

How to Get the Most out of This Study

Are you living life to the fullest, or are you just going through the motions? The secret to truly living rather than merely languishing is found in God's Word. We know that God reveals Himself through His Word. That's why doing a Bible study like this is so vital—because God's Word has the power to do His work in our lives. It is the catalyst that refreshes your heart, renews your mind, and restores your soul—it makes life worth living!

This study focuses on the book of Joshua. It reminds us time and again of God's faithfulness to keep His promises. Because He is so faithful, we can *Live Fearlessly!* Just as God led His people into the Promised Land, we pray that He will lead you into new promises and help you conquer new spiritual territory.

Each week of the study is divided into five days for your personal time with God. Each day's lesson has five elements. They are designed to help you fully “live” as you apply the truths you learn to your life:

1. Lift up ... Here we ask you to “Lift up” prayers to God, asking Him to give you spiritual insight for the day.
2. Look at ... This portion of the study asks you to “Look at” the Scripture text, using inductive questions. These questions help you to discover *What are the facts?* You'll learn the basic who-what-when-where-how aspects of the passage as well as some of the important background material.
3. Learn about ... The “Learn about” sidebars correlate to specific questions in order to help you understand *What does this text mean?* These sidebar elements offer cultural insight, linguistic definitions, and biblical commentary.
4. Live out ... These questions and exercises are designed to help you investigate *How should this change my life?* Here you are challenged to personally apply the lessons you have learned as you “Live out” God's principles in a practical way. We encourage

you to write out all of the answers to the questions in this study. You may want to write the answers to the personal application questions in a journal to ensure privacy. By writing your insights from God day by day, you'll have a record of your relationship with Him that you can look back on when you need a faith boost.

5. Listen to ... We finish with inspiring quotes from authors, speakers, and writers. You'll be able to "Listen to" the wisdom they've gleaned in their lives and relate it to your own.

Live Fearlessly is ideal for discussion in a small-group setting as well as for individual study. The following suggestions will help you and your group get the most out of your study time:

personal checklist

- Be determined. Examine your daily schedule, then set aside a consistent time for this study.
- Be prepared. Gather the materials you'll need: a Bible, this workbook, a journal in which to write your thoughts, and a pen.
- Be inspired. Begin each day with prayer, asking the Holy Spirit to be your teacher and to illuminate your mind.
- Be complete. Read the suggested Bible passage and finish the homework each day.
- Be persistent. Answer each question as fully as possible. If you're unable to answer a question, move forward to the next question or read the explanation in the "Learn about ..." section, which may offer further insight.
- Be consistent. Don't get discouraged. If you miss a day, use the weekend to catch up.
- Be honest. When answering the "Live out ..." questions, allow the Lord to search

your heart and transform your life. Take time to reflect honestly about your feelings, experiences, sins, goals, and responses to God.

- Be blessed. Enjoy your daily study time as God speaks to you through His Word.

small-group checklist

- Be prayerful. Pray before you begin your time together.
- Be biblical. Keep all answers in line with God’s Word; avoid personal opinion.
- Be confidential. Keep all sharing within your small group confidential.
- Be respectful. Listen without interrupting. Keep comments on track and to the point so that all can share.
- Be discreet. In some cases, you need not share more than absolutely necessary. Some things are between you and the Lord.
- Be kind. Reply to the comments of others lovingly and courteously.
- Be mindful. Remember your group members in prayer throughout the week.

small-group leader checklist

- Be prayerful. Pray that the Holy Spirit will “guide you into truth” so that your leadership will guide others.
- Be faithful. Prepare by reading the Bible passage and studying the lesson ahead of time, highlighting truths and applying them personally.
- Be prompt. Begin and end the study on time.

- Be thorough. For optimum benefit, allot one hour for small-group discussion. This should allow plenty of time to cover all of the questions and exercises for each lesson.
- Be selective. If you have less than an hour, you should carefully choose which questions you will address, and summarize the edited information for your group. In this way, you can focus on the more thought-provoking questions. Be sure to grant enough time to address pertinent “Live out ...” exercises, as this is where you and the women will clearly see God at work in your lives.
- Be sensitive. Some of the “Live out ...” exercises are very personal and may not be appropriate to discuss in a small group. If you sense this is the case, feel free to move to another question.
- Be flexible. If the questions in the study seem unclear, reword them for your group. Feel free to add your own questions to bring out the meaning of a verse.
- Be inclusive. Encourage each member to participate in the discussion. You may have to draw some out or tone some down so that all have the opportunity to participate.
- Be honest. Don’t be afraid to admit that you don’t have all the answers! When in doubt encourage ladies to take difficult questions to their church leadership for clarification.
- Be focused. Keep the discussion on tempo and on target. Learn to pace your small group so that you complete a lesson on time. When participants get sidetracked, redirect the discussion to the passage at hand.
- Be patient. Realize that not all people are at the same place spiritually or socially. Wait for the members of your group to answer the questions rather than jumping in and answering them yourself.

LESSON ONE

Passing the Baton

Joshua 1

Imagine the pressure. The Olympic Stadium filled with fans waving red, white, and blue. All of the early hours, long workouts, and years of sacrifice had brought the athletes to this moment.

At the 2004 Summer Olympics, four of the fastest women in the world ran the U.S. Women's 4x100 meter relay. Common knowledge held they would take home gold. The American women breezed to a win in the semifinals. They were well on their way to victory when disaster struck. The final baton pass between Marion Jones and Lauryn Williams went terribly awry. The women couldn't make the pass. It's unclear exactly what went wrong. Williams wonders if she took off too early. Spectators say Jones was tired and broke form by the end of her leg. Whatever happened, the baton pass was bungled, and the team didn't even medal.

When I [Penny] was a little girl, my daddy coached West Texas football in the fall and track in the spring. He taught me that the baton pass is the most crucial part of a relay. He decided which runners could handle the pass. He didn't always choose the fastest; he wanted team players with strong legs, sound minds, steady hands, and a solid reach. I remember watching the relay team practicing the handoff for hours on hot, windy days—endlessly repeating the takeoff, timing, and technique of the baton pass.

As it is in sports, so it can be in life. After forty years in the Sinai desert, the time came for Jehovah God to make His choice for passing the baton following Moses' brilliant years of leadership. God had spoken to him "face to face, as a man speaks to his friend" (Ex. 33:11). This servant leader guided the people to freedom from slavery throughout their long wilderness wanderings.

Moses had diligently obeyed God in every detail *except* for one instance: God told

Moses to speak to a rock to produce water, but Moses struck the rock. Because of his disobedience, God denied Moses entrance to the Promised Land (see Num. 20:7–13). But Moses and his successor had spent hours, days, and years preparing for this time.

Who would God choose to lead the headstrong Israelites? Someone with experience. Someone who could stand up to pressure. Someone steadfast. Someone faithful. Someone who would courageously reach for the future. Someone like Joshua.

Day 1: Joshua 1:1–2	COMMANDER IN CHIEF
Day 2: Joshua 1:3–5	COMMISSION AND COMFORT
Day 3: Joshua 1:6–9	CALLED TO COURAGE
Day 4: Joshua 1:10–15	COLLECTING COMRADES
Day 5: Joshua 1:16–18	COMPLIANCE TO COMMANDS

DAY 1

Commander in Chief

Lift up ...

Lord, I know You are my Commander in Chief. Help me to be Your servant, to obediently follow Your directions so that I may obtain all that You have for me. Amen.

Look at ...

The children of Israel wandered forty years in the wilderness. Years earlier, God had miraculously set them free from slavery in Egypt and sent them to claim their inheritance in the Promised Land. Sadly, the generation that had witnessed God's miraculous works and experienced His amazing deliverance died in the desert, afraid of the people in the land. Of all the people who escaped Egypt, only two would enter the Land of Promise: Joshua and Caleb. Today we see that God named Joshua as commander in chief.

Joshua is the first book in the Bible named after a person. But this book isn't merely the story of a man; it is the history of Canaan's conquest. A transitional book, Joshua takes us from the patriarchal age where we witness the birth of the Hebrew people to the settlement of the Promised Land where we witness the birth of a nation. More than five hundred years had passed since God had promised Abraham, "To your descendants I will give this land" (Gen. 12:7). Now the next generation would take the baton of faith and move forward. As you move forward in the book of Joshua, look for God to move you to new and exciting territories on your journey of faith.

READ JOSHUA 1:1-2.

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, it came to pass that the LORD spoke to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, saying: "Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise,



Learn about ...

1 MOSES' DEATH

A leader's death can trigger a crisis. However, when Moses died, Jehovah was alive with plans for succession. After Moses led the Israelites to the borders, his work was done. God honored Moses with an unusual funeral: "He buried him in a valley in the land of Moab ... but no one knows his grave to this day" (Deut. 34:6).

2 SERVANT'S SERVANT

Joshua, "Moses' assistant," received a promotion. Moses' servant became the servant of the Lord. This was not unexpected, nor was Joshua unprepared. The people also knew who would lead them: "The LORD said to Moses: 'Take Joshua ... a man in whom is the Spirit, and lay your hand on him ... inaugurate him in their sight'" (Num. 27:18–19).

6 WHAT LAND?

The Israelites would cross into the land of Canaan. Situated on the trade routes that stretched from Egypt to Syria and from Phoenicia to the Babylonian Empire, this was a strategic position in the ancient world. After capturing Canaan, the Israelites developed a thriving trade route with other nations along these routes.¹

go over this Jordan, you and all this people, to the land which I am giving to them—the children of Israel." Joshua 1:1–2

1. What sad event introduces the book of Joshua?
2. Moses is described as "the servant of the LORD." How lofty or lowly a title does that sound like to you? Why?
3. Explain who ensured the succession of authority and who He spoke to.
4. Why do you think God began his instructions to Joshua by stating something Joshua already knew: "Moses My servant is dead"?
5. What did God command Joshua and the children of Israel to do?
6. What property did God promise the children of Israel? (See the maps on pages 388–89. The exact boundary lines are uncertain, but the maps gives a general idea of the broad territory Joshua 1 discusses.)

Live out ...

7. Just as Moses' death inaugurated a fresh start for the children of Israel, at times death can spark new life for us as well.
 - a. Based on your personal observations, describe some instances in the natural world.
 - b. Now transition your thoughts from the natural world to your personal life. Describe how you have experienced new life after a terrible loss (For example: The death of a dream brought new possibilities).

- c. Move your thoughts one step deeper in your spiritual life. Describe how death can bring new life to your heart and soul (For example: Dying to my desires made me better able to meet the needs of others).
8. a. God chose Joshua to become the next leader of the Hebrew people. Fill in the table to discover how some of Joshua’s life experiences prepared him for his role as leader of the people.

SCRIPTURE	JOSHUA’S PLACE & ROLE
Exodus 17:8–13	
Exodus 24:13–18	
Exodus 33:7–11	
Numbers 14:1–38	

- b. Now think back over your life. List some of the events that God has used to prepare you for the role you occupy today.
9. The people had to wait a long time to obtain God’s long-awaited promises. But God’s delays don’t necessarily mean “no”; they could mean “not now.” Write down a promise from Scripture that you have been waiting for God to fulfill.

• • • • •

George Washington, the first commander in chief of the Continental Army, didn’t take the job to achieve fame or fortune. In fact, General Washington refused even to take a salary. He humbly said, “Lest some unlucky event should happen, unfavorable to my reputation, I beg it may be remembered, by every Gentleman in the room, that I, this day, declare with the utmost sincerity, I do not think myself equal to the Command I am honored with.”



7 DEATH TO LIFE

Jesus Christ’s death on the cross made it possible for all who believe to live abundant life on earth and eternal life in heaven. Jesus said, “Unless a grain of wheat falls into the ground and dies, it remains alone; but if it dies, it produces much grain” (John 12:24).

9 NEVER LATE

The time between God’s pledge to provide the Promised Land and the fulfillment of their inhabiting it was five hundred years. The children of Israel learned that good things come to those who wait. While they murmured and doubted, they should have known that God never lies and He is never late—He’s always right on time.

Since then, every U.S. president has served as commander in chief of the armed forces, outranking all military officers. However, of more than forty presidents, only George Washington and James Madison have faced battle. Frustrated with his generals' incompetence in the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln considered taking command of the Union Army. He actually came under enemy fire in 1864 during the Confederate attack on Fort Stevens in the District of Columbia but never exercised battlefield authority.

Joshua was on par with George Washington. He held the position of both military commander and head of state. He also exhibited the humility of the "gentleman from Virginia." Joshua is often overlooked for his spiritual greatness, as those who follow in the footsteps of great men often are. Phillip Keller said, "[Joshua] has seldom been given the full credit he deserves as perhaps the greatest man of faith ever to set foot on the stage of human history. In fact, his entire brilliant career was a straightforward story of simply setting down one foot in front of another in quiet compliance with the commands of God."²

Listen to ...

I would say to my soul, O my soul, this is not the place of despair; this is not the time to despair in. As long as mine eyes can find a promise in the Bible ... as long as there is a moment left me of breath or life in this world, so long will I wait or look for mercy, so long will I fight against unbelief and despair.

—*John Bunyan*

DAY 2

Commission and Comfort

Has anyone ever told you, “I’ve got your back”? Perhaps it was a parent, a player on your baseball team, or a private in the military. On a recent trip to the Holy Land, I (Lenya) saw a T-shirt hanging from a shop in the Old City of Jerusalem that read, “Don’t worry America, Israel’s got your back.” It made me chuckle knowing that, in fact, the United States has got Israel’s back. Suddenly it occurred to me that no human *or* army, past *or* present, possesses enough strength to deliver Israel from her enemies. God alone watches Israel’s back.

The phrase “I’ve got your back,” which probably originated with pilots in World War II, has been popping up a lot lately from movies on YouTube to sweatshirts made by military wives. If you Google the phrase, you’ll discover it denotes a sense of protectiveness. It’s someone’s way of saying, “Go ahead, I’ll watch out for you.” A good definition for the term might be: An expression that assures someone that you are watching out for them. A promise made by someone assuring that you are protected from what’s behind while you’re busy looking ahead.

Although the Promised Land was God’s gift to Israel, the people would be victorious only through vigorous battle. God gave them title to the territory, but in order to possess it, they had to march upon every part of it. Thankfully, with God’s divine commissions come His great comforts. God gave Joshua a command and a promise: lifetime victory over his enemies based on His unfailing presence. Joshua knew he could march forward because God truly had his back!

Lift up ...

Lord, help me to walk in Your promises with confidence. I trust You to stay with me through good times and bad, never to leave nor forsake me. Thank You for “having my back.” Amen.



Learn about ...

1 EVERY PLACE

God promised the Israelites immense physical territory, but they have never claimed every place He offered. God also promises us spiritual territory and triumph: "Now thanks be to God who always leads us in triumph in Christ, and through us diffuses the fragrance of His knowledge in every place" (2 Cor. 2:14). Have you claimed every area He offers?

4 INVINCIBLE

God's promise of invincibility extends to all of His servants: "No weapon formed against you shall prosper, And every tongue which rises against you in judgment You shall condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the LORD" (Isa. 54:17). Though bad things may happen, God watches over His people and will ultimately prevail, if not here, then in the hereafter.

Look at ...

God passed command to Joshua, one of the original members of the exodus. Next, He commissioned Joshua to take a step of faith into the land and comforted the people with His presence.

God made some astounding promises to Joshua for both the present and future; however, these promises were not given *carte blanche*. They came with some faith-building conditions. As we move forward with Joshua and the Israelites, remember that your faith-walk will progress on two feet. Take one step planted in the promises of God and the other step possessing the promises by faith.

READ JOSHUA 1:3–5.

"Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you, as I said to Moses. From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the River Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites, and to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun, shall be your territory. No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life; as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you nor forsake you." Joshua 1:3–5

1. God promised to give the Israelites "every place" they stepped on in the land. What does this promise say about God's character?
2. Read Deuteronomy 11:24–28 to discover what God had promised Moses. Explain why God would bless the people and what would cause Him to curse them.
3. a. Describe the specific boundaries of the Promised Land:
 - From
 - As far as
 - All

To
Toward

- b. Find these places on the map on page 388.
4. What promise did God make concerning the enemies in the land?
5. How did God confirm that He would treat Joshua as He had treated Moses?
6. What twofold promise did God make to Joshua?

Live out ...

7. God promised the children of Israel that every piece of land they treaded upon would belong to them. Yet they never fully possessed all of it.
 - a. Describe the places your feet trod on before salvation.
(Example: bar rooms or the backseat of a car.)
 - b. List some of the places you have visited as a Christian.
(Example: church or convalescent homes.)
 - c. Think of a place God would want to conquer. This week take a walk of faith around that place and ask God to be victorious.
(Example: your prodigal's apartment or a needy neighborhood.)
8. Some of God's promises are conditional; they come with an offer as well as an obligation. God reminded Moses that obedience is the key to unlocking either blessing or curse. Use the letters in the word OBEY to describe some areas in your life where you have



Learn about ...

6 INSEPARABLE

People may pass on, but God's promises are eternal. God's promise of inseparability to Moses was passed on to Joshua. His promise to Joshua has extended from the Old Testament Israelites to New Testament believers: "He Himself has said, 'I will never leave you nor forsake you'" (Heb. 13:5).

7 PROMISED LAND

Many people think that crossing the Jordan River is a metaphor for death and that entering the Promised Land stands for heaven. However, if the Promised Land were heaven, we wouldn't encounter enemies. Instead, the book of Joshua depicts a faithful life in the world, claiming our inheritance in Christ. What Paul's letter to the Ephesians teaches doctrinally, the book of Joshua depicts practically.



Learn about ...

9 STAND IN AWE

When Joshua and the people entered the land, God assured him that no one could stand before them. Why? Because they served the mighty God who said: “Who then is able to stand against Me? Who has preceded Me, that I should pay him?” (Job 41:10–11). When we stand with God, He will always stand up for us.

experienced God’s blessing. For instance, the letter O might stand for the blessing you feel when you have been openhanded.

O

B

E

Y

9. a. God’s assurance of victory over His enemies must have caused Joshua to rejoice. We as believers have great reason to rejoice. Read 1 Corinthians 15:56–57 and describe humanity’s greatest enemy and the conqueror of this enemy.
- b. Journal about what this means to you personally and spend some time giving thanks to God for His victory in your life.

• • • • •

Unlike Joshua, who took power at an old age (probably around eighty), William Pitt, Pittsburgh’s namesake, became prime minister of Great Britain at the young age of twenty-four. A popular ditty scoffed: “A sight to make all nations stand and stare: a kingdom trusted to a schoolboy’s care.”

Known for oratorical skills and mental acuity, Pitt encountered many obstacles—he suffered from ill health and fought political enemies at home and foreign enemies abroad. When Napoleon threatened to

conquer the world, Pitt allied with Russia, Austria, and Sweden. Following the Battle of Trafalgar, Pitt was hailed as the savior of Europe.³

The story is told that Pitt was eventually forced to walk on crutches. One day, a man came to him complaining of an impossible task he'd been assigned. Pitt picked up his crutches and shook them at the man. "Impossible, sir?" he shouted. "I walk on impossibilities."

We who walk by faith walk on impossibilities. We face enemies from all sides. The world, the flesh, and the Devil conspire to keep us from claiming the inheritance God has staked for us both here and in the hereafter. Whether we are young or old, we need the true Savior to lead us to victory. Joshua—the Hebrew name for Jesus—foreshadowed the One who came at just the right time to save humanity from sin and death. He is the Conquering King, who helps us fight both the enemies without and the enemies within.

Listen to ...

God's promises are, virtually, obligations that he imposes upon himself.

—*Friedrich Wilhelm Krummacker*

DAY 3

Called to Courage

During the 1950s, America was exploring new territory in aeronautics. George Smith was a courageous test pilot willing to face anything. On February 26, 1955, he became the first person to survive a supersonic ejection. When he was forced to bail out from an F-100 Super Sabre going Mach 1.05 (over 675 miles per hour) from six thousand feet, *TIME* magazine reported that the wind hit his body with a force of eight thousand pounds. His helmet, shoes, socks, gloves, and watch were stripped off. The deceleration of forty g's made his organs weigh forty times more than normal. It was thought his arms and legs must have flailed like propeller blades.⁴ He survived with grave injuries and feared flying again. Later he discovered the antidote to fear. One of his caregivers told him, "Courage is knowing the worst—and discovering that, in God's world, the very worst can't really hurt you."⁵

Joshua was exploring new territory too. Willing to face anything, he, too, knew the worst. A former Egyptian slave, a veteran wilderness wanderer, and witness to a generation of his countrymen dying in the desert, Joshua had every reason to be afraid. But he was a daring soldier during the exodus. When the majority of spies sent on reconnaissance returned quaking in their sandals, Joshua courageously said: "Do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will swallow them up. Their protection is gone, but the LORD is with us. Do not be afraid of them" (Num. 14:9 NIV).

You might think forty years of wandering in the wilderness discouraged Joshua. Maybe trying to fill Moses' shoes was intimidating. Perhaps mustering an army from a group of vagabonds was daunting. But God ensured Joshua had the antidote to fear.

Lift up ...

God, help me to be courageous regardless of what may come my way. Help me to turn to Your Word as the source of my strength. Amen.