

FIELD-TESTED SERMON RESOURCES

# SERMON SERIES

TRUSTED | BIBLICAL | FIELD-TESTED

Thank you for downloading this sample PDF from our Sermon Series line of resources.

When you stand up in front of students to proclaim the Word of God, you need trusted, creative, and biblically solid content. YM360's Sermon Series are exactly what you're looking for!

Field-tested, from-the-trenches of youth ministry, YM360 Sermon Series are complete detailed sermon outlines, discussion questions, and graphic packages designed to help you lead students closer to God through proclaiming His Word.

## SERIES OVERVIEW FOR UNCHARTED: Living Off The Map As A Pioneer

God is looking for pioneers who will go into uncharted territory and live off the map. We may be journeying into uncharted lands, but we have a compass and a guide. God guides us through the Holy Spirit, and He gives us His Word as a compass we can use to discern what direction He wants us to go and the best way to get there. God grows His Kingdom and His people by taking us to places we have never been before instead of leaving us where we have always been. In this *Uncharted* series, we're going to live the life of a pioneer. We are going to go off the map with God to see how we make our way through unfamiliar places among unfamiliar people. Our guide in this pioneering journey is Joshua, who led the Israelites through the uncharted territory of the Promised Land. From Joshua's example, we will learn how to use our compasses to follow God's direction. Even more, we will see that we can trust the God who is leading us off the map to speak to us and help us as we pioneer.

## "UNCHARTED" COVERS THE FOLLOWING PURPOSES AND PASSAGES:

- **Session 1 – The Pioneer’s Choice (Joshua 24:14-28) |** Decisions we make today determine our lives tomorrow. But for these decisions to impact our destiny, we must live them out every day. We can only do this by choosing to live intentionally. This is the first key to going off the map with God and living in uncharted territory.
- **Session 2 – The Pioneer’s Friendships (Joshua 2:1-21) |** When we follow God and begin to live off the map as pioneers in uncharted territory, we will run into new kinds of people with new kinds of stories. For us to connect them to God’s Kingdom, we will have to live openly. As pioneers, we will have to do things that no one else would do and go to places where no one else would go.
- **Session 3 – The Pioneer’s Mindset (Joshua 6:1-21) |** We are people who tend toward rebellion, but it is obedience instead of rebellion that leads to success in God’s Kingdom. So when we are in uncharted territory, we must live obediently and follow God, trusting that He has our best interests at heart.
- **Session 4 – The Pioneer’s Secret (Joshua 10:1-15) |** As we live off the map, we will run into situations that we can’t control and troubles we can’t overcome. In these moments, we need God to miraculously intervene. Part of living as pioneers is choosing to live miraculously, becoming daring in our faith, and trusting God to do far greater things than we could ask or imagine.

## "UNCHARTED" IS PART OF YM360’S SERMON SERIES LINE OF RESOURCES AND IS IDEAL FOR:

- Any large group setting
- Mid-week youth service
- “Master teacher” format

# BACKGROUND SLIDES, PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK, AND MORE . . .

## EVERY SERMON SERIES FROM YM360 COMES WITH:

- **Detailed Sermon Outlines** – Every Sermon Series comes with detailed sermon outlines. Teach them "as is" or adapt them to suit your specific ministry context.
- **Discussion questions** – Questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives. You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go.
- **Title and Background slides** – These are designed to be dropped into your favorite presentation software to help you build a creative environment around your sermon. Use them as a backdrop for song lyrics, Scripture passages, teaching points, and any illustrations you choose to display.
- **Artwork for promo and social media** – Social media images, web banners, and a printable poster file are included. Perfect for newsletters, websites, social media platforms, or print them off for posters and bulletin inserts.
- **Logo (including native logo design files)** – We include a logo file and the native design files to allow you to use the logo in ways you see fit.
- **100% downloadable and adaptable**

Each YM360 Sermon Series comes with title and background slides, promotional art (including Instagram images), and logo treatments. Here is what to expect.

## BACKGROUND AND TITLE SLIDES



## PROMOTIONAL ARTWORK



## LOGO TREATMENT



NOTE: Each YM360 Sermon Series also comes with the native files of the logo in case you want to replicate the design for other uses.

## **Uncharted Sermon Series | Session 1: The Pioneer's Choice**

---

**How To Use A YM360 Sermon Series** | YM360 Sermon Series are designed for use by a communicator in a large group setting. Each series download provides various elements such as a detailed sermon outline, suggestions on illustrations or images, Scripture passages, background information, and application points that you can use to craft a message that speaks to your students in your specific context.

This series download also includes discussion questions that can be used to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

Make sure to leverage the series logo, title slide, background slides, and social media artwork this YM360 Sermon Series provides for promotion and message support. We've even included the native design files to allow you the freedom to use the logo in any way that meets your needs.

This YM360 Sermon Series was created to be suitable for all types of churches and ministry environments. It was intentionally designed to provide you with everything you need while also allowing you the freedom to make it fit your particular ministry context. Nobody knows your ministry like you do. Therefore, we encourage you to make any adjustments to this series you feel are necessary to best fit the needs of your students, church, or ministry context.

**A Prayer Before You Prepare** | Heavenly Father, all glory, honor, and praise belongs to You alone! You are worthy of all of my adoration. You alone formed the world and called what You created "good." Thank You for being who You are. Thank You for creating me in Your likeness. Thank You for Your abundant mercy and grace. As I look forward to the many things that this week holds, I pray that You will continue to remind me of Your goodness and glory. As I prepare this message, let my words reflect Your love and Your Holiness. When I grow tired, refill me with strength that only You can provide. If I grow frustrated, help me overcome the challenge before me. You are the God who moves mountains and creates all life. Please open my eyes and humble my heart as I prepare to teach others about You! In Your Holy Name, I pray, Amen.

## Uncharted Sermon Series | A One-Page Glimpse Of Everything You Need To Prepare

---

**Series Snapshot** | *Uncharted*, a four-session sermon series, will challenge your students to become pioneers who are willing to trust and to listen for God's direction, look to the Holy Spirit as a guide, and use His Word as a compass to discern the best way to move in that direction.

**Series Overview** | God is looking for pioneers who will go into uncharted territory and live off the map. We may be journeying into uncharted lands, but we have a compass and a guide. God guides us through the Holy Spirit, and He gives us His Word as a compass we can use to discern what direction He wants us to go and the best way to get there. God grows His Kingdom and His people by taking us to places we have never been before instead of leaving us where we have always been. In this *Uncharted* series, we're going to live the life of a pioneer. We are going to go off the map with God to see how we make our way through unfamiliar places among unfamiliar people. Our guide in this pioneering journey is Joshua, who led the Israelites through the uncharted territory of the Promised Land. From Joshua's example, we will learn how to use our compasses to follow God's direction. Even more, we will see that we can trust the God who is leading us off the map to speak to us and help us as we pioneer.

- **Session 1 - The Pioneer's Choice (Joshua 24:14-28)** | Decisions we make today determine our lives tomorrow. But for these decisions to impact our destiny, we must live them out every day. We can only do this by choosing to live intentionally. This is the first key to going off the map with God and living in uncharted territory.
- **Session 2 - The Pioneer's Friendships (Joshua 2:1-21)** | When we follow God and begin to live off the map as pioneers in uncharted territory, we will run into new kinds of people with new kinds of stories. For us to connect them to God's Kingdom, we will have to live openly. As pioneers, we will have to do things that no one else would do and go to places where no one else would go.
- **Session 3 - The Pioneer's Mindset (Joshua 6:1-21)** | We are people who tend toward rebellion, but it is obedience instead of rebellion that leads to success in God's Kingdom. So when we are in uncharted territory, we must live obediently and follow God, trusting that He has our best interests at heart.
- **Session 4 - The Pioneer's Secret (Joshua 10:1-15)** | As we live off the map, we will run into situations that we can't control and troubles we can't overcome. In these moments, we need God to miraculously intervene. Part of living as pioneers is choosing to live miraculously, becoming daring in our faith, and trusting God to do far greater things than we could ask or imagine.

### Uncharted Series | Session 1

---

**Large Group Teaching Summary** | God is looking for pioneers who will go off the map into uncharted territory. As we do this, we follow the example of Joshua and the Israelites who settled the Promised Land. From their story, we learn that we must live intentionally because the decisions we make today determine our lives tomorrow.

**Key Takeaway** | Live intentionally.

**Scripture Focus** | Joshua 24:14-28

**What You May Need** | *Optional Illustration:* Alexander the Great or Lewis, Clark, and Sacagawea, *Optional Illustration:* Flashback (Personal Story), *Optional Illustration:* Losing Weight/Working Out (Personal Story and Props).

## Uncharted Sermon Series Outline | Session 1: The Pioneer's Choice

---

### I. Introduction

A. Welcome to our new series we are starting this week called *Uncharted*.

#### B. **Optional Illustration: Alexander the Great**

1. One of the greatest military leaders in all of history was the ancient Greek dictator and general Alexander the Great. Alexander took a small confederation of city-states and turned it into an empire that spanned through the Balkan area and into Asia Minor. He took over the Persian empire and then marched through Egypt and India. Eventually, his armies came to the Himalayan Mountains. This was uncharted territory in that day because the Greeks didn't know that the world's highest peaks lay just beyond India. When the armies arrived at the Himalayans, the generals on the front line sent back a message to Alexander saying they didn't know what to do next because they had marched off the map. Alexander replied with a quote that has become famous: "MEDIocre ARMIES ALWAYS STAY WITHIN THE KNOWN AREAS. TRULY GREAT ARMIES ALWAYS MARCH OFF THE MAP."
2. What Alexander said about great armies is true of the greatest pioneers. It takes a special kind of person to go off the map and venture into uncharted territory. For many people, this kind of journey seems scary or intimidating. But for a pioneer, this sounds like the journey of a lifetime.

#### C. **Optional Illustration: Lewis, Clark, and Sacagawea**

1. In our day, the map of the United States is incredibly clear. It tells us where state boundaries are, where cities are, and how to get from point A to point B. We live in a world where we can get anywhere – by interstate highway, airplane, or even by taking side roads.
2. Of course, it wasn't always this way. Back in 1804, the United States had just made the Louisiana Purchase from France, and there was an incredible amount of land in our nation that was completely uncharted. No one knew where rivers went, where mountains were, and what the terrain was like. So President Thomas Jefferson hired two explorers, Meriwether Lewis and William Clark, to explore this new land. For three years, Lewis and Clark explored this new area, creating maps and writing journals about everything they discovered. These journals are collected in a book that's appropriately titled *Off the Map*.
3. But Lewis and Clark didn't go it alone. They got help from a 16-year-old Native American girl named Sacagawea, who helped Lewis and Clark get from the area we know now as North Dakota all the way to the Pacific Ocean in Oregon. For her help as a pioneering guide, Sacagawea became a historical American hero.

D. We begin our Uncharted series with this story because GOD IS LOOKING FOR PIONEERS WHO WILL GO INTO UNCHARTED TERRITORY AND LIVE OFF THE MAP. Thankfully, these uncharted journeys are not uncharted. We may be going without a map, but we have a compass and a guide. God guides us through the Holy Spirit, and He gives us a compass we can use to discern what direction He wants us to go and the best way to get there. We may not have knowledge, but we can trust that the God who is leading us off the map will speak to us and help us as we pioneer.

- E. In this *Uncharted* series, we're going to live the life of a pioneer. We are going to go off the map with God to see how we make our way through unfamiliar places among unfamiliar people. THIS IS SOMETHING ALL CHRISTIANS NEED TO DO BECAUSE GOD WANTS TO GROW HIS KINGDOM THROUGH PIONEERS LIKE US.
- F. Our guide in this pioneer journey is Joshua. Joshua had to lead the Israelites through the uncharted territory of the Promised Land. For many years, the Israelites had dreamed of life in the Promised Land, but they had to be pioneers when they arrived there. From Joshua's example, we will learn how to better use our compasses to follow God's direction. Even more, we will see that we can trust God throughout our time off the map.
- G. So, let us go off the map with God. Let us be pioneers who are willing to trust and to listen for God's direction and use a compass to discern the best way to move in that direction. IT ALL STARTS WITH A CHOICE TO LIVE INTENTIONALLY.

## II. Background

- A. Joshua
  1. From the time of Abraham, the Israelites looked forward to entering the Promised Land. But starting with the time when Jacob and his family left to join Joseph in Egypt during a famine, the Israelites went through a 400-plus-year period of living elsewhere. And even after God led the Israelites out of Egypt, the Israelites spent a generation wandering in the desert trying to get to the Promised Land.
  2. In many ways, the Israelites viewed the Promised Land as uncharted territory during this long period of time when it was a dream and a promise but not a reality for them.
  3. But after Joshua took over for Moses as the leader of the Israelites, the Israelites finally entered the Promised Land. They learned what it was like to live off the map as they followed God step by step to conquer this land and receive God's promise as reality.
- B. In this first session of *Uncharted*, we're going to fast forward past the story of how the Israelites lived off the map in the Promised Land. (We'll come back to that story in the next three sessions.) We're doing this so we can go to Joshua's last speech to the Israelites and discover how this speech reveals the first key to going off the map with God into uncharted territory.
- C. ***Optional Illustration: Flashback- Give an example of a flashback from your favorite book, TV show, or movie.***
  1. One of the most common narrative devices in books, TV shows, and movies is the flashback.
  2. With this technique, action in the present day stops so that the storyteller can go into history and demonstrate what happened in the past.
  3. This storytelling device ensures that everyone understands the context behind the action that's happening in the present.



- D. In the Book of Joshua chapter 24, Joshua used a flashback to remind the Israelites of how God had led them over the past hundreds of years.
1. Joshua (along with Caleb) was one of two Israelites who had been a part of the entire journey from Egypt through the desert over 40 years. So when Joshua led the Israelites on a flashback during this final speech, his words carried great weight.
  2. Joshua began with the history of how God had led Abraham and his son Isaac off the map. (v. 2-4) Then Joshua told how God used Moses and Aaron to lead the Israelites out of Egypt. (v. 5-7) He went on to tell how God had led the Israelites through the desert (v. 8-10) and then into the Promised Land. (v. 11-12)
  3. Joshua then concluded this history by showing how God had set up the Israelites for success in this uncharted territory. Through Joshua, God said, "So I gave you a land on which you did not toil and cities you did not build, and you live in them and eat from vineyards and olive groves that you did not plant." (v. 13)
  4. So when Joshua challenged the Israelites to live off the map, he did so, reminding them of the truth that God was leading them and how He had been with them every step of the way through the desert. It is with this backdrop that we read today's passage.
- E. Read JOSHUA 24:14-28

### III. Explanation

- A. After leading the Israelites on a flashback through history, Joshua challenged the Israelites to make a choice. It was time for the Israelites to intentionally decide between the one true God and the foreign gods they had worshipped in Egypt, in the desert, and even during their short time in the Promised Land. It was time to intentionally and consciously choose to worship and serve God and God only.
- B. The Israelites said that they wanted to follow Joshua's choice to serve the Lord. Then Joshua did something strange – he tried to talk them out of this choice. He told them how difficult it would be to serve God and God alone and what the consequences would be if they didn't follow through on their choice. Finally, after three declarations that they would serve the Lord (v. 18, 21, 24), Joshua took the Israelites at their word.
- C. Then Joshua created a memorial designed to help the Israelites remember their choice. (v. 26) This was one of nine memorials Joshua created during the book to remind the Israelites of how God had led them in the uncharted territory known as the Promised Land. He also wrote down the people's choice in the book of the Law so that it would be remembered. Joshua wanted to make sure that the people were not backing into this choice because he knew they would only be able to live up to it if they purposefully decided to do so.
- D. ***Optional Illustration: Losing Weight or Working Out- Bring in a few objects to symbolize the choices you must make to lose weight or get in shape. These could include a scale, exercise equipment, a food journal, protein powder, etc.: If you have a personal story of the things you intentionally did to try to lose weight or get in shape, use those examples here.***

1. It seems as though people around our country want to lose weight or get in better shape. And while there are many different exercise plans, diet plans, gyms, and workout plans, there are a few things you need to do to be intentional about losing weight or getting in better shape.
  2. You need to weigh yourself each day as a reminder of your intention to lose weight. You need to track your weightlifting sets and reps.
  3. You need to find a trainer or training partner who will help you be intentional about exercising.
  4. You need to write down everything you eat so that you're more conscious about things like fat grams and calories. You need to keep track of your macros.
  5. These steps help you make a decision and stick to it when it comes to being healthier, losing weight, or working out.
  6. You don't stumble into weight loss. You don't stumble into getting buff. It doesn't happen accidentally. Instead, both come when you intentionally diet and exercise. Just as intentionality helps someone lose weight or get in better shape, INTENTIONALITY HELPS US FOLLOW GOD.
- E. Like Joshua and the Israelites, we need to set up memorials that remind us of our choices. We need accountability from others that helps us live up to the choices we have made. WE DON'T JUST MAKE A ONE-TIME DECISION; WE LIVE INTENTIONALLY EVERY DAY BASED ON OUR DECISION.

#### IV. Application

- A. DECISIONS WE MAKE TODAY DETERMINE OUR LIVES TOMORROW. But for these decisions to impact our destiny, we must live them out each and every day. And we can only do this by choosing to live intentionally. This is the first key to going off the map with God and living in uncharted territory.
- B. WE CAN NOT STUMBLE INTO FOLLOWING GOD. Instead, like the Israelites, we must choose to follow God. We must remember what God has done and seek to follow Him in the future.
- C. This seems like an intimidating thing. But the truth is that we make choices all the time. If we don't have a plan and a purpose, our choices are based on our emotions in the moment or on outside influences like peer pressure or competitiveness. But if we decide on our principles and our motivations early on, we can live with intention and purpose. Even if we don't know the landmarks around us, we can move through uncharted territory guided by the decisions we have already made. This is what happens when we decide beforehand that we will follow God even when we live in uncharted territory.
- D. The call of Joshua in this passage gives us a great idea of how we can live intentionally.
  1. FIRST, WE REMEMBER.
    - a) We look back on what God has done in and around our lives.
    - b) We celebrate God's goodness and grace in the past.
    - c) We remember our mistakes and how God redeemed us from them. And we decide to make our future decisions based on this history.
  2. SECOND, WE CHOOSE.
    - a) We leave no doubt about what our intentions are.

- b) Just as the Israelites declared their choice to follow God over and over, we need to do the same.
  - c) That's one reason gathering in church each week is important. It is a place for us to remember what God has done, and it is a place for us to declare our intentions to follow God in the present and the future.
3. AND AFTER WE CHOOSE, WE SET UP REMINDERS.
- a) Living intentionally means that we look for ways to remind ourselves of the choices we have made.
  - b) For Joshua and the Israelites, the reminders were a stone and the book of the Law.
  - c) For us, the reminders take other forms. We may use a journal, a note, a verse we write down and stick somewhere, or something else to remind ourselves.
  - d) We also set up reminders when we invite accountability into our lives. When we tell others of our intentions, we can receive their help in living out our choices. ACCOUNTABILITY ISN'T ABOUT BEING THE SPIRITUAL POLICE WHO CATCH EACH OTHER MESSING UP; IT'S ABOUT INVITING OTHERS INTO SPIRITUAL PARTNERSHIP AND HELPING THEM LIVE OUT THEIR CHOICES AND THEM HELPING US TO DO THE SAME.
- E. As we live intentionally, we will make the choices to share Christ with others through evangelism. We will make the choices to listen to God and obey Him as we go on mission with Him. And we will look for God to act on our behalf.
- F. As we flashback through the book of Joshua over the next three weeks, we'll see how all these things are important parts of living in uncharted territory. IT ALL STARTS WHEN WE MAKE THE CHOICE TO LIVE INTENTIONALLY AND TO PURPOSEFULLY FOLLOW GOD.

## V. Closing

- A. It's time for a choice.
- B. GOD IS LOOKING FOR PIONEERS WHO WILL GO OFF THE MAP INTO UNCHARTED TERRITORY.
- C. If we do this, we must follow the example of Joshua and the Israelites who settled the Promised Land.
- D. Just as Joshua challenged the Israelites to choose this day whom they would serve, today I challenge you. WILL YOU FOLLOW GOD AND GO OFF THE MAP INTO UNCHARTED TERRITORY?
- E. If your answer to this challenge is with a yes, then you must be ready and willing to LIVE INTENTIONALLY, BECAUSE THE DECISIONS YOU MAKE TODAY DETERMINE YOUR LIFE TOMORROW.

**Uncharted Series Overview** | God is looking for pioneers who will go into uncharted territory and live off the map. We may be journeying into uncharted lands, but we have a compass and a guide. God guides us through the Holy Spirit, and He gives us His Word as a compass we can use to discern what direction He wants us to go and the best way to get there. God grows His Kingdom and His people by taking us to places we have never been before instead of leaving us where we have always been. In this *Uncharted* series, we're going to live the life of a pioneer. We are going to go off the map with God to see how we make our way through unfamiliar places among unfamiliar people. Our guide in this pioneering journey is Joshua, who led the Israelites through the uncharted territory of the Promised Land. From Joshua's example, we will learn how to use our compasses to follow God's direction. Even more, we will see that we can trust the God who is leading us off the map to speak to us and help us as we pioneer.

**Large Group Teaching Summary** | God is looking for pioneers who will go off the map into uncharted territory. As we do this, we follow the example of Joshua and the Israelites who settled the Promised Land. From their story, we learn that we must live intentionally because the decisions we make today determine our lives tomorrow.

**Key Takeaway** | Live intentionally.

**Scripture Focus** | Joshua 24:14-28

## ***Uncharted Sermon Series* | Session 1 Discussion Questions: The Pioneer's Choice**

---

You can use these discussion questions to facilitate small groups after your large group teaching or even create handouts for students to work through the message as you go. These questions are designed to foster conversations, help students think critically about the teaching, and wrestle with how these Biblical truths impact their complicated and ever-changing lives.

### **Get Them Talking | An Optional Opening Question To Get Students Talking**

What is something that you keep as a reminder of a memory, place, event, or person? What is the memory, place, event, or person that it reminds you of?

### **Discussion Questions**

1. Read Joshua 24:14-28.
2. What did Joshua challenge the Israelites to do? What choice did he call them to make?
3. Were the people willing to make this choice? How do you know? Would this choice be easy or hard? Explain.
4. Based on this passage, what decision did the Israelites make in this situation? What was their intention?
5. What choices is God calling you to make right now?
6. What will it look like for you to live intentionally in the areas God is speaking to you about?
7. What reminds you of the choice you have made to follow Christ? What reminders do you need to create?
8. Who in your life provides accountability for you when it comes to the choices you have made? How do these people help you?

9. What do you sense God saying to you right now? What choice is God calling you to make?
10. What are some positives about making this choice? What hesitation do you have about making this choice? How will the choice you make today determine your life tomorrow?
11. What is something you can do to remind yourself of the decision you are making today? What is a physical reminder you can create?
12. Who will you invite to hold you accountable to this decision? How will this person help you remember?