

COMMUNITY GROUP STUDY GUIDE

The Faithfulness of God

AN EXPOSITION OF JUDGES: SUPREMACY OF SELF

*Joshua 1***OVERVIEW**

The famed philosopher Frederich Nietzsche once said that “God was dead...and we have killed him.” While this is an impossibility, let us imagine for a moment a world where this was true. What would it be like? If we all just did what was right in our own eyes, what would our world be like? What if self was supreme? This is the question that the book of Judges seeks to answer.

APPLY // DEUTERONOMY 7

1. Read Deuteronomy 7:1-11.
2. Briefly review the overall context (i.e. Israel getting ready to enter the Promised Land).
3. How does this passage teach us about the justice of God?
4. How does the proper application of justice promote love and not hinder it?
5. Where have you seen this in your life/the world? Or, where has its absence brought pain/hurt?
6. How can we promote a greater sense of seriousness of our sin yet simultaneously promote a greater sense of grace as well?
7. What does it mean to be “a people holy to the Lord”? Why are the people to be holy? How are the Israelites to show they are holy?
8. Find some verses in the New Testament that talk about how the church is to be holy (set apart).
9. Provide some examples of how we are “in the world but not of the world.”
10. Discuss how God’s commands are good (cf. Dt. 6:24) for our individual lives and our lives together as a church.
11. Read verses 17-24. Discuss a few ways God calls the Israelites to trust him despite their circumstances or fears.
12. Name 5 things in the Bible that reveal God’s good redemptive activity for his people. Now do the same for your individual life.
13. How does studying these things diminish fear and promote trust in hard times?
14. What are some things we can trust God for as a church in 2018?

STUDY // JOSHUA 1

Study the passage of Scripture aiming to faithfully interpret and apply what you observe. Remember we study God’s word not just to increase our knowledge, but to increase our trust in and treasuring of Jesus Christ.

Preliminary Notes/Thoughts

1. Set the context:

- a. Creation by God (Genesis 1-2)
 - b. Rebellion by Adam/Eve (Genesis 3)
 - i. God's promise to redeem (Genesis 3:15)
 - c. Rebellion by those who come after Adam/Eve (Genesis 4-5)
 - d. God's covenant with Noah (Genesis 6-9)
 - e. More rebellion (Genesis 10-11)
 - f. God's covenant with Abraham (Genesis 12)
 - i. People and a place
 - g. Story of God's faithfulness to keep his covenant (Genesis 13-50)
 - i. God's people end up in Egypt in slavery to Pharaoh
 - h. God delivering his people from slavery (Exodus)
 - i. They rebel and end up wandering for 40 years in the wilderness
 - i. God providing a system of sacrifices and priesthood for his people to be in his presence (Leviticus)
 - j. God's grace despite his people's grumbling (Numbers)
 - k. God recounting his grace to his people and preparing them to enter the Promised Land (Deuteronomy)
 - l. God's people entering the Promised Land (Joshua)
2. Read Joshua 1:1-9.
 3. What can we learn about the context of the Lord's words to Joshua from verses 1-2?
 4. Discuss what verses 2-3 teach us about the character of God.
 5. Note all the places you see "the land" referenced in these verses. Why is "the land" such an important idea for Joshua and the Israelites?
 6. Notice that three times the Lord says "Be strong and courageous" (v. 6, 7, 9). What does this command imply? What does it mean?
 7. What reason(s) does the Lord give for Joshua to be strong and courageous?
 8. In verse 8, what does it mean to meditate on the Book of the Law? How does verse 8 connect to "the land" and Joshua being strong and courageous?
 9. What does it mean for Joshua to be "prosperous...and have good success"? What does it not mean?
 10. What might cause Joshua to be dismayed and what does God provide to keep him from dismay?
 11. What promises (not already discussed) does the Lord make to Joshua in this passage?
 12. What commands (not already discussed) does the Lord give Joshua in this passage?
 13. What are a few ways this passage points us to the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ?
 14. What are a few ways we can apply the truth of Joshua 1:1-9 to our lives today?
- General Bible study questions:
 - What does this passage teach me about the character of God?
 - What does this passage teach me about myself and my need for God?
 - How does this passage teach me that God has met my needs in the person and work of Jesus Christ?
 - How should I respond with my affections and my actions?
 - General ways a passage can point to Jesus:
 - **Predict** - Some passages predict God's redemptive work in Christ by making specific mention of his coming person or work.
 - **Prepare** - Some passages that make no specific mention of Jesus prepare us to understand aspects of the person and work of Christ (e.g. sacrificial system).
 - **Require** - What does this text reveal of God's nature that provides or requires redemption? What does this text reflect of human nature that requires redemption?
 - **Result** - Some passages will speak directly to the result of Christ's atoning work. Results can be vertical, in our relationship with God, or horizontal, in our relationship with others.

ACCOUNTABILITY

Relationships developed and deepened during accountability provide regular encouragement, and when necessary admonition, to spur each other on to delight in the supremacy of Jesus Christ. Ask one another heart-probing, clarifying questions, and help each other apply the gospel to your lives.

QUESTION: Where have you seen God's past grace? Where do you need to trust him for future grace?