

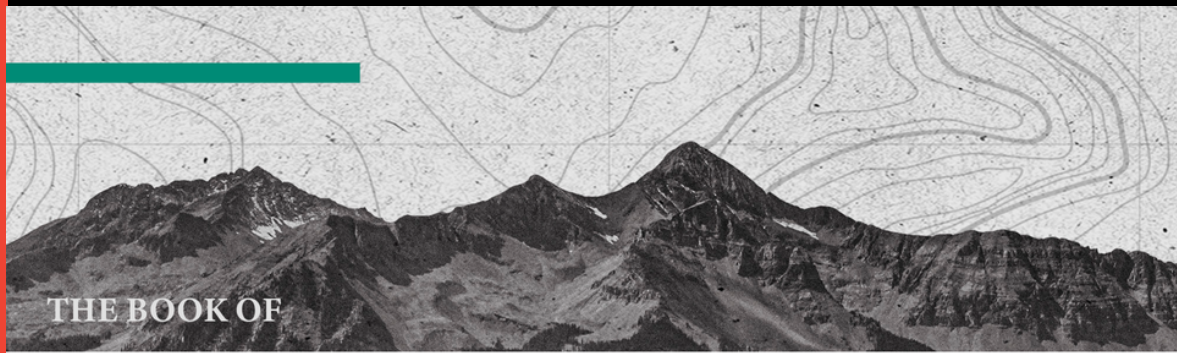


STUDY GUIDE

Sept 14
-
Dec 28



The Life of a Christian



JOSHUA

THE LIFE OF A CHRISTIAN

A STUDY

THROUGH THE BOOK OF JOSHUA

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.

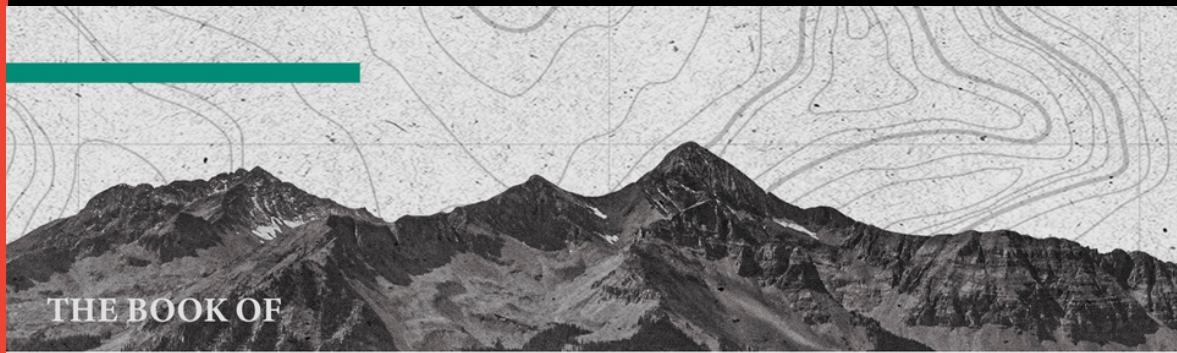
This Sunday, we will focus on Joshua 1, which functions as an introduction and overview of the entire book.

Striving with you,

Pastor TJ



Courageous Obedience



THE BOOK OF

JOSHUA

STUDY GUIDE

Sept 14



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?
2. How was God “with” Israel in the book of Joshua? In what ways is He “with” us as believers today?
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?
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.
5. In what ways does Joshua foreshadow Jesus (particularly in Joshua’s role to lead Israel into the land)?



Prayer & Praise

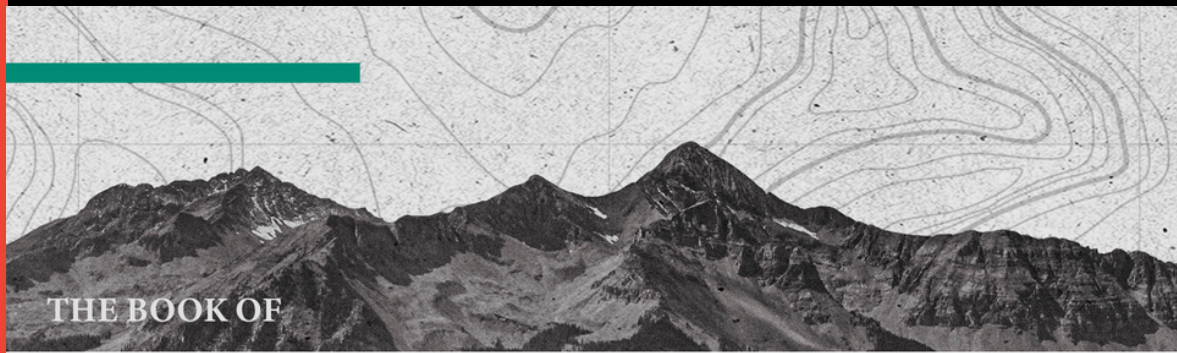
End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports



Remember His Deeds



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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.
2. **What** are some of the most meaningful miracles in the Bible to you, and why?
3. **What** were God's purposes in dividing the Jordan River, and what are the New Testament truths this Old Testament story illustrates?
4. **Have** you ever witnessed a modern-day miracle, if so share with the group?
5. **While** technically not a miracle, share a sacred experience you've had with God and explain why it was meaningful to you.
6. **What** are some modern "memorials" you have built that help you remember and share God's faithfulness with friends, family, or children?

Going deeper:

7. How does one discern true miracles from false miracles (aka Moses vs Egyptians magicians)?
8. What are some dangers to avoid concerning miracles?



Prayer & Praise

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Prayer Requests

Praise Reports

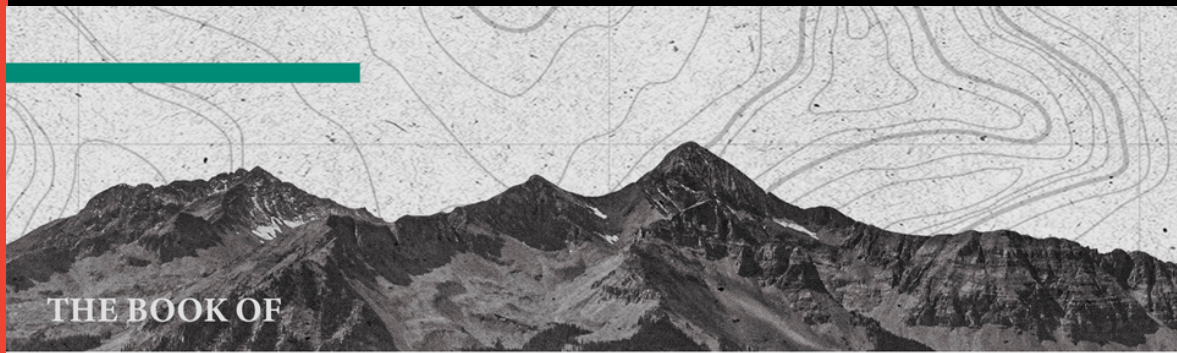


STUDY GUIDE

Sept 28



Confession Through Sacrament



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?
2. **What** was the purpose of circumcision and in what ways does that relate to baptism today?
3. **What** role does baptism play in the life of a believer today?
4. **How** did the Passover festival point to Jesus Christ, and what connections can we draw between the Passover and the Lord's Supper?
5. **What** is the significance and purpose of participating in the Lord's Supper for a Christian today?
6. **What** personal practices or reflections can help us prepare for the Lord's Supper?



Prayer & Praise

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Prayer Requests

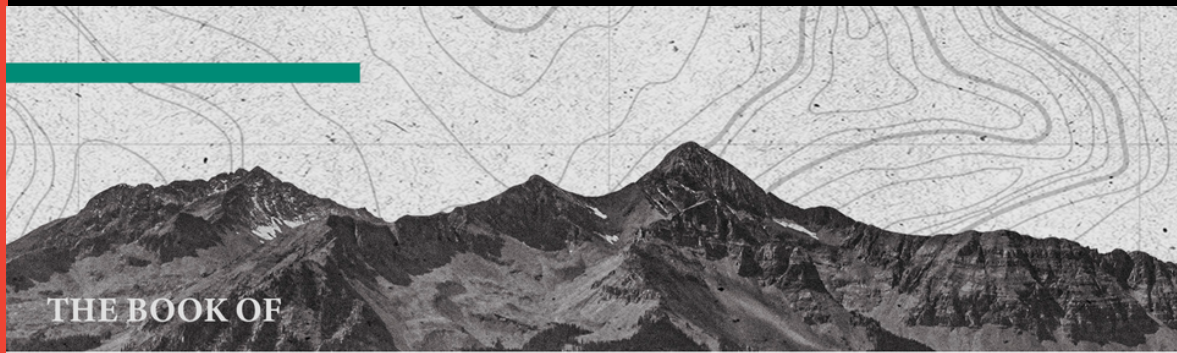
Praise Reports



STUDY GUIDE

Oct 5

Walk By Faith



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?
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?
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?
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?
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?



Prayer & Praise

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Prayer Requests

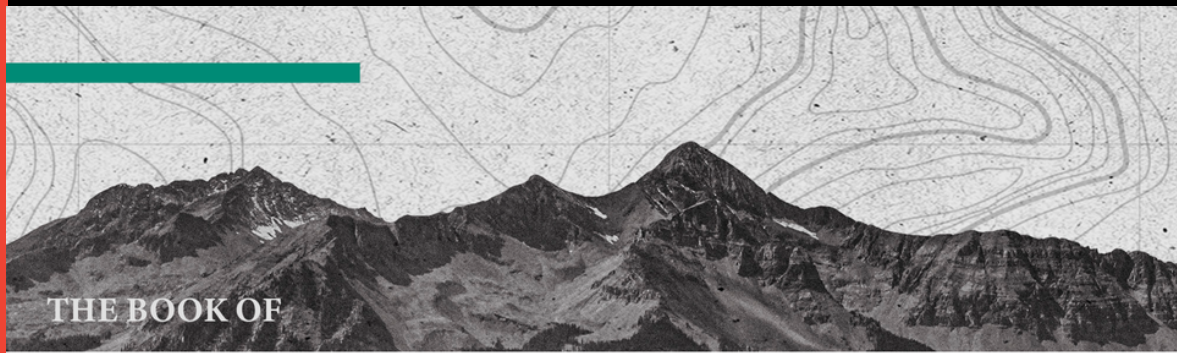
Praise Reports



STUDY GUIDE

Oct 12

Fight Sin



THE BOOK OF

JOSHUA

Sermon Overview

The story of Achan's sin in Joshua 7 is a powerful warning: sin is a serious rebellion that affects not only us but everyone around us. This Sunday, we will be reminded that the journey of sanctification is a lifetime of fighting sin together as a church, removing it from our midst. But we will also see how this story points to our ultimate hope—the forgiveness and victory found only in Jesus Christ.

Fighting with you,

TJ



Sermon Outline

Title: Christianity is a lifetime of fighting sin

Text: Joshua 6:18-8:29

Prop: As Christians, we must take seriously the call to remove sin from among our midst, be it public or private, individual or corporate.

OUTLINE

Sermon Notes



Discussion Questions

Read Joshua 7-8, summarize the main idea of the text, and share a few key truths from the sermon.

1. As a group, create a Biblical definition of sin.
2. Joshua 7:1-5. What effect did Achan's sin have on Israel and why (Notice God's language of Israel and not just Achan)? In what ways do we see the "sin of one" affecting the "whole body" today?
3. Joshua 7:6-15. What is both right and wrong about Joshua's response to the defeat at Ai and his prayer to God? What can we learn about how we should and should not respond to tragedy today?
4. Joshua 7:16-21. What was the progression (pattern) of Achan's sin, do you see this pattern in other places in scripture or your own life? How can we go about breaking this pattern? What are the Biblical steps one should take when they sin?
5. Joshua 7:22-26 What does the severe outcome for Achan and his family teach us about God's perspective on sin? In what ways might we think of sin too lightly today?
6. In what ways does this passage prepare us for and teach us about Jesus?



Prayer & Praise

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

Prayer Requests

Praise Reports