROMISED LAND: “The Land of Promise is to stretch from the wilderness in the south to Lebanon in the north, and from the river Euphrates in the (north) east to the Great Sea (the Mediterranean) in the west.”³

DAVID’S MIGHTY MEN: The Bible has its own version of the Band of Brothers – David’s Mighty Men (or the Gibborim). A list of these men is found in 2 Samuel 23:8-39 and chronicles the actions of 37 men who fought bravely for David. Where are your Mighty Men in your life? Who is it that will fight for you and be there for you in the heat of battle?

ENDNOTES:

1. Douglas Mangum, “Joshua the General, Son of Nun,” ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).
2. Nancy Persons, “Promised Land,” ed. John D. Barry et al., *The Lexham Bible Dictionary* (Bellingham, WA: Lexham Press, 2016).
3. Crossway Bibles, *The ESV Study Bible* (Wheaton, IL: Crossway Bibles, 2008), 394.