

A STUDY FROM JERSEY CHURCH

THE

ROAD TO VICTORY

WALKING INTO GOD'S PROMISE



Published: June 2026

Bible study content and devotional material for this booklet are provided by Jersey Church in partnership with Lifeway Custom Church Resources.

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THE ROAD TO VICTORY

Walking Into God's Promise

Book 2

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DEVOTIONALS

THE LORD FIGHTS FOR YOU

DAY 1

Romans 8:31

What, then, are we to say about these things? If God is for us, who is against us?

> Note: This week's devotions center around Joshua 10 with supporting passages. Each week will include a supporting verse, but we encourage you to read Joshua 10 in its entirety this week leading up to Sunday.

Before Joshua's army took a single step toward Gibeon, God had already spoken. "Do not be afraid of them," He told Joshua, "for I have handed them over to you." The promise came before the march. Joshua didn't fight to earn God's help. He moved because God had already declared the outcome.

This is what Paul is pressing toward in Romans 8. If God is for us — and He is — the question "who can be against us?" is not an invitation to count enemies. It's a declaration about position. The forces aligned against you don't change the fundamental reality of where you stand. You are fighting from the side of the One who holds the outcome.

The hardest part of this posture is not theological. It's believing it on Monday morning when the circumstances haven't changed. Joshua marched through the night on a word, not on evidence. That's what it looks like to live from the promise rather than toward it.

- **Where in your life right now are you waiting for circumstances to change before you believe God is for you? What would it look like to move from His word today, before the situation resolves?**
- **Thank God that His promises don't depend on your circumstances confirming them. Ask for the courage to move from what He has said, not just from what you can see. Trust Him today with what He has already declared.**

DAY 2

Hebrews 11:8

By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and set out for a place that he was going to receive as an inheritance. He went out, even though he did not know where he was going.

When God gave Joshua the green light at Gibeon, Joshua didn't sleep on it. He marched all night. That's not a small logistical detail — an all-night march to a battle is the kind of decision that requires complete confidence in the word you received. You don't exhaust your army in the dark on a maybe. Joshua moved because God had spoken, and urgency was the right response.

Hebrews 11 describes this as the essential shape of faith. Abraham didn't understand his destination. He went out, not knowing where he was going. He didn't have a map; he had a word. And the word was enough to put one foot in front of the other, even before anything was confirmed by sight.

We tend to wait for clarity before acting, which makes sense most of the time. But sometimes clarity only comes in motion. God doesn't always illuminate the full road before He asks you to walk it. He gives the next step. The all-night march was the next step, and it was enough.

- **Is there a direction God has been pointing you that you've been waiting to act on until you feel more certain? What would it mean to take the next step today — without needing every detail settled first?**
- **Ask God to give you the kind of trust that moves when He speaks, even when you can't see how it ends. Thank Him for the faithfulness He has shown in the steps you've already taken. Ask for courage for the one in front of you now.**

DAY 3

Exodus 14:14

The Lord will fight for you; and you must be quiet.

The detail in Joshua 10 is almost understated: more of the enemy died from the hailstones God sent than from the weapons Israel brought. The army fought — they weren't passive — but the decisive force was not theirs. God's involvement wasn't a bonus on top of their effort. It was the main event. Israel showed up; God overwhelmed.

Moses said something similar at the Red Sea. The Lord will fight for you. The instruction that follows is strange: be quiet. Not because nothing is required of you, but because there are moments where what's needed is not more human effort — it's trust.

Most of us have battles where we've reached the limit of what our effort can produce. The harder question is whether we've genuinely surrendered those places to God, or whether we're still managing the edges while asking Him to endorse our plan. The invitation is participation without control. Show up. Obey. Then trust Him to do what He alone can do.

- **What is one battle in your life where you've been relying almost entirely on your own effort? What would it look like this week to surrender the outcome to God while still showing up obediently?**
- **Ask God to do what only He can do in the areas where your effort has reached its ceiling. Thank Him that you are not in this alone — He is actively fighting on your behalf. Ask for the grace to release what you cannot control.**

DAY 4

1 John 5:14

This is the confidence we have before him: If we ask anything according to his will, he hears us.

It is hard to fully absorb what Joshua actually prayed. In the middle of a battle, he asked God to hold the sun in place — not to secure the victory, which was already promised, but to finish what God had started. It is one of the most audacious prayers in Scripture, and God answered it. There had never been a day like it, before or since.

What made that prayer possible wasn't Joshua's confidence in his own righteousness. It was confidence in God's commitment. He knew what God had said. He knew the victory was declared. And he prayed in alignment with that. John describes this as the ground for confident prayer: asking according to His will. Not hedged, not tentative, but rooted in who God is and what He has already spoken.

The closer you walk with God, the more your prayers reflect His purposes, and the more you can ask with open hands and real expectation. That's the invitation for all of us: pray from relationship, not just from desperation.

- **Would you describe your prayer life as bold or cautious? What would it look like this week to bring one specific request to God with real confidence — not because you're certain of the outcome, but because you trust who He is?**
- **Ask God to grow your confidence in prayer — not in yourself, but in His character. Thanks Him that He hears you when you ask in alignment with His will. Bring one specific request before Him now, openly and without reservation.**

DAY 5

Corinthians 15:57

But thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ!

Joshua 10 ends with a declaration meant to sound impossible: the sun stood still, the enemy was routed, and the author recorded that there had never been a day like it. God bent the rules of the cosmos to fight for His people. But as extraordinary as that day was, it was pointing toward something greater — a battle won not on a hillside in Canaan, but outside a city, on a cross.

Paul's exclamation in 1 Corinthians 15 is the New Testament echo of what Joshua witnessed. Thanks be to God, who gives us the victory. Colossians 2 describes Christ disarming the powers and authorities at the cross. The decisive battle has been fought, and the outcome is not in question. Every battle you face today is being fought in the shadow of a finished work.

- **How would your approach to this week's hardest challenge look different if you genuinely believed the outcome was already secured in Christ? What is one concrete way you can move today from a posture of fighting from victory rather than for it?**
- **Thank God for the victory that was won at the cross — the one that makes every other battle possible to face. Ask Him to make that truth feel as real on Monday morning as it does on Sunday. Ask for the courage to show up this week as someone who already knows how the story ends.**

THE LORD FIGHTS FOR YOU

JOSHUA 10:1-15

JULY 5, 2026

MAIN POINT

When we walk in obedience to God and trust in Him, He fights on our behalf and accomplishes more than we ever could on our own.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to help get the conversation going.

When was the last time you encountered an overwhelming situation? Maybe it was a conflict you couldn't resolve, a burden that felt too heavy to carry, or just a complex situation that kept escalating regardless of your efforts. No matter how much you plan, prepare, and work, some things can't be resolved on your own.

In today's study, Joshua and the Israelites found themselves facing overwhelming opposition and learned what it looked like to let God fight their battles.

- **What situation currently feels too big to handle on your own?**
- **What keeps you relying on your own efforts instead of trusting the Lord to fight for you daily?**

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

> Have a volunteer read Joshua 10:1-15.

Five Amorite kings joined forces to attack Gibeon because they made peace with Israel. These enemies decided to work together to bring down Israel's allies and created a legitimate threat that was coordinated and likely seemed overwhelming. When the allies realized what was happening, Gibeon sent an urgent message to Joshua asking for help.

In response, Joshua decided to strike out with his warriors to defend Gibeon. Scripture states that God spoke to Joshua and told him not to be afraid because the Lord was handing their enemies over to them. You can fight from victory when you trust the Lord to fight on your behalf, no matter how much the odds are stacked against you. The victory was not based on Joshua's battle strategy, but founded completely on the promise of God.

- **What is the difference in fighting for victory and fighting from victory for Christians?**
- **Do you tend to focus more on the promises of God or on the size of your circumstances? Why?**

Joshua led an all-night march to confront the enemy. This showed both urgency and obedience. When God speaks and gives direction, those who trust the Lord should move forward without delay. Faith often requires obedient action without

knowing all the steps or details. Joshua moved because God spoke, even though he didn't know how everything would work out.

- **Where might God be asking you to act based on His promises — even before you see the result unfolding?**
- **What makes it difficult to respond in obedience when only given the next step and not every step?**

The battle began when Joshua and the Israelites caught the enemy by surprise. This threw the enemy into confusion and they started fleeing. God disrupted the strong forces of the five kings and then in their confusion, He sent large hailstones to rain down on them. More men were killed by the hailstones than by Israel's swords, making it clear that the battle belonged to the Lord. Israel participated but God provided the victory.

- **How might believing the Lord is fighting for you change your approach to daily life? What makes this difficult?**

In the middle of the battle, Joshua prayed and asked the Lord to make the sun stand still so that they would have enough time to finish the victory. Amazingly, God answered affirmatively and did what Joshua asked! This is a reminder that when we obey the Lord and align our hearts and minds with Him, we can pray with bold confidence in accordance with God's will. Joshua's boldness wasn't in himself, but in his trust of who God is and how He keeps His promises.

- **How likely are you to turn to prayer in overwhelming situations?
How might you grow in this?**
- **Where do you need to be reminded that God wants to be actively involved in your life?**

APPLICATION

Offer the following action steps for the application of God's Word.

- **What has God done in your past that you need to remember in your current situation?**
- **What battle are you trying to fight on your own strength right now? What would it look like to surrender control to the Lord this week?**
- **How will you take a step of obedience and trust God with the outcome this week?**

PRAY

Thank the Lord for fighting on your behalf. Ask Him to teach you to pray with boldness and confidence based on who He is.

JOSHUA 10

The Gibeonite deception gave occasion for Israel to fight a coalition of kings in the south. Neighboring Amorite kings led by Jerusalem waged war against Gibeon because of its defection. With the destruction of Jericho, Ai, and now the capitulation of Gibeon and its Hivite cities (9:17; 11:19–20), Jerusalem was threatened on all sides.

The Gibeonites appealed to Joshua for deliverance, and he marched by night from Gilgal to Gibeon. The conflict spread to the countryside as the fleeing Amorites escaped. God intervened miraculously as at Jericho and fought for Israel by hurling hailstones that killed more than even Israel's swords killed.

Since the enemy was in disarray, Joshua wanted to finish the battle before they could regroup the next day. He prayed to the Lord for the sun to delay its descent. Joshua's prayer was also found in another source called the book of Jashar (see 2 Sam. 1:18). The victory was God's more than Israel's: "Surely the Lord was fighting for Israel!" The author declared that there was no day like it.

The kings of the coalition were captured and executed by Joshua, and the southern cities were destroyed according to the Lord's command. Since Jerusalem is not included in the cities captured, it probably survived. Nonetheless the area was incapacitated by Joshua.

DEVOTIONALS

GOD IS IN CONTROL

DAY 1

Isaiah 46:9-10

Remember what happened long ago, for I am God, and there is no other; I am God, and no one is like me. I declare the end from the beginning, and from long ago what is not yet done, saying: my plan will take place, and I will do all my will.

In Joshua 11, a massive coalition of kings from across Canaan assembled against Israel — armies described as “numerous as the sand on the seashore,” equipped with horses and iron chariots. But before Joshua had processed the size of the threat, God spoke: “Do not be afraid of them, for tomorrow at this time I will hand all of them over, dead, to Israel.” God was not reacting to the crisis. He had already settled its outcome.

Isaiah captures the same reality about God’s nature. When God declares the end from the beginning, he’s describing the view of One who stands outside of time. The coalition gathered, the chariots lined up, and the threat was real. But none of it was new information to God.

That’s the steady ground beneath your feet. God was already there — in that conversation, that diagnosis, that financial pressure, that relationship. He is not scrambling to respond. He declared the outcome before you arrived.

- **What situation are you walking into this week that feels uncertain or out of your control?**
- **Lord, remind me today that you are not reacting to what I’m facing. You hold the end from the beginning. Help me walk into this week from that reality, not from fear. Give me the courage to trust what You’ve already settled. Amen.**

DAY 2

1 Samuel 15:22

Then Samuel said: Does the Lord take pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? Look: to obey is better than sacrifice, to pay attention is better than the fat of rams.

After God gave Israel victory over the northern coalition in Joshua 11, He gave Joshua specific instructions: destroy the captured horses and burn the enemy's chariots. This wasn't a small ask. Iron chariots were among the most powerful military technology of that era — keeping them would have given Israel a significant advantage in future battles.

God was preventing Israel from placing confidence in military resources rather than in Him. Keeping the chariots might have looked like good stewardship, even wisdom. But what seemed practical would have slowly shifted Israel's trust from God's provision to their own military capability.

Samuel told King Saul something similar — centuries later, after Saul kept what God had said to destroy — that to obey is better than sacrifice. Not because God is arbitrary, but because full obedience keeps the source of your trust clear.

- **Is there an area of your life where you've been partially obedient — following God's direction up to the point where it costs something? What would it mean to finish what He's asked of you?**
- **Father, show me the places where I've stopped short of full obedience because it seemed unnecessary or too costly. Give me the courage to finish what You've asked. I trust Your instructions are for my good, even when I can't see why. Amen.**

DAY 3

Galatians 6:9

Let us not get tired of doing good, for we will reap at the proper time if we don't give up.

Tucked into Joshua 11 is a detail that's easy to miss: "Joshua waged war with all these kings for a long time." The coalition of cities and rulers spread across Canaan was not swept away in a single campaign — it was taken apart piece by piece, over an extended season of continued trust and continued obedience.

We tend to read God's activity through the lens of speed. But Joshua's long campaign wasn't evidence of God's absence. It was evidence that some of God's purposes unfold over seasons, not moments. Endurance was required, and endurance required sustained trust in a promise that hadn't fully arrived yet.

Paul's word in Galatians is direct: don't give up. The promise isn't that results come quickly — it's that they come at the proper time. Whatever you've been faithful to for longer than you expected, the invitation today is to keep going. The slow victory is still a victory, and the long season of faithfulness is exactly what some battles require.

- **Where have you been tempted to give up because God's work is taking longer than you hoped?**
- **Lord, give me endurance for the long season I'm in. Remind me that Your timing is not a sign of Your absence. Help me keep doing what You've called me to, trusting that You will bring it to completion at the right time. Amen.**

DAY 4

Romans 8:28

We know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose.

Joshua 11 shows us that God allowed certain Canaanite cities to harden their hearts against surrender and come out to fight Israel — so that they would be defeated. The resistance wasn't a threat to God's plan.

This is one of the more uncomfortable aspects of God's sovereignty: His control doesn't stop at the things that go well. He is sovereign over victories, and sovereign over what pushes back against you. The doors that close, the resistance that won't move, the situation that keeps refusing to resolve — none of those are evidence that something has slipped outside His reach.

Romans 8:28 is not a promise that everything will feel good — it's a declaration that nothing falls outside the category of "all things." The trial you're in, the relationship that won't resolve, the season that won't end: Paul says God is working in those too. The resistance you're facing is not outside His reach. He can use it.

- **What resistance in your life have you been treating as evidence that God is absent or that something has gone wrong? How might it look different if you believed His sovereignty extended there too?**
- **Father, I confess I sometimes read opposition as abandonment. Help me trust that nothing is outside Your authority — not what goes well, and not what pushes back. Use even what is hard for Your purposes, and give me peace in the middle of what I cannot control. Amen.**

DAY 5

Psalm 77:11-12

I will remember the Lord's works; yes, I will remember your ancient wonders. I will reflect on all you have done and meditate on your actions.

Joshua 12 reads like a list most people skip: thirty-one kings, city after city, name after name. On the surface it looks like bureaucratic record-keeping. But what it actually is is a testimony — a deliberate account of every place God showed up across the long campaign in Canaan.

The psalmist knew the same discipline. When the present felt overwhelming, the act of remembering was fuel. You can trust Him in the unknown season because you have evidence from the known ones. A record of His faithfulness is one of the most practical things you can carry into an uncertain future.

The invitation today is personal: make your own list. Not thirty-one kings, but the moments in your own story where God showed up — the relationship He restored, the provision that came through, the season you didn't think you'd survive. Write it down. Let the record steady you for what's still ahead.

- **What's on your list? What has God done in your life that you haven't stopped to name recently? Take a few minutes today to actually write it down — as an act of gratitude and as a declaration of trust in what He's still doing.**
- **Lord, forgive me for forgetting too quickly. Help me remember what You have done — not just in the pages of Scripture, but in my own story. Let the record of Your faithfulness steady me for what I don't yet know. I trust You. Amen.**

GOD IS IN CONTROL

JOSHUA 11-12

JULY 12, 2026

MAIN POINT

God is sovereign over every battle and outcome, regardless of the situation. Our role is to trust Him and walk in obedience.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to help get the conversation going.

During World War II, one of the most pivotal moments was D-Day, the Normandy invasion. The enemies were strong and numerous, weather conditions were poor, and the risk of failure was high. However, behind the scenes, careful planning and leadership worked to navigate the various factors and what seemed uncertain became part of the larger strategy that ultimately led to victory.

In today's passage, Joshua leads in circumstances that also likely felt chaotic and overwhelming, but God is never uncertain. He sees the whole picture and is always in control.

- **Where do you typically focus when life feels overwhelming?**
- **How do you remind yourself that God is in control even when it's hard to see?**

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

> Have a volunteer read Joshua 11:1-9, 18-20. Then skim the list of kings named in Joshua 12.

Chapter 11 begins with a massive coalition of kings united against Israel. Their armies were described as “numerous as the sand on the seashore.” This was an intimidating situation for Joshua and the children of Israel to say the least. Imagine the feelings the people experienced when they realized what they were up against.

But God knew the situation and He encouraged Joshua not to be afraid. Further, the Lord promised victory to His people. God was not reacting to the situation, He was already in control before it started. Joshua demonstrated godly leadership by responding with immediate obedience, moving quickly with a surprise attack just as the Lord instructed. Victory is tied to following God’s direction and is not dependent on human strategy or strength.

- **What situation in your life feels overwhelming right now?**
- **Where might God be calling you to move forward in obedience even when the circumstances feel intimidating?**

Joshua's boldness was based on his trust in God, who gave Israel a decisive victory. The enemy was defeated, their resources were destroyed, and their power broken. Nothing was left unfinished after Joshua followed through completely on God's instructions. If Joshua had only partially obeyed, it would have left room for future problems. Complete obedience leads to lasting victory in the Lord.

- **Why do we tend to settle for partial obedience at times instead of pursuing the victory that comes with total obedience?**

- **In what area of your life is God calling you to finish what He has started?**

In Joshua 11:18, we learn that the battles took place over a long period of time, requiring continued trust and obedience in the Lord. Victory doesn't always come in a single moment, but is often a process of stepping forward in faith and trusting what God has told you. Walking into God's promises requires endurance and ongoing faithfulness.

- **How do you typically respond when God's work takes longer than you hoped or expected?**

Later in chapter 11, the Lord allowed certain enemies to resist Israel so they would be defeated. This reminds us that even opposition can be part of God's bigger plan. He is not only in control of the victories, but also sovereign over resistance as nothing is outside His authority. Chapter 12 lists the kings who were defeated by Israel. These names serve as a further means of recording God's faithfulness.

- **How do you need to be reminded that God is in control, even when you face opposition?**
- **What past victories has God given that you might remember and reflect on to encourage you in your present circumstances?**

Today's passage reminds us God is in control over every part of the journey, including the battles, timing, outcomes, and opposition. Our responsibility is not to control the outcome, but to trust and obey because God is sovereign and we can move forward with confidence in Him.

- **Where is God calling you to remain faithful, even in a long or difficult process?**

APPLICATION

Offer the following action steps for the application of God's Word.

- **How can you shift your focus from trying to control the outcome to trusting God?**
- **What change is needed for you to walk in obedience?**
- **How does walking in obedience give us further opportunity to share God's work with others?**

PRAY

Thank the Lord that He is sovereign and in control. Praise Him for His good plans for you and confess the ways that you have relied on yourself instead of trusting Him. Seek to move forward in trust and obedience in Him.

JOSHUA 10-11

God Fights for Israel (10:1-43). The Gibeonite deception gave occasion for Israel to fight a coalition of kings in the south. Neighboring Amorite kings led by Jerusalem waged war against Gibeon because of its defection. With the destruction of Jericho, Ai, and now the capitulation of Gibeon and its Hivite cities (9:17; 11:19-20), Jerusalem was threatened on all sides.

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The kings of the coalition were captured and executed by Joshua, and the southern cities were destroyed according to the Lord's command. Since Jerusalem is not included in the cities captured, it probably survived. Nonetheless the area was incapacitated by Joshua.

Hamstringing Hazor (11:1-15). A confederation of kings led by Jabin, the dynastic ruler of Hazor, campaigned against Israel. The military strength of the alliance was its numerous chariots. The battle waged at the Waters of Merom near Hazor.

Unlike the previous accounts, the author did not give as many details of the battle and was satisfied with giving a theological summary. God required Joshua to hamstring the captured horses and burn their chariots. This prevented Israel from relying on military prowess. Like Jericho and Ai, Hazor was burned in accordance with Moses' instructions (Deut. 7:1-2; 20:16-17).

Counting the Kings (11:16-12:24). This summary of captured lands and their slain kings is a tribute to God's faithfulness. The passage emphasizes that Joshua took "the entire land." This included the lands of the Anakites, whom the Israelites had initially feared the most (Num. 13:28,33; Deut. 9:2). God incited Israel's enemies to wage war, and then He destroyed them because of their sin (Josh. 11:20). This was the method God used to give the land to Israel as He fulfilled His promise to Moses.

The list of kings begins with Og and Sihon, whom Moses defeated (see Num. 21:21-35). The kings defeated by Joshua were thirty-one. This list of kings includes some kings not specifically mentioned in the narrative. This record of Israel's acquisitions showed future generations what faith could accomplish. It also was a rebuke to those who had refused to take the land.

JOSHUA 12

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The detailed description of Israel's inheritance may be tedious to modern readers. For the author it proved the faithfulness of God's word. The territories given by Moses are listed first and then the land distributed by Joshua.

DEVOTIONALS

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

DAY 1

Hebrews 11:8

By faith Abraham, when he was called, obeyed and set out for a place that he was going to receive as an inheritance. He went out, even though he did not know where he was going.

By the time Joshua 13 opens, Israel has accomplished what once seemed impossible. Coalitions of kings have been dismantled. Years of campaigns have produced victory after victory across Canaan. But God's first word to an aging Joshua is that there is still much land to be possessed. The promise was fully intact and the victories were real. But the land still required Israel to go.

Abraham ran into the same reality long before Joshua did. When God called him with a promise of land and descendants beyond counting, the first instruction wasn't to wait for the promise to arrive on its own — it was to leave. He went out without a clear destination.

God's promises are certain. But they are rarely passive. Receiving them tends to look like taking the next step — not because your effort earns the promise, but because trust that stays still isn't really functioning as trust. The land is real. It's still there. The question is whether we'll move.

- **What has God made clear to you that you've been sitting on rather than stepping into? What would one faithful move in that direction look like today?**
- **Lord, you are faithful in every promise you make. Help me match your faithfulness with movement. I don't need more certainty than you've already given me — I need the courage to act on what I already know. Amen.**

DAY 2

Numbers 14:24

But since my servant Caleb has a different spirit and has remained loyal to me, I will bring him into the land where he has gone, and his descendants will inherit it.

Forty-five years before Joshua 14, Caleb stood in front of a frightened nation and told them the truth: the land was obtainable. The other spies saw the giants and concluded it was impossible. Caleb saw the same giants and concluded God was bigger. He was outvoted. He watched Israel spend a generation in the wilderness because of that fear. And then, at eighty-five years old, he walked up to Joshua and asked for the hill country God had promised him all those decades ago. He had waited the full stretch. But he had not let go.

He didn't claim the hill country would be easy. He said the Lord was with him. His faith was fueled by what God had already proven: that He had kept Caleb alive, that He had delivered on His word, that His track record was perfect over the full forty-five-year stretch.

Most of us have a version of a hill country — something God promised or called us toward that has been delayed, tested, or seemingly passed over. Caleb's story is a reminder that God's promises are not canceled by difficulty or time.

- **Where has a long wait tempted you to give up on something God said? What would it look like to step forward and ask for your “hill country” — to trust His faithfulness rather than settle for less?**
- **Father, give me Caleb's spirit — a faith that holds onto your promises no matter how long the wait has been. You kept him alive for a purpose, and you are keeping me in this season for one, too. Help me step forward. Amen.**

DAY 3

Ecclesiastes 11:4

One who watches the wind will not sow, and the one who looks at the clouds will not reap.

By Joshua 18, the tabernacle had been set up at Shiloh. The land was largely under Israel's control. Caleb had already claimed his hill country with boldness. And yet seven tribes were still sitting on inheritance they had been given but never gone to claim. They weren't facing insurmountable opposition. They weren't trapped. They were simply waiting.

Hesitation rarely announces itself as fear. More often it dresses up as wisdom — waiting for better timing, more clarity, more favorable conditions. The person in Ecclesiastes who keeps watching the wind will never sow, because there will always be a reason to wait a little longer.

This is one of the more uncomfortable mirrors in the book of Joshua. Because most of us aren't being kept from obedience by overt opposition. We're being kept by the habit of waiting until everything feels right before we move. Sometimes the most faithful thing you can do is sow in uncertain conditions, trusting the harvest to the One who commanded you to plant.

- **Is there an area of your life where you've been waiting for better conditions before stepping into what God has clearly called you to? What would it mean to take that step today — even if the timing still feels uncertain?**
- **Lord, I confess that I sometimes dress hesitation up as wisdom. Show me the places where I've been waiting for conditions that won't come, and give me the courage to sow even when I can't see what the harvest will look like. Amen.**

DAY 4

Habakkuk 2:3

For the vision is yet for the appointed time; it testifies about the end and will not lie. Though it delays, wait for it, since it will certainly come and not be late.

Caleb was forty years old when Moses first sent him to spy out Canaan. He was eighty-five when he finally walked into the land he had been promised. God's promises are not limited by time — what God says, He does, even if it takes years. That's easy to affirm in the abstract. It's much harder to live through when you're in the middle of the wait and the promise still hasn't moved.

Habakkuk wrote from exactly that position. He could see injustice mounting, could see things moving in the wrong direction, and he asked God directly when it would change. God's answer was essentially: there is an appointed time, and it won't be late. The vision — the word God had spoken — was still in motion.

Whatever you are carrying that feels overdue — a promise God has spoken, a prayer that hasn't been answered, a season that shows no sign of turning — Habakkuk's word stands. It will certainly come. The appointed time is not yours to set, but it is His to keep.

- **What promise of God are you most tempted to believe has been forgotten or delayed past repair? What would it mean to say today — and mean it — “It will certainly come and will not be late”?**
- **Lord, help me trust your timing even when I cannot see what you are doing. You have never been late with a promise. Give me the patience to hold on until the appointed time, trusting that your word is still in motion. Amen.**

DAY 5

Hebrews 10:24-25

And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching.

When the seven tribes at Shiloh still hadn't claimed their land, Joshua didn't simply wait for them to figure it out. He intervened. He organized a team to survey the remaining territory, drew up a plan, distributed assignments, and sent a clear challenge: stop waiting. The hesitant tribes needed a leader who had walked with God long enough to come alongside them and not let them stay comfortable in their inaction. Sometimes the reason God's promises are finally claimed is that someone wouldn't let you keep sitting still.

The writer of Hebrews understood this. The instruction to “provoke love and good works” has an edge to it — the Greek word suggests something closer to stirring up or agitating. Not the comfortable kind of encouragement that affirms whatever you're already doing, but the kind that calls you toward what you haven't stepped into yet.

The community around you — in your small group, in the people sitting near you — is part of the architecture God uses to keep His people moving.

- **Who in your life is carrying a promise they haven't yet stepped into? How could you be the push they need this week — and who might God be using to do the same for you?**
- **Lord, thank you for placing me in a community that won't let me sit still forever. Give me the courage to receive the push toward what you've called me to, and the boldness to offer that same encouragement to the people around me. Amen.**

GOD KEEPS HIS PROMISES

JOSHUA 13:1-7; 14:6-14; 18:1-10

JULY 19, 2026

MAIN POINT

God faithfully fulfills every promise He makes, but we must trust Him enough to step forward in faith and take hold of what He has already given.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to help get the conversation going.

In the 1860s, the United States government passed the Homestead Act, promising land to settlers who would move to, build, and cultivate it. They land was legally theirs, but the people had to be willing to go claim it and work it. Many embraced the opportunity to start a new life in a new place and they thrived. Others waited and pondered the idea until they missed out on the opportunity, failing to fully step into what had been offered.

The promise was real and available for any who chose to follow the guidelines and invest their lives. More than just considering the idea, possession required action. In today's study we see that Israel faced a similar moment. God had promised them the land, and it was being distributed. Still, receiving the promise required trust, courage, and movement.

- **When was a time God made something clear, but you were hesitant to step into it?**
- **Why do you think God desires us to step forward at times to receive His promises?**

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

> Have a volunteer read Joshua 13:1-7.

At the beginning of chapter 13, Joshua was old and there was still land to be possessed. The job was not finished yet. God has been faithful and given victories but there remained work to be done. God reminded Joshua that He would give the land, but the people would still need to move forward and take it. The promise was certain and participation was necessary.

This passage reminds us God's promises are not passive. Israel couldn't sit back and wait but had to engage, move, and obey. Receiving fulfilled promises from God often looks like stepping forward in obedience.

- **What leads us to be passive instead of taking initiative to receive God's promises?**

- **What step of obedience might God be asking you to take right now?**

> Have a volunteer read Joshua 14:6-14.

In Joshua 14, Caleb stepped up and, unlike many others, didn't hesitate to respond. He boldly asked for the hill country God had promised decades earlier. At 85 years old, his confidence was rooted in God's faithfulness as seen in his declaration that God had kept him alive just as He said. Caleb's faith was fueled by his experiences with the Lord over the years and

God's track record was perfect and reliable. Regardless of his age, Caleb refused to shrink back, doubt, or waver. He stepped forward.

- **What would it look like for you to trust God's promises with confidence like Caleb? Where do you need to "step forward"?**

God's promises are not limited by time. What God says, He does, even if it takes years. Faith holds onto that truth even when fulfillment seems to take a long time or feels delayed. Many times, people become impatient because they aren't seeing the promise fulfilled when they hope. We must always remember that God is faithful, and waiting to see Him work doesn't mean giving up.

- **Where have you gotten weary of trusting God's timing? How might we guard against this?**

> Have a volunteer read Joshua 18:1-10.

Not all of the Israelites responded in the same manner as Caleb. In chapter 18, we see several tribes gathered at Shiloh but had still not taken possession of their land. Joshua addressed their lack of action by challenging how long they planned to wait before taking possession of what they had been promised and offered. The danger to obedience is not always found in opposition. As we see with the people at Shiloh, it can be dangerous to hesitate in obeying. The promise was available, but hesitation kept them from it.

- **What might cause you to delay stepping into what God has already provided?**

Joshua continued to lead well and gave a clear plan to move forward. This moment is a good reminder that sometimes we need encouragement and accountability to step into God's promises. Faith is strengthened by community and that community can also be the extra push to get people actively moving in obedience. God's promise is never the question, but if we will trust God enough to take hold of what He has already given.

- **Who in your life has helped to encourage you in faith?**

APPLICATION

Offer the following action steps for the application of God's Word.

- **What promise of God do you need to hold onto now?**
- **How can you respond with bold faith instead of hesitation?**
- **What steps will you take to move forward in obedience?**

PRAY

Praise the Lord for His faithfulness. Confess the ways that you have given in to hesitation instead of obeying immediately. Thank Him for the community that encourages you and strengthens your faith toward obedience.

JOSHUA 13:1-7; 14:6-14; 18:1-10

Nondistributed Lands (13:1–7). Joshua was too old to finish driving out Israel's enemies. However, God promised Joshua that the remaining lands would also become an inheritance for Israel. These territories were the Philistine cities, the Phoenician coast, and the mountain area of Lebanon. During the reigns of David and Solomon, Israel conquered these areas (2 Sam. 8:1; 24:6–7; 1 Kgs. 9:19.)

Caleb's Courage (14:6–15). Caleb was the first of Judah to claim his land. He recalled how forty-five years earlier he had brought a favorable report at Kadesh Barnea when he urged Israel to possess Canaan. Caleb's testimony magnified God's faithfulness. Even in his old age Caleb had the courage and vigor to follow the Lord.

Shiloh (18:1–10). The people set up the tabernacle at Shiloh, giving evidence that Israel had gained control of the land. However, seven tribes had not made their claim, and Joshua chided them for their reluctance.

DEVOTIONALS

GRACE FOR THE BROKEN

DAY 1

Psalm 46:1

God is our refuge and strength, a helper who is always found in times of trouble.

When Joshua established the cities of refuge in Joshua 20, the instruction to someone who had accidentally caused harm was both simple and demanding: run. Not away from justice, but toward the place God had provided. The person in need didn't wait for the city to come to them. They had to choose a direction. Refuge was real, but it required movement.

Most of us understand the pull to run the other way when we've failed. Shame has a gravitational force that convinces us to hide, manage, or minimize before we dare approach God. But the cities of refuge were designed precisely for the person running to them in need. They were built for the broken, and the path to safety ran straight through honest acknowledgment of need.

Psalm 46 doesn't promise that life won't break you hard — it promises that God is findable when it does. "A helper who is always found" is not a vague comfort. It means you will not arrive at His door to discover He's unavailable. Whatever you've done or failed to do, the refuge is still there. The only requirement is direction: toward Him, not away.

- **Where in your life are you running from God right now instead of toward Him? What is one honest step you could take today to turn in a different direction?**
- **Lord, my first instinct when I fail is often to hide rather than to run to You. Help me trust that Your refuge is real and that You are always findable — even in my worst moments. I'm turning toward You now. Amen.**

DAY 2

2 Corinthians 12:9

But he said to me, “My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is perfected in weakness.” Therefore, I will most gladly boast all the more about my weaknesses, so that Christ’s power may reside in me.

There is a detail about the cities of refuge that is easy to read past: they were established before anyone ran to them. God didn’t wait for a crisis to improvise a solution. He commanded Joshua to set aside those cities before the first person ever needed one. The grace was in place before the failure arrived.

This is one of the more quietly profound things about God’s character. He is not caught off guard by your brokenness. He is not scrambling to accommodate people who didn’t live up to expectations. His provision for weakness is structural — built into how He designed care for His people.

Paul discovered this same reality in his own life. He had a thorn in the flesh — some weakness or suffering he desperately wanted removed. God’s answer wasn’t removal. It was sufficiency. “My grace is sufficient for you.” What God established for weakness isn’t a consolation prize. It’s where His power shows up most clearly.

- **What weakness or failure in your life have you been treating as evidence that God’s provision doesn’t reach you? How might you experience His grace differently if you believed it was already in place — waiting for you there?**
- **Father, thank You that You prepared Your grace before I knew I would need it. Help me stop being surprised by Your provision in my weakest places. Let Your power be made evident in what I cannot fix on my own. Amen.**

DAY 3

Hebrews 4:16

Therefore, let us approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in the time of need.

When God gave the Levites their cities throughout Israel in Joshua 21, it wasn't incidental geography — it was intentional architecture. Forty-eight cities, distributed across every tribe and territory, so that no one was far from access to God's guidance and grace.

This is the same instinct behind Hebrews 4:16. The throne of grace isn't a distant place reserved for the spiritually accomplished. It's accessible on purpose — not because you earned your way there, but because Jesus, who fully understands human weakness because He lived it without sin, closed the gap. He is why that throne is approachable at all.

The church is meant to carry on what the Levites represented: a distributed presence ensuring that people don't have to travel far to find grace and guidance. Your community, your small group, the people around you on Sunday — God placed them within reach deliberately. None of us are meant to carry our brokenness alone, and God has made sure no one has to.

- **Who in your life right now is carrying something heavy? How could you serve as a tangible expression of God's grace within reach for that person this week?**
- **Lord, thank You for closing the distance between Your grace and my need. Help me not only approach Your throne with boldness today but also be someone who reflects that same accessibility to the people around me. Amen.**

DAY 4

Lamentations 3:22-23

Because of the Lord's faithful love we do not perish, for his mercies never end. They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness!

Looking back across Israel's journey in Joshua, what's striking is the full picture. They crossed the Jordan in faith. They fell at Ai because of hidden sin. They fought long campaigns. They made foolish treaties. They won stunning victories. They stumbled repeatedly. And at the end of it all — having experienced the full range of obedience and failure — the record says God fulfilled every promise. Not just the promises made in their finest moments. All of them.

We tend to expect God's blessing to track with our performance — that He shows up when we do well and steps back when we don't. But Israel's story doesn't support that pattern. God's faithfulness didn't fluctuate with Israel's consistency. It held.

The writer of Lamentations knew what it was to be on the failure side of that equation. He wrote from the wreckage of Jerusalem, after Israel's long rebellion had produced its consequences. And from inside that devastation, he declared: His mercies are new every morning.

- **Can you identify a season in your own life where you experienced God's faithfulness even while you were failing?**
- **Lord, thank You for faithfulness that doesn't depend on my consistency. Your mercies really are new every morning — not because I earned them, but because You are who You are. Help me rest in that today rather than trying to earn my way back to You. Amen.**

DAY 5

Joshua 21:45

None of the good promises the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed. Everything was fulfilled.

Joshua 21 ends with a declaration that deserves to land with full weight: not one word failed. Not most of them. Not the easy ones. Every good promise God had made to Israel had come to pass. The journey had included crossing uncrossable rivers, fighting battles no army should have won, stumbling into sin, suffering consequences, and pressing through long seasons.

This sentence carries the entire Road to Victory series. God's faithfulness is not assessed in the middle of the journey — it's visible at the end, when you can look back across the whole stretch and see that He held every thread. What He promised, He delivered. The declaration isn't about Israel's faithfulness. It's about His.

The invitation today is to let this verse land personally: God keeps His word. Not just in Israel's history, but in yours. Whatever promise you are holding right now — whatever word He has spoken to you — it is not at risk. Nothing He has promised will be left undone.

- **What promise of God are you holding onto right now that you most need to trust will not fail? Carry that specific promise into Sunday with you as an act of expectation, not just information.**
- **Lord, not one word of Your promises has ever failed. Help me walk into Sunday carrying that truth — not just as something I believe in general, but as something I trust for my own story. You finish what You start. I trust You. Amen.**

GRACE FOR THE BROKEN

JOSHUA 20-21

JULY 26, 2026

MAIN POINT

God provides grace, protection, and restoration for the broken because His faithfulness covers successes and failures.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to help get the conversation going.

Everyone needs refuge at times. Think about places that frequently experience violent and dangerous storms. Many houses in those areas have safe rooms people can go in to be protected as the storms rage around them. Those scary times can make us feel vulnerable, helpless, and in need of refuge.

God has always cared about our needs. Long before safe rooms were possible, God established places of refuge for people in need of protection. Today we will see that God makes provision for strength and victory as well as for weakness and brokenness.

- **What or who makes you feel safe and protected?**
- **Where do you tend to go when you feel overwhelmed by failure, grief, or fear?**

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

> Have a volunteer read Joshua 20:1-6.

God commanded Joshua to establish cities of refuge that would be places where someone who accidentally caused harm could flee for protection. These cities were meant to ensure justice that was not driven by emotion or revenge. This is a reminder of something important about God's character. He takes sin seriously, but He is also just and merciful as He provides a way of protection and restoration.

• What does it mean to you that God takes sin seriously?

The person needing refuge had to be willing to recognize their need and run toward the place God provided. To experience the refuge being offered, a response was required from the one in need. God provides healing and restoration when we fail but we must recognize our need and run toward Him.

• When you make mistakes or fail, where do you turn: toward God or away from Him? Why?

We will all make mistakes and fail at some point. Post-fall, brokenness is part of the human experience. The gospel is the ultimate answer to humanity's brokenness, and these cities were another signpost pointing forward to God's final solution.

- **How does it change your perspective on failure to know God has already made provision for your weaknesses?**

> Have a volunteer read Joshua 21:43-45.

In chapter 21, we see that God gave Levites cities throughout the land. Unlike other tribes, they were not given a large territory but were assigned places among the people to serve, lead, and teach spiritually. God's plan for His people's ongoing care and guidance through the presence and influence of the Levites ensured that they would stay connected to God's ways and His Word. The areas for the Levites were spread throughout the promised land so no one was far from access to God's guidance or grace. God intentionally placed His provision within reach.

- **What role does spiritual community play in helping you stay grounded in your faith?**
- **How has God placed people or resources in your life to support and encourage you?**

The final verses of the chapter bring everything together with the declaration that nothing was left undone. God had fulfilled all the good promises He made to Israel. God not only provided refuge and structure, He also came through on every promise He made including the victories and His provisions for grace. God's faithfulness is complete and He doesn't overlook a single detail.

- **What changes when you remember God is faithful in both your successes and your failures?**

The people had experienced great success, difficult challenges, and painful failures. However, looking back, they could clearly see God's hand in every step of their journey. God's plan always includes God's grace because He knows our need completely and provides for our need in every instance.

- **Where do you need to experience God's grace right now?**

APPLICATION

Offer the following action steps for the application of God's Word.

- **What can you do to stay connected to others who will encourage and support you in your spiritual walk?**
- **What promise of God do you need to hold onto now?**
- **How does today's session change how you view your vulnerabilities and weaknesses?**

PRAY

Thank the Lord for His complete and comprehensive plans. Express your gratitude that He loves you and provides for you in your successes and your weaknesses.

JOSHUA 20–21

Cities of Refuge (20:1–9). The cities of refuge illustrated God's continued grace toward Israel while living in the land. According to Moses' instruction, six cities were set aside as places of safety for manslaughterers who unintentionally killed (see Num. 35:9–34; Deut. 4:41–43; 19:1–14).

When the manslayer appealed for refuge at one of the designated cities, the elders protected him from a relative of the deceased who was the avenger. If the elders found the manslayer innocent of murder, he remained in the city until the death of the high priest (see Num. 35:25–28). However, if the slayer was found guilty of homicide, the city executed him (see Exod. 21:12–14; Num. 35:29–34).

The Levites' Possession (21:1–42). Rather than receiving a tract of land, the service of the Lord was the Levites' special possession (Deut. 10:8–9). They received forty-eight cities scattered throughout all Israel in accordance with God's promise (Num. 35:1–5). This geographical distribution enabled the Levites to influence all the tribes as they taught them God's precepts (Deut. 33:10).

God's Promises (21:43–45). The summary emphasizes the major motif of the book: God fought Israel's battles and fulfilled His promises to their fathers. They rested from their wars and enjoyed the inheritance from the Lord.

