

Reading Guide for Joshua -- October 2016 -- Otisville Church of Christ
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The story of Joshua progresses by looking at Joshua's leadership as someone who stands in continuity with Moses and leads according to God's will. Joshua leads the charge into the promised land, where the people ultimately settle the land. Allotments of land are later given to the various tribe. The book ends on a positive note with a renewal of the covenant with God.

This reading guide looks at each narrative movement in Joshua over one week. The reading for some weeks is shorter than others because of this. I have provided five reading and reflection questions for each week. I will preach from the section that corresponds to the Sunday listed in below. For example, on October 9, I will preach from Joshua 3-5. You will then be able to read and reflect on that section throughout the rest of the week.

I encourage you to read the text multiple times, answer the questions and find at least one other person to share your answers with!

Week 1 (October 2): Joshua 1-2 -- Introduction

1. What do you know about Joshua--both the man and the book? Write down as many things as you can think of. Read an introduction to Joshua in a study Bible, a Bible dictionary, a commentary or online. What new information did you learn that you can add to what you already knew about Joshua?
2. Read Joshua 1-2. What themes are most prominent in this section?
3. How does Rahab fit the theme of "be strong and courageous"?
4. Are there commands or examples to follow in this section? What are they and what will you do about them?
5. How could you share this section of scripture with someone else?

Week 2 (October 9): Joshua 3-5 -- Crossing the Jordan River

1. What is the main theme of this section?
2. How is Joshua's leadership demonstrated?
3. In what way is the the covenant between God and Israel remembered (or enacted)? What do you learn from this about God's covenant with us today?
4. Write down five points of encouragement or insight from this section and consider how you could share them with someone else.
5. What is God teaching you through this section about obedience that you need to change or improve upon?

Week 3 (October 16): Joshua 6-11 -- Settling the Promised Land

1. What is most striking to you about the settling of the promised land? Why?
2. What is the significance of the Jericho mission?
3. Why did the mission against Ai fail, and why did it later succeed?
4. What is significant about the covenant renewal at Mount Ebal?
5. How would you retell this story, in your own words, to someone else? Write a summary sentence or paragraph to help you.

Week 4 (October 23): Joshua 12-22 -- Allotment of Land to the Tribes

1. Research this section online or consult a commentary or notes in a study Bible: What is the significance of this section and the description of the allotment of land to the tribes?
2. Why were cities of refuge created? Why does this matter?
3. Why was the allotment to the Levites different than the allotment to the rest of the tribes?
4. What is the meaning of the conflict the Reubenites, Gadites and the half-tribe of Manasseh had with the rest of the tribes?
5. Write down any questions you have from this section and find someone else to discuss them with.

Week 5 (October 30): Joshua 23-24 -- Covenant Renewal

1. What themes are prominent in the closing section of this book? Is there any overlap with the opening section? Why might that be?
2. What is most striking to you about Joshua's "farewell speech"?
3. What is most striking to you about the covenant renewal at Shechem?
4. What promises, examples or commands are in this section and what do you need to learn or do about them?
5. What have you learned from Joshua that has most impacted your life? How could you share this insight with someone else?