

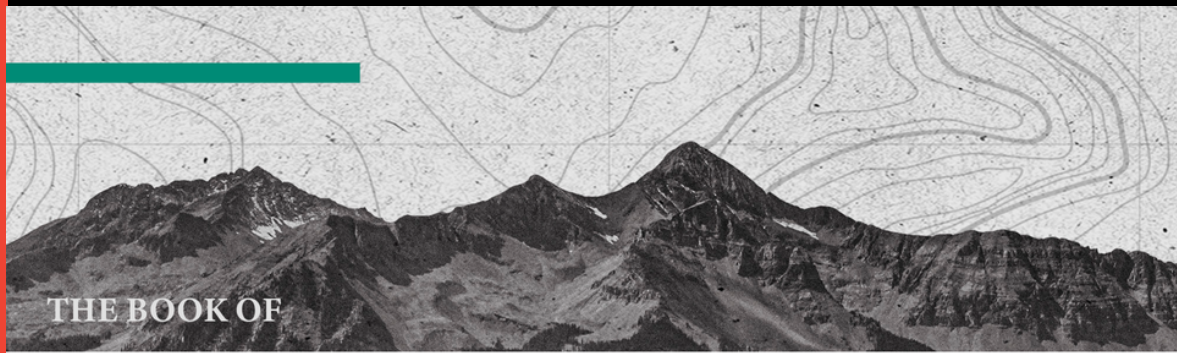


# STUDY GUIDE

Sept 14  
-  
Dec 28



## The Life of a Christian



# JOSHUA

The Bible teaches that keeping promises is a serious matter of integrity, emphasizing that one must fulfill their commitments, and it is better not to make a promise than to break one (Numbers 30:2, Ecclesiastes 5:4–5). Jesus advises that one's "yes" should be "yes" and "no" should be "no" to avoid the need for oaths and extra-biblical swearing (Matthew 5:33–37). When it is mos

# 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.

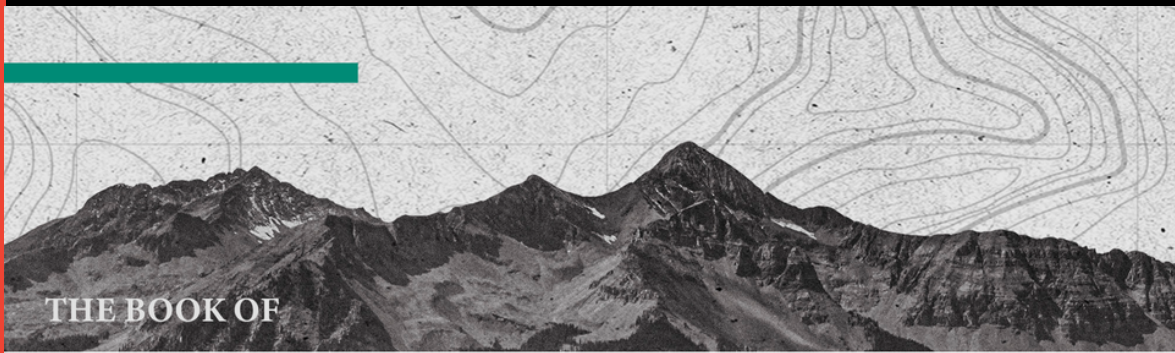
This Sunday, we will focus on Joshua 1, which functions as an introduction and overview of the entire book.

Striving with you,

Pastor TJ



# Courageous Obedience



# STUDY GUIDE

Sept 14

# 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?
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

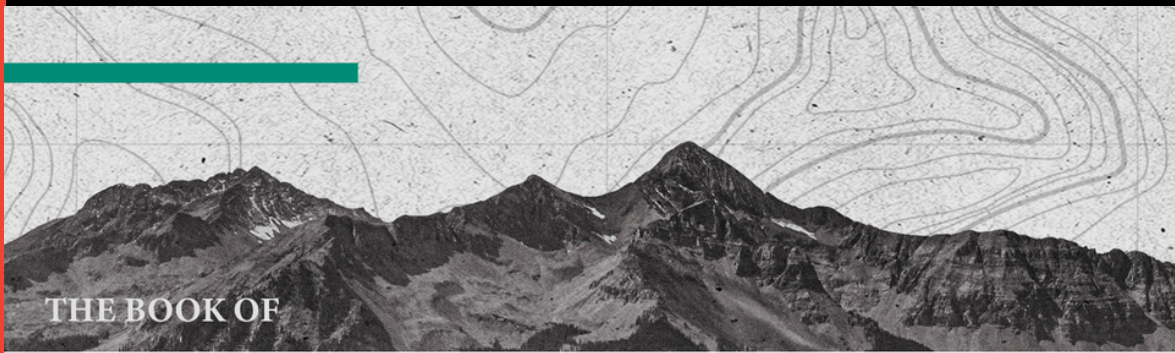
End your time together by reflecting on the goodness of God and praying for one another.

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports



# Remember His Deeds



## STUDY GUIDE

Sept 21

# JOSHUA

# 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

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

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports

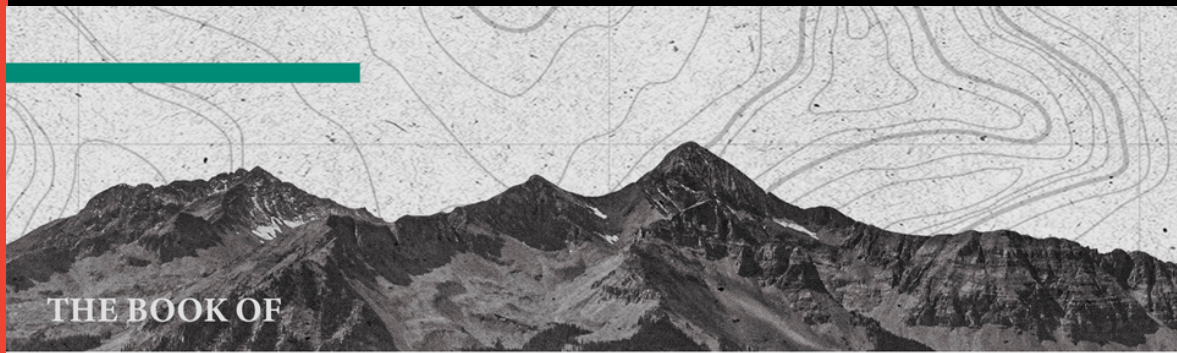


# STUDY GUIDE

Sept 28



## Confession Through Sacrament



# 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

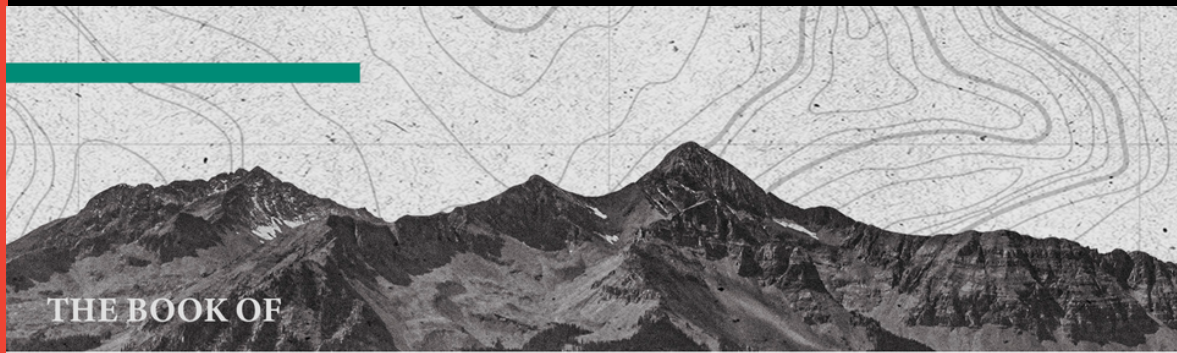
### Praise Reports



# STUDY GUIDE

Oct 5

## Walk By Faith



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?
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

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

### Prayer Requests

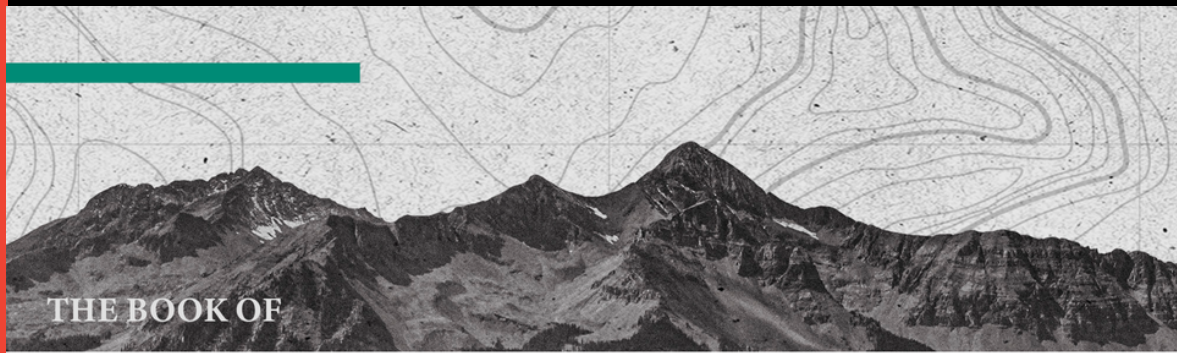
### Praise Reports



# STUDY GUIDE

Oct 12

## Fight Sin



# 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

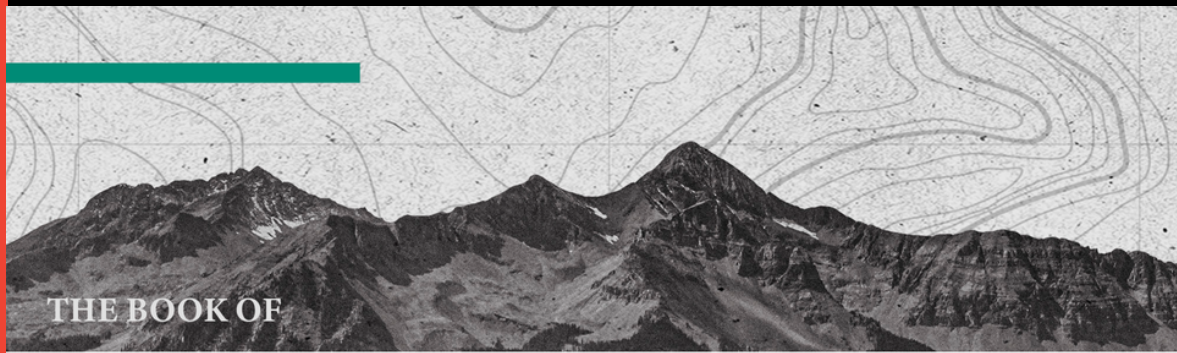
### Praise Reports



# STUDY GUIDE

Oct 26

## The Assembly



# JOSHUA

# Sermon Overview

TChurch Family,

Many of us have likely heard that Christians can and should consider themselves sons and daughters of God who have been adopted through Christ. I couldn't agree more, but have you ever considered yourself a Son or Daughter of Abraham? As a kid in a rural Mississippi church community, it was fairly common to be taught a kid's church song called "Father Abraham". I will not list the lyrics here, but they can be searched online. As an adult, I've not really sung that song much; however, I have come to a better understanding of how modern day Christians have a strong connection to the saints of the Old Testament and in particular to a claim of being a Son or Daughter of Abraham.

I encourage you to read Galatians 3:5-14 and the fuller context of that chapter and at least ponder how the faith of a modern day Christian connects to the faith the believers in the Old Testament had in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. I promise I'm not setting you up for a trick question! The answer is we serve the same God and are called to have the same faith in Jesus.

Yes....we are still in the Joshua sermon series and this week's sermon will focus on the text of Joshua 8:30-35. I hope you can begin to ask how your faith and our weekly gathering is related to the Assembly we read about at the end of Joshua 8, which involves a ceremony marking the fulfillment of God's promised land to Father Abraham.

We are called this Lord's Day to hear from God's Word together. I hope you will join.

Sincerely,  
Elder Grant Jones



## Sermon Outline

Title: The Assembly

Text: Joshua 8:30-35

### OUTLINE

- 1. Verses 30 - 32: The Centrality of the Altar.**
- 2. Verses 33 - 34: The Centrality of the Word.**
- 3. Verse 35: Surrounded by the Assembly.**

### Sermon Notes



## Discussion Questions

**1. Read v. 30 - 35: Consider some examples such as Galatians 3:5-14 & John 5:46. Have you ever considered your faith as one connected to the same beliefs and teachings of Old Testament figures such as Abraham and Moses? What implications does this have for understanding who is truly Israel (Romans 9:6) and the value of the Old Testament for New Testament era believers?**

**2. Read v. 30 - 31: Israel and their leaders organized and carried out the events of this ceremony in accordance with God's commandment to Moses in Deuteronomy 27. In other words, the ceremony at the end of Joshua 8 was not the result of a man-made ceremony that was thought to be a good idea after a great victory, but rather this was a ceremony carried out in accordance with God's instructions. Do you think this has any bearing on how we ought to approach the Lord for the weekly assembly of public worship in modern times (the regulative principle)?**

**3. Read v.32 - 34: Consider reading the curses that were read in this ceremony from Deuteronomy 27:14-26. How could God's people rightly say "Amen" even to the curses? Saying "Amen" to curses seems a bit counter-cultural in our modern times, right? Can this show us anything about our understanding of God's holiness? Have you become less comfortable with the curses our Lord proclaims over unrighteousness? If so, why? From a worldly perspective it seems easier to only say "Amen" to the blessings. What is the benefit of remembering the curses our Lord proclaims?**

**4 Read v. 35: Maybe you have heard there is no "I" in Team. Regardless, let's play on that thinking and be reminded that there is no "I in Assembly! Why do you (or also why should you) attend public worship? Is it merely a convenience for our conscience, a checklist, a WeChat**



## Discussion Questions

moment, a break from a hard work week, a social time with friends? Gathering each week is not chiefly about you. It's about being obedient to the Lord and being with the gathered Assembly. Notice who is assembled in Joshua 8:35 and consider: When preparing and arriving to public worship do you ever just focus on yourself and how you can be benefited? When you consider missing public worship on any given Lord's Day, do you ever consider how this could impact others? Do you see any danger's in a me-centered mindset for the weekly assembly of believers?



## Prayer & Praise

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

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports

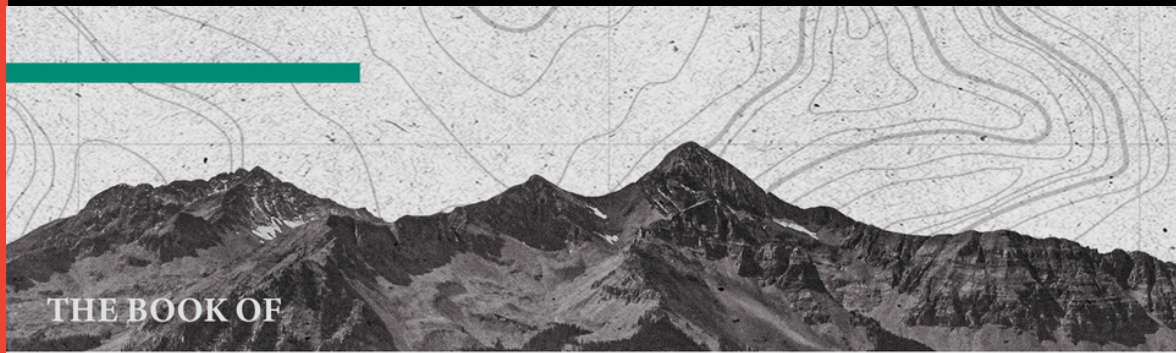


# STUDY GUIDE

Nov 2



# Keep your word



# JOSHUA

# Sermon Overview

Have you ever made a decision that looked right in the moment but later realized you hadn't stopped to consult God first? In Joshua 9 and 10, we find Israel deceived by the Gibeonites, an encounter that reminds us how vital it is to seek God's wisdom before acting. Yet, even in the aftermath of their mistake, Joshua's faithfulness to keep his word became a living testimony of God's own covenant-keeping nature.

This Sunday, we will unpack what happens when discernment gives way to assumption and how God still turns our missteps into moments of mercy and mission. Come ready for a word that will challenge our decision-making process, deepen our integrity, and draw us closer to the heart of a promise-keeping God.

Elder Raphael Moffett



## Sermon Outline

Title: Christianity is a lifetime of integrity - keeping our word.

Text: Joshua 9:1 - 10:15

Prop: The Christian is called to be people who keep their word even when it is difficult.

## OUTLINE

## Sermon Notes



## Discussion Questions

***Since this is a rather complicated narrative, taking time to individually walk through the COMA method before the small group will help you understand the text well and be ready to make proper application during the Small Group meeting.***

### **C — Context**

1. What has just happened in Israel's story prior to chapter 9, and how does that shape the events that follow?
2. How does this story connect to God's command about the nations in the land (Deut. 7:1–6; Num. 27:21)?
3. How is God's mission to bless the nations (Gen. 12:1–3) and the theme of covenant visible in this passage?
4. How does the Gibeonite covenant continue to shape Israel's history in later Scriptures (see Joshua 21:17, 25; 1 Chronicles 9:2; 2 Chronicles 1:3–6; Ezra 2:43–58; Nehemiah 7:46–56; and 2 Samuel 21:1–9), and what does this teach us about the long-term impact of promises made — even those made unwisely?

### **O — Observation**

1. Who are the main characters, and what motivates each group (Israelites, Gibeonites, kings of the land)?
2. Identify verbs that show the Israelites' process (or lack thereof) in discerning God's will — what did they *not* do in v. 14?
3. What repeated ideas or phrases point to the narrator's perspective on the events?

### **M — Meaning**

1. What does this passage reveal about God's expectations for His people in decision making and leadership?
2. Why does God insist Israel keep their oath, even though the covenant was made through deception?
3. How does this episode show both the seriousness of sin and the surprising grace of God?



## Discussion Questions

### **A— Application (*To be discussed during Small Group*)**

1. What principles guide you when deciding whether you should or should not make a commitment? What key verses help shape those principles?
2. What principles help you discern whether a person or a report is trustworthy? Share some everyday examples where you've needed to use these principles of discernment.
3. Share a time when it was difficult for you to keep a promise. What made it difficult and how did staying true (or failing to stay true) shape your character and relationships?
4. Where might God be calling you to live with greater integrity — especially in commitments you have already made?
5. Share a time when you made a poor decision that God ultimately used for good. What did you learn about His grace and sovereignty through that experience?



## Prayer & Praise

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

### Prayer Requests

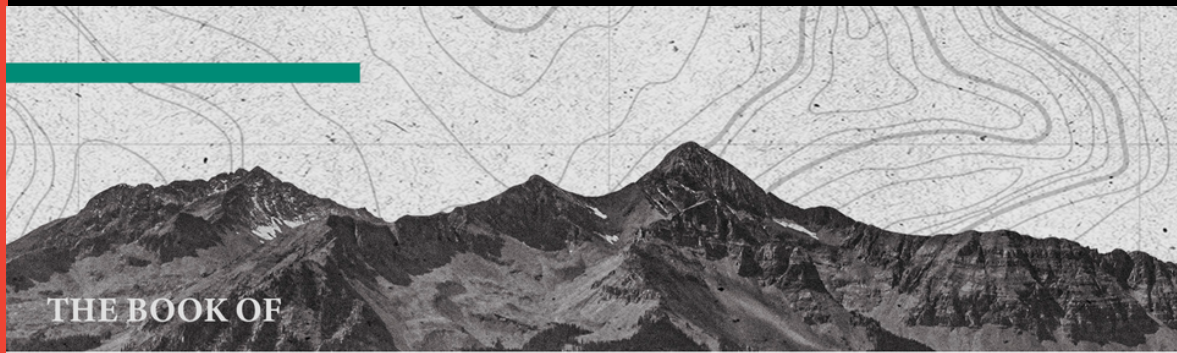
### Praise Reports



# Life is War

## STUDY GUIDE

Nov 9



# JOSHUA

# Sermon Overview

John Owen once wrote, “Be killing sin or it will be killing you.” That is exactly what Joshua 10–12 reminds us — the Christian life is a real fight. If we do not destroy sin in the land, it will eventually destroy us. This Sunday, we will consider both the intensity of our struggle against sin and the endurance needed to keep going. Take time this week to read our Scripture text and come ready to both be challenged to fight sin and encouraged to trust the God who has fought (and defeated) sin through Jesus’ death on the cross.

Fighting with you,

Ps TJ Johnson



## Sermon Outline

Title: Life is War.

Text: Joshua 10:16 - 12:24

Prop: The Christian life is a daily battle for holiness; therefore, we must fight in the Lord's strength with all our might until Christ returns or calls us home.

## OUTLINE

## Sermon Notes



## Discussion Questions

1. **How** would you respond to someone who reads these chapters and struggles with God's justice or feels troubled by the violence in the conquest story?
2. **Read Romans 15:4.** How does this section of Scripture instruct us today and what are some right and wrong ways believers might apply these conquest chapters to the church?
3. **What** is a spiritual battle you have faced that felt especially intense or overwhelming, and what made it such a fierce fight in that moment? How did God enable you to stand firm when everything felt difficult?
4. **Eugene Peterson** describes the Christian life as "a long obedience in the same direction." In what area of life have you been tempted to give up or grow weary over time, and what has helped you keep following Jesus with patience and perseverance?
5. **Read Joshua 11:23; Matthew 11:28–30; and Hebrews 4:8–11.** How does the rest God gives us now through Christ differ from the complete and eternal rest still to come, and how can the hope of that future rest strengthen your endurance to keep running the race of faith today?



## Discussion Questions

6. **Read Joshua 10:28, 35, 37, 39, 40; Deut. 7:5, 12:2-3; Judges 2:1-5, 11-15.** What was the result of Israel not totally destroying the pagan nations in Canaan? In our own lives, what are pagan influences we tolerate that pull our hearts away from God?

7. **Read Joshua 10:14, 30, 32, 42; 11:8.** What are some ways we see God fighting for Israel as they take the land? What are some ways you have seen God fighting for you in your sanctification?

8. **Read Joshua 11:6-9 & Psalm 20:7.** What are the “horses and chariots” we are tempted to rely on instead of God and what would it look like for you to “burn and hamstring” those things?

9. **How** does this section of Joshua point us forward to Jesus as our ultimate warrior and source of victory, and how does His life, death, and resurrection encourage you to persevere in the fight of faith today?



## Prayer & Praise

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

### Prayer Requests

### Praise Reports