

VICTORY!

ZERO WEEK

A STUDY OF JOSHUA

NEXT MAN UP

John Wooden left UCLA after their 10th NCAA basketball championship in 12 years. Vince Lombardi left the Packers after they won the first two Super Bowls. Indeed, today's college basketball Player of the Year and Super Bowl winners receive trophies named after these two men respectively. Can you imagine being their "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." No doubt Joshua felt the same.

If you know the Bible, you've heard of Moses. He stood before Pharaoh in Egypt and cried out, "Let my people go!" 10 plagues later, Pharaoh sent Israel packing. Moses led a nation of slaves to freedom and did great and mighty things through the Lord. For 40 years, he led this new nation.

Our study begins as the baton was passed. Joshua had been with Moses the last 40 year, but as the saying goes, "Heavy is the head that wears the crown." Now, it's Joshua's time to lead.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Every Week of this study, there will be more that we *could* discuss, than we are *able* to discuss. Much of the richness and depth of *Joshua* is found through the context in which it was written that helps us understand what we're reading.

Due to this limitation, we will provide this "Additional Resources" section to fill-in some of those gaps. For instance, scan the QR code for a great 10-minute video summary of *Joshua*.



DISCUSSION

Who has been one of your favorite leaders, teachers, or coaches? Why?

ICEBREAKER

1. What is the timeframe of these events? (1)

2. How are Moses and Joshua described? (1)

3. What is the scope of God's promise regarding the Land? (3-5)

4. Why might God have used the past tense ("have given") to describe his Land gift? (3)

5. How might God's promises and presence have affected Joshua's courage? Why? (5)

OBSERVATION

INTERPRETATION

YOURS, MINE, AND OURS

MOSES	JOSHUA
Born in Israel's captivity (Ex 2:2) Called by God (Ex 3)	Born in Israel's captivity (Nu 11:28) Called by God (Dt 31)
Given promise & boundaries (Dt 11:24)	Given promise & boundaries (Jo 1:3-4)
Present when God gave Law (Ex 19-31)	Present when God gave Law (Ex 32:17)
Waters of Red Sea part (Ex 14)	Waters of Jordan River part (Jo 3:14-17)
Called Israel to obey Law (Dt 4:1-2)	Called Israel to obey Law (Jo 8:34-35)
Sent spies into the Land (Nu 13-14)	Sent Spies into the Land (Jo 2:1)
Final challenging speech (Dt 29-30)	Final challenging speech (Jo 23-24)

JOSHUA 1:1-5

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. ⁴ 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. 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. What battle do you face right now that requires godly courage?

APPLICATION

Every team needs a coach to succeed. Even professional athletes have a coach. Thankfully, you have a coach willing to invest in you. Need help with a spiritual battle you're facing right now? Talk to your coach today.

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STUDY NOTES

JOSHUA

Joshua learned how to obey as Moses' servant before he commanded as Israel's general (Numbers 11:28). From Exodus through Numbers—40 years before entering the Promised Land—Joshua shadowed Moses. He accompanied Moses to Mt. Sinai as the Lord's finger inscribed his Law onto the tablets. Joshua regularly accompanied Moses when he met the LORD in the Tabernacle. Beyond this blessing and privilege with Moses, Joshua wanted a closer relationship with the Lord. Therefore, even after Moses left God's presence each time, Joshua remained, extending his own time with God (Exodus 33:11).

Later, Moses sent out 12 spies to the Promised Land, one from each tribe. One, named "Hoshea" was sent from the tribe of Ephraim. Moses renamed him "Joshua" meaning "deliverer" (Numbers 13:16). The name stuck. After seeing their enemies firsthand, only he and Caleb believed God would give them victory (Numbers 14:38).

As you might guess, it wasn't all rainbows and sunshine leading Israel. Again, *only* Joshua and Caleb believed God would give Israel the Land. The 10 other spies were too afraid. Israel didn't trust God, so God told them they would wander in the wilderness for 40 years until the first generation passed away and the second generation took the Land. At every turn, the people complained, disobeyed, and fought amongst themselves. Leading that kind of team is no fun at all—just ask your coach. Despite the difficulties, as we will see, Joshua was the right man for the job.

WHAT IS JOSHUA ABOUT?

As we have said, the book of *Joshua* begins **after the death of Moses the servant of the Lord**. Moses didn't die among his people. Deuteronomy 34 records that God showed Moses the Promised Land, but he was unable to enter it. So, God had to tell Joshua of Moses' passing. **The Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, "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."**

The book of *Joshua* is about the man, Joshua leading Israel on a military campaign to cross the Jordan River and settle Israel into the Promised Land. We call it the "Promised Land,"

because it's the land God promised to Abraham over 400 years before.

Genesis 15 records God's promise—that Abraham's descendants would be enslaved for 400 years, then set free to take the land in which Abraham presently lived. Joshua got to lead the nation to receive that promise, but he wasn't alone. God assured Joshua, ***Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.***

WHY STUDY JOSHUA

Joshua records one of the most critical successions in world history, overflowing with illustrations of Joshua's character, skill, and deep passion for God. What a vital model for any person's future—both personally and professionally!

Joshua illustrates battle preparation, leadership strategies (including wisdom and character), and emotion management—whether winning or losing. We'll see modeled transferrable principles of succession, enabling you to bless those *before* you, *after* you, and *with* you. We're all familiar with the concept of "leaving something better than you found it," but how do we actually do that spiritually and relationally?

Spiritual battles are anything that must be won to further your obedience to Christ (1 Corinthians 10:31). What do you need to start or stop doing to have or maintain victory?

Identify a spiritual battle(s) you face right now. Ask brothers or sisters in Christ who are close to you—maybe even a little older. It could be anxiety, addiction, or a character issue. Next, what "land" (blessing) will God likely provide upon your victory? It could be a better relationship with someone, his peace, more joy, or a closer walk with the Lord. Pray that God would use *Joshua* to provide you with wisdom. Victory, for the Christian, is doing God's will and enjoying its blessings.

Take a look at the map to see Joshua's battle plan to take the Land. Maybe you need to map out your spiritual battle plan by taking some time this week to write down what God is asking you to do (be specific), what you're going to do (what, where & when?), and what you hope to see change as a result (how will you measure success?). Occasionally, we will ask about your battle plan over the course of the study. It's not enough to simply *read* about God's warrior. It's time to *fight* the fight God has for you!

