

Joshua and Judges



DailyLife
Five Oaks Church

Week 4: October 24–30, 2015

Day 1

October 26



Pray / Ask God to help you see what must be done to fulfill his plan for you.

GOD PROVIDES US with what we need, but we still have to work for it.

The Israelites are busy distributing the land they have conquered, each of the twelve tribes receiving their promised inheritance. The tribes of Manasseh and Ephraim were given more than enough land for their people, but the land required work. They didn't want to clear the land of the trees and rid the land of the Canaanites. Instead they chose to complain to Joshua, and they begged for more land.

As Christians we are faced with the same choices as the Israelites. We should be willing to go in and conquer the land or promises that God has given to us. Oftentimes, though, we don't think we can do anything or are unwilling to put in the hard work needed to receive what God has promised us. We need to use the gifts, abilities, and resources that we have been given by God.



Read / Joshua 16–17



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following questions for reflection.

Ephraim and Manasseh were given plenty of land, but they didn't want to do the work required to use it. We often grumble and complain when we feel we have not received our fair share of something. Oftentimes it's plenty, but it requires a bit of work to reap the benefits. Reflect on a time when you have felt dissatisfied with your allotment. What did God call on you to do about it?

God promised the Israelites their land, and they waited a long time for it. God has promises for us today. Reflect on God's promises in your life today.

We often get to a certain point in our lives where we feel pretty comfortable. Yet we hear the call of God to move on, mature, grow, and become more like him. Making the necessary changes takes hard work. We don't want to have to climb up those mountains to cut down those trees; we just want open land. What mountains in your life can be climbed so that you can grow more with God?

Day 2

October 27



Pray / Thank God for his unconditional love and patience.

GOD KEEPS HIS unconditional promises, even when we are not obedient to him.

Seven of the tribes had not yet occupied the land as instructed by God. They were lazy and procrastinating, as taking over the land required too much work. With a little work, the boundaries were established for each tribe, fulfilling God's promised inheritance to the Israelites. The Israelites needed to work and claim the promises made to them by God, just as the Christians today must go and claim the promises made to us through Jesus. Christ.

We usually don't know or understand God's plan and purpose for our lives, but we still need to make decisions and work. Sometimes God's plan is obvious, and the plan is marked out for us just like the tribes who had already received their inheritance. Sometimes the plan is not clear, and work and effort is needed to decide what to do next.



Read / Joshua 18–19



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following questions for reflection.

The tribes defeated the Canaanites but still failed to complete the instructions of God. Oftentimes we procrastinate on the jobs that seem large, difficult, or boring. If we continue to put them off, we show lack of discipline, time management, and sometimes, disobedience to God. What has God tasked you with that you have failed to finish because it's too time consuming, too difficult, or just plain old boring?

The tribes were sent out to survey the land so they could receive their allotment. God has a mission for us, but sometimes we have to do some evaluating before we can settle into his plan. God can't lead us unless we are willing to move and follow his directions. Survey your spiritual life. What is God calling you to move on and improve?

Joshua also received an allotment, as was promised God, but he took his portion last. He was a leader and servant who put his concern for others and his commitment to God first. He was committed to seeing the distribution of the land to completion, and his work was done fairly and according to God's way. Reflect on a leadership role that you have been in. Were God and everyone else on your team your first priority?

Day 3

October 28



Pray / Thank God for the gifts he has given you.

GOD FULFILLS ALL of his promises.

Finally! Israel has received their full inheritance of land. The Israelites now occupied the Promised Land. God proved faithful with the Israelites doing their part.

Now the tribes are working on building the cities of refuge. The cities were to be scattered across the land to help prevent injustice until a fair trial, especially in cases of revenge. The tribe of Levi controlled these cities, as they were to minister to all of the people across all of the tribes.



Read / Joshua 20–21



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following questions for reflection.

God proved to be faithful in fulfilling the promise he had given to Israel, even though it took many years for the promise to be fulfilled. God's promises will be fulfilled on his time, not ours. What promises from God are you anxiously waiting for?

The more we learn and understand the promises that God has fulfilled, and continues to fulfill, the easier it is for us to have hope. Sometimes we become impatient, wanting God to act now, but we need to be patient and remain faithful. Reflect on a time that you were impatiently waiting for God's answers. How did your impatience toward God negatively affect your faith and relationship with him?

The Levites were given cities to live in. The other tribes sacrificed some of their land for these cities. We are called to make sacrifices in our lives so that we can properly serve God. What sacrifices are you making in your life for God?

Day 4

October 29



Pray / Ask God to guide you toward spiritually supportive relationships.

IT IS IMPORTANT for us to stay plugged in with other Christians.

All of the land is now under the control of God's people, and the tribes are permitted to return home to their families. Before they leave for home, Joshua reminds them that even though they have finished their military duties, they still have spiritual duties to fulfill every day. Joshua's advice is a lesson that even Christians today should follow, reminding us of our spiritual responsibility.

Even the Israelites were worried they were going to stray from God, so they put up an altar as a reminder that they were all God's people. As life changes, we at times leave the people that support us and hold us accountable in our faith. We can begin to neglect our personal relationship with God. Because we cannot always be accountable on our own, we need to maintain Christian relationships.



Read / Joshua 22



Reflect | Choose one or more of the following questions for reflection.

Reflect on a time when you have been called to move on and leave your support system and start over again. How did you remain true to your roots and Christian values?

The eastern tribes built an altar as a reminder that they are the people of God. The other tribes jumped to conclusions and accused the eastern tribes of worshiping false idols, and they were ready to go to war over this altar. When all was understood, the altar became a reminder to all of the tribes that they all worshiped the same God. Reflect on a time when you have jumped to conclusions without understanding the whole story first.

The Israelite tribes spent many years together supporting each other and fighting for their land. One day they were finally allowed to separate and go home. What would happen if you woke up one day and God said, “Time for you to move on.” Would you be able to have an it’s-not-about-me attitude and leave everything you know behind to follow God’s commands and continue serving him in another way?

Day 5

October 30



Pray / Ask the Lord to help you live in a way that pleases and honors him.

“YOU SHALL CLING to the LORD your God.” (Joshua 23:8)

Joshua was dying and wanted to leave a strong legacy. He knew the Israelites had spiritual weakness, so before dying, Joshua called the people together to give his final advice and commands, which can be summed up in one verse: “You shall cling to the LORD your God” (23:8).

We all have associations and relationships that negatively influence our spiritual growth. We need to be aware of these influences and develop strategies to overcome the temptations that could cause us to fall away from God. We must continually and consciously renew our commitment to obey, serve, and worship only God.



Read / Joshua 23–24



Reflect / Choose one or more of the following questions for reflection.

Joshua died, leaving a legacy filled with love, devotion, and obedience to God. How do you want to be remembered? What is the legacy that you want to leave for your family and friends?

Joshua advises the Israelites against marrying people from pagan nations. Reflect on a relationship that you had where your partner did not believe in God. Were you able to hold firm in your faith, or did their influence negatively affect your relationship with God?

Joshua told the people to destroy false gods and idols. We all have them; we all “worship” them. Television, money, prejudice, jealousy—what is influencing you, and what are you worshiping today that is negatively affecting your relationship with God? How can you remove these false idols from your life?

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