



RUN THROUGH THE BIBLE

ATHLETE STUDY

WEEK 6

NEXT MAN UP

Vince Lombardi left the Packers after they won the first two Super Bowls. He was such a legend, they named the Super Bowl trophy after him. Can you imagine being his replacement?

Phil Bengston, who succeeded Lombardi in 1968, noted, *"It might be better off to be the coach who replaces the coach who replaced the legend."*

Last Week we met Moses, an Israelite who grew up and was educated in Pharaoh's house. He fled Egypt as a fugitive and returned 40 years later at God's command. He led Israel out of slavery in Egypt from Passover through the Red Sea. He transcribed God's Law including the famed Ten Commandments. He brought Israel to the boarder of the Promised Land, but their fear prevented them from going in. He then led the rebellious nation as they wandered the desert until a second generation arose to take the Promised Land.

Today, we're meeting Moses' successor. The man replacing the legend—Joshua.

RHYME REVIEW

1	CREATIONS GLORY NOW UNDONE
2	FLOOD OUT THE WORLD, START FRESH WITH YOU
3	NEW LANGUAGE BRINGS DISUNITY
4	THE SOD, THE SEED, AND BLESS SOME MORE
5	WALK THROUGH RED SEA AND STAY ALIVE
6	POSSESS THE LAND, BUT DO NOT MIX

JOSHUA 1:1–3, 5–9

¹ After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, THE LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant,

² "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.

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

⁵ 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.

⁶ Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷ 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. ⁸ 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. ⁹ 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."

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

As we *Run through the Bible*, we're hitting several of the major plot points along the way. However, we're also skipping a lot. One of the major developments happened between last Week and this Week—the importance of which can hardly be overstated—the Mosaic Law. This is the foundation that told Israel how to live in the Land. Although we can't examine it completely, scan the QR code to see God's purpose in the law.



DISCUSSION

Who's someone on your team or at your school who, if they left, things just wouldn't feel the same? What makes them that important?

1. What had just happened, and what did God command Joshua to do? (1–2)

2. What did God promise regarding the land, and what did He promise about His own presence? (3–5)

3. How many times, does God tell Joshua to "be strong and courageous"? (6–9)

4. Why do you think God grounds Joshua's courage in His own presence and promise (v. 5, 9) rather than in Joshua's experience or résumé?

5. Whose shoes are you being asked to fill right now (or in the future)—a role, a reputation, a responsibility? What would it look like to lean on God's presence instead of the pressure to measure up? (5, 9)

God doesn't call the equipped, he equips the called. Many times we're asked to step into opportunities God will use to grow us. Is God asking you to step up? Talk to your coach!

ICEBREAKER

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

APPLICATION



STUDY NOTES

EVERY STEP YOU TAKE

After Israel escaped Egypt and received the Law, they stood on the brink of the Promised Land. Numbers 13–14 records Moses sending twelve spies to scout the Land. When the twelve came back, ten were fearful too afraid to believe it could be done. Only two stood apart, bravely declaring that, with God's help, they could indeed claim the Land promised to Abraham over 400 years before. Those men were Joshua and Caleb.

Because the nation failed to trust and obey, God forbade that generation from entering the Promised Land. Only Joshua and Caleb would set foot in the Land. All others would die in the wilderness; their sons and daughters would inherit the Land instead.

Sadly, even Moses lost the opportunity to enter the Land because of his anger and disobedience (Deuteronomy 32:51–52). Deuteronomy 34 records Moses' death and the nation's mourning. As Joshua 1 opens, it was time to get to work.

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua...“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. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses.”

VICTORY REQUIRES THE RIGHT IDENTITY

Imagine what Joshua felt in that moment. It's clear he trusted the Lord. However, he had big shoes to fill. Not only that, what God asked him to do was literally impossible on his own. Thankfully, Joshua and his people weren't alone. And God wasn't asking them to accomplish this apart from him.

God promised Joshua, ***“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. Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them.”***

Notice the two sides to obedience for Joshua. *First*, God called Joshua to trust him to accomplish the inheritance promised to Israel. *Second*, Joshua wasn't a passive observer to God's activity, but an active participant in it. That's why God commanded him to ***“Be strong and courageous.”***

God repeated the command, ***“Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses***

my servant commanded you.” God wasn't asking Joshua to find strength and courage in himself, but in the Lord. Victory requires the right identity.

Joshua understood what many of us miss. God's commands don't exist to ruin your fun—they exist so ***you may have good success wherever you go.*** For Joshua, God's promise to ***“make your way prosperous, and good success”*** meant taking the Promised Land. Sometimes it meant fighting unconventional battles, like taking Jericho by marching around it seven times and screaming—even for ancient warfare that was crazy. But through that obedience, Jericho's impenetrable walls came tumbling down.

But, even with such promises in hand, God ***commanded*** Joshua, ***“Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”***

#6, POSSESS THE LAND, BUT DO NOT MIX

God commissioned Joshua to lead Israel to claim the Land promised to Abraham. Remember, Israel had to wait because ***“the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet complete.”*** They had now crossed that invisible line of judgment and Israel would act as God's divine sword to bring judgment on the people of the Land. They were to cleanse the Land of sin and idolatry—in other words, ***possess the Land, but do not mix.***

The book of *Joshua* records the conquest of the Promised Land. Despite Joshua's faithfulness, Israel repeatedly disobeyed the Lord and set a course toward destruction that we'll witness over the next few Weeks.

Although Joshua wasn't Moses, he led well. He was faithful his entire life—a level of faithfulness few in the Bible matched, including Moses. Joshua's problem rested in the rebellious and disobedient people he led. Yet, through it all, he was strong and courageous.

What about you? What is God asking you to do now or as you look to the future? Whatever it is, anything you can accomplish in your own identity, courage, and strength will be temporary at best. It's only as we find our identity in the Christ, finding courage and strength in him, can we participate in his eternal purposes.

Like Joshua, as we live for Christ, we'll face opposition. We'll encounter stubbornness and rebellion—sometimes even among God's people. Be strong and courageous. Also, this isn't for when you're older, God calls you to live this way now. Like Paul told Timothy, ***“Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity”*** (1 Timothy 4:12, NIV).