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## Resources/Commentaries used for this study:

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## Welcome!

We are so glad you have decided to join us for this study of Joshua! After 40 long years of wandering in the wilderness, the next generation of Israelites are positioned at the border of their promised land, and directed to go in! Will this new generation, under a new leader, follow God more wholeheartedly than their parents? Let's find out together!

Joshua is a book of warfare, action, and adventure which also communicates timeless truths about God's faithfulness and His holiness. Its contents are under intense scrutiny in our time, as people struggle to come to terms with stories of violence in the Old Testament, and what they communicate about the character of God. We will not be dodging these issues, but will talk about them openly and honestly, investigating the entire scriptural witness together, and determining how we can understand and learn from this period in Israel's history. We trust that our time together studying the book of Joshua will help you to know and love God better, and equip you to engage with potential questions and objections raised by friends and family members. We are excited to work through it with you.

During each week we will work through these steps:

#### At Home: Personal Study

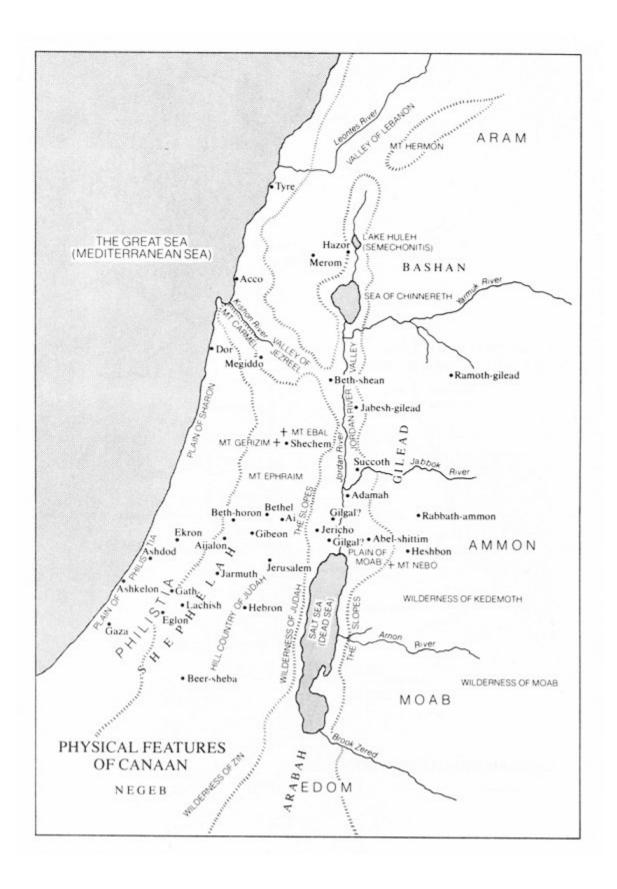
- Each week you will have the opportunity to study the text at home in preparation for our weekly meetings. It is not mandatory to complete the study (please attend even if you don't finish or start!), but it is recommended because, as you come into contact with God's word, the Holy Spirit will teach you, rebuke you, correct you, and train you in righteousness (2 Timothy 3:16). As you meet with others, you can share your questions and your insights, and add meaningfully to the group discussions.
- The Personal Study can be broken down into 4 steps which are explained on the next page:
  - Step #1 Observe the Text
  - Step #2 Understand their Story
  - Step #3 Connect to His Story
  - Step #4 Apply to Our Story

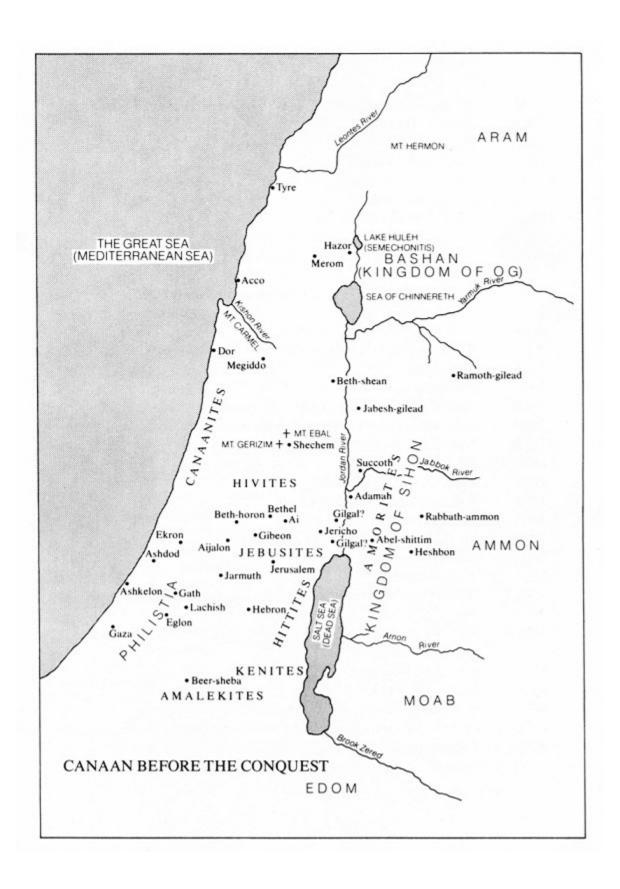
#### At Bible Study:

- Small Group Discussion Each week's Bible study will begin with small group discussion. We will
  read the scripture together and discuss what we learned from our personal study.
- Large Group Teaching One of our large group teachers will teach on the text, drawing out biblical themes and application points.
- Worship Singing and Prayer We study the bible to know our God better, not simply to be filled with bible knowledge. With this in mind, we aim to spend time in prayer and/or worship singing each week: helping knowledge to move from our heads to our hearts, and to affect the work of our hands.

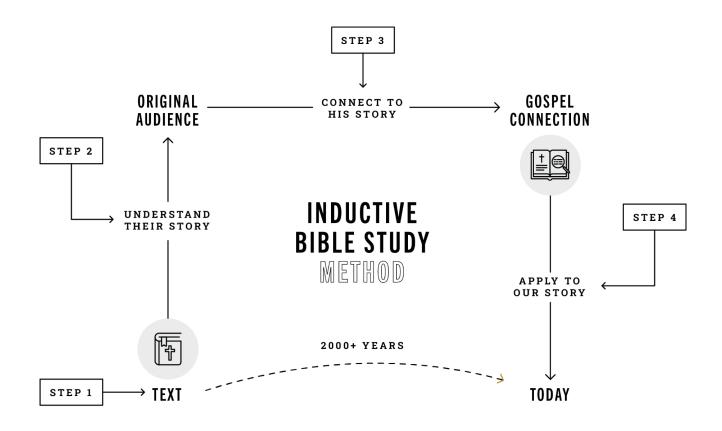
We look forward to learning from God and from each other as we study Joshua together!

The Discipleship team of Northview Community Church





# How we are going to study the text each week:

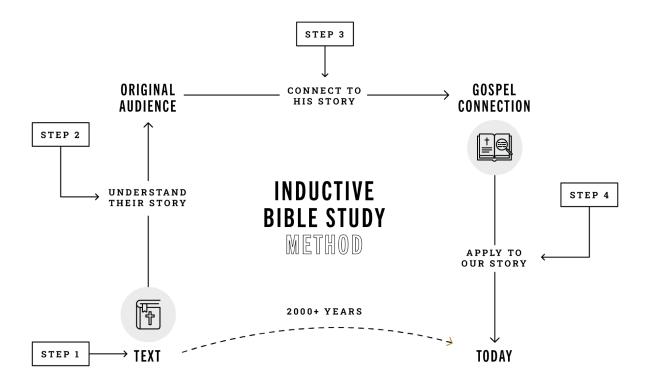


#### Personal homework section:

- ☐ **Step 1**: Observe the text by reading it several times and marking characters and key words/phrases *SO THAT* you grasp what the passage is about.
- Step 2: Understand their story by completing the observation questions in the first half of the lesson SO THAT you understand what the original author is communicating to his audience.
- ☐ **Step 3:** Connect to God's story by completing the gospel connection questions in the second half of the lesson *SO THAT you can understand where this passage fits in God's larger story of salvation.*
- Step 4: Reflect and Apply to Your story by completing the last page of each lesson SO THAT the teaching of the passage helps you to practically grow as a more deeply rooted follower of Jesus.

# JOSHUA

# Lesson 1 | Introduction to Joshua



#### Personal homework section:

- ☐ **Step 1**: Observe the text by reading it several times and marking characters and key words/phrases SO THAT you grasp what the passage is about.
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- Step 3: Connect to God's story by completing the gospel connection questions in the second half of the lesson SO THAT you can understand where this passage fits in God's larger story of salvation.
- Step 4: Reflect and Apply to Your story by completing the last page of each lesson SO THAT the teaching of the passage helps you to practically grow as a more deeply rooted follower of Jesus.

# **Lesson 1 | An Introduction to Joshua**

# Large Group Teaching

Where are we in the Bible? What is the story so far?

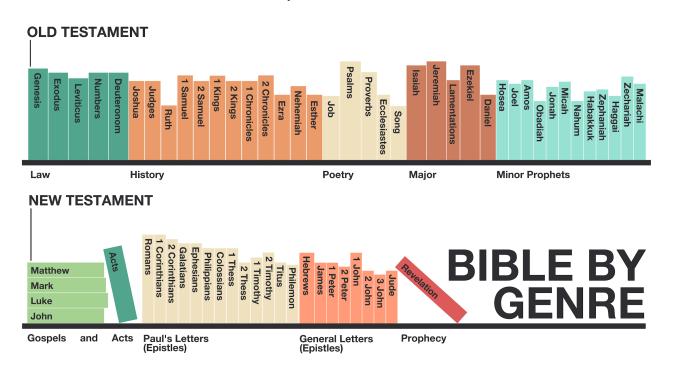


Figure 1:1 (Bible by Genre)

#### The Bible divides history into four time periods:



Figure 1:2 (Creation, Rebellion, Redemption, Re-creation)

## **Redemption: Begins with Genesis 12**

The story of redemption begins with God making promises to Abram in Genesis 12:1-3, 7.

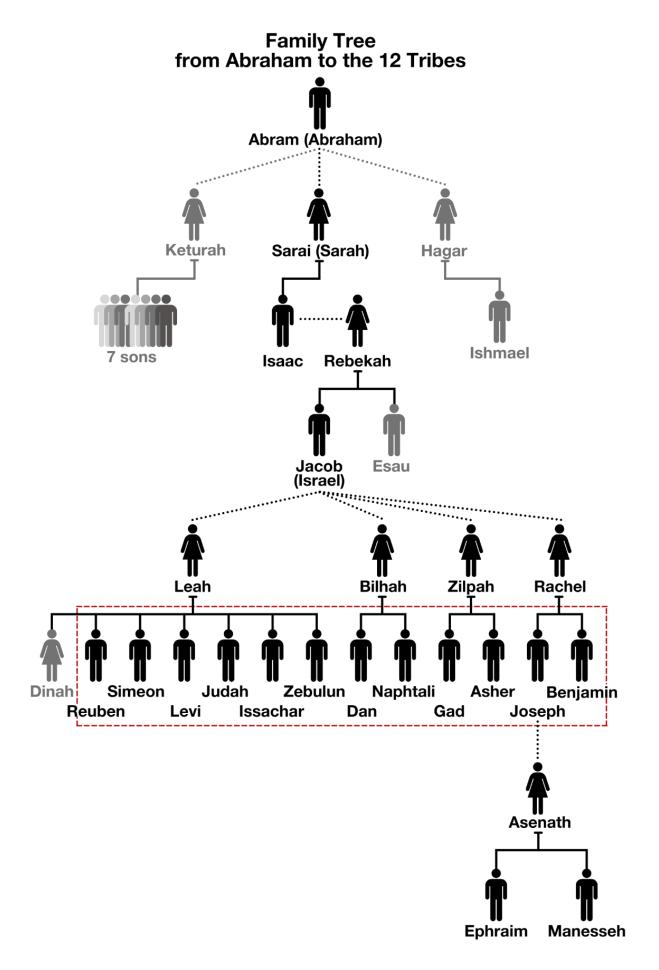
#### Genesis 12:1-3, 7

The LORD had said to Abram, "Go from your country, your people and your father's household to the land I will show you.

2 "I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you;
I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing.
3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

As the book of Genesis continues, the promises God makes to Abram are repeated to his son, Isaac (Genesis 26:1-5), and to Isaac's son. Jacob (Genesis 28:13-15). Jacob has 12 sons, and these sons become the heads of 12 tribes, which eventually make up the nation of Israel. The book of Genesis ends with Jacob's family living in Egypt. They had moved there in order to survive a famine, but the narrator reminds us that this is not their ultimate home. When Jacob dies, his family returns to "the land of promise" to bury him (Genesis 50:1-14), and when Joseph (one of Jacob's sons) dies, he asks his family to promise that they will carry his bones with them when they leave Egypt (Genesis 50:22-26).

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> The LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give <u>this land</u>." So he built an altar there to the LORD, who had appeared to him.



#### Redemption: Continues in Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy

#### **Exodus**

- Living in Egypt, God <u>blessed</u> Abraham's family (the Israelites), and they became a <u>great nation</u>.
- The King (Pharaoh) of Egypt felt threatened by them and consequently enslaved them.
- The LORD designated Moses to rescue them from Pharaoh, bring them out of Egypt, and into the land He promised to Abraham.
- God rescued the Israelites through a series of plagues and they walked through the Red Sea on dry
  ground. They journeyed to Mt. Sinai where they met God and received instructions regarding how they
  should live and how they should worship. At Mt. Sinai, they built a tabernacle (a portable temple) and
  learned how to be a "kingdom of priests and a holy nation." (Exodus 19:6).

#### **Leviticus, Numbers & Deuteronomy**

Israel packed up and began to travel through the wilderness toward the land promised by God. When
they got to the border, however, 10 of the 12 spies sent in to scout out the land were overwhelmed by
the task and discouraged the rest of the nation from entering. God punished the Israelites for their
disobedience by decreeing that they would wander in the wilderness for 40 years until the current
generation of warriors passed away.

#### Redemption: Continues in Joshua

As we begin Joshua, the wilderness wandering has been completed and the next generation of Israelites are camped on the border of the promised <u>land</u>. Moses has just died, and the mantle of leadership has been passed to Joshua. Will this group follow the LORD and their leader more wholeheartedly than their parents did? Will they actually enter the land? We are glad you have joined us to find out!

#### Small Group Discussion

As we engage with any literature or movie or drama, it is helpful to become acquainted with the main characters. The same is true when we encounter historical narratives in the Bible! To help set you up for success, we're going to spend some time introducing you to the two main characters in this book: the LORD<sup>1</sup>, and Israel's leader: Joshua.

- 1. The LORD. We know from the book of Genesis that God is the creator of the universe, who approaches the world and the people He makes with blessing. Although people rebel against Him, He continually pursues them and engages with them in space, time, and history. As He rescues them from Egypt in the book of Exodus, and brings them on the journey towards the promised land, He introduces Himself to His people in very specific ways: He provides them with His name, and with descriptions of His character. Look up the following key passages and discuss what you learn about the LORD.
  - a. Read Exodus 3:1-15 and answer the following questions.
    - i. WHAT do you learn about the place where God is? (v 5)
    - ii. **WHO** does God identify Himself with? **WHO** is He the God of? (v 6)
      - 1. **WHAT** is the significance of these people to Moses, and the nation of Israel? (review the family tree on page 10 if you are not sure!
    - iii. **WHAT** is God aware of? (v 7-10)
    - iv. **WHICH** physical senses does God refer to as He speaks about His insight into His people's situation in these same verses?
      - 1. We learn throughout scripture that God is the same yesterday, today and forever. How does it challenge or encourage you to know that He is aware, in the same way, of the situations YOU are facing?

¹ As you read your Bible you will note that the word *LORD* is sometimes written in all caps (LORD), and other times it simply follows normal grammar rules of *lord* or *Lord* depending on if it begins a sentence, or is being used as a proper noun. There is a reason for this! When you see the word in all caps (LORD), the biblical text is referring to the personal name of God (I AM who I AM) - which can be translated from Hebrew to English as *Yahweh*. The other usage of "lord", simply means master, and can be used to talk about God or about a person who is in authority over you. For more information visit https://www.gotquestions.org/LORD-GOD-LORD-God.html. To see a few good examples of both usages of this term, read Exodus 4:10-17 where Moses refers to God as *Lord*, but the text refers to him as *LORD*, and Exodus 5:22, where Moses refers to God as *LORD*. Between Exodus 4 and 5, Moses has learned to know God better, and so refers to Him by His proper name!

	V.	WHAT is God planning to do in response to His people's situation? (v 7-10)
	vi.	WHAT is God's name and WHAT does His name mean? (v 11-15)
b.	Read i.	Exodus 6:2-9 and answer the following questions.  WHAT did God do with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? (v 2-4)
	ii.	WHAT did God NOT do with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob? (v 2-4)
	iii.	HOW will the LORD redeem His people? (v 6)
	iv.	WHAT covenant promise is He planning to fulfill at this point in time? (v 8)
C.	Read i.	Exodus 34:5-8, 10-16 and answer the following questions. <b>HOW</b> does the LORD describe His character? (v 6-7)
	ii.	WHAT is Moses' response to the LORD's self revelation? (v 8)
	iii.	WHAT does the LORD promise to do? (v 11)
	iv.	WHAT is Israel supposed to do and NOT do? (v 12-14)
	V.	WHY are they supposed to do and NOT do these things? (v 15-16)
		<ol> <li>What questions or comments do you have as you reflect on the character of the LORD, and on His plans as revealed in these three texts in Exodus?</li> </ol>

2.	JOSHUA.	Joshua is the	main charac	ter in our stu	udy, but this I	book isn't the	first place h	ne shows	up!
	Review the	texts below t	o find out wh	at we learn a	about him in	earlier parts	of the biblica	al story.	

- a. Read Exodus 17:8-13. This chapter recounts Israel's first battle after being delivered from Egypt, and is the first time we are introduced to Joshua.
  - i. WHAT is Joshua's role in these verses?
- b. Read Exodus 24:12-14.
  - i. WHAT is Joshua's role in these verses?
- c. Read Exodus 33:7-11.
  - i. **HOW** is Joshua described in these verses?
  - ii. WHAT does Joshua do in these verses?
- d. Read Numbers 14:1-10. Joshua was listed as one of the twelve men who Moses sent to spy out the promised land (Number 13:8). This text in Numbers 14 records his response to the journey.
  - i. **WHAT** do Caleb and Joshua do when the people of Israel grumble against Moses and his brother Aaron? (v 5-9)
  - e. Read Numbers 27:12-23.
    - i. WHAT is happening in these verses?
    - ii. **HOW** is Joshua described? (v 18)

- f. Read Deuteronomy 31:1-8, 23
  - i. WHO formally commissions Joshua as the leader in these verses?
  - ii. WHAT is Joshua called to do?
  - iii. **HOW** do both Moses and the LORD encourage him as he engages in this task? **WHAT** words and promises do they repeat?
    - 1. What is your impression of Joshua after reading these texts? What questions or comments do you have about him or the story so far?

# Reflection: Connect to His Story (Part 2)

Old Testament texts are often "Preparatory Texts." They prepare people for the coming of Jesus by showing them the nature of sin and people's need for a Savior. With this in mind, in this week's passages...

- What do we learn about how Christ is foreshadowed/anticipated?
- O What do we learn about who God is?
- What do we learn about the relationship between God and people?
- What do we learn about the problem of sin?
- What does it look like to follow God in this text?
- O How does God save in this text?



#### Apply to Our Story

#### **ADORATION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I PRAISE God for?

#### **CONFESSION**

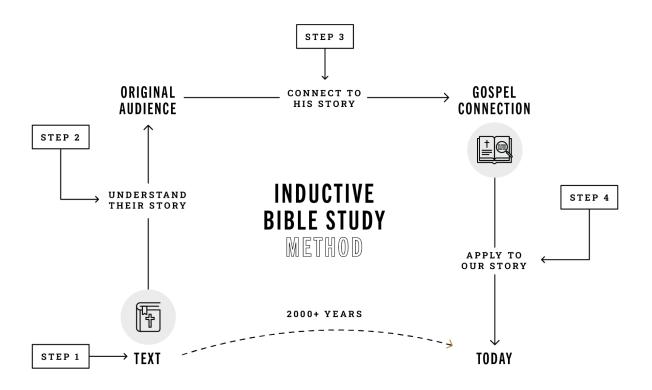
In light of this passage/lesson, what do I need to CONFESS or repent of?

#### **SUPPLICATION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I ASK God for?

# JOSHUA

# Lesson 2 | Be Strong and Courageous! Joshua 1:1-18



#### Personal homework section:

- ☐ Step 1: Observe the text by reading it several times and marking characters and key words/phrases SO THAT you grasp what the passage is about.
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# Joshua 1:1-18 (ESV)

LESSON TWO

**1** After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD,

the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant,

<sup>2</sup> "Moses, my servant, is dead.

Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel.

<sup>3</sup> Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses.

<sup>4</sup> From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory.

<sup>5</sup> No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life.

Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.

I will not leave you or forsake you.

<sup>6</sup> Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.

<sup>7</sup> Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you.

Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go.

<sup>8</sup> This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it.

For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.

<sup>9</sup> Have I not commanded you?

Be strong and courageous.

Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

<sup>10</sup> And Joshua commanded the officers of the people,

<sup>11</sup> "Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people,

'Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.'"

<sup>12</sup> And to the Reubenites, the Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh Joshua said,

<sup>13</sup> "Remember the word that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you, saying,

'The LORD your God is providing you a place of rest and will give you this land.'

<sup>14</sup> Your wives, your little ones, and your livestock shall remain in the land that Moses gave you beyond the Jordan, but all the men of valor among you shall pass over armed before your brothers and shall help them, <sup>15</sup> until the LORD gives rest to your brothers as he has to you, and they also take possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving them.

Then you shall return to the land of your possession and shall possess it, the land that Moses the servant of the LORD gave you beyond the Jordan toward the sunrise."

<sup>16</sup> And they answered Joshua,

"All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go.

<sup>17</sup> Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you.

Only may the LORD your God be with you, as he was with Moses!

<sup>18</sup> Whoever rebels against your commandment and disobeys your words, whatever you command him, shall be put to death.

Only be strong and courageous."

# **Lesson 2 | Be Strong and Courageous!**

Joshua 1:1-18

## Look at the Text: Understand their Story

In our introductory lesson we introduced you to the main characters in this study: the LORD and Joshua! As we learned about the LORD's character, we also took note of the promises He made to His people. Our study of Joshua revealed that he is aware that he is supposed to lead Israel to obtain these promises! As one commentator notes, the words in Joshua 1 are "not unexpected. They are like the starting pistol to a race that Joshua has always known he would one day run and for which he has been trained and has prepared for decades." What will Joshua need to know and do, if he is to succeed in this mission? Read the passage and answer the questions to find out!

- 1. Begin your study in prayer. Read Joshua 1:1-18 several times. Mark characters, setting, and key words/phrases and anything else that stands out.
- 2. Summarize each section to understand the flow of the narrative.
  - a. Joshua 1:1a Setting
  - b. Joshua 1:b-9 Speech #1: WHO is speaking? To WHOM is He speaking?
    - i. V 2-6: **WHAT** is the main point the speaker wants to communicate?
    - ii. V 7-9: **WHAT** is the main point the speaker wants to communicate?
  - c. Joshua 1:10-11 Speech #2: WHO is speaking? To WHOM is He speaking?
    - i. **WHAT** is the main point the speaker wants to communicate?
  - d. Joshua 1:12-14 Speech #3: WHO is speaking? To WHOM is He speaking?
    - i. **WHAT** is the main point the speaker wants to communicate?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Jackman, D. (2014). <u>Joshua: People of God's purpose</u>. (R. K. Hughes, Ed.) (p. 15). Wheaton, IL: Crossway.

	e. Joshua 1:16-18 - Speech #4: <b>WHO</b> is speaking? To <b>WHOM</b> are they speaking?
	i. <b>WHAT</b> is the main point the speaker(s) want to communicate?
	1. <b>HOW</b> would you summarize the big idea in all these speeches?
3.	WHAT title is given to Moses four times in these verses?
	a. WHY do you think he is given this title? What does it communicate about Moses?
4.	<b>WHAT</b> verb (action word) is repeatedly used to describe God's relationship with the land, as it pertains to the nation of Israel? (i.e. God is it to them).
5.	<b>WHAT</b> two verbs (action words) are repeatedly used to describe Israel's responsibility in receiving God's promise? (i.e. what is Joshua supposed to help them do with regards to the land (v 6), and what is Israel supposed to do with regards to the land (v 11, v 15)?
	a. HOW do you understand the interplay between God's actions and the people's actions in this text? WHO will be responsible for them successfully entering the land?
6.	<b>HOW</b> is the land described in verse 13? (i.e. a place of <i>what</i> ?)
	a. <b>WHAT</b> do you think this means? <b>WHY</b> is this word significant (if you don't know, take a guess!)

7.	always His pe you so relation	WHY should Joshua and Israel obey the LORD according to these verses? Throughout the Bible, we always see <i>imperatives</i> (commands) paired with <i>indicatives</i> (information about God is, who we are as dis people, or how He will reward or empower His people). God doesn't say, "Do this, because I told you so!", but rather He says, "Do this, for this reason!" Read through the text again and note the elationship between the <i>imperatives</i> (commands) and <i>indicatives</i> (information).   a. Verses 1-6  i. Imperatives (List all of God's commands)				
		ii.	Indicatives (Information: Why should they do what God has commanded? What does God promise?)			
	b.	Verses i.	7-9 Imperatives (List all of God's commands)			
		ii.	Indicatives (Information: Why should they do what God has commanded? What does God promise?)			
	C.	Verses i.	10-12 Imperative (What are the commanders to tell the people? your provisions)			
		ii.	Indicatives (Information: Why should the people do this?)			
	d.	Verses i.	12-16 Imperative (What does Joshua say the Reubenites, Gadites, and half-tribe of Manasseh shall do? Verse 13a)			

harder to understand, the Gospel Connections section should help!

Indicatives (Information: Why should they do this? (verses 13b-15)) Note: if this one is

ii.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> You may feel this question is repetitive as you've already noted the main command in each of these sections, but we don't want you to miss the WHY! God's rationale teaches us so much about who He is, and how He is with His people!

#### Gospel Connections: Connect to His Story

- "After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua..." As we noted in part one of this week's study, Moses is described as the servant of the LORD four times in this text. Throughout the scriptures, this term is used for specific people and specific types of people. Read the following text groupings and answer the questions below to understand its significance.
  - a. Servant(s) of the LORD prior to (or alongside) Moses:
    - i. Job 1:1-8. **WHO** is called a servant of the LORD in this text, and **HOW** is this person described (i.e. what character traits does he have?)<sup>4</sup>
    - ii. Numbers 14:20-24. In these verses the LORD is telling Moses what will happen to Israel because they have refused to enter the promised land. **WHICH** servant is mentioned as the exception, and how is he described (i.e. what character traits does he have?)
      - 1. Putting these examples together, what kinds of people were called servants of the LORD before (or alongside) Moses?
    - b. Servant(s) of the LORD after Moses:
      - i. Isaiah 42:1-4. **HOW** is this servant described⁵ (i.e. what character traits are noted in the text? What will he do?)
      - ii. Matthew 12:15-21. **WHO** does Matthew affirm that the Isaiah texts were prophesying about?
      - iii. Hebrews 3:1-6. **WHAT** does the author of Hebrews affirm about the relationship between Moses and Jesus?
        - 1. If we are Christians, we can trust that one day we will hear Jesus greet us with "Well done, good and faithful servant" (Matthew 25:21, 23)! How does it motivate you to know that, as you trust in Jesus (the ultimate servant!) for salvation, and follow Him, you are joining the ranks of servants who have gone before?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Because the Bible is arranged by literature type, the book of Job appears after Joshua in the table of contents; Job is considered *wisdom literature* rather than *historical narrative*. Scholars believe that the events of Job are very early in biblical history, because there is no tabernacle, ark, sacrificial system or priests in Job!

See also Isaiah 49:1-7, 52:13-53:12 if you want to read more about this servant!

- 2. "Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause these people to inherit..." Joshua is commanded to be strong and courageous four times in this text. This exhortation is not unique to the book of Joshua, but comes up at key moments in the rest of scripture. Look up the following verses to see what situations elicit this command and encouragement!
  - a. 2 Samuel 10:9-14.
    - i. These verses describe a battle during the time of David. **HOW** did Joab (David's commander) assess the situation? **WHY** did they need to be strong and courageous?
  - b. 1 Chronicles 22:6-13, and 28:20-21.
    - i. These verses relate a conversation between King David and his son Solomon. In WHAT situation does Solomon need to be strong and courageous?
  - c. Psalm 27:1-14.
    - i. WHY should people be strong and courageous, according to King David?
  - d. 1 Corinthians 16:13-14.
    - i. In the New Testament, the apostle Paul draws on this Old Testament language to encourage Christians. **WHAT** commands come before and after his exhortation to 'be courageous; be strong'? (Note: if possible, read this text in the NIV translation)
      - 1. What do the stories (a-c above), and the commands in 1 Corinthians, teach you about being strong and courageous? Is there a situation that God is calling you to face with strength and courage today?
  - e. Joshua was called to be strong and courageous to help his people obtain their physical inheritance (the land), but Christians are promised a different kind of inheritance! HOW is our inheritance described in the New Testament?
    - i. 1 Peter 1:3-5 **HOW** do we receive our inheritance? **HOW** is it described?
    - ii. Acts 20:32 WHO, and WHAT, helps us to obtain our inheritance?
    - iii. Colossians 1:11-14 **WHO** has qualified us for an inheritance? **WHAT** does this inheritance look like?

- 1. If you are a Christian, stop and spend time praising God for the eternal, imperishable inheritance waiting for you! If you are not yet a Christian, spend some time considering this offer. Are you willing to accept it? If not, why not?
- 3. "This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night." The book of the law is not an actual book, but the scrolls of Moses (Genesis to Deuteronomy). As God continued to reveal Himself to Israel, other prophets added to Moses' words and the Old Testament was eventually referred to as the Law, the Prophets and the Psalms (Luke 24:44-45). Read these verses to see what role the 'book of the law' was to play for the people of Israel.
  - a. Deuteronomy 17:14-20. Why was the king supposed to make his own copy of the law? What would it do for him?
  - b. Psalm 1:1-3. What is the benefit of meditating on the Book of the Law? What will happen to the person who does this?
  - c. 2 Timothy 3:14-17. After Jesus' life, death and resurrection the authors of the New Testament use the word *sacred writings* or *scriptures* to refer to this same body of literature. What does the apostle Paul affirm about the authorship of the scriptures, and the value of the scriptures in these verses?
    - i. How do these verses challenge or encourage you today, as you begin the journey of Bible Study this semester? What are you hoping that God will do in and through you as you read, study and pray through the scriptures?
- 4. And to the Gadites, Reubenites and the half-tribe of Manasseh, Joshua said, "Remember the word that Moses the servant of the LORD commanded you." The commands to these 2 ½ tribes (Gad, Reuben & ½ of Manasseh) weave throughout the whole book of Joshua, so it's important for us to understand the backstory in Numbers 32 as we begin reading.
  - a. Numbers 32:1-5. What do these tribes ask for?
  - b. Numbers 32:6-15. Why is Moses upset at their request?
  - c. Numbers 32:16-19. What do these tribes promise to Moses?
  - d. Numbers 32:28-32. How does Moses ensure that they will keep their promise?

# Reflection: Connect to His Story (Part 2)

Old Testament texts are often "Preparatory Texts." They prepare people for the coming of Jesus by showing them the nature of sin and people's need for a Savior. With this in mind, in this week's passages...

- What do we learn about how Christ is foreshadowed/anticipated?
- O What do we learn about who God is?
- What do we learn about the relationship between God and people?
- What do we learn about the problem of sin?
- What does it look like to follow God in this text?
- O How does God save in this text?



#### Apply to Our Story

#### **ADORATION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I PRAISE God for?

#### **CONFESSION**

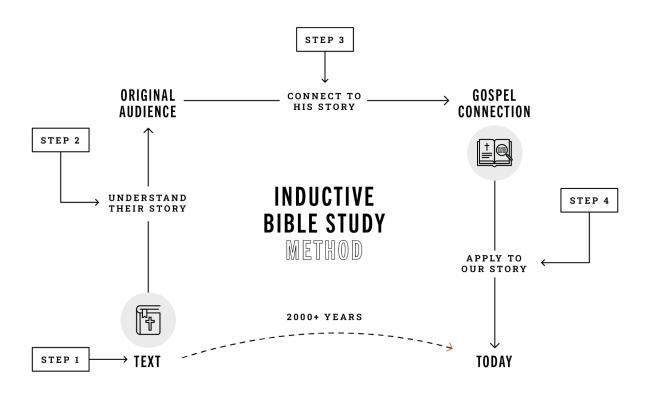
In light of this passage/lesson, what do I need to CONFESS or repent of?

#### **SUPPLICATION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I ASK God for?

# JOSHUA

# Lesson 3 | Behind Enemy Lines Joshua 2:1-24



#### Personal homework section:

- ☐ **Step 1**: Observe the text by reading it several times and marking characters and key words/phrases SO THAT you grasp what the passage is about.
- Step 2: Understand their story by completing the observation questions in the first half of the lesson SO THAT you understand what the original author is communicating to his audience.
- Step 3: Connect to God's story by completing the gospel connection questions in the second half of the lesson SO THAT you can understand where this passage fits in God's larger story of salvation.
- Step 4: Reflect and Apply to Your story by completing the last page of each lesson SO THAT the teaching of the passage helps you to practically grow as a more deeply rooted follower of Jesus.

# Joshua 2:1-24 (ESV)

#### LESSON THREE

**2** And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying,

"Go, view the land, especially Jericho."

And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab and lodged there.

<sup>2</sup> And it was told to the king of Jericho,

"Behold, men of Israel have come here tonight to search out the land."

<sup>3</sup> Then the king of Jericho sent to Rahab, saying,

"Bring out the men who have come to you, who entered your house, for they have come to search out all the land."

<sup>4</sup> But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them.

And she said,

"True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from.

<sup>5</sup> And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out.

I do not know where the men went.

Pursue them guickly, for you will overtake them."

<sup>6</sup> But she had brought them up to the roof and hid them with the stalks of flax that she had laid in order on the roof.

<sup>7</sup> So the men pursued after them on the way to the Jordan as far as the fords.

And the gate was shut as soon as the pursuers had gone out.

<sup>8</sup> Before the men lay down, she came up to them on the roof <sup>9</sup> and said to the men,

"I know that the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and that all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you.

<sup>10</sup> For we have heard how the LORD dried up the water of the Red Sea before you when you came out of Egypt, and what you did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon and Og, whom you devoted to destruction.

<sup>11</sup> And as soon as we heard it, our hearts melted, and there was no spirit left in any man because of you, for the LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath.

<sup>12</sup> Now then, please swear to me by the LORD that, as I have dealt kindly with you, you also will deal kindly with my father's house, and give me a sure sign <sup>13</sup> that you will save alive my father and mother, my brothers and sisters, and all who belong to them, and deliver our lives from death."

<sup>14</sup> And the men said to her,

"Our life for yours even to death!

If you do not tell this business of ours, then when the LORD gives us the land we will deal kindly and faithfully with you."

<sup>15</sup> Then she let them down by a rope through the window, for her house was built into the city wall, so that she lived in the wall.

<sup>16</sup> And she said to them,

"Go into the hills, or the pursuers will encounter you, and hide there three days until the pursuers have returned.

Then afterward you may go your way."

<sup>17</sup> The men said to her,

"We will be guiltless with respect to this oath of yours that you have made us swear.

<sup>18</sup> Behold, when we come into the land, you shall tie this scarlet cord in the window through which you let us down, and you shall gather into your house your father and mother, your brothers, and all your father's household.

<sup>19</sup> Then if anyone goes out of the doors of your house into the street, his blood shall be on his own head, and we shall be guiltless.

But if a hand is laid on anyone who is with you in the house, his blood shall be on our head.

<sup>20</sup> But if you tell this business of ours, then we shall be guiltless with respect to your oath that you have made us swear."

<sup>21</sup> And she said,

"According to your words, so be it."

Then she sent them away, and they departed.

And she tied the scarlet cord in the window.

<sup>22</sup> They departed and went into the hills and remained there three days until the pursuers returned, and the pursuers searched all along the way and found nothing.

<sup>23</sup> Then the two men returned.

They came down from the hills and passed over and came to Joshua the son of Nun, and they told him all that had happened to them.

<sup>24</sup> And they said to Joshua,

"Truly the LORD has given all the land into our hands.

And also, all the inhabitants of the land melt away because of us."

#### SOME GUIDELINES FOR READING OLD TESTAMENT NARRATIVES

Scholars often describe Old Testament biblical narratives as: Scenic, Succinct, and Subtle<sup>6</sup>. We'll explain each below:

• Scenic:

When you watch a play, you expect to have the story divided into a series of scenes. People will come on and off stage, and each time you see them they are involved in different actions and conversations which move the story forward. For example, in Joshua 2 we have many scenes: Joshua 2:1 Joshua gives direction to the spies; in 2:2-7 Rahab speaks with the king's men, and sends them on a wild goose chase; in 2:8-21 Rahab talks to the spies; in 2:22 the spies hide in the wilderness; and then finally in 2:23-24 the spies report back to Joshua.

Succinct:

Biblical authors communicate only the details that we need to know. They don't say how the spies traveled, whether they inspected the walls of Jericho, or if they encountered anyone else along the way! How did the king know that men of Israel had arrived at Rahab's house? We're not sure! Because very few details are actually communicated, take note of the ones which are actually mentioned as they are likely vital to the storyline.

Subtle:

Biblical authors seem to want to make their readers think deeply about the characters in their stories, and the character of God. To that end, Old Testament narratives are often very subtle. Authors throw out hints that people will catch if they read and savour the stories. The more familiar you are with biblical stories, the more likely you will "hear" these allusions and understand what the author is trying to communicate.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>6</sup> If you are interested in reading more about these categories and how to understand Old Testament Narrative, we'd recommend *The Art of Biblical History* by V. Philips Long.

# **Lesson 3 | Behind Enemy Lines**

Joshua 2:1-24

## Look at the Text: Understand their Story

In last week's lesson, both the LORD and the 2 ½ tribes exhorted Joshua to be strong and courageous as he leads Israel into the land. In today's text, we will see Joshua's courage bolstered through an unlikely source; an individual within enemy territory confirms the LORD's message. Who is this person and what is communicated? Read the passage and answer the questions to find out!

- 1. Begin your study in prayer. Read Joshua 2:1-24 several times. Mark characters, setting, and key words/phrases and anything else that stands out. Take note of any questions you may have.
- 2. Summarize each section to understand the flow of the narrative.
  - a. Joshua 2:1 Setting **WHERE** does the story take place, and **WHAT** happens before the events in verse 2-24 unfold?
  - b. Joshua 2:2-3 Conflict: WHO initiates the conflict in this narrative?
  - c. Joshua 2:4-7- WHO is the main actor in the narrative and WHAT does she do?
    - i. **WHERE** do you picture the action in Verses 2-7 taking place? (eg. How do you envision this scene? Where is Rahab? Where are the kings men as they are talking)
  - d. Joshua 2:8-13 WHY does she act the way she does?
    - i. WHERE does the action in verses 8-13 take place?
  - e. Joshua 2:14 -15 WHAT is the outcome of her actions?
  - f. Joshua 2:16-21 WHAT deal is struck as the narrative comes to a climax?

	accomplish?
3.	As the story opens, we read that Joshua sent two men <u>secretly</u> from Shittim as spies. <b>WHY</b> do you think that he sent them secretly? <b>FROM WHOM</b> was he keeping their mission secret, do you think? (If you don't have a guess, don't worry! We'll investigate this more in the next section.)
4.	<b>WHAT</b> questions do you think the narrator is expecting people to have when they read where the spies went in Jericho?
5.	WHAT emotions do you think the narrator wants us to experience when we read verse 7?
6.	WHAT does Rahab know about what the LORD will do and has done, according to verses 8-11?
7.	WHAT does Rahab know about WHO the LORD is, according to verses 8-11?
8.	<b>HOW</b> are people in the land viewing the Israelites according to Rahab? <b>WHAT</b> words does she use to describe their reactions?
9.	In verse 12, Rahab asks for a sure sign that she will be saved. As the narrative continues, <b>WHAT</b> object becomes this sure sign?
10.	WHAT three conditions does Rahab need to meet in order to ensure her safety?
11.	<b>HOW MANY</b> of the three conditions does it seem that Rahab has met by the end of this chapter?
12.	<b>WHAT</b> is significant about the report of the spies in verse 24? <b>WHO</b> are they quoting as they report back to Joshua?

g. Joshua 2:22-24 - Resolution: **HOW** is this story resolved? **WHAT** does the spies' mission

#### Gospel Connections: Connect to His Story

- 1. "And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies." It seems pretty obvious that you wouldn't tell your enemy that you were sending spies their way, so why would the narrator highlight that Joshua sends the spies secretly? We asked you this question in the first section. To confirm (or come up with!) your answer, read the texts below.
  - a. Numbers 13:1-3, 17-20, 25-33, 14:1-4
    - i. WHO commanded that spies be sent in this text?
    - ii. **WHO** was aware that spies were being sent into the land in this text? (i.e. were only Moses and the LORD aware, or were others aware?)
    - iii. **WHO** heard the spies' report in Numbers 14, and **WHAT** effect did the spies report have on the people of Israel in this text?
    - iv. WHO heard the spies' report in Joshua 2:24?
      - 1. With this story in mind, revisit your answer to question 3 on page 36. How does the story in Numbers help you to understand WHY Joshua might have sent the spies <u>secretly</u>, and from whom he was keeping their visit secret?
      - 2. In Joshua 2, God doesn't command Joshua to send spies, like He commanded Moses. It seems like this action is Joshua's initiative. WHY do you think he acted this way (ie. WAS he being fearful, disobedient, or simply strategic)? Note: the answer isn't in the text, so feel free to articulate what you think and why!
- 2. "And Joshua the son of Nun sent two men secretly from Shittim as spies, saying, "Go view the land, especially Jericho." And they went and came into the house of a prostitute whose name was Rahab." To understand what questions may have been in the minds of the original audience when this text was read, let's revisit the last time this location was mentioned in the scriptures.
  - a. Numbers 25:1-9.
    - i. **WHAT** happened at Shittim in the past?
    - ii. By bringing both locations (Shittim and Rahab's house) together as he sets the scene, **WHAT** tension do you think the narrator is developing?

- iii. **HOW** is the encounter between Israelite men and Rahab entirely different from the encounter of Israelite men and women at Shittim?
- 3. But the woman had taken the two men and hidden them. And she said, "True, the men came to me, but I did not know where they were from. And when the gate was about to be closed at dark, the men went out. I do not know where the men went. Pursue them quickly, for you will overtake them." By Rahab's actions she demonstrates allegiance to a heavenly king above her earthly king. Who else has done this in the biblical story so far, and how are Rahab's actions remembered later in scripture? Read the following texts and answer the questions to find out!
  - a. Exodus 1:8-22
    - i. WHAT were the Hebrew midwives commanded to do?
    - ii. WHAT did they do instead?
    - iii. WHAT was the result of their actions?
      - 1. Hebrew women were commended for obeying God in the past, and now, as they enter the promised land, a Canaanite woman is commended for demonstrating her allegiance to the LORD. What message does this communicate to the original audience (and to us) about WHO can be included in the people of God?
  - b. Read Matthew 1:1-6 to find out more about Rahab.
    - i. WHOSE genealogy does Rahab appear in?
    - ii. **WHO** is Rahab's daughter-in-law? What do you know about this person?<sup>7</sup>
    - iii. **WHO** is Rahab's great-grandson? What do you know about this person?<sup>8</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>7</sup> If you don't recognize Ruth's name, you can read her story in the Old Testament book of Ruth, or visit: https://www.gotquestions.org/life-Ruth.html

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>8</sup> If you don't recognize David's name, his story begins in 1 Samuel 16 and continues to the end of 2 Samuel. For a summary of his life you can read the following: https://www.gotquestions.org/life-David.html

C.	James i.	3 2:14-26.  WHAT argument is being made in these verses?
	ii.	<b>HOW</b> is Rahab's story being used by James? <b>WHAT</b> is Rahab an example of?
	iii.	WHAT did Rahab's actions accomplish for her, according to James?
d.	Hebre i.	ws 11:1-3, 29-31.  WHAT is the focus of Hebrews 11:1-3?
	ii.	WHAT happened to Rahab as a result of her faith according to verses 29-31?
		1. How has studying the story of Rahab encouraged or challenged you today?

- 4. "I know the LORD has given you the land, and that the fear of you has fallen upon us, and all the inhabitants of the land melt away before you." As Rahab communicates her knowledge of what the LORD will do, she is echoing words which have been said to Israel before.
  - a. Skim through Exodus 14. What is happening in this chapter?
  - b. Read Exodus 15:1-18, and focus on verses 14-16. What does Moses say will happen to the surrounding nations, as a result of God leading them through the Red Sea?
  - c. Read Exodus 23:20-27, and focus on verse 27. What does God say that He will do to the enemies of Israel?
    - 1. How do you think it would have affected the spies to hear Rahab speaking words that God had spoken to them before, through Moses?

- 5. "The LORD your God, he is God in the heavens above and the earth beneath." As Rahab declares what she knows about who the LORD is, the Israelites would have heard her echo still more scripture passages. Which passages is she affirming, and what is their core message?
  - a. Read Deuteronomy 4:32-40.
    - i. **WHAT** is Moses communicating about who God is in these verses? (i.e. His character & his posture towards Israel)
    - ii. WHAT does Moses want Israel to do, in light of what they know about who God is?
      - 1. What emotions do you think Moses wants Israel to feel, in light of what they know about who God is?

As the biblical story continues to unfold, these words are echoed by others.

- b. Read 1 Kings 8:22-30 for context and then focus on verse 23.
  - i. WHY does Solomon use this same phrase? WHAT is he reminding himself and Israel of, and why?
- c. Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-12 for context and then focus on verse 6.
  - WHY does Jehosophat use this same phrase? WHAT is he reminding himself and Israel of, and why?
- d. Read Isaiah 45:1-25 for context and then focus on verses 5, 14, 18 and 21.
  - i. These words are said to Cyrus (a foreign ruler who would allow Israel freedom after they were held captive in Babylon). **WHAT** does the LORD want Cyrus and Israel to know?
  - ii. WHAT does the LORD want all people to DO in light of this truth (verse 22)?
    - 1. Have you turned to the LORD and been saved? (v 22) If not, why not! If so, how does it encourage or challenge you today, to reflect on the fact that the LORD our God, is God in the heavens above and the earth below?

# Reflection: Connect to His Story (Part 2)

Old Testament texts are often "Preparatory Texts." They prepare people for the coming of Jesus by showing them the nature of sin and people's need for a Savior. With this in mind, in this week's passages...

- What do we learn about how Christ is foreshadowed/anticipated?
- O What do we learn about who God is?
- What do we learn about the relationship between God and people?
- What do we learn about the problem of sin?
- What does it look like to follow God in this text?
- O How does God save in this text?



#### Apply to Our Story

#### **ADORATION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I PRAISE God for?

#### **CONFESSION**

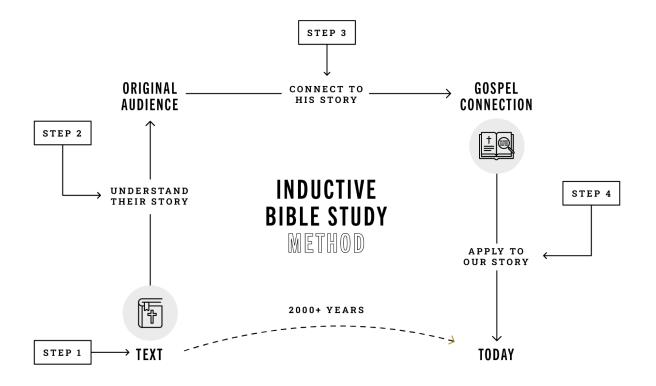
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# JOSHUA

# Lesson 4 | Into Enemy Territory Joshua 3:1-4:24



#### Personal homework section:

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- Step 4: Reflect and Apply to Your story by completing the last page of each lesson SO THAT the teaching of the passage helps you to practically grow as a more deeply rooted follower of Jesus.

# Joshua 3:1-4:24 LESSON FOUR

**3** Then Joshua rose early in the morning and they set out from Shittim.

And they came to the Jordan, he and all the people of Israel, and lodged there before they passed over.

<sup>2</sup> At the end of three days the officers went through the camp <sup>3</sup> and commanded the people,

"As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and follow it.

<sup>4</sup> Yet there shall be a distance between you and it, about 2,000 cubits in length.

Do not come near it, in order that you may know the way you shall go, for you have not passed this way before."

<sup>5</sup> Then Joshua said to the people,

"Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you."

<sup>6</sup> And Joshua said to the priests,

"Take up the ark of the covenant and pass on before the people."

So they took up the ark of the covenant and went before the people.

<sup>7</sup> The LORD said to Joshua,

"Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.

<sup>8</sup> And as for you, command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant,

'When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan."

<sup>9</sup> And Joshua said to the people of Israel,

"Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God."

<sup>10</sup> And Joshua said,

"Here is how you shall know that the living God is among you and that he will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Hivites, the Perizzites, the Girgashites, the Amorites, and the Jebusites.

- <sup>11</sup> Behold, the ark of the covenant of the LORD of all the earth is passing over before you into the Jordan.
- <sup>12</sup> Now therefore take twelve men from the tribes of Israel, from each tribe a man.
- <sup>13</sup> And when the soles of the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the LORD, the LORD of all the earth, shall rest in the waters of the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan shall be cut off from flowing, and the waters coming down from above shall stand in one heap."

<sup>14</sup> So when the people set out from their tents to pass over the Jordan with the priests bearing the ark of the covenant before the people, <sup>15</sup> and as soon as those bearing the ark had come as far as the Jordan, and the feet of the priests bearing the ark were dipped in the brink of the water (now the Jordan overflows all its banks throughout the time of harvest), <sup>16</sup> the waters coming down from above stood and rose up in a heap very far away, at Adam, the city that is beside Zarethan, and those flowing down toward the Sea of the Arabah, the Salt Sea, were completely cut off.

And the people passed over opposite Jericho.

<sup>17</sup> Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.

- 4 When all the nation had finished passing over the Jordan, the LORD said to Joshua,
  - <sup>2</sup> "Take twelve men from the people, from each tribe a man, <sup>3</sup> and command them, saying,

'Take twelve stones from here out of the midst of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests' feet stood firmly, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight."

<sup>4</sup> Then Joshua called the twelve men from the people of Israel, whom he had appointed, a man from each tribe.

<sup>5</sup> And Joshua said to them,

"Pass on before the ark of the LORD your God into the midst of the Jordan, and take up each of you a stone upon his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, <sup>6</sup> that this may be a sign among you.

When your children ask in time to come,

'What do those stones mean to you?'

<sup>7</sup> then you shall tell them that the waters of the Jordan were cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD.

When it passed over the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off.

So these stones shall be to the people of Israel a memorial forever."

<sup>8</sup> And the people of Israel did just as Joshua commanded and took up twelve stones out of the midst of the Jordan, according to the number of the tribes of the people of Israel, just as the LORD told Joshua. And they carried them over with them to the place where they lodged and laid them down there.

<sup>9</sup> And Joshua set up twelve stones in the midst of the Jordan, in the place where the feet of the priests bearing the ark of the covenant had stood; and they are there to this day.

<sup>10</sup> For the priests bearing the ark stood in the midst of the Jordan until everything was finished that the LORD commanded Joshua to tell the people, according to all that Moses had commanded Joshua.

The people passed over in haste.

<sup>11</sup> And when all the people had finished passing over, the ark of the LORD and the priests passed over before the people.

<sup>12</sup> The sons of Reuben and the sons of Gad and the half-tribe of Manasseh passed over armed before the people of Israel, as Moses had told them.

<sup>13</sup> About 40,000 ready for war passed over before the LORD for battle, to the plains of Jericho.

<sup>14</sup> On that day the LORD exalted Joshua in the sight of all Israel, and they stood in awe of him just as they had stood in awe of Moses, all the days of his life.

<sup>15</sup> And the LORD said to Joshua,

<sup>16</sup> "Command the priests bearing the ark of the testimony to come up out of the Jordan."

<sup>17</sup> So Joshua commanded the priests,

"Come up out of the Jordan."

<sup>18</sup> And when the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the LORD came up from the midst of the Jordan, and the soles of the priests' feet were lifted up on dry ground, the waters of the Jordan returned to their place and overflowed all its banks, as before.

<sup>19</sup> The people came up out of the Jordan on the tenth day of the first month, and they encamped at Gilgal on the east border of Jericho.

<sup>20</sup> And those twelve stones, which they took out of the Jordan, Joshua set up at Gilgal.

<sup>21</sup> And he said to the people of Israel,

"When your children ask their fathers in times to come,

'What do these stones mean?'

<sup>22</sup> then you shall let your children know,

'Israel passed over this Jordan on dry ground.'

<sup>23</sup> For the LORD your God dried up the waters of the Jordan for you until you passed over, as the LORD your God did to the Red Sea, which he dried up for us until we passed over, <sup>24</sup> so that all the peoples of the earth may know that the hand of the LORD is mighty, that you may fear the LORD your God forever."

# **Lesson 4 | Into Enemy Territory**

Joshua 3:1-4:24

#### Look at the Text: Understand their Story

In Chapter 1, the LORD commanded Joshua to "arise [and] go over this Jordan" (Joshua 1:2). In today's lesson Joshua finally sets God's plan in motion. Will God intervene to help them obey His commands? What else will God accomplish in this process? Read the text and answer the questions below to find out!

- 1. Begin your study in prayer. Read Joshua 3:1-4:24 several times. Mark characters, setting, and key words/phrases and anything else that stands out. *Note: this timeline and order of events can be a bit confusing! We'll try our best to help clarify the story's structure in the questions below.*
- 2. Summarize each section to understand the flow of the narrative.
  - a. Joshua 3:1 Setting. WHERE does this story take place?
  - b. Joshua 3:2-6 Preparing to Cross
    - i. WHAT are the Israelites instructed to do?
    - ii. WHAT are the Priests instructed to do?
  - c. Joshua 3:7-13 Directives for Crossing
    - i. WHAT does the LORD tell Joshua?
    - ii. WHAT does Joshua tell the people?
  - d. Joshua 3:14-17 Action: The Crossing Begins
    - i. WHAT happens in these verses?
  - e. Joshua 4:1-7 Directives for Remembering
    - i. WHAT instructions are given in these verses?

	f. Joshua 4:8-18 - Climax - Action: The Crossing Ends i. WHAT happens in these verses?
	<ul><li>g. Joshua 4:19-25 - Resolution - Action: Remembering</li><li>i. WHAT happens in these verses?</li></ul>
3.	<b>WHERE</b> do all the events of this story take place? Mark all the locations which are mentioned on the map on page 3.
4.	The ark of the covenant is a key feature of this narrative. <b>WHAT</b> do you learn about the ark in this text? (i.e. whose ark is it, who can carry it, what other name is given to it?)
5.	WHY do you think the ark is so central to this story? WHAT did it represent?
6.	<b>WHY</b> is the LORD bringing the nation of Israel through the Jordan river in this miraculous way? List all the different motivations which are mentioned in the text as the LORD talks to Joshua, and Joshua talks to the people.
	1. WHICH of God's reasons for acting most encourage or challenge you today? Why?
7.	WHAT were the priests required to do before the LORD would act?
8.	WHY do you think the LORD required them to obey before He acted?

9.	<b>WHAT</b> two things are consistently noted regarding the flow of the water. (i.e. what two things happen to the Jordan River?)
10	. <b>WHY</b> do you think the narrator inserted the comment in parentheses in Joshua 3:15?
11.	. <b>WHY</b> are 12 men and 12 stones featured in this story? <b>WHAT</b> do they represent?
12	. <b>WHY</b> does the narrator highlight the actions of a few specific tribes in this story (4:12-13)? <sup>9</sup>
13	. <b>WHAT</b> timestamp is given to this narrative as it draws to a conclusion? <b>WHEN</b> do they come up out of the Jordan?
14	. <b>WHAT</b> is your big takeaway from this story so far? <b>WHAT</b> questions do you have? <b>WHAT</b> have you learned?

1. How does this order of events encourage or challenge you today?

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 9}$  If you're not sure, review Lesson 2, Gospel Connection #4 on page 26.

#### Gospel Connections: Connect to His Story

- 1. "As soon as you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God being carried by the Levitical priests, then you shall set out from your place and follow it." Since the ark of the covenant is so prominent in this chapter, it seems appropriate to take note of what is in it, and what instructions Israel has regarding its transportation. Read the following texts to learn more!
  - a. Exodus 25:1, 10-22
    - i. WHO is speaking in this text, and TO WHOM is He speaking? (v 1)
    - ii. WHAT do you learn about the ark's construction? (i.e. What is it made of? How big is it?)
    - iii. **HOW** is the ark to be transported?
    - iv. **WHAT** is to be placed inside the ark? (v 16, 21) **WHAT** is this item?
    - v. **WHAT** is placed on top of the ark?
    - vi. WHAT do you learn from the final verse in this section?
  - b. Exodus 16:1-6, 31-36 recounts that there is a second item associated with the ark.
    - i. **WHAT** is this story about? (v 1-6)
    - ii. WHAT are the Israelites to do to remember God's actions in this story? (v 31-36)
  - c. Numbers 17:1-11 notes that there is a third item associated with the ark.
    - i. WHAT is this story about?
    - ii. WHAT are the Israelites to do to remember God's actions in this story?

- d. Deuteronomy 31:9-13 and 24-26.
  - i. WHO was to carry the ark?
  - ii. WHAT was the purpose of the law being placed inside it?
- e. Numbers 10:33-36 summarizes how the Israelites were guided through the wilderness.
  - i. **WHAT** is the significance of the ark in this text?
- f. Now read Hebrews 9:1-5.
  - i. WHAT does this New Testament author confirm about the ark?
    - 1. **HOW** do the texts in a f above help you to understand why the ark was so prominent in Joshua 3:1-4:24?
- 2. "The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you." As we learned in the observation section, the crossing of the Jordan was designed to cause people to fear and obey Yahweh, and also to validate his representative, Joshua. Look up the following texts to see how this story parallels earlier and later accounts in Israel's history.
  - a. Exodus 14:21-29, 15:19
    - i. WHAT is happening in this text?
    - ii. WHAT does the narrator repeatedly say about the riverbed that the Israelites walked over? (i.e. what was its condition (v 14:22, 29, 15:19)
    - iii. WHERE (in which verses) do you see similar language being used in Joshua 3 and 4?
  - b. Exodus 14:30-31
    - i. WHAT is the main point of these two verses?
    - ii. WHERE (in which verses) do you see similar language being used in Joshua 3 and 4?

- c. Exodus 15:1-10
  - i. **WHAT** does Moses say happened to the waters in verse 8?
  - ii. WHERE (in which verses) do you see similar language being used in Joshua 3 and 4?
- d. Exodus 19:1-15
  - WHAT instructions does God give Moses in verses 10-12?
  - ii. WHERE (in which verses) do you see similar language being used in Joshua 3 and 4?
- e. Exodus 12:1-6, 21-28
  - i. WHAT is happening in this text? (focus specifically on verses 3, and 25-27)
  - ii. WHERE (in which verses) do you see similar language being used in Joshua 3 and 4?
    - 1. **WHY** do you think the book of Joshua repeatedly echoes the language, instructions and key ideas of similar events in the book of Exodus?
- f. Now read Luke 3:1-6, 21-22.
  - i. WHAT happens in this same area several thousands of years later?
  - ii. WHO is exalted by God as he goes into the Jordan?
- g. Luke 4:1-13
  - i. **WHAT** happens after this person's exaltation?
  - ii. **HOW** does this person's experience parallel the experience of Israel? (Read Deuteronomy 8:1-4 if you need a hint!)
    - 1. Spend some time praising God for all that He accomplished at the Jordan River! Praise Jesus for remaining faithful under testing in the wilderness, so that we could be saved by His perfect obedience!

# Reflection: Connect to His Story (Part 2)

Old Testament texts are often "Preparatory Texts." They prepare people for the coming of Jesus by showing them the nature of sin and people's need for a Savior. With this in mind, in this week's passages...

- What do we learn about how Christ is foreshadowed/anticipated?
- O What do we learn about who God is?
- What do we learn about the relationship between God and people?
- What do we learn about the problem of sin?
- What does it look like to follow God in this text?
- O How does God save in this text?



#### Apply to Our Story

#### **ADORATION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I PRAISE God for?

#### **CONFESSION**

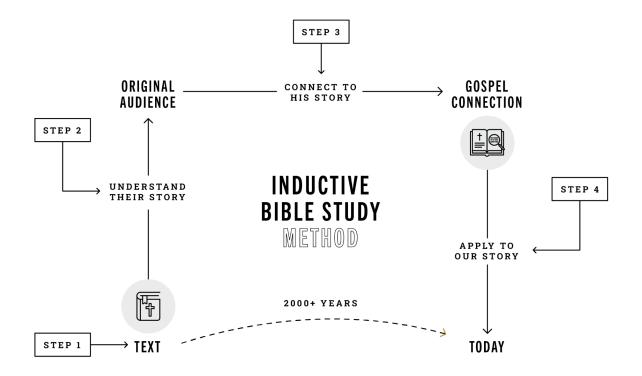
In light of this passage/lesson, what do I need to CONFESS or repent of?

#### **SUPPLICATION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I ASK God for?

# JOSHUA

# Lesson 5 | Preparing to Face the Enemy **Joshua 5:1-12**



- ☐ **Step 1**: Observe the text by reading it several times and marking characters and key words/phrases *SO THAT* you grasp what the passage is about.
- Step 2: Understand their story by completing the observation questions in the first half of the lesson SO THAT you understand what the original author is communicating to his audience.
- Step 3: Connect to God's story by completing the gospel connection questions in the second half of the lesson SO THAT you can understand where this passage fits in God's larger story of salvation.
- Step 4: Reflect and Apply to Your story by completing the last page of each lesson SO THAT the teaching of the passage helps you to practically grow as a more deeply rooted follower of Jesus.

## Joshua 5:1-12 (ESV)

LESSON FIVE

**5** As soon as all the kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan to the west, and all the kings of the Canaanites who were by the sea, heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they had crossed over, their hearts melted and there was no longer any spirit in them because of the people of Israel.

<sup>2</sup> At that time the LORD said to Joshua.

"Make flint knives and circumcise the sons of Israel a second time."

<sup>3</sup> So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the sons of Israel at Gibeath-haaraloth.

<sup>4</sup> And this is the reason why Joshua circumcised them: all the males of the people who came out of Egypt, all the men of war, had died in the wilderness on the way after they had come out of Egypt.

<sup>5</sup> Though all the people who came out had been circumcised, yet all the people who were born on the way in the wilderness after they had come out of Egypt had not been circumcised.

<sup>6</sup> For the people of Israel walked forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, the men of war who came out of Egypt, perished, because they did not obey the voice of the LORD; the LORD swore to them that he would not let them see the land that the LORD had sworn to their fathers to give to us, a land flowing with milk and honey.

<sup>7</sup> So it was their children, whom he raised up in their place, that Joshua circumcised.

For they were uncircumcised, because they had not been circumcised on the way.

<sup>8</sup> When the circumcising of the whole nation was finished, they remained in their places in the camp until they were healed.

<sup>9</sup> And the LORD said to Joshua.

"Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you."

And so the name of that place is called Gilgal to this day.

<sup>10</sup> While the people of Israel were encamped at Gilgal, they kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month in the evening on the plains of Jericho.

<sup>11</sup> And the day after the Passover, on that very day, they ate of the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain.

<sup>12</sup> And the manna ceased the day after they ate of the produce of the land.

And there was no longer manna for the people of Israel, but they ate of the fruit of the land of Canaan that year.

# Lesson 5 | Preparing to Face the Enemy

Joshua 5:1-12

### Look at the Text: Understand their Story

In last week's lesson, we saw God's miraculous power as He stopped the Jordan River, allowing the Israelites to cross on dry ground into the land of promise! What will be the first thing on their "to do list" as they begin to possess their inheritance? Read Joshua 5:1-12 and answer the questions below to find out!

- 1. Begin your study in prayer. Read Joshua 5:1-12 several times. Mark characters, setting, and key words/phrases and anything else that stands out.
- 2. Summarize each section to understand the flow of the narrative. WHAT are the major events?
  - a. 5:1 Setting: WHAT is the setting of this story?
  - b. 5:2 Conflict or Inciting Action: WHAT command drives this story?
  - c. 5:3-7 Rising Action (with explanation): **WHAT** happens next and **WHY**?
  - d. 5:8 9a Climax: **WHAT** happens at the climax of the story? **WHAT** have the actions of Joshua & the nation of Israel accomplished?
  - e. 5:9b Resolution: **HOW** is the story resolved?
  - f. 5:10a New Setting: WHAT date/time stamp identifies the setting for the next few verses?
  - g. 5:10b Conflict or Inciting Action: WHAT did the people do at this location?
  - h. 5:11 Rising Action: **WHAT** did the people do next?
  - i. 5:12a Climax: WHAT was the result of their actions?

j. 5:12b - Resolution: **HOW** is this story resolved? 3. **WHO** are the people in this passage? List **WHAT** you learn about them. a. Kings of the Amorites and kings of the Canaanites WHAT news was reported to them? HOW do they respond to this news? WHAT does this mean? ii. b. The LORD WHAT do you learn about the LORD's power in this text? ii. WHAT do you learn about the LORD's priorities in this text? c. Joshua WHAT does Joshua do in this text? i. ii. WHY does he do this? 1. It seems that Joshua unquestioningly obeyed the LORD's command in verse 3. What possible objections or questions do you think might have been going through his mind at this time? d. The people of Israel (the sons of Israel) WHAT does this story reveal about the attitude or posture of the previous generation towards the LORD?

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WHAT had been the consequences of this attitude?

ii.

## Gospel Connections: Connect to His Story (Part 1)

- 1. "As soon as all the kings heard that the LORD had dried up the waters of the Jordan for the people of Israel until they crossed over, their hearts melted and there was no longer any spirit in them..." Joshua 5:1 gives us an "omniscient narrator's" insight into what was going on behind the scenes in the kingdoms of Canaan, in response to the events in Joshua 3-4. Do you think this is what the people of Israel expected? Look up the following verses to find out?
  - a. Numbers 13:1-2, 25-32 recounts the first time Israel encountered the Amorites and Canaanites.
    - i. WHAT was their perception of these people?
      - 1. Based on the spies' perception, what do you think the people of Israel assumed the kings of the Amorites and Canaanites would be feeling and doing, now that Israel had crossed into their land?
      - 2. Based on the spies' perception, are you surprised by the response of the kings? Why or why not?
  - b. Joshua 1:1-6, Joshua 2:8-11, Joshua 3:10-13
    - i. **WHAT** clues have the people of Israel received in the narrative so far, which help them (and us!) make sense of the kings' response?

- 2. "At that time the LORD said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the sons of Israel a second time". WHY would the people need to be circumcised? And why now? Let's examine the original purpose of circumcision for God's people. Read through the texts below and answer the following questions:
  - a. Genesis 17:1-14

This passage describes God making a Covenant with Abram and his descendants.

i. **WHAT** is God's role in this Covenant? (i.e. What does He promise to do? Make note of the repeated phrase "I WILL")

ii. WHAT is Abram's role in this covenant? (i.e. What must he and his descendants do?)
iii. WHAT does circumcision signify in this text?
1. With Genesis 17:1-14 in mind, return to the text in Joshua 5. WHY do you think God asked Joshua to circumcise the men of Israel? WHAT did they need to be reminded of?
b. Read Joshua 5:1-2 and note the sequence of events. Do you think it would be considered a wise military strategy to circumcise themselves after crossing the Jordan into enemy territory?
1. What does Joshua's act of radical obedience teach us about trusting God's commands even when they don't seem practical or safe? Are there times when God has allowed you to be weak so you would allow Him to be your strength?
Physical circumcision was a sign of God's Covenant promises to Israel. Read the passages, and answer the questions below to see how additional circumcision imagery is developed in Scripture.  c. Deuteronomy 10:12-22 describes another of God's commands regarding circumcision.  i. WHAT are people called to circumcise in these verses?
ii. WHAT does this text say that would God's people do (i.e., how would they act) if they circumcised themselves this way?
<ul><li>d. Colossians 2:8-14 How is this Old Testament sign applied to Christian believers?</li><li>i. WHAT does Paul mean by 'circumcision not performed by human hands'?</li></ul>
ii. <b>HOW</b> does this spiritual circumcision differ from physical circumcision?

- e. In Joshua 5:9, the LORD says that He has "rolled away the reproach" from Israel through this act of circumcision.
  - i. Return to Colossians 2:13-15. How has Christ 'rolled away the reproach' of those who put their faith in Him?
    - 1. How does knowing that Jesus has canceled your sins and nailed them to the cross affect your own sense of the shame, guilt and condemnation you may carry? What practical steps can you take to remind yourself of the truth of God's word in your moments of doubt?
- 3. "... they observed Passover, and the day after Passover, they ate the produce of the land, unleavened cakes and parched grain. The manna ceased ..." This was the Israelites' first Passover in the promised land! Let's remind ourselves of what the celebration of Passover means.
  - a. Exodus 12:1-14, 24-27
    - i. WHEN was the first Passover? WHAT happened that night?
    - ii. WHAT command does God give for when they reach the Promised Land?
    - iii. **HOW** does the Passover celebration in Joshua 5 differ from the Passover in Exodus? **HOW** do the circumstances and mindset of the Israelites during the Passover in Joshua differ from those during the Passover in Exodus?
  - b. Joshua 5:12 says that (after 40 years of regular provision!) the manna ceased the day after they had eaten some of the produce of the land.

Deuteronomy 8:1-10

- i. **WHY** did God give them manna? **WHAT** warning did he have for them when they finally reached the promised land?
- c. Read John 6:29-35, 47-51
  - i. **HOW** does Jesus describe Himself?
  - ii. WHAT is the difference between the bread He offers and the manna provided in the desert?
    - 1. Have you "eaten of the bread of eternal life"? If not, why not put your trust in Jesus today?!

# Reflection: Connect to His Story (Part 2)

Old Testament texts are often "Preparatory Texts." They prepare people for the coming of Jesus by showing them the nature of sin and people's need for a Savior. With this in mind, in this week's passages...

- What do we learn about how Christ is foreshadowed/anticipated?
- O What do we learn about who God is?
- What do we learn about the relationship between God and people?
- What do we learn about the problem of sin?
- What does it look like to follow God in this text?
- O How does God save in this text?



Apply to Our Story

#### **ADORATION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I PRAISE God for?

#### **CONFESSION**

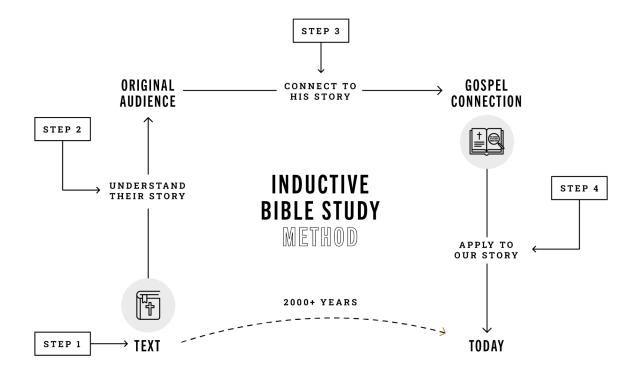
In light of this passage/lesson, what do I need to CONFESS or repent of?

#### **SUPPLICATION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I ASK God for?

# JOSHUA

# Lesson 6 | Fallen, Fallen is Jericho the Great **Joshua 5:13-6:27**



- Step 1: Observe the text by reading it several times and marking characters and key words/phrases SO THAT you grasp what the passage is about.
- Step 2: Understand their story by completing the observation questions in the first half of the lesson SO THAT you understand what the original author is communicating to his audience.
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- Step 4: Reflect and Apply to Your story by completing the last page of each lesson SO THAT the teaching of the passage helps you to practically grow as a more deeply rooted follower of Jesus.

### Joshua 5:13-6:27 (ESV)

#### LESSON SIX

<sup>13</sup> When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand.

And Joshua went to him and said to him,

"Are you for us, or for our adversaries?"

<sup>14</sup> And he said,

"No; but I am the commander of the army of the LORD.

Now I have come."

And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him,

"What does my lord say to his servant?"

<sup>15</sup> And the commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua,

"Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy."

And Joshua did so.

**6** Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in.

<sup>2</sup> And the LORD said to Joshua,

"See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor.

<sup>3</sup> You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once.

Thus shall you do for six days.

- <sup>4</sup> Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets.
- <sup>5</sup> And when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him."

<sup>6</sup> So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them,

"Take up the ark of the covenant and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD."

<sup>7</sup> And he said to the people,

"Go forward.

March around the city and let the armed men pass on before the ark of the LORD."

- <sup>8</sup> And just as Joshua had commanded the people, the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD went forward, blowing the trumpets, with the ark of the covenant of the LORD following them.
- <sup>9</sup> The armed men were walking before the priests who were blowing the trumpets, and the rear guard was walking after the ark, while the trumpets blew continually.
- <sup>10</sup> But Joshua commanded the people,

"You shall not shout or make your voice heard, neither shall any word go out of your mouth, until the day I tell you to shout.

Then you shall shout."

<sup>11</sup> So he caused the ark of the LORD to circle the city, going about it once.

And they came into the camp and spent the night in the camp.

- <sup>12</sup> Then Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD.
  - <sup>13</sup> And the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD walked on, and they blew the trumpets continually.

And the armed men were walking before them, and the rear guard was walking after the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets blew continually.

- <sup>14</sup> And the second day they marched around the city once, and returned into the camp. So they did for six days.
- <sup>15</sup> On the seventh day they rose early, at the dawn of day, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times.

It was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times.

- <sup>16</sup> And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people,
  - "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city.
  - <sup>17</sup> And the city and all that is within it shall be devoted to the LORD for destruction.

Only Rahab the prostitute and all who are with her in her house shall live, because she hid the messengers whom we sent.

- <sup>18</sup> But you, keep yourselves from the things devoted to destruction, lest when you have devoted them you take any of the devoted things and make the camp of Israel a thing for destruction and bring trouble upon it.
- <sup>19</sup> But all silver and gold, and every vessel of bronze and iron, are holy to the LORD; they shall go into the treasury of the LORD."
- <sup>20</sup> So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown.

As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they captured the city.

- <sup>21</sup> Then they devoted all in the city to destruction, both men and women, young and old, oxen, sheep, and donkeys, with the edge of the sword.
- <sup>22</sup> But to the two men who had spied out the land, Joshua said,
  - "Go into the prostitute's house and bring out from there the woman and all who belong to her, as you swore to her."
- <sup>23</sup> So the young men who had been spies went in and brought out Rahab and her father and mother and brothers and all who belonged to her.

And they brought all her relatives and put them outside the camp of Israel.

<sup>24</sup> And they burned the city with fire, and everything in it.

Only the silver and gold, and the vessels of bronze and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.

<sup>25</sup> But Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho.

<sup>26</sup> Joshua laid an oath on them at that time, saying,

"Cursed before the LORD be the man who rises up and rebuilds this city, Jericho.

"At the cost of his firstborn shall he

lay its foundation,

and at the cost of his youngest son

shall he set up its gates."

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>27</sup> So the LORD was with Joshua, and his fame was in all the land.

# Lesson 6 | Fallen, fallen is Jericho the Great!

Joshua 5:13-6:27

# Look at the text: Understand Their Story

In last week's lesson, God commanded Joshua and the people of Israel to consecrate themselves (through circumcision) and, after a long, long time to celebrate the Passover again. Yahweh wanted them to worship before fighting the war. What other lessons does He want them to learn as they enter the promised land? How will they win this war? Read the text and answer the questions to find out!

- 1. Begin your study in prayer. Read Joshua 5:13-6:27 several times. Mark characters, setting, key words/phrases and anything else that stands out. Note any questions you may have.
- 2. Summarize each section to understand the flow of the narrative.
  - a. Joshua 5:13a Setting #1
  - b. Joshua 5:13 Conflict or Inciting Action
  - c. Joshua 5:14-15 Rising Action, Climax and Resolution
  - d. Joshua 6:1 Setting #2
  - e. Joshua 6:2 Conflict or Inciting Action
  - f. Joshua 6:3 6:19 Rising Action
    - i. Joshua 6:3-5
    - ii. Joshua 6:6-11
    - iii. Joshua 6:12-14
    - iv. Joshua 6:15-19
  - g. Joshua 6:20-25 Climax
  - h. Joshua 6:26-27 Resolution

- 3. WHO are the characters in these two stories and WHAT do you learn about them?
  - a. The Commander of the LORD's Army
    - i. **WHAT** do Joshua's words and actions teach us about this character? (i.e. **HOW** does Joshua respond to him?)
    - ii. WHAT does the commander of the army of the LORD say about Himself? What do we learn about the nature of Joshua's question based on his answer? (tip: try to compare different Bible translations for verse 14)
    - iii. **WHAT** does the Commander instruct Joshua to do? **WHY** do you think He tells Joshua to do this?

#### b. Joshua

- i. **WHAT** role does Joshua have in this battle? (i.e Which verbs are most frequently used in connection with his name in the text?)
- ii. **HOW** do the people seem to respond to his leadership throughout this narrative?
  - 1. HOW could they have responded, given the circumstances?

#### c. The LORD<sup>10</sup>

- i. WHAT do the LORD and Joshua say about WHO is defeating Jericho in this text?
  - 1. With this answer, and the answer to 3.b.ii. above in mind, WHAT is surprising about the way this story ends in verse 27? (also review Joshua 3:7 and 3:14)
- ii. Read v.17-19. WHAT do you learn about God in relation to the city and its contents?

### d. Army of Israel

- i. As you read this chapter, **HOW** does the army mirror Joshua? (Hint: look at the first half of Joshua 6:12)
- ii. WHAT warning does Joshua give to the people?

Some scholars assume that this is still the Commander of the LORD's Army giving further instruction.

	e.	Rahab	and	the	spies
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- i. WHAT did the two spies do? WHERE do Rahab and her family end up?
- ii. WHY is Rahab and her family saved? WHAT rationale is given twice in this text?
- 4. Verses 2-20 give us a picture of the battle plan that God laid out for Israel. Fill in the chart below to identify the instructions and different roles.
  - a. Identify the order of the march around the city.

1.	2.	3.	4.
6:3,9,13	6:4,8 13	6:12	6:9,13

- b. WHO is at the center of the march? WHAT is the significance of them being at the center?
- c. WHAT do you notice about the list in 6:4? WHAT is the significance of this number? (hint: Gen. 2:2-3)
- d. This march continues for six days. **HOW** does the seventh day differ from the pattern? **WHY** is that so?
  - 1. WHY do you think this battle plan is repeated so many times? WHAT is the effect of having these stories "go in circles"?
- 5. This story ends with Joshua pronouncing a curse over Jericho.
  - a. WHAT is the curse about?
  - b. WHAT are the consequences for disobeying?
    - In 1 Kings 16:34 we read of a man rebuilding Jericho many years after this event. Read to find out what happened. WHAT does this story tell us about Joshua? (hint: Deut. 18:22)

# Gospel Connections: Connect to His Story (Part 1)

- 1. "And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, What does my lord say to his servant?" And the commander of the LORD's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so." The Bible teaches us that God is both sovereign (reigning supreme over the world) and immanent (involved in history and in the lives of His people). As Joshua prepares for battle, God shows him who really is in charge. Let us consider Joshua's response and the nature of worship and obedience as we turn to Scripture:
  - a. Exodus 3:1-6.
    - i. **WHAT** do we learn from Moses' encounter with the LORD? **WHAT** is God trying to teach him before He asks him to obey?
  - b. Isaiah 6:1-8.
    - i. WHAT does Isaiah experience and recognize before he volunteers to be used by God?
  - c. John 4:21-24
    - i. WHAT does Jesus tell the Samaritan woman about the nature of true worship?
  - d. John 14:23-26 and 1 John 2:3-6.
    - i. **WHAT** is the "fruit" or result of loving and worshiping God?
  - e. Revelation 7:9-17
    - i. WHY are people worshiping Jesus in this text? WHAT have they done? WHAT has He done?
  - f. With these past and future scripture references in mind, return to Joshua 5:13-15. What was the LORD teaching Joshua as he faced his greatest challenge yet?
    - 1. How do these scripture verses challenge or encourage you today as you face battles, and (perhaps) struggle to obey God?
    - 2. We would encourage you to find some time this week to worship God and ask him, "What does my LORD say to His servant?"

- 2. "On the seventh day they rose early, at the dawn of day, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times... And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, "Shout, for the LORD has given you the city." ... So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown... and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city." The LORD's battle plan included clear instructions and a promise of deliverance from surprising sources. Look up the following texts to see how God asks His people to engage with their battles.
  - a. Exodus 23:20-33.
    - i. **WHO** will God send before His people? (Note: there are several characters listed in this text)
    - ii. **WHAT** is God's part in securing victory for His people? (What does He say He will do?) **WHAT** are people called to do in the battle?
  - b. Read Numbers 10:1-10, and then focus on verses 8-9.
    - i. WHO is in charge of blowing the trumpets?
      - 1. How does this compare with "normal" military operations? (i.e.., Do you think a military chaplain would blow the trumpet (alert the troops) in a war?
    - ii. **HOW** were the trumpets to be used in warfare? **WHAT** did they accomplish?
      - 1. Reading Exodus 23 and Numbers 10 together, **WHO** enables Israel to be victorious in battle?

As believers, we are also in a battle, as we wait to inhabit the heavenly city. Let's consider how the New Testament encourages and instructs us to fight.

- c. Ephesians 6:10-12
  - i. WHO is our enemy?
- d. 2 Corinthians 10:1-5
  - i. WHAT is the nature of our battle?
  - ii. WHAT are we demolishing? What does this mean?
- e. Luke 4:1-13
  - i. **HOW** did Jesus engage when the enemy attacked Him?

The LORD assured Joshua of victory, and He also promised future victory to His people, at the end of the greatest war of all time.

- f. John 16:31-33
  - i. **HOW** did Jesus encourage his disciples in the hours before He was crucified and died?
- g. Revelation 12:10-12
  - i. WHAT will eventually happen to our enemy?

To go in circles for days must have felt quite ineffective for the people in Joshua's day. Often our Christian battle feels similarly ineffective.

- h. 1 Corinthians 1:18-25.
  - i. **HOW** does Paul "describe" God's strategy?
    - 1. Which of the ideas in a-h above encourage or challenge you the most today, as you consider the battles you are facing?
- 3. "But Rahab the prostitute and her father's household and all who belonged to her, Joshua saved alive. And she has lived in Israel to this day, because she hid the messengers whom Joshua sent to spy out Jericho." This is one of the most encouraging verses in the Old Testament! God saved a Canaanite prostitute and placed her among his beloved children. Look up the following verses to learn more about how this reflects the good news of Jesus.
  - a. Isaiah 42:1-6
    - i. **WHAT** is the servant's (Jesus') posture towards those who are hurting or vulnerable (the bruised reed and faintly burning wick)?
    - ii. FOR **WHOM** is the servant a 'light'?
  - b. Ephesians 2:11-22
    - i. Note the mention of a "wall". WHAT wall did Jesus break and how?
    - ii. WHAT is now preached to both those who were once far off, and those who were near?

Do you KNOW this God who loves His people with an everlasting love? This God who gave Himself to bring near, all who were far off? If you know Him, spend time praising Him today for His unchanging love and promises. If you don't know Him, why not pray that He would open your eyes and your heart to understand His love and His plan today!?

# Reflection: Connect to His Story (Part 2)

Old Testament texts are often "Preparatory Texts." They prepare people for the coming of Jesus by showing them the nature of sin and people's need for a Savior. With this in mind, in this week's passages...

- What do we learn about how Christ is foreshadowed/anticipated?
- O What do we learn about who God is?
- What do we learn about the relationship between God and people?
- What do we learn about the problem of sin?
- What does it look like to follow God in this text?
- O How does God save in this text?



#### **ADORATION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I PRAISE God for?

#### **CONFESSION**

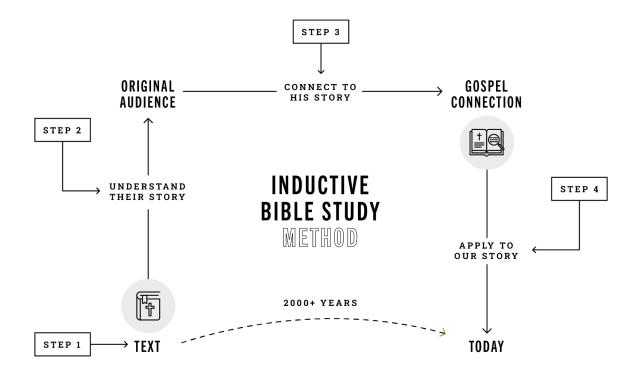
In light of this passage/lesson, what do I need to CONFESS or repent of?

### **SUPPLICATION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I ASK God for?

# JOSHUA

# Lesson 7 | Devoted for Destruction Joshua 7:1-26



- ☐ **Step 1**: Observe the text by reading it several times and marking characters and key words/phrases SO THAT you grasp what the passage is about.
- Step 2: Understand their story by completing the observation questions in the first half of the lesson SO THAT you understand what the original author is communicating to his audience.
- Step 3: Connect to God's story by completing the gospel connection questions in the second half of the lesson SO THAT you can understand where this passage fits in God's larger story of salvation.
- ☐ **Step 4**: Reflect and Apply to Your story by completing the last page of each lesson *SO THAT the teaching of the passage helps you to practically grow as a more deeply rooted follower of Jesus.*

### Joshua 7:1-26

#### LESSON SEVEN

7 But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things.

And the anger of the LORD burned against the people of Israel.

<sup>2</sup> Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is near Beth-aven, east of Bethel, and said to them,

"Go up and spy out the land."

And the men went up and spied out Ai.

<sup>3</sup> And they returned to Joshua and said to him,

"Do not have all the people go up, but let about two or three thousand men go up and attack Ai.

Do not make the whole people toil up there, for they are few."

<sup>4</sup> So about three thousand men went up there from the people.

And they fled before the men of Ai, <sup>5</sup> and the men of Ai killed about thirty-six of their men and chased them before the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them at the descent.

And the hearts of the people melted and became as water.

<sup>6</sup> Then Joshua tore his clothes and fell to the earth on his face before the ark of the LORD until the evening, he and the elders of Israel.

And they put dust on their heads.

<sup>7</sup> And Joshua said,

"Alas, O LORD God, why have you brought this people over the Jordan at all, to give us into the hands of the Amorites, to destroy us?

Would that we had been content to dwell beyond the Jordan!

<sup>8</sup> O LORD, what can I say, when Israel has turned their backs before their enemies!

<sup>9</sup> For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land will hear of it and will surround us and cut off our name from the earth.

And what will you do for your great name?"

<sup>10</sup> The LORD said to Joshua,

"Get up! Why have you fallen on your face?

<sup>11</sup> Israel has sinned; they have transgressed my covenant that I commanded them; they have taken some of the devoted things; they have stolen and lied and put them among their own belongings.

<sup>12</sup> Therefore the people of Israel cannot stand before their enemies.

They turn their backs before their enemies, because they have become devoted for destruction.

I will be with you no more, unless you destroy the devoted things from among you.

<sup>13</sup> Get up!

Consecrate the people and say,

'Consecrate yourselves for tomorrow; for thus says the LORD, God of Israel,

"There are devoted things in your midst, O Israel.

You cannot stand before your enemies until you take away the devoted things from among you."

<sup>14</sup> In the morning therefore you shall be brought near by your tribes.

And the tribe that the LORD takes by lot shall come near by clans.

And the clan that the LORD takes shall come near by households.

And the household that the LORD takes shall come near man by man.

<sup>15</sup> And he who is taken with the devoted things shall be burned with fire, he and all that he has, because he has transgressed the covenant of the LORD, and because he has done an outrageous thing in Israel."

<sup>16</sup> So Joshua rose early in the morning and brought Israel near tribe by tribe, and the tribe of Judah was taken.

<sup>17</sup> And he brought near the clans of Judah, and the clan of the Zerahites was taken.

And he brought near the clan of the Zerahites man by man, and Zabdi was taken.

<sup>18</sup> And he brought near his household man by man, and Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, was taken.

<sup>19</sup> Then Joshua said to Achan,

"My son, give glory to the LORD God of Israel and give praise to Him.

And tell me now what you have done; do not hide it from me."

<sup>20</sup> And Achan answered Joshua,

"Truly I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I did:

<sup>21</sup> when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak from Shinar, and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold weighing 50 shekels, then I coveted them and took them.

And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath."

<sup>22</sup> So Joshua sent messengers, and they ran to the tent; and behold, it was hidden in his tent with the silver underneath.

<sup>23</sup> And they took them out of the tent and brought them to Joshua and to all the people of Israel.

And they laid them down before the LORD.

<sup>24</sup> And Joshua and all Israel with him took Achan the son of Zerah, and the silver and the cloak and the bar of gold, and his sons and daughters and his oxen and donkeys and sheep and his tent and all that he had.

And they brought them up to the Valley of Achor.

<sup>25</sup> And Joshua said,

"Why did you bring trouble on us?

The LORD brings trouble on you today."

And all Israel stoned him with stones.

They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones.

<sup>26</sup> And they raised over him a great heap of stones that remains to this day.

Then the LORD turned from his burning anger.

Therefore, to this day the name of that place is called the Valley of Achor.

# **Lesson 7 | Devoted for Destruction**

Joshua 7:1-27

# Look at the text: Understand Their Story

If you participated in last week's lesson, you'll remember that the LORD revealed himself to Joshua and enabled them to conquer Jericho. The impenetrable fortress was laid bare before the army of Israel because Yahweh was with them. Based on the narrator's first report, it seemed that the people had perfectly obeyed the LORD's commands, and that nothing and no one could stand in their way... but is that the full story? Read today's text and answer the questions below to find out!

- 1. Begin your study in prayer. Read Joshua 7:1-27 several times. Mark characters, setting, key words/phrases and anything else that stands out. Note any questions you may have.
- 2. Summarize each section to understand the flow of the narrative.
  - a. Joshua 7:1 Conflict or Inciting Action
  - b. Joshua 7:2-24 Rising Action
    - i. Joshua 7:2 5
    - ii. Joshua 7:6 9
    - iii. Joshua 7:10 15
    - iv. Joshua 7:16 21
    - v. Joshua 7:22-24
  - c. Joshua 7:25-26a Climax
  - d. Joshua 7:26b Resolution
- 3. WHO are the characters in this chapter? WHAT do you learn about them?
  - a. The people of Israel
    - i. **WHERE** are the Israelites now? And **WHERE** are they headed? Find these locations on the map on page 4.
    - ii. WHAT is the first thing the narrator wants us to know about Israel?

	iii.	WHO was sent by Joshua and WHAT was their report?
b.	iv.	<b>HOW</b> many Israelites were killed? <b>HOW</b> did this affect the nation?
	Joshua i.	HOW did Joshua react to the report he received from the spies? WHAT does Joshua not do?
	ii.	WHAT might Joshua have felt or thought after the victory at Jericho when looking at Ai? <sup>11</sup>
C.	iii.	<b>HOW</b> did Joshua react to the bad news? <b>WHAT</b> did he feel and do? <b>WHAT</b> does he pray?
	The LC i.	ORD HOW does Yahweh respond to Joshua? WHAT does He tell him to do twice?
	ii.	<b>HOW</b> does the LORD view Israel's sin in 7:10 and 7:15?
d.	iii.	WHAT does God require from Joshua and the people?
	iv.	WHAT is at stake for Israel?
	Achan i.	WHAT transgression has Achan committed?
	i.	HOW does Achan respond to the confrontation? WHAT does he admit?

 $<sup>^{\</sup>rm 11}$  Considering the size of Jericho and the spies report on Ai.

		ii.	WHAT	impact did hi	s disobedienc	e have on Isra	ael?			
			1.			-	•	•	disobedience Vhy or why not?	
4.		WHY o	do you t who is	hink the narra guilty in verse	tor draws out	the action in scovering the	verses 16-1	8? (Hint: He	on and punishmen has already told th 18?) <b>WHAT</b> effect	he
	b.	WHAT	is Josh	ua's method o	of dealing with	ı the problem'	? Look at th	e words desc	cribing his actions!	
	C.	HOW	does Jo	shua investiga	ate? <b>WHAT</b> do	oes he do with	n the hidder	n items?		
	d.	WHAT	is Josh	ua's verdict o	n Achan? And	l <b>WHAT</b> does	he say Ach	nan has done	to Israel?	
	e.	HOW	was the	punishment e	enacted? <b>WH</b> C	<b>)</b> required tha	at Achan an	d his family sl	hould be burned?	
	f.	WHAT	conclu	sion can you o	draw about the	e character of	<sup>:</sup> Yahweh ar	nd his posture	e towards sin?	
			1.		think this puni ession and th			-	l when reading abo	out
5.	This a.	•		•	ng the stones d it remains to	•		e narrator or	time this was writte	en?
	b.	WHAT	does V	alley of Achor	mean? Look	in your Bible	footnotes,	or in an on-lin	ne resource.	

# Gospel Connections: Connect to His Story (Part 1)

- 1. "But the people of Israel broke faith in regard to the devoted things, for Achan the son of Carmi, son of Zabdi, son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, took some of the devoted things. And the anger of the LORD burned against the people of Israel." Achan's story and his sin reveals a pattern seen throughout in Bible.
  - a. Numbers 32:20-24
    - i. We have read these verses in the past as we've talked about the responsibilities of the 2 ½ tribes to the rest of Israel. **WHAT** warning do we find in verse 23?
    - ii. Review Joshua 6:18. WHAT instructions were given prior to the battle of Jericho?
    - iii. **HOW** are the warnings in Numbers 32 and the instructions in Joshua 6:18 relevant to Joshua 7:1-27?
  - b. Genesis 2:15-17 and Genesis 3:6
    - i. **HOW** is the account of the first sin described? **HOW** clear were the instructions, and what motivated Eve in her disobedience?
    - ii. **WHAT** similarities do you notice between the account in Genesis 2 and 3, and the Jericho account (Joshua 6:18, and Joshua 7:21)?
  - c. Jeremiah 17:9-10 and Mark 7:14-23
    - i. WHERE does our sin come from?
  - d. Deuteronomy 5:21
    - i. WHAT specific sin is being identified in this text? HOW is this commandment at play in Joshua 7?
  - e. 2 Kings 17:6-13.
    - i. This text affirms that Israel is eventually punished and kicked out of the land for specific reasons. **WHAT** do you notice about verse 9?
      - 1. If people do things "in secret", are they actually a secret? Why or why not?

- f. Acts 5:1-11
  - i. **HOW** does this story affirm and parallel the texts that we've examined in a e above?

What these stories demonstrate is that sin follows after disordered desires in our hearts. In many cases, people are hiding their sin in the dark. In light of this truth, what does the Bible teach about how to deal with sin?

- g. Ezekiel 36:22-27
  - i. **WHAT** hope did the LORD provide, through Ezekiel, for the people of Israel? **WHAT** does He say He will do for them in the future?
- h. Hebrews 9:11-15
  - i. WHAT is the gospel hope for sinners, in light of Jesus' death on our behalf?
- i. James 1:12-15
  - i. **HOW** does Jesus' brother, James, talk about the nature of sin?
- i. 1 John 1:5 2:1
  - i. WHAT does the apostle John teach about the reality of sin, and what we should do when we sin?
    - 1. Are you nurturing a secret sin? We all have disordered desires and do wrong at times. God is light and wants us to come into the light, because when we bring sin to the light there is hope for healing and forgiveness. We would encourage you to talk to a trusted friend or pastor if this text is challenging you today!
- 2. "And Achan answered Joshua, "Truly I have sinned against the LORD God of Israel, and this is what I did: when I saw among the spoil a beautiful cloak [...], and 200 shekels of silver, and a bar of gold [...], then I coveted them and took them. And see, they are hidden in the earth inside my tent, with the silver underneath." Achan's sin was rooted in covetousness. The Scripture has a lot to say on this issue.
  - a. Luke 12:13-21
    - i. **HOW** does Jesus teach about money? **WHAT** is an improper attitude? **WHAT** is a proper attitude?

- b. 1 Timothy 6:6-10 and Hebrews 13:5
  - i. WHAT does Paul, and the author of Hebrews, teach about money?
- c. Philippians 4:10-13
  - i. **HOW** did Paul learn to live?
    - 1. Do you find yourself caught up in pursuing the "American Dream", daydreaming about new possessions, and preoccupied with your paycheck or bills? Many of us would honestly answer yes. Today, we would encourage you to 1) pray that Jesus reveals areas where we can trust Him more and rely less on our own resources and 2) take some time to reflect on God's many blessings. Write down the things He has provided and the blessings you've received, and thank Him for His generosity and goodness
- 3. And Joshua said, "Why did you bring trouble on us? The LORD brings trouble on you today." And all Israel stoned him with stones. They burned them with fire and stoned them with stones. And they raised over him a great heap of stones that remains to this day. Then the LORD turned from his burning anger." Scripture clearly teaches about God's wrath toward sin and disobedience. Yet, the gospel of Jesus reveals that His wrath is rooted in His love and justice. Like Achan, we all struggle with sinful desires. The gospel of Jesus gives us hope for transformation and forgiveness.
  - a. Hosea 2:14-20
    - i. **WHAT** is the LORD's promise to Israel?
  - b. Romans 3:21-25 and 6:23
    - i. WHAT is the punishment for sin? WHAT provides a way out?
  - c. Isaiah 53:4-6 and 2 Corinthians 5:17-21
    - i. WHAT hope do we "Achans" have? WHO can bear our sins?

God ultimately dealt with sin through another man from the tribe of Judah: Jesus. The place was not a valley; it was a hill called Calvary. Christ took on the sin of humanity by becoming our cherem (banned war property)—devoted to destruction for us though He is without sin.<sup>12</sup> Spend time in prayer and respond to God in light of this truth! Praise Him for the gift of forgiveness through the death of His son!

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>12</sup> Smith, R., Jr. (2023). Exalting Jesus in Joshua (D. Platt, D. L. Akin, & T. Merida, Eds.; p. 117). Holman Reference.

# Reflection: Connect to His Story (Part 2)

Old Testament texts are often "Preparatory Texts." They prepare people for the coming of Jesus by showing them the nature of sin and people's need for a Savior. With this in mind, in this week's passages...

- What do we learn about how Christ is foreshadowed/anticipated?
- O What do we learn about who God is?
- What do we learn about the relationship between God and people?
- What do we learn about the problem of sin?
- What does it look like to follow God in this text?
- O How does God save in this text?



#### **ADORATION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I PRAISE God for?

## **CONFESSION**

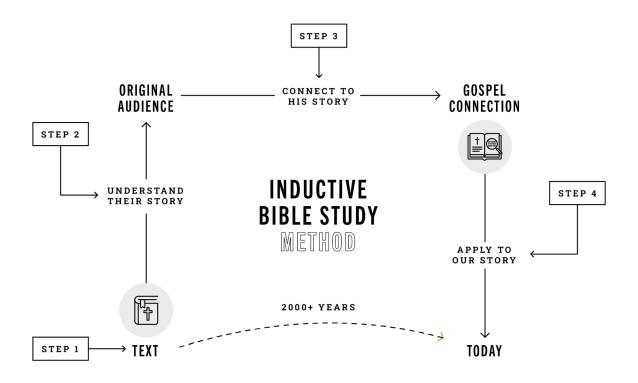
In light of this passage/lesson, what do I need to CONFESS or repent of?

### **SUPPLICATION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I ASK God for?

# JOSHUA

# Lesson 8 | Second Chances Joshua 8:1-35



- Step 1: Observe the text by reading it several times and marking characters and key words/phrases SO THAT you grasp what the passage is about.
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- Step 4: Reflect and Apply to Your story by completing the last page of each lesson SO THAT the teaching of the passage helps you to practically grow as a more deeply rooted follower of Jesus.

# Joshua 8:1-35

# LESSON EIGHT

And the LORD said to Joshua,

"Do not fear and do not be dismayed.

Take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai.

See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, and his people, his city, and his land.

<sup>2</sup> And you shall do to Ai and its king as you did to Jericho and its king.

Only its spoil and its livestock you shall take as plunder for yourselves.

Lay an ambush against the city, behind it."

<sup>3</sup> So Joshua and all the fighting men arose to go up to Ai.

And Joshua chose 30,000 mighty men of valor and sent them out by night.

<sup>4</sup> And he commanded them,

"Behold, you shall lie in ambush against the city, behind it.

Do not go very far from the city, but all of you remain ready.

<sup>5</sup> And I and all the people who are with me will approach the city.

And when they come out against us just as before, we shall flee before them.

<sup>6</sup> And they will come out after us, until we have drawn them away from the city.

For they will say,

'They are fleeing from us, just as before.'

So we will flee before them.

<sup>7</sup> Then you shall rise up from the ambush and seize the city, for the LORD your God will give it into your hand.

<sup>8</sup> And as soon as you have taken the city, you shall set the city on fire.

You shall do according to the word of the LORD.

See, I have commanded you."

<sup>9</sup> So Joshua sent them out.

And they went to the place of ambush and lay between Bethel and Ai, to the west of Ai, but Joshua spent that night among the people.

<sup>10</sup> Joshua arose early in the morning and mustered the people and went up, he and the elders of Israel, before the people to Ai.

<sup>11</sup> And all the fighting men who were with him went up and drew near before the city and encamped on the north side of Ai, with a ravine between them and Ai.

<sup>12</sup> He took about 5,000 men and set them in ambush between Bethel and Ai, to the west of the city.

<sup>13</sup> So they stationed the forces, the main encampment that was north of the city and its rear guard west of the city.

But Joshua spent that night in the valley.

<sup>14</sup> And as soon as the king of Ai saw this, he and all his people, the men of the city, hurried and went out early to the appointed place toward the Arabah to meet Israel in battle.

But he did not know that there was an ambush against him behind the city.

<sup>15</sup> And Joshua and all Israel pretended to be beaten before them and fled in the direction of the wilderness.

<sup>16</sup> So all the people who were in the city were called together to pursue them, and as they pursued Joshua they were drawn away from the city.

<sup>17</sup> Not a man was left in Ai or Bethel who did not go out after Israel.

They left the city open and pursued Israel.

<sup>18</sup> Then the LORD said to Joshua,

"Stretch out the javelin that is in your hand toward Ai, for I will give it into your hand."

And Joshua stretched out the javelin that was in his hand toward the city.

<sup>19</sup> And the men in the ambush rose quickly out of their place, and as soon as he had stretched out his hand, they ran and entered the city and captured it.

And they hurried to set the city on fire.

- <sup>20</sup> So when the men of Ai looked back, behold, the smoke of the city went up to heaven, and they had no power to flee this way or that, for the people who fled to the wilderness turned back against the pursuers.
- <sup>21</sup> And when Joshua and all Israel saw that the ambush had captured the city, and that the smoke of the city went up, then they turned back and struck down the men of Ai.
- <sup>22</sup> And the others came out from the city against them, so they were in the midst of Israel, some on this side, and some on that side.

And Israel struck them down, until there was left none that survived or escaped.

- <sup>23</sup> But the king of Ai they took alive, and brought him near to Joshua.
- <sup>24</sup> When Israel had finished killing all the inhabitants of Ai in the open wilderness where they pursued them, and all of them to the very last had fallen by the edge of the sword, all Israel returned to Ai and struck it down with the edge of the sword.
- <sup>25</sup> And all who fell that day, both men and women, were 12,000, all the people of Ai.
- <sup>26</sup> But Joshua did not draw back his hand with which he stretched out the javelin until he had devoted all the inhabitants of Ai to destruction.
- <sup>27</sup> Only the livestock and the spoil of that city Israel took as their plunder, according to the word of the LORD that he commanded Joshua.
- <sup>28</sup> So Joshua burned Ai and made it forever a heap of ruins, as it is to this day.
- <sup>29</sup> And he hanged the king of Ai on a tree until evening.

And at sunset Joshua commanded, and they took his body down from the tree and threw it at the entrance of the gate of the city and raised over it a great heap of stones, which stands there to this day.

<sup>30</sup> At that time Joshua built an altar to the LORD, the God of Israel, on Mount Ebal, <sup>31</sup> just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded the people of Israel, as it is written in the Book of the Law of Moses,

"an altar of uncut stones, upon which no man has wielded an iron tool."

And they offered on it burnt offerings to the LORD and sacrificed peace offerings.

- <sup>32</sup> And there, in the presence of the people of Israel, he wrote on the stones a copy of the law of Moses, which he had written.
- <sup>33</sup> And all Israel, sojourner as well as native born, with their elders and officers and their judges, stood on opposite sides of the ark before the Levitical priests who carried the ark of the covenant of the LORD, half of them in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded at the first, to bless the people of Israel.
- <sup>34</sup> And afterward he read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law.
- <sup>35</sup> There was not a word of all that Moses commanded that Joshua did not read before all the assembly of Israel, and the women, and the little ones, and the sojourners who lived among them.

# **Lesson 8 | Second Chances**

Joshua 8:1-35

# Look at the text: Understand Their Story

In last week's lesson, Israel experienced a fatal defeat at Ai where 36 men died. One man's sin impacted all of Israel. As we ended Joshua 7, you may have wondered: what's next?! Will Israel redeem itself? Is Ai unconquerable? Read today's text and answer the questions below to find out.

- 1. Begin your study in prayer. Read Joshua 8:1-35 to familiarize yourself with the basic storyline of the battle at Ai. As you do so, notice the setting, the characters, the flow of the narrative. Mark repeated words or themes, take note of any surprising verses or questions that arise and look how this passage describes God. Note any questions you may have.
- 2. Summarize each section to understand the flow of the narrative.
  - a. Joshua 8:1a Setting
  - b. Joshua 8:1b-2 Inciting Action or Conflict
  - c. Joshua 8:3-27 Rising Action
    - i. Joshua 8:3-9
    - ii. Joshua 8:10-13
    - iii. Joshua 8:14-17
    - iv. Joshua 8:18-23
    - v. Joshua 8:24-27
  - d. Joshua 8:28-29a Climax
  - e. Joshua 8:29b
  - f. Joshua 8:30-31 New Setting
  - g. Joshua 8:30-31 Inciting Action or Conflict

h. i.		a 8:32-33 - Rising Action shua 8:32
ii.	Jos	shua 8:33
i.	Joshua	a 8:34 - Climax
j.	Joshua	a 8:35 - Resolution
	H <b>O</b> are The L0 i.	the characters in this chapter? <b>WHAT</b> do you learn about them?  ORD  HOW does the LORD encourage Joshua? What does this remind you of? <sup>13</sup>
	ii.	<b>HOW</b> does the LORD's plan for capturing Ai differ from the plan in Joshua 7?
	iii.	WHAT are the LORD's instructions to Joshua and the people of Israel?
	iv.	<b>WHAT</b> has the LORD given to Israel? <b>WHAT</b> effect would this knowledge have on Joshua after the failure they experienced in Joshua 7?
b.	Joshua i.	what did Joshua command the people and <b>HOW</b> do his commands relate to the LORD's words in verses 1-2?
	ii.	WHERE was Joshua during this battle? WHAT do we learn from his leadership?

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>13</sup> If you need a hint, review Joshua 1!

a	. Israei i.	HOW many men were sent out for the ambush? HOW does this compare with Joshua 7:3-4?
	ii.	HOW did the fighting men of Israel engage in this plan?
	iii.	WHAT did Israel take as plunder? WHY was it OK to take plunder from Ai but not Jericho?
		8 ends with a covenant renewal ceremony. <b>RE</b> did Israel gather to set up this altar? Note these location(s) on the map on page 3.
b	. HOW	did Israel worship God? (eg. what actions did they perform)?
C.	WHE	RE is the ark positioned?
d	. WHA	<b>T</b> did Joshua do in front of the people?
е	. WHO	heard God's law being read to them?
		1. <b>WHY</b> do you think Joshua led Israel in this covenant renewal?

2. **WHY** do you think the narrator clearly says that <u>every</u> word of Moses was read before

among them?

every person (including men, women, children and the foreigners (sojourners)) who lived

# Gospel Connections: Connect to His Story (Part 1)

- 1. "And the LORD said to Joshua, "Do not fear and do not be dismayed. Take all the fighting men with you, and arise, go up to Ai. See, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, and his people, his city, and his land." The LORD called Joshua to trust Him in the battle. We can see in this that the LORD ordained victory and salvation before Ai fell. God's sovereignty over events that ultimately lead to our salvation, is central to the gospel message. Read the texts below and answer the questions to see how this idea is developed in other parts of scripture.
  - a. Acts 2:22-24
    - i. WHO does Peter say is responsible for the death of Jesus the 'men of Israel', or God?<sup>14</sup>
  - b. Ephesians 1:3-14.
    - i. **HOW** does Paul speak of the mystery of the gospel? (i.e. What words or concepts confirm the LORD's sovereignty over the plan of salvation, and the forgiveness and adoption of people?)
  - c. 1 Peter 1:1-11
    - i. WHAT were the prophets longing to know?
  - d. Hebrews 10:19-25
    - i. WHAT are we called to do, inlight of God's faithfulness in winning the battle over Satan and sin?
  - e. Revelation 2:8-11
    - i. WHAT were Jesus' words of encouragement to the church at Smyrna?
      - 1. How do the texts in a-e above encourage or challenge you today?
- 2. "And they hurried to set the city on fire. [...] then they turned back and struck down the men of Ai. [...] And Israel struck them down, until there was left none that survived or escaped". With Yahweh's help Israel received a second chance to defeat their enemy, and this time they were victorious. Oftentimes God allows His children to revisit their "Ai" so His glory would be magnified. Consider the following passages:

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>14</sup> Or both(!) in different ways?

a.	.lc	าท	al	า 1	٠٠	1-1	15

- i. WHAT command did the LORD give to Jonah, and what did Jonah do instead?
- ii. WHAT happened to Jonah as a result?
- b. Jonah 1:17- 2:10
  - i. **HOW** did Jonah respond when he experienced the consequences of his disobedience?
- c. Jonah 3:1-3
  - i. WHAT happened when the word of the LORD came to Jonah the second time?
- d. Luke 15:11
  - i. **WHAT** is the setting of this story? (v 11)
  - ii. WHAT is the conflict or inciting action? (v 12)
  - iii. **HOW** is the story of the first son developed and resolved (v 13-24)?
  - iv. **HOW** is the story of the second son developed (v 25-32)? Is this son restored?
  - v. WHAT is the consistent attitude of the father towards both sons?
    - 1. Have you ever come to the end of yourself: as a prodigal, or as someone who mistakenly views themselves as righteous? If so, how do these stories encourage or challenge you today?

- 3. "So Joshua burned Ai and made it forever a heap of ruins, as it is to this day. And he hanged the king of Ai on a tree until evening. And at sunset Joshua commanded, and they took his body down from the tree and threw it at the entrance of the gate of the city and raised over it a great heap of stones, which stands there to this day." The death of the King of Ai foreshadowed the death of Jesus! Find out how by reading the texts and answering the questions below:
  - a. Deuteronomy 21:22-23
    - i. WHAT instructions does the LORD give the people of Israel in this text?
  - b. John 19:31-37
    - i. WHY did the Jews hurry to have Jesus taken off the cross?
  - c. Galatians 3:10-14
    - i. WHAT did Jesus become on the cross?
    - ii. WHAT did this accomplish for us?
      - 1. How does it encourage or challenge you today to see this curse transformed into a blessing. The king of Ai didn't willingly die, but Jesus Christ allowed Himself to be hung on a tree, and take on the curse we deserve! He died for the undeserving world.
- 4. "And all Israel [...] stood on opposite sides of the ark before the Levitical priests [...] half of them in front of Mount Gerizim and half of them in front of Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded at the first, to bless the people of Israel. And afterward Joshua read all the words of the law, the blessing and the curse, according to all that is written in the Book of the Law."

  Why did Joshua do this, and what did it signify? Read the text below and answer the questions to find out.
  - a. Read Deuteronomy 11:26-32 and skim Deuteronomy 27:1-26
    - i. WHAT did Moses instruct the Israelites to do when they came into the promised land?
    - ii. WHAT was the purpose of this ceremony according to Deuteronomy 11:32?
    - iii. Moses didn't provide them with a specific timeframe they were supposed to do this in (e.g. he doesn't say "after two battles, or within the first month". Thinking back over our last two lessons, why do you think Joshua thought that NOW would be a good time to make these altars?

# Reflection: Connect to His Story (Part 2)

Old Testament texts are often "Preparatory Texts." They prepare people for the coming of Jesus by showing them the nature of sin and people's need for a Savior. With this in mind, in this week's passages...

- What do we learn about how Christ is foreshadowed/anticipated?
- O What do we learn about who God is?
- What do we learn about the relationship between God and people?
- What do we learn about the problem of sin?
- What does it look like to follow God in this text?
- O How does God save in this text?



#### **ADORATION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I PRAISE God for?

## **CONFESSION**

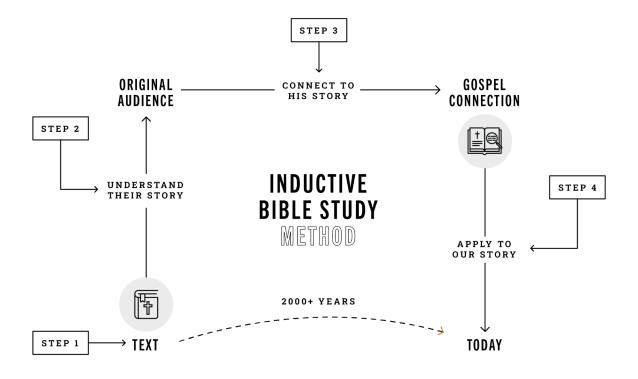
In light of this passage/lesson, what do I need to CONFESS or repent of?

### **SUPPLICATION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I ASK God for?

# JOSHUA

# Lesson 9 | Honour Amidst Deception Joshua 9:1-27



- Step 1: Observe the text by reading it several times and marking characters and key words/phrases SO THAT you grasp what the passage is about.
- ☐ **Step 2**: Understand their story by completing the observation questions in the first half of the lesson *SO THAT you* understand what the original author is communicating to his audience.
- ☐ **Step 3:** Connect to God's story by completing the gospel connection questions in the second half of the lesson *SO THAT you can understand where this passage fits in God's larger story of salvation.*
- Step 4: Reflect and Apply to Your story by completing the last page of each lesson SO THAT the teaching of the passage helps you to practically grow as a more deeply rooted follower of Jesus.

## Joshua 9:1-27 (ESV)

LESSON 9

9 As soon as all the kings who were beyond the Jordan in the hill country and in the lowland all along the coast of the Great Sea toward Lebanon, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Canaanites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, heard of this, <sup>2</sup> they gathered together as one to fight against Joshua and Israel.

<sup>3</sup> But when the inhabitants of Gibeon heard what Joshua had done to Jericho and to Ai, <sup>4</sup> they on their part acted with cunning and went and made ready provisions and took worn-out sacks for their donkeys, and wineskins, worn-out and torn and mended, <sup>5</sup> with worn-out, patched sandals on their feet, and worn-out clothes.

And all their provisions were dry and crumbly.

<sup>6</sup> And they went to Joshua in the camp at Gilgal and said to him and to the men of Israel,

"We have come from a distant country, so now make a covenant with us."

<sup>7</sup> But the men of Israel said to the Hivites,

"Perhaps you live among us; then how can we make a covenant with you?"

<sup>8</sup> They said to Joshua.

"We are your servants."

And Joshua said to them,

"Who are you?

And where do you come from?"

<sup>9</sup> They said to him,

"From a very distant country your servants have come, because of the name of the LORD your God.

For we have heard a report of Him, and all that he did in Egypt, <sup>10</sup> and all that He did to the two kings of the Amorites who were beyond the Jordan, to Sihon the king of Heshbon, and to Og king of Bashan, who lived in Ashtaroth.

<sup>11</sup> So our elders and all the inhabitants of our country said to us,

'Take provisions in your hand for the journey and go to meet them and say to them,

"We are your servants.

Come now, make a covenant with us."

<sup>12</sup> Here is our bread.

It was still warm when we took it from our houses as our food for the journey on the day we set out to come to you, but now, behold, it is dry and crumbly.

<sup>13</sup> These wineskins were new when we filled them, and behold, they have burst.

And these garments and sandals of ours are worn out from the very long journey."

<sup>14</sup> So the men took some of their provisions, but did not ask counsel from the LORD.

<sup>15</sup> And Joshua made peace with them and made a covenant with them, to let them live, and the leaders of the congregation swore to them.

<sup>16</sup> At the end of three days after they had made a covenant with them, they heard that they were their neighbors and that they lived among them.

<sup>17</sup> And the people of Israel set out and reached their cities on the third day.

Now their cities were Gibeon, Chephirah, Beeroth, and Kiriath-jearim.

<sup>18</sup> But the people of Israel did not attack them, because the leaders of the congregation had sworn to them by the LORD, the God of Israel.

Then all the congregation murmured against the leaders.

<sup>19</sup> But all the leaders said to all the congregation,

"We have sworn to them by the LORD, the God of Israel, and now we may not touch them.

<sup>20</sup> This we will do to them: let them live, lest wrath be upon us, because of the oath that we swore to them."

<sup>21</sup> And the leaders said to them,

"Let them live."

So they became cutters of wood and drawers of water for all the congregation, just as the leaders had said of them.

<sup>22</sup> Joshua summoned them, and he said to them,

"Why did you deceive us, saying,

'We are very far from you,' when you dwell among us?

<sup>23</sup> Now therefore you are cursed, and some of you shall never be anything but servants, cutters of wood and drawers of water for the house of my God."

<sup>24</sup> They answered Joshua,

"Because it was told to your servants for a certainty that the LORD your God had commanded his servant Moses to give you all the land and to destroy all the inhabitants of the land from before you—so we feared greatly for our lives because of you and did this thing.

<sup>25</sup> And now, behold, we are in your hand.

Whatever seems good and right in your sight to do to us, do it."

<sup>26</sup> So he did this to them and delivered them out of the hand of the people of Israel, and they did not kill them.

<sup>27</sup> But Joshua made them that day cutters of wood and drawers of water for the congregation and for the altar of the LORD, to this day, in the place that he should choose.

# **Lesson 9 | Honour Amidst Deception**

Joshua 9:1-27

# Look at the text: Understand Their Story

Last week we saw the long awaited victory at Ai, after which Joshua reminded Israel of their covenant with God. Now we read that Israel's reputation is making its way to the other nations in the lands and we get some mixed responses. Most nations gather to fight Israel, but one particular group decides to pick a different option. Let's read the text to find out what they do!

- 1. Begin your study in prayer. Read Joshua 9:1-27 passage several times, marking every reference to the main characters and noting any words or concepts which are repeated. Take note of any questions you may have.
- 2. Summarize each section to understand the flow of the narrative.
  - a. Joshua 9:1-2 Setting
  - b. Joshua 9:3-5 Inciting Action or Conflict
  - c. Joshua 9:6-25 Rising Action
    - i. Joshua 9:6-15
    - ii. Joshua 9:16-21
    - iii. Joshua 9:22-23
  - d. Joshua 9:24-25 Climax
  - e. Joshua 9:26-27 Resolution
- 3. **WHO** are the people in these verses and WHAT do you learn about them?
  - a. The Kings
    - i. WHO are the groups of people the kings belong to according to verse 1?
      - 1. Compare this list to those listed in Joshua 3:10. Why might it be significant that these particular groups are gathering against Israel?

ii.	WHAT	did the kings hear about? WHAT did they do after they heard?
	1.	Compare the response of these kings to the response of other kings in Joshua 5:1 and Joshua 6:1. Why do you think these responses are different?
The G	ibeonite	es ·
i.	WHAT	people group were the Gibeonites a part of according to verse 7?
ii.	WHAT	did the Gibeonites hear? <b>HOW</b> did they respond to what they heard?
	1.	How does the Gibeonites' response compare to that of the other kings?
		on
iii.		did the Gibeonites present themselves to Joshua? <b>WHAT</b> provisions did they <b>WHAT</b> did they call themselves?
	1.	Why do you think the Gibeonites choose to present themselves to Joshua in this
		way?
iv	WHER	E do the Cibeanites tell Joshua and the man of larged they are from?
iv.	VVIICR	E do the Gibeonites tell Joshua and the men of Israel they are from?

1. On the map in the back of this workbook find the city of Gibeon. What do you

1. Do you think that this role is good or bad? Do you think this is what the

WHAT role do the Gibeonites receive as a result of their deception?

WHERE are the Gibeonites actually from?

notice about their location?

Gibeonites wanted?

b.

vi.

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G.	JOSHUA	and me	wen	OI I	Staet

- i. **HOW** does Joshua respond to the Gibeonites' presentation?
  - 1. How do you think you would have responded to the Gibeonites? Would the evidence they give have been enough for you to believe them?
- ii. WHAT did the men of Israel fail to do? WHAT happens as a result?
- d. The People of Israel
  - i. **WHAT** does Israel do when they find out where the Gibeonites are from? **HOW** long does it take to get there?
  - ii. WHAT stops the people of Israel from attacking Gibeonites?
    - 1. Why do you think this reason stops the people from attacking? Do you think it was right that they didn't attack? Why or why not?
- e. The LORD
  - i. WHAT reason do the Gibeonites give for coming to Joshua?
  - ii. **WHAT** emotion do the Gibeonites feel towards what they have heard about the LORD and Israel?
  - iii. WHERE do the Gibeonites get assigned to cut wood and draw water?
- 4. **WHAT** questions do you have after reading through this passage, and slowing down to note some of the key details?

## Gospel Connections: Connect to His Story (Part 1)

The story of the Gibeonites is really strange and a bit uncomfortable. We know that they are part of the people groups that Israel has been commanded by Moses to fight but then they manage to deceive Israel into making a covenant with them. As this chapter ends we are left with a lot of questions: Should Israel honour a covenant made in deception? Will God bless this covenant or punish Israel for not seeking his counsel? Over the next couple of weeks we will see how the Gibeonites' story plays out, for now let's try to understand what we've read so far.

- 1. *From a very distant country your servants have come...* The Gibeonites make themselves out to be from a distant land. Why? Let's take a look at how Israel was supposed to treat foreigners.
  - a. Deuteronomy 20:10-18.
    - i. HOW was Israel supposed to treat cities that were far away?
    - ii. **HOW** was Israel supposed to treat cities in the land of their inheritance? **WHY** were they supposed to treat them this way?
      - 1. Based on the instructions in Deuteronomy, should Israel have made a covenant with Gibeon in Joshua 9? WHAT danger does Gibeon pose to the Israelites?
  - b. Deuteronomy 29:10-15.
    - i. WHAT were the roles of the sojourner in Israel's camp?
    - ii. WHAT are they entering into in this passage? WHO are they entering into it with?
      - 1. WHAT does it look like to be part of God's covenant people?
- 2. They said to him, "From a different country your servants have come, because of the name of the LORD your God." This is not the first time in Joshua that someone has taken action because of what they heard about the LORD. Let's take a look at how some of those outside of God's chosen people responded to God.
  - a. Review Joshua 2:8-13.
    - i. HOW does Rahab describe how the inhabitants of the land have responded to what they have heard about Israel?
    - ii. WHAT did she choose to do to protect her family?
  - b. Skim read Ruth 1:1-17 and focus on verses 16-17.

i. <b>W</b>	HERE was Ruth from?
	TENE Was Rain nom:
ii. <b>W</b>	HAT does she choose to do?
	1. What similarities do you see between the stories of Rahab and Ruth and the story of the Gibeonites? What differences do you notice?
	2. Based on what you have read so far, do you think what the Gibeonites did was right or wrong? Why or why not? It's okay if it feels complicated to decide!
	13.  HICH people did not receive the light? WHICH people did? WHO do you think each of ese people are?
ii. <b>W</b>	HAT did those who believe receive?
d. Galatians i. <b>W</b>	3:23-29. HO is a son of God? HOW are they made a son of God?
	oraham's offspring would have been his descendants, those who were a part of the cople that God had chosen. <b>WHO</b> does this passage say are Abraham's offspring?
	<ol> <li>Based on what you've read so far, what do you think it means to be part of the people of God?</li> </ol>

2. Thinking through the story of the Gibeonites, and what the Bible says about these 'sojourners' and 'outsiders', how do you think Christians should respond to those

who come to faith in God through strange motives or means?

- 3. "So the men took some of their provisions, but did not ask counsel from the LORD." Israel does not seek God's counsel which leads them to be deceived into making peace with Gibeon. We don't actually know how God would have responded to Gibeon's request for a covenant, but we know that the people failed to do what they were supposed to do. Let's take a look at other scripture that talks about what happens when we take matters into our own hands.
  - a. James 4:13-17.
    - i. WHAT are we not to say? WHY is it wrong?
    - ii. WHAT ought we to say?
  - b. Matthew 6:25-34.
    - i. WHAT issue is Jesus addressing here?
    - ii. WHAT are we supposed to seek first? WHAT is the result?
      - 1. How is arrogantly making plans or anxiously worrying about our life similar to what Israel does in today's passage? How can we let go of our need to control our lives and instead seek God's counsel?
      - 2. What do you need to seek God's counsel about today? Where might you be trying to take control or anxiously holding on instead of releasing into God's hands?
- 4. "We have sworn to them by the LORD, the God of Israel, and now we may not touch them…lest wrath be upon us…" Even though the Gibeonites tricked Israel into a peace treaty, Israel still chooses to hold to the oath that they had made. Let's take a look at other parts of the Bible that talk about how we are to treat oaths.
  - a. Read Numbers 30:1-2. WHAT command is given here?
    - i. Based on this passage, do you think Israel should honour their covenant with the Gibeonites? Why or why not?
  - b. Matthew 5:33-37. **HOW** does Jesus add to the command from Numbers?
    - i. Based on our story today, why do you think it is wise to let your yes be yes and your no be no?

# Reflection: Connect to His Story (Part 2)

Old Testament texts are often "Preparatory Texts." They prepare people for the coming of Jesus by showing them the nature of sin and people's need for a Savior. With this in mind, in this week's passages...

- What do we learn about how Christ is foreshadowed/anticipated?
- O What do we learn about who God is?
- What do we learn about the relationship between God and people?
- What do we learn about the problem of sin?
- What does it look like to follow God in this text?
- O How does God save in this text?



#### **ADORATION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I PRAISE God for?

#### **CONFESSION**

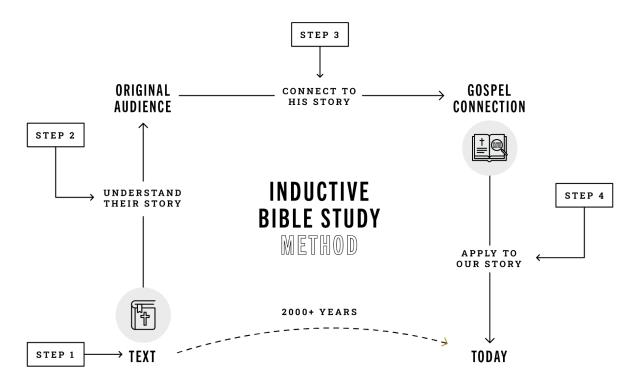
In light of this passage/lesson, what do I need to CONFESS or repent of?

#### **SUPPLICATION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I ASK God for?

# JOSHUA

# Lesson 10 | The LORD Fought Joshua 10:1-43



#### Personal homework section:

- Step 1: Observe the text by reading it several times and marking characters and key words/phrases SO THAT you grasp what the passage is about.
- ☐ **Step 2**: Understand their story by completing the observation questions in the first half of the lesson *SO THAT you* understand what the original author is communicating to his audience.
- ☐ **Step 3:** Connect to God's story by completing the gospel connection questions in the second half of the lesson *SO THAT you can understand where this passage fits in God's larger story of salvation.*
- Step 4: Reflect and Apply to Your story by completing the last page of each lesson SO THAT the teaching of the passage helps you to practically grow as a more deeply rooted follower of Jesus.

#### Joshua 10:1-43

#### LESSON TEN

10 As soon as Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, heard how Joshua had captured Ai and had devoted it to destruction, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them, <sup>2</sup> he feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were warriors.

<sup>3</sup> So Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, to Piram king of Jarmuth, to Japhia king of Lachish, and to Debir king of Eglon, saying,

<sup>4</sup> "Come up to me and help me, and let us strike Gibeon.

For it has made peace with Joshua and with the people of Israel."

<sup>5</sup> Then the five kings of the Amorites, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon, gathered their forces and went up with all their armies and encamped against Gibeon and made war against it.

<sup>6</sup> And the men of Gibeon sent to Joshua at the camp in Gilgal, saying,

"Do not relax your hand from your servants.

Come up to us quickly and save us and help us, for all the kings of the Amorites who dwell in the hill country are gathered against us."

<sup>7</sup> So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor.

<sup>8</sup> And the LORD said to Joshua,

"Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands.

Not a man of them shall stand before you."

<sup>9</sup> So Joshua came upon them suddenly, having marched up all night from Gilgal.

<sup>10</sup> And the LORD threw them into a panic before Israel, who struck them with a great blow at Gibeon and chased them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. <sup>11</sup> And as they fled before Israel, while they were going down the ascent of Beth-horon, the LORD threw down large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died.

There were more who died because of the hailstones than the sons of Israel killed with the sword.

<sup>12</sup> At that time Joshua spoke to the LORD in the day when the LORD gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel,

"Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon."

<sup>13</sup> And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies.

Is this not written in the Book of Jashar?

The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day.

<sup>14</sup> There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD heeded the voice of a man, for the LORD fought for Israel.

<sup>15</sup> So Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

<sup>16</sup> These five kings fled and hid themselves in the cave at Makkedah.

<sup>17</sup> And it was told to Joshua.

"The five kings have been found, hidden in the cave at Makkedah."

<sup>18</sup> And Joshua said,

"Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave and set men by it to guard them, <sup>19</sup> but do not stay there yourselves.

Pursue your enemies; attack their rear guard.

Do not let them enter their cities, for the LORD your God has given them into your hand."

<sup>20</sup> When Joshua and the sons of Israel had finished striking them with a great blow until they were wiped out, and when the remnant that remained of them had entered into the fortified cities, <sup>21</sup> then all the people returned safe to Joshua in the camp at Makkedah.

Not a man moved his tongue against any of the people of Israel.

<sup>22</sup> Then Joshua said.

"Open the mouth of the cave and bring those five kings out to me from the cave."

<sup>23</sup> And they did so, and brought those five kings out to him from the cave, the king of Jerusalem, the king of Hebron, the king of Jarmuth, the king of Lachish, and the king of Eglon.

<sup>24</sup> And when they brought those kings out to Joshua, Joshua summoned all the men of Israel and said to the chiefs of the men of war who had gone with him,

"Come near; put your feet on the necks of these kings."

Then they came near and put their feet on their necks.

<sup>25</sup> And Joshua said to them,

"Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and courageous.

For thus the LORD will do to all your enemies against whom you fight."

<sup>26</sup> And afterward Joshua struck them and put them to death, and he hanged them on five trees.

And they hung on the trees until evening.

<sup>27</sup> But at the time of the going down of the sun, Joshua commanded, and they took them down from the trees and threw them into the cave where they had hidden themselves, and they set large stones against the mouth of the cave, which remain to this very day.

<sup>28</sup> As for Makkedah, Joshua captured it on that day and struck it, and its king, with the edge of the sword. He devoted to destruction every person in it; he left none remaining.

And he did to the king of Makkedah just as he had done to the king of Jericho.

- <sup>29</sup> Then Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Makkedah to Libnah and fought against Libnah.
- <sup>30</sup> And the LORD gave it also and its king into the hand of Israel.

And he struck it with the edge of the sword, and every person in it; he left none remaining in it.

And he did to its king as he had done to the king of Jericho.

- <sup>31</sup> Then Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Libnah to Lachish and laid siege to it and fought against it.
- <sup>32</sup> And the LORD gave Lachish into the hand of Israel, and he captured it on the second day and struck it

with the edge of the sword, and every person in it, as he had done to Libnah.

- <sup>33</sup> Then Horam king of Gezer came up to help Lachish. And Joshua struck him and his people, until he left none remaining.
- <sup>34</sup> Then Joshua and all Israel with him passed on from Lachish to Eglon. And they laid siege to it and fought against it.
- <sup>35</sup> And they captured it on that day, and struck it with the edge of the sword. And he devoted every person in it to destruction that day, as he had done to Lachish.
- <sup>36</sup> Then Joshua and all Israel with him went up from Eglon to Hebron.

And they fought against it <sup>37</sup> and captured it and struck it with the edge of the sword, and its king and its towns, and every person in it.

He left none remaining, as he had done to Eglon, and devoted it to destruction and every person in it.

<sup>38</sup> Then Joshua and all Israel with him turned back to Debir and fought against it <sup>39</sup> and he captured it with its king and all its towns.

And they struck them with the edge of the sword and devoted to destruction every person in it; he left none remaining.

Just as he had done to Hebron and to Libnah and its king, so he did to Debir and to its king.

<sup>40</sup> So Joshua struck the whole land, the hill country and the Negeb and the lowland and the slopes, and all their kings.

He left none remaining, but devoted to destruction all that breathed, just as the LORD God of Israel commanded.

- <sup>41</sup> And Joshua struck them from Kadesh-barnea as far as Gaza, and all the country of Goshen, as far as Gibeon.
- <sup>42</sup> And Joshua captured all these kings and their land at one time, because the LORD God of Israel fought for Israel.
  - <sup>43</sup> Then Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

# Lesson 10 | The LORD Faught

Joshua 10:1-43

# Look at the text: Understand Their Story

Last week we saw the Gibeonites deception that led to them becoming cutters of wood and water carriers for the people of Israel. We were left wondering, should Israel honour their covenant or should the Gibeonites be destroyed like the other nations? This week we'll see how Israel responds when the Gibeonites are suddenly under attack. Up until this point Joshua has described the battles in great detail, but now we're about to really pick up the pace! Get ready for a lot of action, a lot of divine intervention, and a pretty audacious prayer!

- 1. Begin your study in prayer. Read Joshua 10:1-43 passage several times, marking every reference to the main characters and noting any words or concepts which are repeated. Take note of any questions you may have.
- 2. Summarize each section to understand the flow of the narrative.
  - a. Joshua 10:1-2 Setting
  - b. Joshua 10:3-5 Inciting Action or Conflict
  - c. Joshua 10:6-25 Rising Action
    - i. Joshua 10:6
    - ii. Joshua 10:7-11
    - iii. Joshua 10:12-15
    - iv. Joshua 10:16-21
    - v. Joshua 10:22-24
  - d. Joshua 10:25-26 Climax
  - e. Joshua 10:27 Resolution
  - f. Joshua 10:28-43 How would you summarize this section?

- 3. WHO are the main characters in this story? WHAT do we learn about them? a. The Kings i. WHAT did Adoni-zedek hear about? ii. WHO does he ask for help? WHAT does he say to them? b. Gibeon i. WHO do the Gibeonites ask for help? WHAT do they say? c. Joshua i. WHAT does Joshua do in response to Gibeon's request? 1. Does Joshua's response surprise you? What reasons might he have had not to go? ii. WHAT does Joshua say to do to their enemies? WHY are they supposed to do it? 1. What do you think it means in verse 20 when it says that Israel wiped the people out but then says that a remnant remained? iii. WHAT does Joshua do to the five kings? WHAT does he say to the chiefs of Israel? d. The LORD WHAT did the LORD say to Joshua before the battle?
  - ii. **HOW** did the LORD fight for Israel in the battle?<sup>15</sup>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>15</sup> The Book of Jashar is mentioned only twice in the Bible, here and in 2 Samuel 1:18. It was likely a book of ancient poetic accounts of heroic deeds.

1. Do you think that the sun and the moon actually stopped or do you think this is meant to be read figuratively?

4. After the description of what happens to the kings the story jumps back to where Israel went in the southern conquest. This part is very repetitive so let's break down where they go. Try mapping the route

Israel takes in this chapter on the map on page 3.

	Where do they fight? Who do they fight?	What does Israel do to them?	How many are left remaining?	Who is given credit for the victory?	Which battle is this one compared to?
10:28					
10:29-30					
10:31-32					
10:33					
10:34-35					
10:36-37					
10:38-39					

The last couple verses of the chapter summarize everything that came before.

- e. WHERE and WHO does it say Israel struck?
- f. **WHO** is given credit for the victory?
- g. WHERE did Joshua and Israel return after the conquest?

## Gospel Connections: Connect to His Story (Part 1)

- 1. "Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands." Israel faces their enemies with confidence because they know that the LORD will give them victory over their enemies. What can we face today, with confidence, knowing that God has given us victory?
  - a. Romans 8:31-39
    - i. WHO is for us?
    - ii. WHAT can separate us from the love of God?
      - 1. What do you think it means when Paul calls us "more than conquerors through him who loved us"?
  - b. 1 Corinthians 15:50-58
    - i. WHAT will happen when the trumpet sounds?
    - ii. WHAT do we have victory over through Jesus?
    - iii. **HOW** are we to live in light of this victory?
  - c. Read 1 John 5:1-5.
    - i. WHO has overcome the world?
    - ii. WHAT is the victory that overcomes the world?
      - 1. How is the faith of those who believe in Jesus the victory that overcomes the world?
      - 2. Based on a-c above, what enemy do we fight against as Christians today? What assurance do we have of victory? And how are we to prepare for the battle?
      - 3. Like Israel, even though God assures us of victory we still have to step out in faith and face the battles of this world. What battle are you fighting right now? How do these verses encourage you in the fight?

2.	"And the sun and the moon stopped" God miraculously stops the sun and the moon in the sky to
	help Israel fight their enemies. Since these lines are written poetically it's not clear whether we are to
	read this literally or figuratively, but let's take a look at other references to God displaying his power
	over nature.

a.	Read	Genes	ic 1·	14-1	C
u.	ı vcau	OCHOS	IO I.	17-1	

i. <b>W</b> H	<b>AT</b> did	God	create?	WHAT	were	thev	sians	of?
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b. 2 Kings 20:1-1 <sup>2</sup>	b.	2	Kinas	20:1-1	1
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- i. WHAT does the LORD do at Hezekiah's request?
- ii. WHAT is the meaning of this sign? What is its significance?
- c. Luke 23:44-49
  - i. **HOW** long was it dark over the land?
  - ii. WHAT happens to Jesus?
  - iii. **HOW** does the centurion respond to these events?
    - 1. Why do you think there was darkness during this particular event?
    - 2. What do you notice about these two times that God caused the sun to change its usual course?
    - 3. The God we worship created the heavens and the earth, including the sun and the moon. Whether this passage is literal or figurative we know that the Creator has power over his creation and we can praise him for it! Take a moment to praise God as Creator.

- 3. "There has been no day like it before or since, when the LORD heeded the voice of a man, for the LORD fought for Israel." The LORD answered Joshua's audacious prayer and the author makes a note here of how significant this really was. Let's take a look at another audacious prayer that we see in scripture.
  - a. Skim read 1 Kings 18:20-40 and then focus verses 36-39.
    - i. From Elijah's prayer, **WHAT** was being shown to the people that day?
    - ii. WHAT happened after he prayed?
    - iii. **HOW** did the people respond?

Both Joshua's and Elijah's stories tell us of God answering prayer in miraculous ways, let's look at some other passages that teach us about prayer.

- b. Psalm 37:4.
  - i. WHAT do we have to do? WHAT does the LORD do?
    - 1. How does what we delight in affect our desires?
- c. John 14:12-14.
  - i. WHAT are we supposed to ask in Jesus' name? WHAT will he do?
    - 1. What does it mean to ask in Jesus' name?
- d. James 4:1-10.
  - i. WHAT do we not receive? WHY? WHAT should we do instead?
    - 1. Based on these passages, how then should we pray?
    - 2. What is an audacious prayer that you are praying? Does it align with God's will? How have you seen God use that prayer? (i.e. as you pray it, are you being changed, or is the situation being changed, or both?)

# Reflection: Connect to His Story (Part 2)

Old Testament texts are often "Preparatory Texts." They prepare people for the coming of Jesus by showing them the nature of sin and people's need for a Savior. With this in mind, in this week's passages...

- What do we learn about how Christ is foreshadowed/anticipated?
- O What do we learn about who God is?
- What do we learn about the relationship between God and people?
- What do we learn about the problem of sin?
- What does it look like to follow God in this text?
- O How does God save in this text?



#### **ADORATION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I PRAISE God for?

### **CONFESSION**

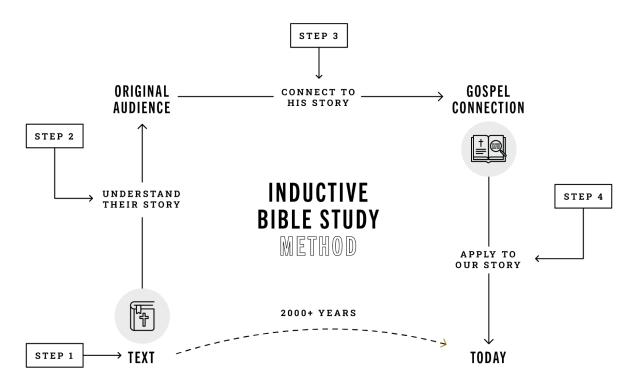
In light of this passage/lesson, what do I need to CONFESS or repent of?

#### **SUPPLICATION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I ASK God for?

# JOSHUA

# Lesson 11 | As the LORD Commanded Joshua 11:1-23



#### Personal homework section:

- Step 1: Observe the text by reading it several times and marking characters and key words/phrases SO THAT you grasp what the passage is about.
- ☐ **Step 2**: Understand their story by completing the observation questions in the first half of the lesson *SO THAT you* understand what the original author is communicating to his audience.
- ☐ **Step 3:** Connect to God's story by completing the gospel connection questions in the second half of the lesson *SO THAT you can understand where this passage fits in God's larger story of salvation.*
- Step 4: Reflect and Apply to Your story by completing the last page of each lesson SO THAT the teaching of the passage helps you to practically grow as a more deeply rooted follower of Jesus.

#### Joshua 11:1-23

#### LESSON ELEVEN

11 When Jabin, king of Hazor, heard of this, he sent to Jobab king of Madon, and to the king of Shimron, and to the king of Achshaph, <sup>2</sup> and to the kings who were in the northern hill country, and in the Arabah south of Chinneroth, and in the lowland, and in Naphoth-dor on the west, <sup>3</sup> to the Canaanites in the east and the west, the Amorites, the Hittites, the Perizzites, and the Jebusites in the hill country, and the Hivites under Hermon in the land of Mizpah.

- <sup>4</sup> And they came out with all their troops, a great horde, in number like the sand that is on the seashore, with very many horses and chariots.
- <sup>5</sup> And all these kings joined their forces and came and encamped together at the waters of Merom to fight against Israel.
- <sup>6</sup> And the LORD said to Joshua,

"Do not be afraid of them, for tomorrow at this time I will give over all of them, slain, to Israel.

You shall hamstring their horses and burn their chariots with fire."

- <sup>7</sup> So Joshua and all his warriors came suddenly against them by the waters of Merom and fell upon them.
- <sup>8</sup> And the LORD gave them into the hand of Israel, who struck them and chased them as far as Great Sidon and Misrephoth-maim, and eastward as far as the Valley of Mizpeh.

And they struck them until he left none remaining.

- <sup>9</sup> And Joshua did to them just as the LORD said to him: he hamstrung their horses and burned their chariots with fire.
- <sup>10</sup> And Joshua turned back at that time and captured Hazor and struck its king with the sword, for Hazor formerly was the head of all those kingdoms.
- <sup>11</sup> And they struck with the sword all who were in it, devoting them to destruction; there was none left that breathed.

And he burned Hazor with fire.

- <sup>12</sup> And all the cities of those kings, and all their kings, Joshua captured, and struck them with the edge of the sword, devoting them to destruction, just as Moses the servant of the LORD had commanded.
- <sup>13</sup> But none of the cities that stood on mounds did Israel burn, except Hazor alone; that Joshua burned.
- <sup>14</sup> And all the spoil of these cities and the livestock, the people of Israel took for their plunder.

But every person they struck with the edge of the sword until they had destroyed them, and they did not leave any who breathed.

<sup>15</sup> Just as the LORD had commanded Moses His servant, so Moses commanded Joshua, and so Joshua did.

He left nothing undone of all that the LORD had commanded Moses.

<sup>16</sup> So Joshua took all that land, the hill country and all the Negeb and all the land of Goshen and the lowland and the Arabah and the hill country of Israel and its lowland <sup>17</sup> from Mount Halak, which rises toward Seir, as far as Baal-gad in the Valley of Lebanon below Mount Hermon.

And he captured all their kings and struck them and put them to death.

- <sup>18</sup> Joshua made war a long time with all those kings.
- <sup>19</sup> There was not a city that made peace with the people of Israel except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon. They took them all in battle.
- <sup>20</sup> For it was the LORD's doing to harden their hearts that they should come against Israel in battle, in order that they should be devoted to destruction and should receive no mercy but be destroyed, just as the LORD commanded Moses.
- <sup>21</sup> And Joshua came at that time and cut off the Anakim from the hill country, from Hebron, from Debir, from Anab, and from all the hill country of Judah, and from all the hill country of Israel.

  Joshua devoted them to destruction with their cities.
- <sup>22</sup> There was none of the Anakim left in the land of the people of Israel.

Only in Gaza, in Gath, and in Ashdod did some remain.

<sup>23</sup> So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the LORD had spoken to Moses.

And Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their tribal allotments.

And the land had rest from war.

# Lesson 11 | As the LORD Commanded

Joshua 11:1-23

# Look at the text: Understand Their Story

Last week Joshua's story really picked up the pace! Earlier in the book we spent chapters focusing on the battles of Jericho and Ai and then last week we sped through the rest of the Southern Campaign in just eleven verses. Now the kings of the North begin to hear about all that Israel has done and yet seem to learn nothing. This chapter is the culmination of a lot of themes in the book of Joshua so we will be digging into the text and then also looking back to see what has come before.

Begin your study in prayer. Read Joshua 11:1-23 passage several times, marking every reference to the main characters and noting any words or concepts which are repeated. Take note of any questions you may have.

- 1. Summarize each section to understand the flow of the narrative.
  - a. Numbers 11:1-3 Setting
  - b. Numbers 11:4-5 Inciting Action or Conflict
  - c. Numbers 11:6-14 Rising Action
    - i. Numbers 11:6
    - ii. Numbers 11:7-9
    - iii. Numbers 11:10-13
  - d. Numbers 11:14-15a Climax
  - e. Numbers 11:15b Resolution
  - f. Numbers 11:16-23 How would you summarize this section?
- 2. WHERE does the story take place?
  - a. **WHERE** are the kings from that gather against Israel? On the map on page 4, try to find their different regions.
  - b. WHERE did Israel fight the kings? WHERE do they chase them?

	C.	WHAT	city does Israel capture and then burn?
	d.	WHAT	regions did Israel take during the conquest? Try to find them on the map!
		i.	Which kings do you think verse 17 is talking about?
	e.	WHAT	group made peace with Israel?
		i.	How does this verse affect your understanding of how God saw the Gibeonites' deception from chapter 9?
	f.	WHER	E did Israel fight the Anakim? WHERE did some remain?
	g.	WHAT	is the final state of the land?
4.		Jabin,	main characters in this story? <b>WHAT</b> do we learn about them?  king of Hazor <b>WHAT</b> did Jabin, king of Hazor, hear about? <b>WHAT</b> did he do when he heard?
			1. Compare this text to Joshua 5:1, 9:1, 10:1. What pattern do you see in these verses? How has the reaction of the people changed? How have the people groups changed?
		ii.	<b>HOW</b> are the troops described?
		iii.	<b>HOW</b> is Hazor described later in this passage? <b>HOW</b> is it treated differently than the other cities?

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- i. WHAT did the LORD say to Joshua before the battle?
  - 1. Compare this text to Joshua 10:8. What is similar about God's command to Joshua? What is different?
- ii. WHAT did the LORD do to Israel's enemies?
- iii. WHAT did Israel do because of the LORD's commands?
- iv. **WHO** hardened the hearts of Israel's enemies? For what purpose?

#### i. Joshua

- i. **WHAT** did Joshua do to his enemies? **HOW** does this compare to the commands God gave him?
  - 1. Compare what Israel does in the Northern Conquest to what they did in last week's lesson on the Southern Conquest (10:28-39). What similarities do you see in what Israel does?
- ii. **HOW LONG** did Israel fight the kings of the region?
- iii. WHO does Joshua fight at the end of the chapter? WHERE do they remain?
- iv. WHAT does Joshua give Israel as an inheritance? HOW is it divided?

## Gospel Connections: Connect to His Story (Part 1)

- 1. "And they came out with all their troops...with very many horses and chariots." In that time chariots would have been the height of military machinery, adding force to the already intimidating number of people that Israel was up against. No wonder the LORD needs to remind Joshua not to be afraid! But there are a few places that scripture talks about chariots, let's take a look at those other passages.
  - a. Deuteronomy 17:14-17.
    - i. WHAT was the king not to acquire? WHY shouldn't he acquire them?
  - b. Psalm 20:6-9.
    - i. WHAT shouldn't we trust in? WHAT should we trust in? Why?
  - c. Psalm 147:7-11.
    - i. WHAT does the LORD not delight in? WHAT does He take pleasure in?
      - 1. Why do you think the LORD told Israel not to trust in chariots and horses? What should we trust in instead?
      - 2. Chariots and horses symbolize human power, but the LORD tells us to not to fear, or rely on, human power. Instead, we are to rely on Him. What 'chariots and horses' are you tempted to trust in today, rather than putting your trust in the LORD?
- 2. "There was not a city that made peace with the people of Israel except the Hivites, the inhabitants of Gibeon." Only now, two chapters later, do we see how to properly interpret the Gibeonites' story. Even though they came in deception, they still chose to make peace with Israel rather than fight them, and because of that they were not destroyed. But there are still unanswered questions: Will God and Israel continue to honour this covenant? And will the Gibeonites lead the people astray in the long run? Let's take a peek into the future of the Gibeonites.
  - a. Read 2 Samuel 21:1-14.
    - i. WHAT reason does the text give for there being a famine in Israel?
    - ii. **HOW** does this passage describe the Gibeonites?
    - iii. WHAT deal does King David make with the Gibeonites?

	iv. WHAT does God do at the end of this passage?
	1. Read Joshua 9:19-20 again. Why do you think the LORD would bring famine to the land because of the Gibeonites? How do you think God sees those who make peace with Him?
b.	Read Nehemiah 3:1-7. After the exile Nehemiah led a remnant of the Israelites back to Jerusalem
	to rebuild the city.  i. WHO is mentioned as helping rebuild Jerusalem's wall in verse 7?
	1. What does this imply about the Gibeonites' place with the people of Israel?
C.	Joshua was written around 1390 BC, while the events described in Nehemiah happened around 430 BC. So 960 years later the Gibeonites are still a part of the people of Israel! Based on what happens with Gibeon, WHAT do you think it means to make peace with God?
d.	Read Romans 5:6-11.  i. WHAT was our status at the time when Jesus died for us?
	ii. WHAT did His death accomplish?
	How does our status before becoming a Christian compare to the Gibeonites?

2. How is what we receive in Christ similar to what the Gibeonites received? How is

4. Have you made peace with God? If yes, praise the LORD for what He has done

3. Based on what you have read so far, how do we have peace with God?

for you! If not, consider what is holding you back.

it different?

- 3. "And the land had rest from war." We've reached the end of the conquests, the fighting is done and now all that's left is to divide the land. But this idea of rest is actually a thread that ties through all of scripture so let's take a moment to pull on that string.
  - a. Genesis 2:1-3.
    - i. Going back to the beginning, WHAT do we learn about rest? WHAT is finished? WHO rests?
    - ii. WHEN did He rest? WHAT does He do because He rested on that day?
      - 1. What can we infer about rest based on this text? Is it good? When does it come?
  - b. Psalm 95:6-11.
    - i. WHAT did the people of Israel do at Meribah? WHAT happened to their hearts?
    - ii. WHAT was the result of their actions? WHAT were they not able to enter?
  - c. Hebrews 4:1-11.
    - i. WAS Joshua able to give people total rest? What evidence do we have?
    - ii. WHAT remains for the people of God? WHAT does this look like?
    - iii. WHAT should we strive for? How?
  - d. Read Revelation 14:12-13.
    - i. WHAT is the call given to the saints?
    - ii. WHO is called blessed? Why?
      - 1. Based on what you've read, what do you think keeps us from rest? Who receives rest? How should we seek rest? When will we receive rest?
      - 2. Our hope is not for rest in this life but in eternity with Christ, but even while we are here Christ has promised to carry our burdens for us. Read Matthew 11:28-30 and praise God for taking the burden of sin and replacing it with salvation!

# Reflection: Connect to His Story (Part 2)

Old Testament texts are often "Preparatory Texts." They prepare people for the coming of Jesus by showing them the nature of sin and people's need for a Savior. With this in mind, in this week's passages...

- What do we learn about how Christ is foreshadowed/anticipated?
- O What do we learn about who God is?
- What do we learn about the relationship between God and people?
- What do we learn about the problem of sin?
- What does it look like to follow God in this text?
- O How does God save in this text?



#### **ADORATION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I PRAISE God for?

## **CONFESSION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what do I need to CONFESS or repent of?

### **SUPPLICATION**

In light of this passage/lesson, what can I ASK God for

# **PRAYER REQUEST LOG**

WEEK ONE Name	Prayer Request(s)
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WEEK TWO	
Name	Prayer Request(s)

<b>WEEK THREE</b> Name	Prayer Request(s)
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WEEK FOUR Name	Prayer Request(s)

WEEK FIVE Name	Prayer Request(s)

WEEK SIX	Danier Danier (4)
Name	Prayer Request(s)

WEEK SEVEN Name	Prayer Request(s)

WEEK EIGHT Name	Prayer Request(s)

WEEK NINE	Draway Dagwagt/a
Name	Prayer Request(s)
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WEEK TEN Name	Prayer Request(s)
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WEEK ELEVEN Name	Prayer Request(s)