



P.C.E.A. SUKARI PARISH

A Bible Study Guide on
**THE BOOK OF
JOSHUA**

VOLUME FOUR

THEME:

**“Have I not commanded you? Be strong
and courageous. Do not be terrified...”**

Joshua 1:9a

PREFACE

In the last season, we got our theme from Isaiah 43:1 on do not fear. We were able to read the second Isaiah (Chapters 40-55). The theme gave us comfort even when we faced challenges like the children of Israel did when in Exile.

This season, our theme is from Joshua 1:9 that says; "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

This theme has a message of encouragement and a command. God is calling us to be strong and courageous in life. When we face many challenges, we have God on our side. There may be moments of discouragement and terrifying times, but we need to be strong.

This season we are reading the whole of the book of Joshua, to learn how he courageously took the children of Israel into the Promised Land after Moses died.

You are welcome to another three months of an exciting Bible Study on "***Learning to occupy without being terrified and discouraged***". God is once again assuring us that He will be with us

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LESSON

1

THEME INTRODUCTION
(Joshua 1)

Joshua 1: 2-9 is a personal message from God to Joshua with instructions and assurance. God's message is not like the message of a fellow man. Having a message with instructions and assurance from God gives us hope even when we are facing challenges in life. When God speaks to us, we should focus on his word to us and less on surrounding challenges. In this lesson we shall take a deeper look at the instructions and assurance given to Joshua with a view of applying this lesson in our own life.

1. What are the instructions that God gave Joshua? Joshua 1:6-9; 14-15.

2. What does God assure Joshua? Joshua 1:3-5,9.

3. What are some of the terrifying challenges you are facing today, and what gives you hope?

Memory Verse

Joshua 1:9a Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage.

Notes

LESSON

2

COURAGE IN GOD'S DELIVERANCE
(Joshua 2)

Sometimes in life we are faced with obstacles that seem insurmountable and fear rises within us. In this particular chapter we get to see the courage of one woman who banked on the faithfulness of God and His power to deliver her and her family. Just when the story of Israel is heating up, and it looks like they are going to finally live up to their calling, a lowly brothel owner steals the limelight. God has a great track record of delivering His children and bringing them to victory. No matter how bleak it looks God is reminding us to have faith in Him as we await deliverance.

1. What principles can we learn from the spies?

2. Who is Rahab? What do you think her social position would have been then? What might it be today? Joshua 2:1

3. What can we learn about Rahab from the statement in Joshua 2:9 – 10

4. What does this story tell us about Gods character?

Memory Verse

Jeremiah 39:18 For I will surely deliver you, and you shall not fall by the sword; but your life shall be as a prize to you, because you have put your trust in Me," says the Lord.

Notes

LESSON

3

THE COURAGE TO STEP IN
(Joshua 3:1-17)

Human beings love to 'step in' somewhere they are sure of. Something that has never been tried will bring naySayers, skepticals, cold feet and many others. On the other hand those who have 'stepped in' will give a different version of the story from those who never or don't want to step in. In our lives as Christians, we are called to 'step in' so that faith and testimonies may be upheld.

Are you ready to 'step in'? Let the Lesson begin.

1. Briefly describe the character of Joshua and that of the Israelites (Joshua 3:1-17)

2. What do you think was going through the minds of the Israelites when they were at the banks of river Jordan?

3. How have you been walking with the Lord and in which areas do you need to gather courage to step in?

Memory Verse

2 Corinthians 5:7 For we walk by faith, not by sight.

Notes

LESSON

4

**THE MEMORIAL OF GOD'S DELIVERANCE
(Joshua 4:1-9)**

As human beings, we have a tendency to forget the great miracles God has performed on our behalf. The Israelites had come a long way and God performed great miracles and from time to time, they would forget the miracles. This is mainly because generations would come and go and there were poor reminders of God's deliverance and provision. Joshua was keen to ensure that the generations to come will not forget the deeds of God.

In Joshua 4, he followed God's instructions and called the Israelites to erect memorial stones as a reminder to their generations of God's deliverance. In this study, we shall seek to understand the essence of keeping memories of the great deeds of God in our lives as a point of faith, so we can trust God for greater and greater works in the future. The "memorial stones" are reminders of God's past faithfulness.

1. What was the purpose of the memorial stones (Joshua 4:6-7)

2. In what ways had the Israelites forgotten great miracles that God had performed before and how did Joshua remind them (Joshua 24)

3. What memories have you kept of God's deliverance in your life and how do you intend to pass them to your generations?

Memory Verse

Joshua 4:5b-6a "Each of you is to take up a stone on his shoulder, according to the number of the tribes of the Israelites, to serve as a sign among you. In the future"

Notes

LESSON

5

COURAGE IN MATURITY
(Joshua 5:1-12)

Joshua courageously carried out the daunting task of circumcising all the Israelites uncircumcised during the forty years in the wilderness. The circumcision was a mark of maturity and a preparation for the Israelites to fight to take over the promised land. As Christians, we too need spiritual maturity. Such maturity instills in believers the courage to stay the course to the finish. A spiritually mature Christian emulates the character of Jesus Christ in disposition, words and actions. Jesus Christ was the epitome of courage. He followed the will of God in the face of great hostility and antagonism. Finally, He courageously committed himself to the cross to bear the sin of the world even though He was without sin. In this lesson, we explore some biblical lessons on spiritual maturity and courage.

1. How did Joshua demonstrate courage and maturity in Joshua 5:1-12?

2. What is the importance of spiritual maturity according to the following scriptures (Hebrews 5:12-14; Hebrews 6:1-8; Eph 4:13-16)

3. What steps will you take towards spiritual maturity and courage?

Memory Verse

Hebrews 6:1a, "Therefore, let us leave the elementary teachings about Christ and go on to maturity.." (NIV)

Notes

LESSON

6

**THE COURAGE OF BRINGING DOWN
STRONGHOLDS****(Joshua 6)**

The Israelites faced the wall of Jericho as a major obstacle in their mission to conquer and move forward. Failure to conquer this city, would bring down their hope for the promises of God. However, they had questions about how they would reach the city and scale the wall. We too find ourselves in similar situations in our spiritual walk. The city of Jericho may represent hindrances to our blessings or other promises that are in the will of God for us. The walls of Jericho could be sickness, affliction, generational problems, fear or dismay, doubts or even lack of faith. In this lesson, we shall learn how to gather the courage to overcome the obstacles that would keep us from realizing the will of God for our lives. Eventually we can, by faith, witness those walls collapse and as we take up freedom in Christ Jesus.

1. In what ways did the Israelites show courage as they confronted the wall?

2. What lessons do we learn from God's instructions to the Israelites in Joshua 6:3-5.

3. What are the Spiritual weapons that would help us overcome strongholds (Ephesians 6:10-20)

Memory Verse

Ephesians 6: 10-11 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God, so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

Notes

LESSON

7

**THE COURAGE OF CONFRONTING
SECRET SIN
(Joshua 7&8)**

“Secret Sin” refers to all those sins an individual commit thinking that no one sees or knows. However, as believers, we know that there is no such thing as ‘hidden’ sin before God. (Ps.90:8). Trying to hide sin from God is like running away from your shadow which you really cannot (Isaiah 29:15). Some sins are secret because we refuse to acknowledge them and we lack courage to confront them. Instead, we hide them from everyone including ourselves, though not from God. In Joshua chapter 7, the Israelites had acted unfaithfully by disobeying God’s command in regard to the devoted things. This angered Him so much that He allowed them to be defeated by their enemy until the “Secret Sin” was dealt with. Just like the Israelites, there are times when we need to deal with secret sins. In this lesson, we shall explore how we can courageously confront such sins.

1. What sin did Achan commit secretly and how did he respond to Joshua’s Plea? (Joshua.7:16-21)

2. What do we learn about confronting our hidden sins from these scriptures? (Isaiah 29:15; Psalm 32:1-5)?

3. What "Secret Sins" do you need to confront and what steps will you take to do so?

Memory Verse

Psalms 32:5 Then I acknowledged my sin to you and did not cover up my iniquity. I said, "I will confess my transgressions to the Lord" and you forgave the guilt of my sin.

Notes

LESSON

8

LIVING IN DECEPTION
(Joshua 9)

Sometimes in life we find ourselves between a rock and a hard place. At such times we have two options; to either tell the truth and face the consequences or deceive and live under the bondage of guilt. Deception makes you to live in slavery. On the other hand, truth sets you free. This lesson focuses on living in deception. It leads us to make a deep reflection on our ways and actions with the view of living truthful lives with ourselves and others. As we go through this topic, are you ready to come clean with yourself?

1. What do these scriptures teach us about deception? (John 8:44; 1st John 4:1; James 1:26; Gal 6:7)

2. According to Joshua 9:22-27 what makes people live in deception and what are the repercussions thereof?

3. Are there “skeletons in your closet” that you have been covering up and how have these affected your freedom?

Memory Verse

John 8:32 KJV “Ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free”

Notes

LESSON

9

VICTORY OVER NATURE

Throughout scripture, God has proved that nothing can stand against the fulfillment of the promises He has made to His people. Almost every miracle in the Bible shows His authority over nature. In Joshua 10, God gave Joshua the ability to command the sun and it obeyed, making us understand that He can grant the authority He has over nature to human beings.

In this study, we will focus on the events outlined in Joshua 10:1-15. As we read this passage, we should remember that God promised to be with Joshua, and not even nature could stand in his way. As believers, we have Christ in our hearts. He is Emanuel (God with us). He also promises that He will never leave us nor forsake us (Hebrews 13:5(b)). We should, therefore, have the assurance of victory over nature.

1. Mention the instances where Joshua and the Israelites, through the power of God, experienced victory over Nature? (Joshua 10:11-13)

2. Why do you think God allowed Joshua to command the sun to stand still (Vs 12) and it did?

3. Share a situation in your life where God came through for you in a supernatural way and explain how that impacted your belief concerning the victory God has granted us over nature?

Memory Verse

Joshua 10:13(a) So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on^[b] its enemies.

Notes

LESSON

10

THE BORN CITIES OF REFUGE
(Joshua 20: 1-9)

In the Old Testament, six cities were allocated to the Levites. These cities provided asylum for perpetrators of unintentional killing. They offered the offenders refuge and protection from vengeance by the avenging family until their case went to trial. The cities of refuge appointed for God's ancient people were a symbol of the refuge that is provided for His people. They represent the assured refuge from eternal death that God has provided for believers. This lesson focuses on the cities of refuge and the meaning we derive from them today.

1. Who was expected to take refuge in the six designated cities and what instructions were given to such a person? (Joshua 20: 1-6)

2. What is our city of refuge today (Psalms 9:9; John 6:37; John 10: 28 ;) and why do we need it? (Romans 3:23)

3. What assurance do we have about our safety in Christ and what should be our response to this assurance?

Memory Verse

(Psalm 16:1) "Keep me safe, my God, for in you I take refuge"

LESSON

11

**ARISE AND OCCUPY
(Joshua 14)**

God spoke to Moses when Joshua was 40 years old. The promise is fulfilled after 45 years. God's promises are true. Though it takes time it will surely come (Habakkuk 2:3). God is a faithful and able Father who is well able and committed to fulfill His promises to those who trust in Him. As believers we have a responsibility if we are going to enjoy what God promises in our lives. In this lesson we shall learn more about God's promises, what we need to do to realize these promises.

1. What do we learn about God's promises from these scriptures? (Joshua 14: 7-13; 2 Corinthians 1:20; Habakkuk 2:3).

2. What do we need to do to realize the promises of God in our lives? (Deut. 1:36; Psalms 37:4; Hebrews 3: 18-19; 11:6)

3. Share a personal experience where you have successfully waited on God for the fulfillment of a promise.

Memory Verse

(Deuteronomy 1:36b) ...He will see it, and I will give him and his descendants the land he set his feet on, because he followed the Lord wholeheartedly."

Notes