



Joshua Chapters 1 to 4 – 3 Studies – Part 1

Please Note the following:

1. It is not necessary to answer the Bible Study Questions before meeting together for the Bible Study. Some people like to prepare beforehand whereas others like to think through the Bible Passages in a group setting. It is also not compulsory to answer ALL the questions.
2. It is not necessary to look up all the Bible cross references listed in a particular question; your Growth Group Leader will summarize these Bible cross references for you.
3. Just a reminder that sometimes in our Growth Groups, people feel comfortable sharing very personal and sensitive things about their lives. This information **MUST BE CONFIDENTIAL and NEVER LEAVE THE GROUP**

Introduction to the Book of Joshua

Author: The Book of Joshua does not explicitly name its author. More than likely Joshua the son of Nun, the successor of Moses as leader over Israel, penned much of this book. The latter part of the book was written by at least one other person after the death of Joshua. It is also possible that several sections were edited / compiled following Joshua's death.

For further information on "who wrote the book of Joshua" see article:

<https://www.gotquestions.org/who-wrote-the-book-of-Joshua.html>

Date of Writing: The Book of Joshua was likely written between 1400 and 1370 B.C.

Purpose of Writing: The Book of Joshua provides an overview of the military campaigns to conquer the land area that God had promised. Following the exodus from Egypt and the subsequent forty years of the wilderness wanderings, the newly-formed nation is now poised to enter the Promised Land, conquer the inhabitants, and occupy the territory. The overview that we have here gives abbreviated and selective details of many of the battles and the manner in which the land was not only conquered, but how it was divided into tribal areas.

Brief Summary: The Book of Joshua continues the story of the Israelites after the exodus from Egypt. The book chronicles the approximately 20 years of Joshua's leadership of the people after Moses anointed him at the end of Deuteronomy. The twenty-four chapter divisions of the Book of Joshua can be summarized as follows:

Entering the land – chapters 1 to 4

Taking the land – chapters 5 to 12

Possessing the land – chapters 13 to 21

Retaining the land – chapters 22 to 24

Key Verses

Joshua 1:6-9: "Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.""

Joshua 24:14-15: "Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Practical Application: One of the key verses of the Book of Joshua is 1:8 "Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it." The Old Testament is replete with stories of how the people "forgot" God and His Word and suffered terrible consequences. For the Christian, the Word of God is our lifeblood. If we neglect it, our lives will suffer accordingly. But if we take to heart the principle of verse 1:8, we will be complete and able to be of use in God's kingdom (2 Timothy 3:16-17), and we will find that God's promises in Joshua 1:8-9 will be ours as well.

Joshua is a prime example of the benefits of a worthy mentor. For years he remained close to Moses. He watched Moses as he followed God in an almost flawless manner. He learned to pray in a personal way from Moses. He learned how to obey through the example of Moses. Joshua apparently also learned from the negative example that cost Moses the joy of actually entering the Promised Land. If you are alive, you are a mentor. Someone, somewhere, is watching you. Some younger person or someone that you are influencing is seeing how you live and how you react. Someone is learning from you. Someone will follow your example. Mentoring is far more than the words that are spoken by the mentor. His or her entire life is on display.

Study 1 – Promise Before Possession**Joshua 1:1-18*****(Sermon on 12th April 2026)*****Read Joshua 1:1-18**

1. What event has just happened at the beginning of the chapter? (vv1-2)
2. What command does God give Joshua? (v2)
3. What promise does God give about the land? (v3)
4. What promise does God give Joshua personally? (v5)
5. How many times does God tell Joshua to be strong and courageous?
6. What instructions does God give about the Book of the Law? What will happen if Joshua obeys the Law? (v8)
7. What tribes have already received land to east of the River Jordan? What were those tribes still required to do? (vv12-14)

8. What did the people promise Joshua at the end of the chapter? (vv16-18)

9. **Ponder:** Why might Joshua have been afraid or needed courage?

10. **Ponder:** According to this chapter, what is the **key** to success?

11. **Ponder:** What does this chapter teach about leadership?

12. **Discuss:** What commands in this chapter apply to believers today?

13. **Discuss:** What promise in this chapter encourages believers today?

Where is **JESUS** in **Joshua 1:1-18**?

14. How do the following New Testament passages relate to **Joshua 1:1-18**?

Hebrews 13:5-6

James 1:22-25

Matthew 28:18-20

Hebrews 4:1-11

2 Timothy 1:7

John 14:15

What's the ***BIG IDEA*** of Joshua 1:1-18?



What light globe moment did you have?

What ***questions*** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You that You are a faithful God who keeps Your promises. Just as You were with Joshua, we thank You that You promise to be with us and never leave us nor forsake us. Please help us to be strong and courageous, not because we are strong, but because You are with us. Help us not to be afraid or discouraged, but to trust You in all the things You call us to do. Help us to love Your Word, to read it, to think about it, and to obey it in our daily lives. Please guide us as we follow You, and help us to walk in Your ways this week. We thank You that Jesus leads us into the true promised land and gives us rest and eternal life. Help us to follow Him faithfully. In His Name. Amen.

Study 2 – Rahab and the Spies

Joshua 2:1-24

(Sermon on 19th April 2026)

Read Joshua 2:1-24

1. Where did Joshua secretly send the spies? Where do they stay? (v2)
2. What did the king of Jericho tell Rahab to do? What did Rahab do instead? What lie did she tell? (vv3-5)
3. What did Rahab say she knew about Israel's God? (vv9-11)
4. What did Rahab ask the spies to do for her? (vv12-13)
5. What **sign** would show Rahab's house should be spared? Who had to be inside the house to be saved? (vv18-19)
6. Where do the spies hide after leaving Rahab? (v22)
7. What report do the spies give to Joshua on their return? (v24)

8. **Ponder:** Why do you think Rahab helped the spies?

9. **Ponder:** What does Rahab show about faith?

10. **Ponder:** Why do you think the scarlet cord was important?

11. **Discuss:** What does this chapter teach about salvation?

12. **Discuss:** What does Rahab teach us?

13. **Discuss:** Is there a connection to Passover in this chapter?

Where is **JESUS** in **Joshua 2:1-24**?

14. How do the following New Testament passages relate to **Joshua 2:1-24**?

Hebrews 11:31

James 2:25

Matthew 1:5

Romans 5:9

Ephesians 2:8-10

What's the ***BIG IDEA*** of **Joshua 2:1-24**?



What light globe moment did you have?

What ***questions*** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for the example of Rahab, who believed in You and trusted You for salvation. Help us to have faith like hers — to believe Your Word and to act on it. Thank You that You are a God who saves not because we deserve it, but because You are gracious and merciful. Thank You that we can be

saved from judgment and brought into Your family. Help us to trust You, to live by faith, and to show kindness and courage like Rahab did. Please help us to remember that salvation comes from You alone. We thank You most of all for Jesus, whose blood saves us and brings us safely into Your kingdom. We pray this in His name. Amen.

Study 3 – Crossing the Jordan**Joshua 3:1-4:24*****(Sermon on 26th April 2026)*****Read Joshua 3:1-4:24**

1. Where did Joshua and the Israelites camp before crossing the Jordan? (3:1)
2. How long did the officers go through the camp before giving instructions? (3:2)
3. What instructions were the people given about following? (3:3-4)
4. What did Joshua tell the people to do in verse 3:5 before crossing? What does that mean?
5. What does God say will happen on this day and what instructions are given to the priests? (3:6-12)
6. What miracle happened when the priests stepped into the Jordan? (3:13-17)
Where did the priests stand when the people crossed? Does this miracle remind you of another miracle?

7. How many men were chosen to take stones from the Jordan? Why? (4:2-3)

8. Where were the twelve stones placed? (4:8, 20)

9. Why were the stones set up? (4:6-7, 21-22)

10. When did the river return to flood stage? (4:18)

11. What effect did this miracle have on the people? (4:14, 24)

12. **Ponder:** Why did the Ark go first into the river?

13. **Ponder:** Why do you think God performed this miracle?

14. **Ponder:** What does this event show about God?

15. **Discuss:** What does “stepping into the river before it stopped” teach us?
16. **Discuss:** Why is remembering what God has done important?

Where is **JESUS** in **Joshua 3:1-4:24**?

17. How do the following New Testament passages relate to **Joshua 3:1-4:24**?

1 Corinthians 10:1-2

Romans 6:1-4

Colossians 2:12

Hebrews 12:1-3

John 10:9

John 14:6

Luke 22:19

What's the **BIG IDEA** of **Joshua 3:1-4:24**?



What light globe moment did you have?

What **questions** do you have about the passages in this study?

Share the verse that had a special meaning to you in this study?

Finish in prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank You for the way You led Joshua and the Israelites across the Jordan, just as You lead us in our lives. Thank You for reminding us that You go before us, making a way even when the path seems impossible. Lord, help us to trust You more fully, just as the Israelites had to trust in Your promise. May we remember the lessons of the twelve stones—reminders of Your faithfulness—and share Your mighty works with those around us. Strengthen our faith, Father, so that we will follow You with courage, obeying Your commands even when the journey is challenging. Let Your Word take root in our hearts and guide our steps every day. We pray this in the name Jesus. Amen.