

“Joshua: Leadership”

Growth Group Guide

January 4, 2026

WELCOME *(Connecting with each other)*

In Joshua 1:9, as Joshua prepares to take over where Moses left off, God exhorts Joshua by saying: “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” Do you know that God is with you wherever you go? How do you know it? Do you have instances in your life where you were confident (had no doubt) that God was with you? Share now.

WORSHIP THROUGH PRAYER *(Connecting with God)*

Read the prayer below. Rejoice that God’s leading for our lives always comes with His abiding Life and provision for the journey.

“Thank You that Christ is my Life ... that I am a member of His body and a dwelling place of His Spirit. How privileged I am to be indwelt by Your glorious presence (by the whole Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit!) so that You can display Your excellence to those around me. ... Thank You that I can give myself up to be led by You ... that I can go forth praising and at rest, letting You manage me and my day ... and ceasing from the burden of trying to manage myself without Your wisdom and power (adapted from Dr. John Hubbard). Thank you that I can throw the whole weight of my anxieties on You, for I am Your personal concern.” (Meyers, Ruth. 31 Days of Praise, Day 29. Kindle.)

WORD *(Letting God speak to us)*

1. Joshua sent spies (only two) to survey the land they were to conquer, particularly Jericho. The men stayed with Rahab. Several significant events resulted from this stay. 1) Rahab lied to the king about the spies to save them (Joshua 2:2-7). 2) Her family was spared the destruction of Jericho (Joshua 6:22-23). 3) Rahab later becomes a direct ancestor of Jesus (Matthew 1). Why do you think God chose to include her in the lineage of Christ?
2. **Read Joshua 3:13.** What had to take place for the waters of the Jordan River to stop at precisely the moment the priests’ feet stepped into the river? What does this say about God’s power? Timing?
3. **Read Joshua 3:16, the first sentence.** What is significant about the water stopping at the city called Adam?
4. In **Joshua 5:13-15**, he meets the “Commander of the army of the Lord.” Who is this? What gave Joshua the boldness to approach this man? Would you have done it?
5. In the classic spiritual song “Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho,” the lyrics of the refrain say: Joshua fought the battle of Jericho, and the walls came tumbling down.” But, in **Joshua 6:1-5** we learn the battle

was “fought” by the tribe of Israel in an unorthodox way. Why do you think God had them “fight” this way?

6. God gives us rules for our own good, not for a need for control over us. God told the Israelites not to take any plunder from Jericho. But, Achan, just couldn’t help himself. Why did God not want the people to take items from Jericho? **Read Joshua 7:19-26.** What were the consequences for Achan? Why does God level these consequences?
7. The Gibeonites saw what Israel had done to Jericho and Ai so, rather than go into battle, they made a plan to preserve themselves. In possibly Joshua’s biggest failure, he makes peace with them. What was his error? **Read Joshua 9:14-15.** What can we learn?
8. God performed two major miracles in chapter 10. **Read Joshua 10:11-14.** What do these miracles reveal about what God can do?
9. Joshua exhorted the people of Israel to serve the One true God and not the gods of other nations. **Read Judges 2:11-13.** How long before the people were falling away from God? What were the main entanglements causing Israel to fall away? How can we use Israel’s example to guide us in our own lives?

WALK *(Living out God’s purposes)*

- ✓ **One Big Idea: The Lord our God goes before us in all we do. It is our part to seek Him and His guidance in our lives.** As we begin a new year, it’s a good time to commit anew to seeking God’s leading and guiding in our lives. Just as God went before the Israelites in their conquest of the promised land, He will go before us in our daily lives. We can honor Him and show him that we love Him by following Him in the way He wants us to go and not seeking our own way, following the ways of the world. Let’s stand with Joshua and say “But, as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

WORLD *(Embracing God’s heart for others)*

Boise Bible is heading into their winter semester soon as students will be digging into their studies again after their Christmas break. Currently, Boise Bible is asking for prayer for the ability to award as many scholarships as possible. They have students like Jacob who earn excellent grades and work off-campus while maintaining their grades, but they still need the extra financial help given from scholarships. The scholarships are a valuable way to keep them in school with rising costs. Boise Bible loves to bless students like Jacob so they can graduate with little or no debt and on schedule, ready to jump into ministry for the Kingdom. Please pray for the students as they embrace their education and training for ministry work and for the college as they seek to provide the best educational experiences and facilities they can. (December 2025 Newsletter)

Now may the God of peace...produce in you, through the power of Jesus Christ, every good thing that is pleasing to him. All glory to him forever and ever! Amen. (Hebrews 13:20-21 NLT)

[Copies of this Guide are available at <https://thurston.church/resources>]