



## Before the Lesson

**Read the Scriptures and overview below before your LIFE Group meets.**

Scripture passage: Joshua 1:8-9, for background review the Israelites' journey to the Promised Land in Exodus thru Deuteronomy.

Success ... everyone wants to be successful in life. At the dawn of each calendar year, we send well-wishes to others for a prosperous and happy New Year. But what does the Bible teach about success and prosperity? Is it more than simply a Hallmark greeting that expresses thoughts of good health and wealth? Yes, it is more! God, through His living and active Word, provides a path and a pattern for success and assures all who look to Him and His Word for guidance, blessing and prosperity.

Just as Moses, who knew God face-to-face, found favor with the Lord, we have the miracle of knowing God intimately and being blessed with success. The Word of God empowers us to know Him, discern His ways, and receive His favor. This is true and meaningful success: to know our Creator, to understand His Word, and to know His Son, Jesus.

God's Word catapults us into the recesses of the heart and mind of God and enables us to understand and reclaim that which was lost as a result of our stubborn, sinful nature. Paul wrote these words in 1 Corinthians 2:15-16: *The spiritual person judges all things, but is himself to be judged by no one. "For who has understood the mind of the Lord so as to instruct him?" But we have the mind of Christ.*

As believers, we have the mind of Christ. By His Word we can know great Spiritual Truth, and by His Spirit we can have great understanding of that Truth. It is God's power through His Word and the Spirit at work in us that gives us prosperity, success, and favor. We must take it in, though, every day. We must *Learn It. Love It. Live It.*

### Focus question:

**Do you see the Word as a powerful tool of God used to demonstrate His favor in your life?**

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## Group Discussion

- How much time do you spend in God's Word each day? What benefits do you see from this time spent?
- Review the Israelites' journey from Egypt to the Promised Land—from Exodus to Deuteronomy. Briefly give a recap of this journey and share your thoughts about their plight. Below are a few questions to consider.
  - How had the Israelites seen God display His favor and blessing?
  - How had they seen God's power?
  - Who was responsible for convincing God to remain with them even after their disobedience of idolatry and distrust? (See Exodus 33:12-17) How had this man found favor with the Lord?

- What was one root cause of the Israelites' sin?
- What brought about the 40 years of wandering? (See Numbers 13-14)
- Read Joshua 1:1-6. God commissions Joshua to lead Israel into the Promised Land after the death of Moses. What are some of the commands and promises in these verses?
- What does God specifically command about His Word ("The Book of the Law") in verses 7-9?
- God knew the battles the Israelites would have to conquer while possessing the Promised Land. How would "The Book of the Law" be beneficial to them as they faced these conflicts? How does the Word of God help us conquer the battles we face in life? (See Ephesians 6:17b).
- We are to learn the Word of God so we know what the Lord wants us to do. How well do you know the Word? How much time do you spend practicing, studying, and memorizing Scripture? What differences would your co-workers, neighbors, family, and friends see in your life if you "learned the Word" and "lived the Word"?
- Verse 8 tells us that we should meditate on the Word day and night. This kind of exercise shows love and passion. How passionate are you about the Word of God? Do you prefer to be entertained by secular movies, music, and magazines or by the deep Truths found in the Bible? Will you commit to take just 10 minutes a day to meditate on (fill your mind with) God's Word this year?
- Revealed truth produces radical lifestyle change. Read James 1:22-23. What does it say about the Word of God? What changes have you seen in your life as a result of the God's? Share testimonies within your group that display the power of Scripture to change lives.
- Read John 1:1-5, 14. The Bible is not to be seen as a book filled with do's and don'ts or a how-to manual. Rather, it is God's Word made flesh through Jesus. Jesus is the embodiment of the Word of God. The more you get to know the Word, the more you will know Jesus. How have you seen this truth made manifest in your life?

### Further Study (to be used in your personal Quiet Time)

- Hebrews 4:12 says, *For the word of God is living and active, sharper than any two-edged sword, piercing to the division of soul and of spirit, of joints and of marrow, and discerning the thoughts and intentions of the heart.* God's Word has power to work in us and make changes. Will you commit to study the Word of God daily this year? Re-read the verses in this lesson and digest them in your quiet time this week.
- Will you commit to memorize a verse each week using *The Joshua Code: 52 Scripture Verses Every Believer Should Know* by O.S. Hawkins? Take note of any changes you see in your life as you study the Word.

**Memory verse: Genesis 1:1** - *In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth.*

Follow *The Word 2015* on social media to receive quotes, verses, and tools to help you learn, love, and live the Word this year!