

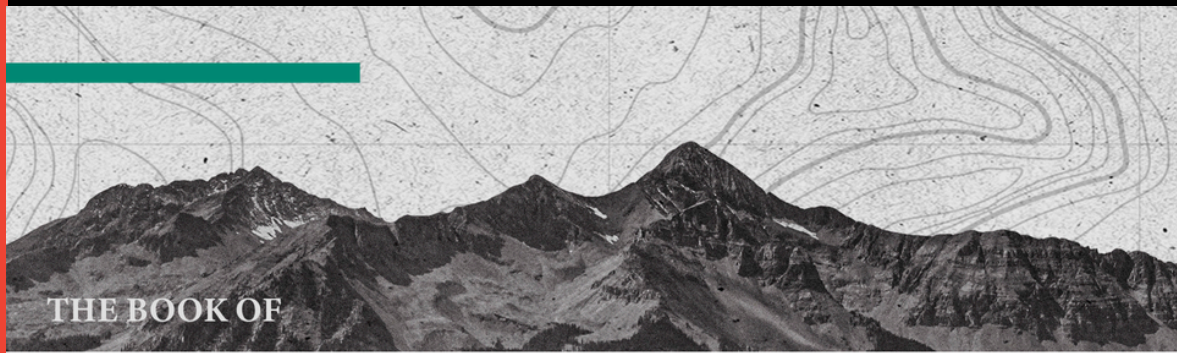


# LEADER GUIDE

Sept 14  
-  
Dec 28



## The Life of a Christian



# JOSHUA



# THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN

## A STUDY

*THROUGH THE BOOK OF JOSHUA*

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**September 14 - December 28**

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Written by TJ Johnson

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# Sermon Series Overview

This Sunday, we begin a new series in the Book of Joshua. I encourage you to take time to read through this book, as we will be spending the next several months working our way through the text. It will take you around two hours to read the entire book, which covers approximately thirty years of Israel's history.

The book is divided into four main scenes:

1. Crossing into the Land (1:1–5:15)
2. Taking the Land (6:1–12:24)
3. Dividing the Land (13:1–21:45)
4. Serving the Lord in the Land (22:1–24:33)

You will notice that a rather large section is devoted to which tribe settled in which part of the land. While these details may seem superfluous or—dare I say—boring, they serve a purpose. They remind us that God keeps His promises. Some 600 years earlier, God had promised Abraham a people and a land, and that promise finally came to pass.

Of course, the story of the land is about much more than a patch of dirt in the Middle East. It is about God's people in God's place under God's rule. It is a foreshadowing of a coming Kingdom that will endure forever. The people of God were to conquer the land so that they might enter God's rest. Joshua is a reminder that struggle comes before rest, suffering before glory, and war before peace.

It has been said that for every New Testament doctrine there is an Old Testament picture. Therefore, the Book of Joshua should, in some sense, be seen as a blueprint for the Christian life—our journey of sanctification. We must, as Hebrews 4 tells us, strive to enter into Christ's eternal rest. The Christian life is not a playground but a battleground. Until Christ returns or calls us home, may we fight the good fight of faith and be found worthy of our calling.

This Sunday, we will focus on Joshua 1, which functions as an introduction and overview of the entire book.

Striving with you,

Pastor TJ

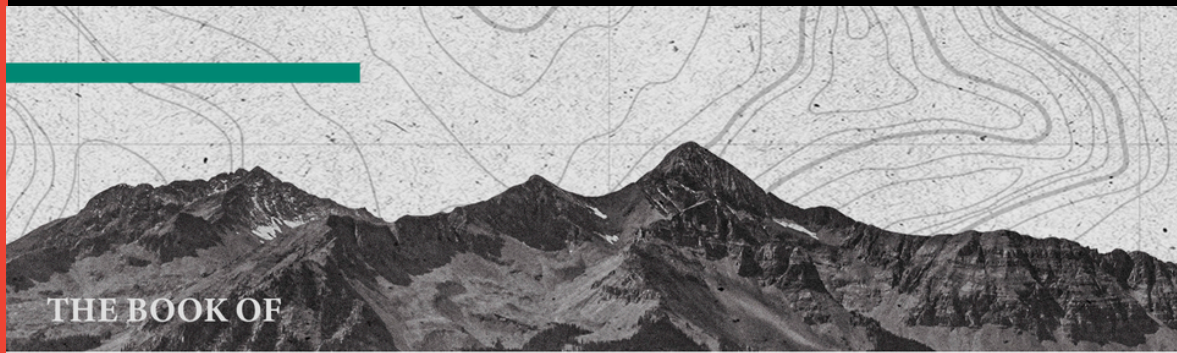


# LEADER GUIDE

Sept 14



## Courageous Obedience



THE BOOK OF

# JOSHUA



## Sermon Outline

Title: Courageous Obedience.

Text: Joshua 1

Prop: God has called us to live a life of obedience to Him, living with courageous faith knowing that when this life is done we will rest eternally in His Kingdom.

### OUTLINE

1. God Keeps His Promises. Joshua 1:2-3
2. God Sends His Presence. Joshua 1:5-6, 9
3. God Confers His Precepts. Joshua 1:7-8
4. God Charges His People. Joshua 1:12-15
5. God Commissions His Person. Joshua 1:16-18

### Sermon Notes



## Discussion Questions

1. **List** some promises God made and fulfilled in the Bible. Then, discuss: what are some promises God has yet to fulfill, and how can we wait for them with hope?

- **Fulfilled:**

- God's covenant with Abraham: God promised a specific land, numerous descendants, blessings to Abraham and his descendants, and that a blessing would come through him to all nations.
- The end of a global flood: God promised never to destroy the earth again with a flood
- Covenant: The coming of Jesus Christ and His sacrifice brought a new covenant, fulfilling promises for a new way of living.
- Salvation through Jesus: God promised to provide salvation for all who believe His Son.

**Yet to Fulfill:**

- The coming kingdom: The establishment of God's eternal Kingdom on a new earth, has yet to be fully realized.
- Complete defeat of evil: While the power of evil and death has been broken with Christ, the final eradication of all evil will occur at the end of time.
- Final reunion with God: While believers have fellowship with God now, the promise of complete and uninterrupted intimacy with Him awaits the future.

### Waiting in hope

Cultivate an attitude of gratitude for the blessings and provisions God has already given and remind yourself of promises fulfilled knowing God is faithful and will fulfill His promises in His timing. Use the waiting period to serve others and bring glory to God, which will allow us to grow in our faith.



## Discussion Questions

2. **How** was God “with” Israel in the book of Joshua? In what ways is He “with” us as believers today?

God's presence was not an abstract concept; firstly, He spoke through the Book of the Law (living and active). There was a personal presence through Joshua's encounter with a mysterious man with a drawn sword who identifies himself as the "commander of the army of the LORD." (Theophany). He acted through His miracles (parting Jordan, walls of Jericho, etc). His glory rested on them through the Ark of the Covenant and tabernacle where the priests would enter to minister before the Lord, etc.

Today, believers receive the Holy Spirit, who guides, comforts, and empowers them (Joh 14:26). God still speaks through the Word of God and acts through His miracles and sovereign ordering of the affairs of the world. He is present through the Lord's Supper and every time the body of Christ gathers together.

3. **What** practical steps do you take to meditate on, speak about, and obey the Bible? Why does God place such a strong emphasis on His Word?

Choose a specific time each day for reading. Focus on a few verses that reveal something about God, self, or humanity. Write down thoughts, insights, and prayers related to passages to deepen understanding.

God's Word, being without error, serves as the primary means of revealing His nature, will, and purpose for humanity. It provides insight into His character and the relationship He desires with His people. Without it we are merely guessing at who He is and what He demands from the world. Without it we make God into our own image rather than being conformed into His image.





## Discussion Questions

4. How can we, like the Transjordan tribes (Reubenites, Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh), help our brothers and sisters in Christ find spiritual rest? Alternatively, share a time when someone helped you in your sanctification.

Offer emotional and spiritual support through prayer and fellowship. Share uplifting scriptures and personal testimonies of faith. Engage in acts of service. Create a loving community where individuals can confess sin and struggles. Provide opportunities for growing in our knowledge and love of God.

5. In what ways does Joshua foreshadow Jesus (particularly in Joshua's role to lead Israel into the land)?

Jesus is the true and better Joshua. They share the same name, meaning "Yahweh saves." Joshua saves the people from Canaanite enemies; Jesus saves His people from a spiritual enemy, sin and Satan (Colossians 2:15). Joshua gave Israel a temporary land, Jesus gives us an eternal Kingdom. Joshua brought temporary rest (peace), Jesus bring eternal rest (see Heb. 4:9). Joshua intercedes for Israel on behalf of their sin (Joshua 7:6-9), Jesus intercedes for us on behalf of our sin (Romans 8:34). Joshua secures a physical inheritance, Jesus secures a spiritual inheritance (1 Peter 1:3-4).

### SUMMARY:

Israel needed a person to lead them into the land and God gave them Joshua. We need a person to lead us into eternity and God has given us the greater Joshua, Jesus!

As the people were to do all that Joshua commanded, we are to do all that Jesus commands. As the people were to go wherever Joshua sent them, we are to go wherever Jesus sends. Whoever rebelled against Joshua faced death. Whoever rebels against Jesus faces eternal death.



## Prayer & Praise

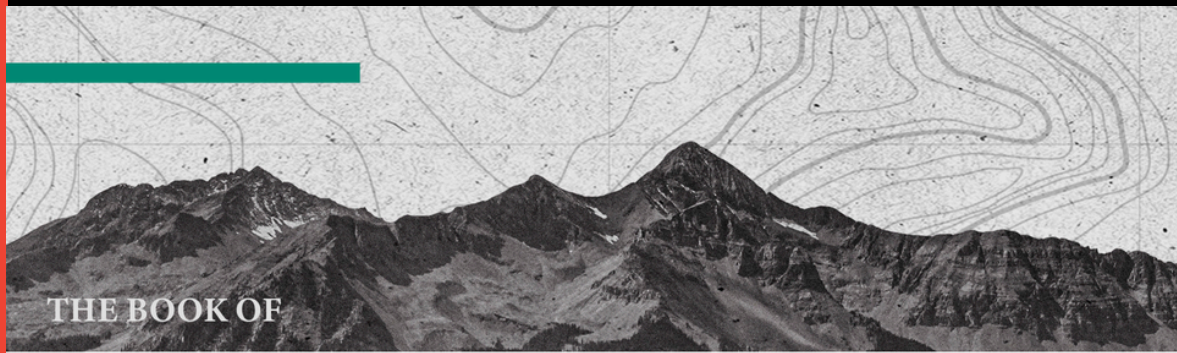
End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports



# Remember His Deeds



THE BOOK OF

# JOSHUA

LEADER GUIDE

Sept 21

# Sermon Overview

In preparation for Sunday take some time to read Joshua 3-4. As you do, you will notice that chapter three focuses on God's miracle of parting the Jordan River. While reading this chapter, ask yourself why God performed this miracle, what it teaches us about miracles as a whole, and most importantly, how it connects to the bigger storyline of Scripture.

When you move to chapter four, while it might seem like a superfluous rereading of the story, note how the miracle is meant to be memorialized. Israel is to take twelve stones from the river and place them at Gilgal as a way for future generations to remember that God has acted on behalf of His people.

Just as Israel was called to remember God's mighty acts, we too must be intentional about remembering how God has worked in our lives of His people. Just as future generations were to trust reliable testimony rather than experience their own personal miracle, so too we are to trust the reliable testimony of faithful witnesses to God's greatest miracle (that of the Resurrection).

Joshua is a reminder that sometimes our faith moves forward by looking backwards. Future sanctification is enacted by remembering a former event (Christ has risen). In our darkest times, in the seemingly silence of God, when it feels as if God is not present or God does not care, faith is sustained through the act of remembering.

Remembering with You,

Pastor TJ

Note: Don't worry, we will come back to chapter 2 in a few weeks.



## Sermon Outline

Title: Christianity is a Lifetime of Remembering

Text: Joshua 3-4

Prop: God, through Jesus Christ, has worked powerfully in our lives, therefore we must be sure to regularly remember His mighty acts, lest we forget and our faith falter.

### OUTLINE

#### **1. The Miracle**

- A. It's Nature
- B. It's Purpose

#### **2. The Memorial**

- A. Public
- B. Private

### Sermon Notes



## Discussion Questions

1. **Give** a biblical definition of the word miracle, and provide examples of what is and is not considered a miracle.

*Be sure that your definition includes what constitutes a miracle (deviation of natural law) and the purpose of miracles (display God's power and love, to authenticate God's messengers like prophets, apostles, or Jesus).*

*Far too often we misuse the word miracle, this only lessens the acts of true miracles. For example, to recover from cancer by taking chemotherapy, while being a gracious act of God, is technically not a miracle since this is not a deviation of natural law.*

2. **What** are some of the most meaningful miracles in the Bible to you, and why?

*Various answers, depending mostly upon felt needs. For example, if a couple is struggling to conceive, they will likely resonate with God opening the womb of Hannah. A person who feels unloved might resonate with Jesus' healing of the man with leprosy because of the personal nature of the miracle...Jesus touching the man, showing compassion, etc. Another way of answering this question is to focus on miracles that get retold in the Bible. The parting of the Red Sea is retold dozens of times, by prophets, psalmists, and NT writers. It's a meaning miracle because it is a foreshadowing of the salvific work of Jesus.*

3. **What** were God's purposes in dividing the Jordan River, and what are the New Testament truths this Old Testament story illustrates?

*The text lists three specific reasons for God performing this miracle: To identify Joshua as God's servant (3:7), to strengthen Israel's faith in God and His promises (3:10, 4:6), to reveal God's power and glory to the nations (4:24).*



## Discussion Questions

3. **What** were God's purposes in dividing the Jordan River, and what are the New Testament truths this Old Testament story illustrates?

Jesus' miracles, like this one, are signs identifying Jesus as God's servant Messiah (See John 1-2).

4. **Have** you ever witnessed a modern-day miracle, if so share with the group?

*The point of this question is to facilitate discussion on the acts of God today. Does God still perform miracles, if so why and how? Does the miracle mentioned pass the Biblical test for a miracle or should it be considered something else?*

5. **While** technically not a miracle, share a sacred experience you've had with God and explain why it was meaningful to you.

*Various. While not everyone will have seen a miracle, hopefully all those who have repented and believed in Christ do have stories to tell of how God revealed Himself in a special way.*

6. **What** are some modern "memorials" you have built that help you remember and share God's faithfulness with friends, family, or children?

*Various: Decor like Bible verses or a mezuzah; jewelry like a cross or ichthus; Objects like an "Ebenezer stone;" journal entries, prayer books, special events like Passover or Christmas, etc.*



## Discussion Questions

### Going deeper:

7. **How** does one discern true miracles from false miracles (aka Moses vs Egyptians magicians)?

*It's important to note that while miracles are meant to identify God's prophets and apostles, it's possible that false prophets and false apostles perform false miracles. Pharaoh's magicians were able to perform some of the same miracles Moses performed.*

*Miracles from God seek to glorify God, affirm His message, and promote Biblical truth. Satanic miracles glorify human (or demonic) power, oppose God's will, deceive people, and lead people away from Biblical truth. Jesus gave a universal principle for discernment: "By their fruit you will recognize them" (Matthew 7:16).*

8. **What** are some dangers to avoid concerning miracles?

*There are certainly two extremes when it comes to miracles. The first extreme is rationalistic skepticism, denying the possibility or continuation of miracles. This response says that the miracles of the Bible or today can be explained away through science, human interaction or circumstance. The other extreme is credulous super-naturalism, an uncritical acceptance of all claims. This response is so obsessed over miracles that they make the pursuit of signs and wonders the center of Christian spirituality. God can perform miracles, God does perform miracles, but God has not promised that He will perform one for you. Our faith is not based on miracles today, but on the most important miracle in History, the resurrection which is confirmed to us through the Holy Spirit. Jesus Himself warns us against seeking after additional signs other than what has already been given.*





## Prayer & Praise

End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports

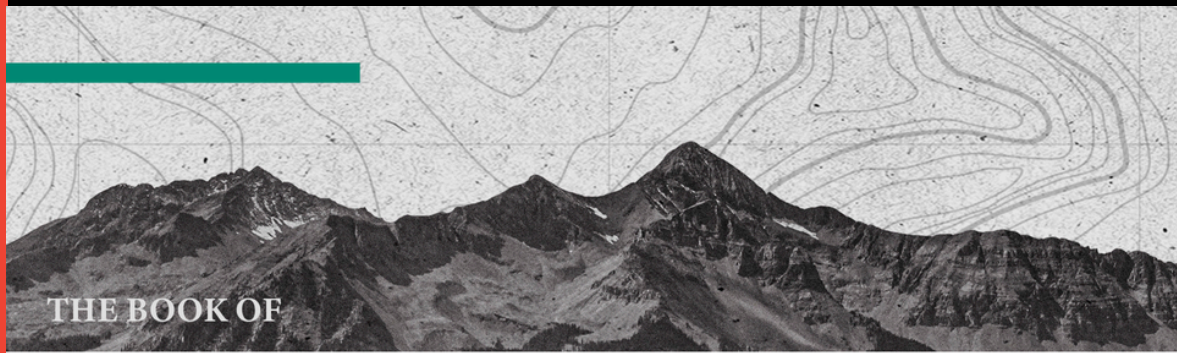


# STUDY GUIDE

Sept 28



# Confession Through Sacrament



THE BOOK OF

# JOSHUA

# Sermon Overview

Before their first battle in the Promised Land, God commanded Israel to perform two surprising rites: circumcision and Passover. It was a reminder that the taking and keeping of the Land was not through human effort, but total dependance upon the Lord. In the same way, God has given His church two ordinances—baptism and the Lord's Supper. This Sunday, we'll discover how these gifts powerfully remind us that our victory over sin is found not in our own strength, but through faith in Christ's finished work.

In Him,

Pastor TJ



## Sermon Outline

Title: Confession Through Sacrament

Text: Joshua 5

Prop: Through the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper, God graciously provides the means for our sanctification, reminding us that victory in the Christian life comes not by our own strength but through faith in the finished work of Christ.

### OUTLINE

#### **1. In Circumcision something is removed.**

*Circumcision points to Baptism*

#### **2. In Passover something is received.**

*Passover points to The Lord's Supper*

### Sermon Notes



## Discussion Questions

1. **What** was the Abrahamic covenant and how was it fulfilled through Jesus Christ?

*The Abrahamic covenant is God's promise to Abraham in Genesis 12:1-3; 15:1-6; 17 where God promises Abraham a People (father of many nations), a Place (promise land), and Purpose (blessed to bring blessing to all nations).*

*Jesus is the ultimate descendant (seed) of Abraham (Galatians 3:16) through whom the entire world is blessed and saved. It is through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus that a People for God from every nation is adopted into God's family and given an eternal Place in God's Kingdom (New Heaven and Earth).*

2. **What** was the purpose of circumcision and in what ways does that relate to baptism today?

*Circumcision was the external sign of being part of God's covenant people (Genesis 17:9-14). It marked a separation for God and reminded them of God's covenant promise and their covenant obligation. Baptism is the New Covenant sign of belonging to God's people. It's about an internal, spiritual reality (Colossians 2:11-12)—a "circumcision of the heart," foretold in Deuteronomy 10:16, Jeremiah 4:4, and Ezekiel 36:26-27.*

*While there are parallels between circumcision and baptism, there is disagreement among Christians as to how extensive these parallels are. Those who find a very strong connection see justification for pedobaptism.*



## Discussion Questions

3. **What** role does baptism play in the life of a believer today?

*Baptism is an outward declaration (to self, God, and the world) of an inward faith. It signifies union with Christ in his death and resurrection (Romans 6:3-4). It visibly illustrates that you have died to sin and have been cleansed by the work of Jesus. It's a public entry into the family of the church. It serves as a reminder that we are not our own, but have pledged our allegiance to Christ alone.*

4. **How** did the Passover festival point to Jesus Christ, and what connections can we draw between the Passover and the Lord's Supper?

*The Passover festival was a reminder that God withheld His righteous wrath against the sins of Israel because He accepted, as substitute, the death of a male lamb, one year old, without spot or blemish. In John 1:29, John the Baptist calls Jesus the lamb of God who takes away the sins of the world. Jesus is the true substitute for sin. He lived a life without sin and then died a death in which our sins were placed upon Him, thereby taking on Himself God's righteous judgment against sin. Like the Passover meal remembered deliverance, the Lord's Supper remembers our deliverance through Christ (1 Corinthians 5:7). It was at the Passover meal that Jesus instituted The Lord's Supper as an ordinance for the church.*

5. **What** is the significance and purpose of participating in the Lord's Supper for a Christian today?

*The Lord's Supper is a powerful tool God has given a Christian to fight sin and grow in their sanctification. It is a time to remember Christ's sacrifice on the cross (1 Corinthians 11:23-26), fellowship with Christ and with other believers, and remind ourselves of His second coming.*



## Discussion Questions

6. **What** personal practices or reflections can help us prepare for the Lord's Supper?

*A powerful way to prepare is to slowly and intentionally read one of the Gospel accounts of the crucifixion (Matthew 27, Mark 15, Luke 23, or John 19). As you reflect on Christ's sacrifice, move beyond vague feelings and engage in specific confession. Ask yourself: "What have I done this week that dishonored Christ?"—such as harsh words, dishonest actions, or indulging anger. Also consider, "Where have I failed to do the good I knew I should?"—like neglecting prayer, withholding forgiveness, or failing to show kindness. To further focus your heart, listen to or sing a hymn about the cross, such as "When I Survey the Wondrous Cross" or "In Christ Alone." Finally, actively remind yourself that your standing before God is secured solely by Christ's life, death, and resurrection, not by your own efforts to be holy. This prepares you to receive the elements as a gift of grace.*



## Prayer & Praise

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### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports

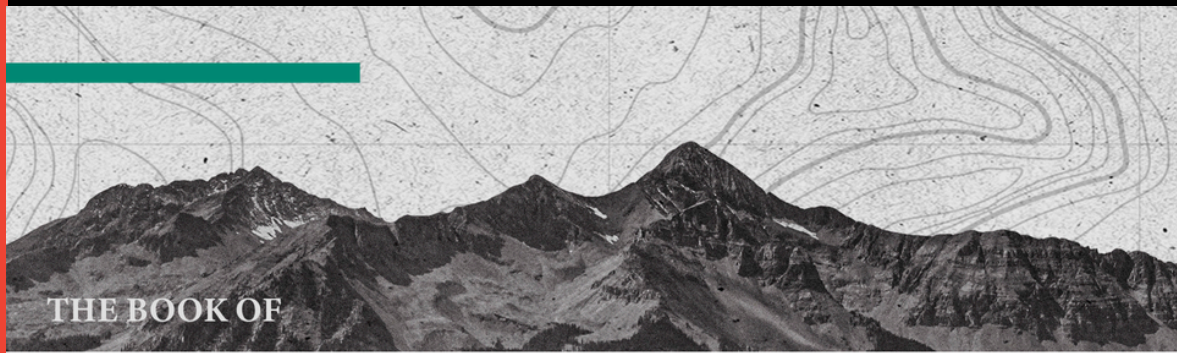




# STUDY GUIDE

Oct 5

## Walk By Faith



THE BOOK OF

# JOSHUA

# Sermon Overview

The Christian life begins by faith, and it must continue the very same way. The stories of Rahab and the fall of Jericho show us that faith often looks foolish by human logic, trusting God's promise over our own strategy. This Sunday we will look at what it means to daily walk by faith and not by sight in every area of life.

In Him,

Pastor TJ



## Sermon Outline

Title: Walk By Faith

Text: Joshua 2, 6

Prop: As the Christian has begun their life in Christ by grace through faith, we are to continue to walk by faith and not by sight.

## OUTLINE

## Sermon Notes



## Discussion Questions

1. **Rahab** acted on her faith by hiding the spies, a risky decision. What is one practical, "risky" step of obedience God might be calling you to take in your family or workplace this week?

*Faith often requires action that involves personal risk or cost. This could be initiating a difficult conversation to pursue reconciliation, taking a stand for biblical ethics when it might be unpopular, generously giving when finances feel tight, or sharing the gospel with a colleague. The "risk" is the potential for discomfort, rejection, or loss, but the call is to obey, trusting that God is sovereign over the outcome.*

2. **What** does the story of Rahab (consider her profession and ethnicity) teach us about God's power to save sinners? How does her story encourage you?

*Rahab's story demonstrates that no one is beyond the reach of God's saving grace. Her profession (a prostitute) and ethnicity (a Canaanite under judgment) highlight that salvation is not earned by our pedigree, morality, or status. It is received by faith alone. This is profoundly encouraging because it means our past sins, present failures, or social standing do not limit the power of the gospel to fully forgive and redeem us for God's purposes. This is especially encouraging when one considers that the Messiah will come from Rahab.*

3. **The** Israelite army marched and shouted, acting in faith that God would deliver the victory. What is a situation in your life where you need to stop relying on your own "strategy" and simply obey what God has already said?

*This often applies to situations where we are tempted to rely on human wisdom or control. Examples include trying to solve a child's rebellion through sheer force of rules instead of prayer and gospel patience, manipulating circumstances at work to secure a promotion rather than working with integrity and trusting God with the results, or worrying incessantly about a problem instead of proactively praying and casting our anxieties on Christ. Obedience in these cases means doing what God has commanded (praying, serving, trusting) while relinquishing control of the outcome to Him. Try to get people in your group to give specific examples from their own life.*



## Discussion Questions

4. Faith is not passive. Israel still had to march and shout. In sanctification, what is the difference between passive waiting and active striving in faith?

*Passive waiting is a form of spiritual inactivity that expects God to change us without our engagement. Active striving in faith means obeying the clear commands of Scripture—"put to death" sinful deeds (Colossians 3:5), "pursue" righteousness (1 Timothy 6:11), "work out your own salvation" (Philippians 2:12)—all while relying completely on God's power that works within us (Philippians 2:13). It is our diligent effort empowered by God's Spirit, not a substitute for it. Practically this means we read our Bible, come to church, pray regularly, confess sin, attend small group, etc.*

5. Read Hebrews 11:30-31. Rahab's faith saved her entire household. Who in your circle of influence needs to see the hope of the gospel through your faithful actions and words?

*Our faithful obedience has a ripple effect on those closest to us. This question invites personal reflection on specific relationships—such as an unbelieving spouse, children who need to see authentic faith, extended family, neighbors, or friends. The call is to consider how our courageous trust in God's promises and our Christ-like actions can serve as a powerful testimony to the hope we have in Jesus.*



## Prayer & Praise

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