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The Book of Joshua
HOW I FIGHT MY BATTLES



**5 WEEK STUDY
WITH PASTOR JEREMY**

**MAURICE REFORMED
CHURCH**

DAILY DEVOTIONALS
Week of November 2-8

How I Fight My Battles Series

Joshua 1 – Meditate Day and Night

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Sermon Doodles and Illustrations

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 3

Joshua 1:1-5 – Joshua Becomes the Leader

Welcome to our series on the book of Joshua. For those of you not familiar with where we are at in the history of Israel, I will do a quick overview. Moses had led the Israelites out of slavery and towards the promised land. Most of Israel and even Moses himself made some missteps along the way which led to the consequence of dying in the wilderness. Now Joshua has been commissioned to lead the Israelites after the death of Moses as they get ready to go into the promised land.

God has a conversation with Joshua to encourage him in his leadership as he takes over Israel. God has set them up for success as they take on this next battle of conquering the promised land. Multiple times God reiterates that He is giving this land to them, meaning that God is the one who will make it happen. Conquering doesn't count on the strength of Joshua, but on his obedience to God. God tells him again that no one will be able to stand against him and that God will be with him forever. God is not going to leave Joshua, but will walk with him through every battle he is about to face.

We each face struggles in our lives and this month we are going to grow together in how we can fight these battles we face. In these verses we get a very special truth that will help in any battle that we might face. First, we don't fight in our own strength. On our own we will not be able to handle it, but knowing that God goes with us, we can do all things. Second, that God will never leave us. Yes, it might feel tough, and in this world, it may feel like we are alone, but the truth is God is with us and will guide us along the way.

SONG:

["Psalm 27 \(The Lord Is My Light\)"](#) - Laura Story

KIDS QUESTION:

Do you ever feel alone? Is God always with you?
How has He fought for you in your life?

YOUTH AND ADULT QUESTION:

When have you felt alone? How did God help you through it?

PRAYER:

Lord, help me to see that I am never alone and that You are always with me. Lord, I know you have already won this battle.

[illegible]

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4

Joshua 1:6, 7, 9 – Be Strong and Courageous

Have you ever done something that seemed impossible or at least extremely difficult? In my life I have run 4 half marathons. The first one, I was able to be a support and encouragement to my wife and the last three I found that I was the one in need of support and encouragement. I am proud to say that in each of the four runs we were able to finish the race, maybe not in the time we were hoping, but we were able to fix our eyes on the goal and accomplish the task in front of us.

In these three verses Joshua is told to be strong and courageous 3 times. When something is repeated in scripture, that means it is important and should be focused on. In these words, God is telling Joshua to prevail all the way until the end and to be focused on the end goal. With the encouragement that Joshua just received in the previous passage, God now tells him to stay the course all the way until the end. God is reminding Joshua that this will be tough, but his job is simply to keep going forward trusting that God will do what He said He would do.

When we fight our battles, we need to know that we should not give up. No matter how hard it feels, no matter who we have against us, we are to keep fighting for what is true and right. Just as God told Joshua to be strong and courageous, He is calling us to prevail and stay focused to the end. What causes you to stop when the battles come? How can you remain strong and courageous in the fight you are currently in?

SONG:

"Be Strong and Courageous" - Salmo Songs of Praise

KIDS QUESTION:

When you get discouraged, what helps you to keep going? Do you give up or continue fighting? How can God help you?

YOUTH AND ADULT QUESTION:

When have you felt like giving up? How have you overcome the feelings of wanting to give up?

PRAYER:

Lord, we confess that it is easy to give up. Teach us how to be strong and courageous in the battle we are currently facing.

This image shows a blank sheet of white paper with horizontal ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and extend across the width of the page. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the paper.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 5

Joshua 1:7-8 – Meditate on the Word of God

Today I want you to think about how you did in school. When you were learning something new or trying to remember it for a test, how did you study? For me, it was repetition. I needed to go over the facts time and time again. Once I got one fact down, I could go on to the next one until I finished all of the items I needed to learn. This took time, this took effort, and there were times that I decided to shortcut the process. When I chose to do that, it often led to me not truly understanding what I was supposed to learn.

In our passage today God is telling Joshua to stay on the straight and narrow by staying true to the word of God. The best way to stay true to the word of God is to know it and the best way to know it is for the word of God to be in your mind and on your lips day & night. The word meditate can mean to imagine, to mutter, to speak, and to roar. All four of those relate to our minds and our mouths and when we have the word of God in those places we will not stray right or left.

How do you learn what the word of God says? Do you spend time reading the word in the morning? If you are reading this right now, I'm going to guess that the answer is yes. Maybe you go to church on Sunday and learn from the word of God then, but the question is would you describe your life as one that meditates on the word of God day and night? Is it rotating in your mind, muttering on your lips, or shouting from your mouth? This is my challenge for you today, have the word of God, His truths, on repeat in your mind and on your lips. Let's meditate together today!

SONG:

"Day & Night (Psalm 1)" - Jonathan & Emily Martin

KIDS QUESTION:

Do you ever wonder why we have memory verses in Sunday school and Quest? We need to meditate on and remember the Word of God! How can you grow by knowing His Word?

YOUTH AND ADULT QUESTION:

How do you meditate on and know the Word of God?
How can you grow in it today?

PRAYER:

Lord, teach us to desire Your Word and Your Word alone. Guide us according to Your truth that we can walk in it!

[illegible]

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6

Joshua 1:10-11 – Be Prepared

As many of you know, I like to travel. Whether it is just a short weekend getaway or a week-long trip to some location where I get to spend time seeing more of God's beautiful creation. When we go on these journeys, it is important for us to be prepared. Sometimes we need certain identification, other times we need the right app for our tickets and we definitely need to know what type of clothes to pack. It takes a while to make sure that we are prepared to go on these vacations. How about you? How long does it take you to prepare to go somewhere?

In our passage today Joshua moves from receiving encouragement from God to action. Joshua sends out his leaders into the camp to tell the Israelites to start packing up and prepare to head into the promised land. The day is quickly arriving, and they only have three days to be ready to cross the river and start taking land. For families, this meant packing up their supplies and getting their tents ready to move. For the fighting men, this was a battle call to prepare themselves for the battles that they were going to face.

There are some days when we know we are going to have to deal with something that is difficult. Maybe it is a difficult coworker or a difficult situation at work. Whatever it may be, it is best to be prepared. The best way to prepare for any struggle is to know God's word and to know that God goes with you. Take a deep breath, humble yourself, and come ready to speak with mercy and fear as we learned about in Jude. Even if you don't see a battle coming up, it is important to prepare each and every day for when they do come up. Seek God, Know God, and Speak God in every situation.

SONG:

"Shoulders" - for KING + COUNTRY

KIDS QUESTION:

How can you prepare for something difficult that may happen in your life? What can you do each day to help yourself prepare?

YOUTH AND ADULT QUESTION:

How do you prepare for a stressful situation? How can you work on preparing yourself every day?

PRAYER:

Lord, may we always be prepared to give a reason for the hope that we have.

[illegible]

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7

Joshua 1:12-15 – The Deal

Roughly 10 years ago I started my first semester at Western Theological Seminary. Thankfully, I was able to do my schooling online while still ministering full time at Cedar Hills Community Church as a Youth Director. The one downside to the online distance learning scenario was that I had to travel to Michigan twice a year for a week. This meant leaving my wife and 3 kids and spending the week with other seminary students. That was a part of the deal, but it didn't make it any easier for me or especially for my family when I was gone. It has been 6 years since my last intensive week, and I am so thankful that I no longer have to be away from my family.

Two and a half tribes of Israel made a deal to take land on the side of the river they were currently on. As a part of the deal, the fighting men would have to help conquer the promised land while the women and children stayed back to set up the cities. Joshua here was reminding the tribes that this was the deal they made, and so these families needed to prepare a little differently. These families needed to prepare for the women and children to survive on their own as the fighting men went off to accomplish what God was calling them to. I'm sure those goodbyes were not easy, but God was faithful and we will see at the end of Joshua the men returning back to their families.

Have you ever experienced God calling you to do something that was going to cost you something? Maybe it was time with friends or family, maybe it was finances, maybe it meant you wouldn't be able to spend so much time on something you really liked doing. Whatever it is, I bet you realized that following God was worth the struggle. Following God and His call on our lives is the number one priority we must have. Can you imagine these tribes going back on their deal and deciding not to fight? It would not have gone well for them. Saying no to God will cause more pain and hurt than what you might have to give up for a short period of time by following Him.

SONG:

"It Is Well" - Kristene DiMarco

KIDS QUESTION:

Have you ever made a deal and then not wanted to follow through with it? It is important to follow through; it is even more important to listen to what God is telling you to do.

YOUTH AND ADULT QUESTION:

What have you had to give up to follow what God is calling you to in your life?

PRAYER:

Lord, help us to see where You are calling us to and be willing to follow You no matter what the cost.

[illegible]

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8

Joshua 1:16-18 – We Will Be Faithful

The question always is, will we follow God? I'm sure all of us without taking a second would say yes, with all my heart! Of course we want to follow God and live according to His truth, but there are some days where that will be easier said than done. Yes, I want to live for God, but I don't want to stand up for what His truth says. Yes, I want to live for God, but don't ask me to speak in front of people. Yes, I want to live for God, but don't ask me to give up this thing that I really like doing. What happens when God asks you to do something hard?

In our passage today we see that the people of Israel, especially those 2.5 tribes whole heartedly say yes to following Joshua and what God had commanded them. These men gladly live faithful lives to the commitment they made to God and what He has asked them to do. So much so that if anyone would deny the direction of God that they would be put to death. These people are all in for what God desires of them and there is no other option.

Can you imagine someone saying that today? If anyone does not do what you command, they are to be put to death. I'm not advocating for that to be the case, but I do believe the body of Christ would benefit from this understanding. If we knew that disobedience to God was punishable by death, don't you think we might take our faith a little more seriously? We wouldn't justify what we don't want to do or what we do want to do. We would simply be faithful to what God is asking us to do. May we have that same mindset today, that being disobedient to God is sin and sin is punishable by death, so we ought to live with the first priority of being faithful to God each and every day.

SONG:

"Trust In God" - Elevation Worship

KIDS QUESTION:

Are you faithful in all things? It is difficult! How can we work harder to be faithful?

YOUTH AND ADULT QUESTION:

What is the worst punishment you ever faced?

What does it look like to be faithful to God in all things?

PRAYER:

Lord, we confess that we often rest comfortably in Your grace. We are so thankful for Your grace that it often makes us not as serious about our sin. Help us to take our sin more seriously.

[illegible]