

Joshua

Living Daily in the Strength
of the LORD

SAMPLE PAGES:

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Lesson One, Days One through Five

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Lesson *One*

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

Prepared for God's Purposes

If I could design a perfect day, it would begin with waking without an alarm clock from restful sleep. Breakfast would be ready and waiting. It would consist of perfectly cooked bacon wrapped in soft white bread with orange juice served in a pretty glass. The sun would shine and the sparkling clean windows would open to let in a refreshing morning breeze.

Well, no need to go on because, as you know, most days are not “perfect.” Most days, in one way or another, bring challenges, obstacles, changes and decisions which leave us crying out to the LORD for strength, wisdom and perseverance.

The book of Joshua is a wonderful gift in such a world as this! It tells us of a time when the people of God faced tremendous obstacles, challenges and changes in life. As we read and study this marvelous portion of Scripture, we find that our hope for success is in God alone. As we come to know our God and learn to live in His strength, we become more prepared to fulfill His purposes for our life.

You know, maybe I was wrong about my perfect day. My truly perfect day would be living faithfully and joyfully in the strength of my LORD—no matter what the day might bring!

*"...in Your book they all
were written,
The days fashioned for me,
When as yet
there were none of them."*

Psalm 139:16b

DAY ONE

“...in Your book _____, The days fashioned for me,
When _____ yet there _____ of them.”

Psalm 139:16b

Along with those such as Abraham, Moses and David, the name Joshua is familiar and beloved to many Christians. In fact, many of us grew up singing about his victory at Jericho and memorizing verses from the book that bears his name. Yet, while Joshua’s life and the book of Joshua tell us some things about him and his life (which you will be examining more closely today), they tell us much more about our LORD—and He (not Joshua) is the true focus of the book of Joshua and of this study!

1. Construct the basic elements for a biography of Joshua.

a. Birthplace: (Not specifically stated but deduced from knowledge of the Exodus.
If you are not familiar with this history, you may skip this question.) _____

b. Name at birth: (Numbers 13:16) _____
(If time permits, complete a word study on the meaning of both of Joshua’s names.*)

Person responsible for the name change: _____

Father: _____

c. Tribe: (Numbers 13:8) _____

d. Grandfather’s name and position: (1 Chronicles 7:26-27 and Numbers 2:18) _____

e. First mention in Scripture: _____
(It is in the book of Exodus. To find the verse, look up “Joshua” in a concordance.**)

f. Activity Joshua is engaged in when first mentioned: _____

g. Events leading to Joshua’s commissioning as a leader: (Numbers 27:12-23) _____

h. Age at death: (Joshua 24:29-30) _____

Burial place: _____

i. Legacy: (Joshua 24:31) _____

* Appendix D provides information on completing word studies.

** Two helpful online sites are www.biblegateway.com and www.blueletterbible.org.

2. Read Deuteronomy 34:1-12 and record the legacy of Moses, Joshua's predecessor.

3. Leaving a legacy of faithfulness should be important to every believer! As you contemplate your own life, what is your heart's desire? What legacy do you desire to have? (*If you wish, you may use appropriate elements of the legacies of Moses and Joshua.*)

The legacy I desire is...

4. Think now about your life.

a. What current or upcoming circumstance is most often in your thoughts?

b. Does viewing that circumstance in light of your desired legacy change anything? If so, how?

Note: Lessons One and Two of this course focus on historical background and will not instruct you to read the book of Joshua. In Lesson Three you will be asked to read through the entire book of Joshua in order to overview the book. If you wish to complete the reading in shorter segments, you may begin reading through the book of Joshua at any time. If you begin early, you may wish to record your initial thoughts, observations or impressions for reference in Lesson Three.

DAY TWO

“...in Your book they _____ were _____, The _____ fashioned for me,
_____ as yet _____ _____ of them.”

Psalm 139:16b

According to divine design, Moses would bring the children of Israel out of Egypt—and his successor, Joshua, would bring them into the Promised Land. (Exodus 3, Deuteronomy 31) Just as God had faithfully orchestrated the circumstances of Moses' life so that he was prepared to fulfill divine purposes, so God faithfully prepared Joshua.

Today, look at one event in Joshua's life which would have taught him many things about his God and helped prepare him for the work to which God would call him.

1. In comparing Scripture with Scripture, we know that Joshua was born in Egypt and was a fairly young man at the time of the Exodus.¹ As Moses brought the children of Israel out of captivity, Joshua would have witnessed such events as:

- The waters becoming blood (Exodus 7:14-25)
- The plague of frogs (Exodus 8:1-15)
 - of lice (Exodus 8:16-19)
 - of flies (which plagued the Egyptians, but not the Israelites—Exodus 8:20-35)
- The death of the livestock (but not the livestock of God’s people—Exodus 9:1-7)
- The plague of boils (Exodus 9:8-12)
 - of hail (falling only on the Egyptians—Exodus 9:13-35)
 - of locusts (Exodus 10:1-20)
 - of darkness (when the Egyptians were in darkness, but the Israelites had light—Exodus 10:21-29)
- The death of the firstborn (Exodus 11 through 12)
- The glory of God in the form of a pillar of cloud by day and of fire by night (Exodus 13:21-22)
- The parting of the Red Sea (Exodus 14:1-23)
- The destruction of the Egyptian army as God restored the flow of the Red Sea (Exodus 14:24-29)

In all these events, Joshua would have learned crucial “lessons” about the character, ways and abilities of God. Some of the lessons Joshua and the children of Israel would have learned are revealed in Scripture. As you read the following cross-references, make notes under the appropriate columns. (*The first reference is partially completed for you. If time is limited, complete only the bolded passages.*)

Lessons Joshua would have learned about God from the events of the Exodus	Impact? <i>(stated or demonstrated)</i>
a. Exodus 14:30-31	
v. 30 <i>the LORD saves His people</i>	v. 31
v. 31 <i>He is a God who does great works</i>	v. 31
b. Exodus 15:1-7 and 11-13	
c. Psalm 66:1-9	
d. Psalm 105:23-45 and 106:7-12	

2. Choose one lesson above and explain why it would be important preparation for one called to leadership.

3. Today, God’s mighty works should prepare and impact us just as they did Joshua and the Israelites. As you consider the areas of impact listed above, go to prayer. Thank God for circumstances of your life which have caused you to respond as the Israelites did...and ask Him to change your heart’s responses where needed. Initial the box as the “Amen” to your prayer.

DAY THREE

“...in Your _____ they all were written, The _____ for _____ ,
When _____ there were _____ of _____ .”

Psalm 139:16b

The first time Joshua is mentioned in Scripture, he is involved in a battle with the Amalekites. The lessons he would have learned that day are invaluable.

1. Read Exodus 17:8-13 and record the actions taken by each of the following people:

Moses

Joshua

Aaron and Hur

2. After the battle, what two instructions did God give Moses? v. 14

3. What might God want Joshua to learn and remember about warfare and the source of power and victory?
(After recording your own thoughts, you may consult a reliable commentary.)

4. One thing Joshua would have learned that day is that earthly battles have a spiritual dimension. According to Scripture, we, too, are in a warfare with the devil, the flesh and the world. (Ephesians 6:10-12, Galatians 5:17, 1 John 5:4-5) Are any of the lessons Joshua learned about God and physical warfare applicable to spiritual warfare today? Explain.

DAY FOUR

“...in _____ book they all _____ written, _____ fashioned _____ ,
_____ yet there _____ them.”

Psalm 139:16b

As Joshua spent time with Moses, he would have had many memorable moments; however, perhaps none would be so memorable as being with Moses in the tent of meeting.

1. Read Exodus 33:7-11. If possible, read this passage three times in three different translations. In your own words, record what Joshua would have witnessed inside the tent. (*Exodus 16:10 and 40:34-35 give additional insight into the appearance of the cloud.*)

2. How would such extraordinary knowledge of God impact Joshua’s ability to lead God’s people? (*To be thorough in your answer, consider such things as the impact on his faith, trust, fear of the LORD, obedience, worship, etc.*)

3. Today, if you could see on-going, visible manifestations of God’s presence and glory, do you think it would be easier to maintain strong faith? Why or why not?

4. Read Psalm 19:1 and Romans 1:18-20. Record the words of Romans 1:20. (*If time allows, also record Psalm 19:1.*)

5. Today, how might our daily lives be different if we spent more time contemplating creation with the understanding and awe that should accompany such manifestation of God’s existence, presence and glory? (*Consider such things as strength for ministry, faith, trust, fear of the LORD, obedience, worship, etc. If you are a parent, particularly consider how it would impact the way you disciple and lead your children.*)

6. Second Corinthians 4:6 says, “For it is the God who commanded light to shine out of darkness, who has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.”

While creation reveals the glory of God, Jesus Christ reveals this glory even more fully! The more we read the Scriptures, the more we behold His glory. If it has been awhile since you contemplated the glory of God as revealed in the Word, do so now. (*Reading John chapter one is a good way to start this time of meditation.*)

DAY FIVE

“...in _____ book they all were _____, _____ fashioned _____, _____.”

Psalm 139:16b

The few circumstances of Joshua’s life mentioned in this week’s lesson are certainly not all the circumstances God designed to prepare Joshua for His purposes. For example, Joshua would have also learned much from:

The provision of manna and of the water from the rock (Exodus 16 and 17)

Waiting on Mount Sinai when Moses was with God (Exodus 24 and 32)

Being one of the twelve men sent to spy out the land of Canaan—and one of only two who responded with faith (Numbers 13-14)

The sin of Moses (Numbers 20)

And the list could go on and on!

7. Spend at least five minutes reviewing your answers to the questions in this week’s study. As you review and meditate on the spiritual lessons you have observed:

a. What lesson or circumstance from Joshua’s life stands out to you? Why?

b. What prior circumstance of *your* life has God most used to prepare you for an area of responsibility or ministry? Explain.

2. The next three questions can be answered quickly, but please do not take them lightly! Take a few moments to purposefully contemplate the questions and give an answer from your heart.

- a. When did you last thank the LORD for *all* the circumstances of your life and for the ways in which He has chosen to prepare you for His purposes? Is it time to do so again?

- b. Do you regularly ask the LORD to teach you what He wants you to learn so that you can become more like your Savior and of greater use to the Kingdom?

- c. Do you help those you disciple understand God's character and ways through Scripture? Do you also help them apply such truths to their own life's circumstances?

3. Let your closing prayer be one of praise and thanksgiving, as well as of confession, repentance or request. Praise God for preparing you for His purposes and thank Him for His presence with you in every situation of life. Initial the box as the "Amen" to your prayer.

Discipling Tip

*"One generation shall praise Your works to another,
And shall declare Your mighty acts."*

Psalm 145:4

Before praying with your child (or one you disciple), spend a few minutes simply talking about God, His power, and His purposes. Not sure where to start? Every verse of Psalm 145 provides a topic for conversation!

END OF SAMPLE