

The Book of Joshua
**CLAIM THE
VICTORY!**

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How to Use *Life Design*



LIFE DESIGN: Bible Study Designed for the Life You Live. These Bible study materials are designed to engage adult learners in inductive Bible study and then to apply the truths of that study to their daily lives.

As you prepare to teach these lessons, keep these two factors in mind:

- The **FOCUS** of productive adult Bible learning is the learner. The intent of teaching is not teaching, but learning—the learner’s learning.
- The **GOAL** of productive adult Bible learning is an appropriate life-response to Biblical truth. You do not teach simply to impart information; you teach so that the Holy Spirit of God can use the truths of the Word of God to change the child of God into the image of the Son of God.

The Lesson Plan

Each *Life Design* lesson has three distinct parts. **GETTING STARTED** is the attention-getter. The questions and activities “set the table,” as it were, for the Bible study. **SEARCHING THE SCRIPTURES** is the heart of the lesson. A series of inductive Bible study questions leads the teacher and learners through the Biblical text. **MAKING IT PERSONAL** applies the truth to life.

As is true of any teaching experience, you can adapt the parts of the lesson to fit your particular class. You may choose to alter the beginning activities or change the focus of the application. You will find more material in the Bible study than you can cover in one class

session. Ask God to help you as you tailor the lesson for your learners.

The Study Book

This leader’s guide is designed to accompany the Bible study book. As the teacher, you will want a copy of the Bible study. Commit to working through the questions before you plan your lesson. We encourage you to distribute Bible study books to your learners. Urge them to complete the study before class. The more your learners have studied on their own, the better the class discussions will be. When a question in the leader’s guide is picked up from the Bible study book, you will notice the question number in parentheses. The answers to the questions are usually in the lesson commentary. They are also grouped together in the back of this book, starting on page 105.

Other Resources

If you want to use transparencies as you teach, a packet of sixteen full-color transparencies is available. If you prefer to use PowerPoint, the resource CD-ROM includes a PowerPoint presentation of the outline points, as well as the transparency art. The resource CD also includes additional visual illustrations, case studies, and application ideas.

Some teachers stay very close to the outline as they teach. If this is true of you, and if you want your learners to capture that outline, reproducible in-class worksheets are included on the CD-ROM. The same worksheets may be downloaded from the Web and photocopied for class members. Visit www.regularbaptistpress.org/downloads.

Thank you for choosing *Life Design* teaching materials. May God richly bless you and your learners as you study and apply His Word.

Preface

Reading only Exodus through Deuteronomy could easily give one the impression that Israel would never enter Canaan. The Israelites' constant complaining and stubborn unbelief kept them wandering in circles in the wilderness for forty years. During those years the Promised Land must have seemed so distant, when in reality it was so near. At one point Moses had sent spies into Canaan, and they had returned with a phenomenal display of the fruit of the Promised Land. Canaan was everything God had described, but most of the spies advised Israel against entering it. Their viewpoint focused on the Canaanites as giants who drove iron chariots and lived in fortified cities.

However, a minority viewpoint presented by two spies, Joshua and Caleb, offered an optimistic plan. They, too, had seen the giants, but their vision included Israel's God and His promises. They urged the people of Israel to go up at once and possess the land. Unfortunately their challenge fell on deaf ears. The Israelites' fear of the enemy had snuffed out their faith in their Eternal Refuge. They turned back.

As you and your learners embark on this study of the book of Joshua, you will meet Israel's new leader at Canaan's border. That leader was Joshua, whom God commissioned to succeed Moses and to escort Israel into the Promised Land. Armed with divine promises and eager to conquer Canaan, Joshua would inject faith and fortitude into the new generation of Israelites. These qualities never go out of style, and they fit triumphant Christian living perfectly. You will serve your learners well if you present each week's lesson in such a way that their faith and fortitude increase. As in Joshua's time, battles rage today, but the victory is secure through faith in the Lord and the strength that His Word and Spirit impart.

Enter Canaan with Joshua and the Israelites. Stand back in awe as you see the waters of the Jordan part, the walls of Jericho collapse, and kings and formidable foes topple. Point out to your learners what happened because the nation obeyed God. Stir the learners' anticipation of what will happen when they obey God.

Israel's faith and fortitude sagged occasionally and caused military setbacks and sadness. The Conquest stopped short of the goal of driving out the enemy. These failures can be as instructive as Israel's successes. Seeing that disobedience has negative consequences, your learners can avoid self-confidence and determine to rely on God in the heat of daily battle.

May the Lord use this study to inspire and equip you and your learners to *Claim the Victory!*

Resources for This Course

The transparency packet for this course (1642) includes a transparency on which to summarize the victory values found in Joshua. The transparency will help you track and review these values. Starting with lesson 1, use transparency 2 at the end of each lesson or at the beginning of the next lesson to record the summary statement for each lesson. You may use the printed suggestions or ask your learners to suggest summary statements.

The Resource CD-ROM (1643) includes a PowerPoint presentation for each lesson. All of the transparencies are part of the PowerPoint presentation. The transparencies are also included on the CD-ROM as printable PDFs. If you would like to make your own transparencies or PowerPoint slides, the CD-ROM includes a background ready for your own text.

The CD-ROM also provides in-class worksheets. Each in-class worksheet has a fill-in-the-blank outline that follows the corresponding outline and main points in this leader's guide.

Other classroom resources on the CD-ROM include Bible map transparencies and verse visuals. The leader's guide refers to each of these as a resource.

The CD-ROM offers one supplemental case study for each lesson. Each case study may be used as an in-class review, as material for a midweek Bible study, or as an e-mail attachment to your learners. E-mailing the case studies to your learners will emphasize living out the truth in daily life. You may want to enlist a learner to handle collecting e-mail addresses and e-mailing the case studies each week.

You will also find supplemental application ideas on the CD-ROM. These Battle-Readiness Ideas will help your learners apply the truths from lessons 4, 10, and 11. Use these Battle-Readiness Ideas as handouts at the end of the appropriate lessons or as e-mail attachments. Some of the ideas could form the basis for class projects. Read through the Battle-Readiness Ideas before you begin teaching this course so that you can plan how to use them.

LESSON 1

The Character of a Leader

Scripture Focus

Joshua 1:1–9

Key Verse

“Have not I commanded thee? Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed: for the LORD thy God is with thee whithersoever thou goest” (Josh. 1:9).

Overview

Lesson 1 reveals the character of Joshua, whom the Lord appointed to succeed Moses. As a dedicated servant, Joshua would successfully lead the Israelites across Jordan and into Canaan.

Theme

The Lord promises success to the leader who honors Him and obeys His Word.

Aims

As a result of this lesson, the learners will

1. know that the Lord has set goals for His people;
2. understand that godly character is the basis of quality leadership;
3. courageously obey God’s Word.

Outline

- I. Joshua’s Appointment
- II. Joshua’s Encouragement
- III. Joshua’s Responsibilities

Getting Started

Use the following activities to help each learner think about Joshua’s appointment to lead Israel in the conquest of Canaan.

Opinions

Have learners respond to questions 1, 2, and 3 in the study book: Who do you consider the greatest leader of the last century? What made him or her such a great leader? What challenges do you think every leader must face? Why does a church need strong leaders?

Help Wanted

Divide the learners into groups of four, and give each group paper and a pencil. Assign each group the job of writing a help-wanted ad for a leader to replace Moses. The ad should list duties and required qualifications. Allow five

Materials

- RBP transparencies 1 and 2
- Bible map transparency 2 or resource 1 from resource CD
- Paper and pencils
- Whiteboard and markers
- Resource 2 from resource CD
- Lesson 1 case study from resource CD

minutes for this assignment, and then have the groups read their ads.

Tell your learners that this class session introduces Joshua as the leader who would take the Children of Israel into the Promised Land.

Searching the Scriptures

For forty years the Israelites had lived in the wilderness between Egypt and Canaan, the Promised Land. During that time, Moses was their leader. As the Lord's appointed servant, he had faithfully delivered the law, urged the Israelites to obey the Lord, interceded for them, and led them to Canaan's southern border. However, because of an act of disobedience, the Lord would not allow Moses to lead the people into Canaan. He died on Mount Nebo. A new, divinely appointed leader would step into Moses' sandals and assume the task of leading Israel into Canaan. His name was Joshua.

TRANSPARENCY: Display Bible map transparency 2. Point out Mount Nebo, where Moses died, and other places you think would help your learners understand the geographical setting for the opening chapter of Joshua.

This map is included as a slide in the Lesson 1 Power-Point presentation.

The name "Joshua" means "savior." The New Testament equivalent is "Jesus." Just as Joshua led Israel into the Promised Land, Jesus leads us into salvation and ultimately to Heaven.

I. Joshua's Appointment (Josh. 1:1–4)

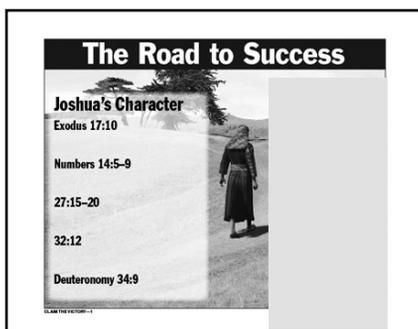
After Moses' death, the Lord spoke to Joshua. He confirmed Moses' death and commanded Joshua to lead Israel across the Jordan River and into Canaan (Josh. 1:1, 2). Although this assignment was daunting, Joshua was the right man for the task.

A. His training (1:1)

The first mention of Joshua does not occur in Joshua 1:1, but it is significant that this verse refers to Moses as "the servant of the LORD" and to Joshua as "Moses' minister." Every leader of God's people should first and foremost be a servant of the Lord, and he should also be a "minister." When James and John asked Jesus for prominent positions in the Kingdom, Jesus told them, "Whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister" (Mark 10:43).

As Moses' minister, Joshua had stood with Moses when nearly everyone else opposed him. He was reliable when others were rebellious. He had learned from his closeness to Moses that God's servants may trust God to provide everything from victuals to victories. He had learned from Moses that God judges sin but rewards those who obey Him. These lessons learned as Moses' minister would buoy Joshua's faith and fortitude during the struggles awaiting him and the Israelites in Canaan.

TRANSPARENCY: Display transparency 1 with the right side covered. **READ:** Have five volunteers read aloud respectively Exodus 17:10, Numbers 14:5–9, 27:15–20, 32:12, and Deuteronomy 34:9. **DISCUSS:** Based on these Scriptures, how would you characterize Joshua? (Question 4) Record the answers on the transparency. **READ:** Have a



volunteer read aloud Deuteronomy 1:38. ASK: What had the Lord predicted about Joshua? (Question 5)

B. His task (1:2–4)

Jesus taught the principle that a servant who is faithful over a few things will be entrusted with greater responsibility (Matt. 25:21, 23). Joshua had been faithful to the tasks assigned to him in the wilderness, and now he would have a much bigger task to perform. The Lord commanded him to lead the Children of Israel across the Jordan River and enter Canaan (Josh. 1:2).

ASK: What short-range promise did the Lord give Joshua in Joshua 1:3? What long-range promise did he give Joshua in verse 4? (Questions 6, 7)

Invariably, when God gives us a gigantic task to perform for Him, He supplies a promise to encourage us. He assured Joshua that the land of Canaan was His gift to the Children of Israel (v. 2). The land included every place that Joshua would step on (v. 3), and He spelled out the size of His land gift. The territory stretched from the wilderness on the south to Lebanon on the north and from the Euphrates on the east to the Mediterranean Sea on the west (v. 4).

Conquering Canaan would pose major challenges, of course. The enemy tribes in Canaan would not roll over and play dead. Joshua and the people of Israel would have to fight for the land, but the outcome was clear because God had given the land to His people. Years earlier, Israel could have marched into Canaan and possessed it, but a scouting party had advised Israel by a ten to two majority vote not to enter Canaan. The ten reported that Canaan was exactly what the Lord had described but that giants dwelled there.

ASK: How does Deuteronomy 8:7–10 describe Canaan? (Question 8)

The faithless majority predicted disastrous consequences if Israel entered Canaan. Joshua and Caleb were the two who urged Israel to enter Canaan. They, too, saw giants, but they looked beyond the giants and saw God. The ten saw obstacles in Canaan, but Joshua and Caleb, the faithful minority, saw opportunities.

BUZZ GROUPS: Divide the learners into small groups. Give them five minutes to identify a major challenge facing individual believers or Bible-believing churches. Have them discuss the role faith plays in accepting this challenge. Have the groups summarize their discussions for the entire class.

Joshua 1:5 is included as a slide in the PowerPoint presentation or as resource 2 on the resource CD.

If time permits, have volunteers read Matthew 28:18–20 and Hebrews 13:5.

II. Joshua's Encouragement (Josh. 1:5, 6)

The Lord encouraged Joshua for the work ahead by making him promises.

A. The Lord's presence (1:5)

ASK: What did God promise Joshua in Joshua 1:5? (Question 9)

No man would be able to resist Joshua. However, the reason lay not in Joshua's military prowess but in God's presence. The Lord promised: "As I was with Moses, so I will be with thee: I will not fail thee, nor forsake thee."

READ: Have a student read aloud Exodus 3:10–12. **ASK:** How similar was the Lord's promise to Moses and His promise to Joshua? (Very similar.) On what occasions in Moses' life did the Lord prove that He was present with him? (When Moses stood before Pharaoh and demanded freedom for the Hebrews; when the Lord parted the Red Sea; when He provided food and water for the Hebrews; when He defeated the Amalekites.)

The Lord has pledged to be with His people today too. Whether we proclaim the gospel, face a trial, battle loneliness, or need to make an important decision, He is with us.

TESTIMONIES: Have the learners share times when knowing that the Lord was present made a positive difference in their lives.

A church member observed to another, "The Lord is here today. I can feel His presence."

"He is with us whether we feel His presence or not," responded the other member.

We know the Lord is with us always, in all kinds of circumstances, not because we feel His presence but because He faithfully promised to be with us. In other words, His presence doesn't depend on our feelings but on His faithfulness.

Joshua could march into Canaan with full assurance that the Lord was with him. The divine presence would be more essential to victory than a well-trained army and superior weapons, neither of which was available to Joshua.

B. The Lord's provision (1:6)

The Lord encouraged Joshua by telling him He would "divide for an inheritance the land, which I swore unto their fathers to give them" (Josh. 1:6). He would provide the land of Canaan in fulfillment of His promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. These patriarchs lived with the hope of inheriting Canaan but died without inheriting it. Their faith will be rewarded, though, when Christ establishes His earthly Kingdom with Jerusalem as its capital.

REVIEW: Briefly review God's promises to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob concerning the Promised Land: Genesis 12:1–3; 13:14–17; 15:18–21; 26:1–3; 35:10–12.

ASK: What promises has the Lord given you that demand action on your part? (Question 10)

LIST: Have volunteers list on the whiteboard future blessings that encourage them to do God's will.

Joshua was already familiar with God's gracious provision. In the wilderness, he had seen God provide sustenance in the form of manna, quail, and water (Exod. 16:11–16; 17:5, 6; Num. 20:7–11). He led the Israelites in the battle against the Amalekites and heard Moses rehearse in his ear that God would provide in coming battles (Exod. 17:8–16).

ASK: What has the Lord done for you in the past that encourages you to trust Him in the future? Why does a Christian leader never reach a point in life where he or she can coast? (Questions 11, 12)

Joshua's predecessor, Moses, must have been greatly encouraged by the fact that the Lord would give Israel the Promised Land. After all, he chose to "suffer affliction with the people of God, . . . esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward" (Heb. 11:25, 26). In becoming Israel's next leader, Joshua was following big steps of faith.

III. Joshua's Responsibilities (Josh. 1:7–9)

Responsibilities accompany the privilege of leadership. Joshua's leadership was no exception.

The Lord held Joshua accountable to revere the Word of God.

A. Revere the Word of God (1:7, 8)

Joshua's assignment demanded strength and courage (Josh. 1:7). History had proved that the Children of Israel were prone to doubt and dissension and that the enemy was formidable. A leader who lacked strength and courage would surely buckle under pressure. Fortunately Joshua had already demonstrated strength and courage in the wilderness, but he would have to turn these characteristics up a notch or two in the Promised Land. How would he do this?

By being a man of the Word!

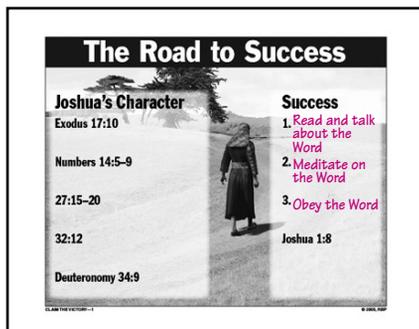
READ: Have a volunteer read aloud Joshua 1:7.

Joseph's hope of inheriting Canaan was so strong that when Joseph was dying, he instructed his relatives to carry his remains to the land of Canaan for burial (Gen. 50:24, 25).

The Lord commanded Joshua to “observe to do according to all the law.” This “law” was the written body of moral, ceremonial, and civil laws that God had handed down to Israel through Moses. Joshua had experienced God’s power in the wilderness, but experience alone cannot build strong, courageous leadership. Only when the written Word takes root in a leader’s heart can he have stability for the rough times; only the Word produces the spiritual fruit that honors God. Only the written Word can give a leader direction, encouragement, wisdom, and assurance of God’s available presence and power.

ASK: The apostle Paul understood how important obedience to Scripture is in the life of a leader. What did the Lord, through Paul, command Timothy (1 Tim. 4:16) and Titus (Titus 1:7–9) to do with God’s Word? (Question 13)

Specifically, Joshua was accountable to do three things, found in Joshua 1:8. First, he was to talk about the Word. The Lord commanded, “This book of the law shall not depart out of thy mouth.” Second, the Lord commanded him to meditate on the book of the law day and night. Third, He commanded him “to do . . . all that is written therein.”



TRANSPARENCY: Display transparency 1. Fill in the three points on the right side of the transparency, indicating what Joshua was to do with the Word to continue to have success in the future.

Revering God’s Word, Joshua would read and talk about it, ruminate on it, and obey it. He would share its precepts, principles, and commands verbally with his family members and countrymen. He would ponder its truths throughout the day and during the night. He would obey it always.

DISCUSS: Why did God insist that Joshua meditate on God’s Word? Was he not already a success? What, if anything, was missing from Joshua’s reputation? (Review the list on the left side of transparency 1.) Which of Joshua’s qualities were permanent regardless of what he did in the future? What is the significance of meditating on the Word day and night? What hope of success does a Christian leader have if he or she uses the Word for public ministry but does not use it for personal growth? (Questions 14–16)

The Bible, God’s Word, ought to be central to our thinking and our life-style. We dare not consign it to an insignificant corner of our church life, our thought-life, our family life, our business life, or our social life. Like the psalmist, we should be able to declare, “I love thy commandments above gold; yea,

above fine gold. Therefore I esteem all thy precepts concerning all things to be right; and I hate every false way” (Ps. 119:127, 128).

BIBLE STUDY: Have the learners read 2 Timothy 3:15–17 and answer the following questions: How did God communicate His Word to those who wrote it? (He inspired it.) How much Scripture originated with God? (All Scripture.) What are the Bible’s capabilities? (It gives the knowledge of salvation [v. 15]; it provides doctrine, reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness [v. 16]; it matures believers and equips them for good works [v. 17].)

READ: Have someone read aloud Matthew 4:1–11. **ASK:** What weapon did Jesus use to ward off Satan’s attacks? How can you become proficient in the use of this weapon? (Question 17)

FORUM: Give learners the opportunity to share with one another their experiences with daily Bible reading. What has worked well for them? What advice would they offer a new Christian who wants to learn God’s Word?

The Lord also held Joshua accountable to rely on the God of the Word.

B. Rely on the God of the Word (1:9)

Once again the Lord commanded Joshua to be strong and of a good courage. Since the Lord had commanded him to lead Israel, He would provide all that was necessary to ensure Joshua’s success. He would be with him wherever he went.

If Joshua would take God’s Word at face value, meditate on it, and obey it, he would find no reason to be “afraid” or “dismayed.” He could rely on the God of the Word to keep His promises. The adversaries would offer strong resistance, but the almighty God had commissioned Joshua. Joshua could trust Him to rout the enemy.

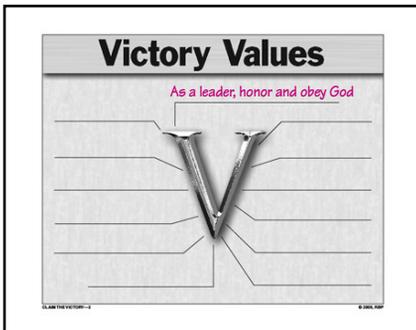
READ: Ask a learner to read aloud Romans 8:35–37. **DISCUSS:** According to this passage of Scripture, over what adversities do we triumph through Christ? (Question 18)

“By inspiration of God” (2 Tim. 3:16) means “God-breathed.” God breathed out all Scripture. The Bible, therefore, is verbally inspired in all its parts, inerrant, and authoritative for faith and practice.

Making It Personal

Few people fill leadership roles like Joshua’s. However, all adults are Christian leaders in some way. Have the learners refer to question 19a in the study book and list common Christian leadership roles. Record their answers on a whiteboard. Ask the learners to complete question 19b. Give them an

Use the case study for lesson 1 as desired.



opportunity to share any thoughts on their success or failure in their leadership roles.

Write the following on the whiteboard: “I read the Bible . . .” and “I meditate on the Word. . . .” If they have not already answered the question, ask the learners to finish the sentences and record their answers in their study books (Question 20).

Ask: What is the correlation between spending time reading and meditating on the Word and the level of success as a Christian leader? (Question 21)

Ask: What steps can a believer take to better acquaint him- or herself with the Word? (Question 22) Record learners’ responses on the whiteboard, and challenge the learners to follow through with the personal steps they recorded in their study books.

Victory Values Review

Use transparency 2 to review the victory value for this lesson: As a leader, honor and obey God. Have the students suggest a summary statement, or use the one provided. Record the summary statement on the transparency.

NEXT LESSON

Encourage the learners to complete the Bible study for lesson 2 before the next class.