

READING PLAN + STUDY QUESTIONS

Joshua

READING PLAN OVERVIEW

- **SESSION 1:** JOSHUA 1-5
 - THE JOURNEY TOWARDS THE PROMISED LAND
- **SESSION 2:** JOSHUA 6-11
 - ISRAEL BATTLES THE CANAANITES
- **SESSION 3:** JOSHUA 12-17
 - THE PROMISED LAND IS DIVIDED AMONG THE TRIBES
- **SESSION 4:** JOSHUA 18-24
 - JOSHUA'S CHARGE TO THE ISRAELITES

HOW TO USE THIS PLAN

- 1. READ THE GENRE + BOOK OVERVIEWS ON THE FOLLOWING PAGES**
- 2. READ THE CHAPTERS IN THE BIBLE FOR EACH SESSION**
- 3. READ THE CHAPTER SUMMARIES ON [EVERYDAYSCRIPTURE.ORG](https://everydayscripture.org)**
- 4. ANSWER THE QUESTIONS + REFLECT ON THE READING**

This study encourages going at your own pace, allowing each session to be a day, a week, or however long you need. Each session contains questions to be used for individual reflection or small group discussion.

This study was made to be used alongside Bible reading. Although we have created chapter summaries, there is no substitute for reading God's Word.

QUESTIONS TO GET YOU STARTED

- What type of literature is this book of the Bible? Does that affect the interpretation?
- Who is the intended audience of this book? What purpose does it serve?
- What does this passage of Scripture reveal about God's character?
- What can I learn from this Scripture passage? How does it apply today?

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Everyday Scripture: Joshua](#)
- [Everyday Scripture: Old Testament History](#)
- [The Bible Project: Joshua Overview Video](#)

GENRE OVERVIEW: OLD TESTAMENT HISTORY

The books of Old Testament History follow the story of the Israelite people. Immediately following the books of Old Testament Law, these books highlight the aftermath of the Israelites' disobedience to God's commands.

Joshua, the successor of Moses, led the Israelite people into the Promised Land of Canaan. Once they were settled, the Israelites appointed leaders and judges to rule over the land. Although God provided righteous judges and priests, the Israelites wanted to be like the other nations who were led by kings. Despite the warnings of God and the prophet Samuel, the Israelite people appointed a king named Saul.

Saul started out as a promising king but ultimately failed the Israelites. After Saul came an unlikely king, David, who had previously been a lowly shepherd and musician. God loved David and promised to send Jesus from his line of ancestors (the line of Judah).

David's son Solomon succeeded him as king and was one of the wisest and wealthiest men who ever lived. Like his father, Solomon had many moments of both righteousness and failure. David wrote most of the Psalms, and Solomon wrote a portion of wisdom literature during this time (Old Testament Poetry).

Following Solomon was king Rehoboam. Because of Rehoboam's poor leadership and unrighteousness, the Israelites rebelled against him and instead followed another leader, Jeroboam, which split the nation in two. Two tribes (Judah and Benjamin) remained loyal to Rehoboam. These tribes became known as the southern kingdom of Judah. The other ten tribes, led by Jeroboam, became the northern tribes.

Throughout this time period, God sent prophets to warn the Israelites that their rebellion and deviation from God's law would cause them to be removed from their land. After many messages of warning and opportunities for repentance, the Israelites did not turn back to God. Because of this, they were taken into captivity by different world powers and did not return to Canaan for seventy years.

After the captivity, a faithful remnant of Israelites returned to Jerusalem, the capital city of Judah. God helped establish the people and influenced the rebuilding of the temple. The books of Old Testament History show how God worked to restore and redeem the Israelite people.

BOOK OVERVIEW: JOSHUA

After Moses led the Israelites out of Egypt, Joshua finished the mission by guiding the Israelites into the Promised Land. Commissioned as the leader of the Israelites after Moses, Joshua faithfully served the people and obeyed God's instruction.

Before entering the Promised Land, Joshua sent spies into Canaan. Once he received the message from God that they would take over the land, Joshua led the people towards Canaan and miraculously crossed the Jordan River. Joshua was a witness to God's miracles through Moses, and then he led the way for the new generation of Israelites.

When the Israelites arrived in Jericho, Joshua followed God's unconventional strategy of marching around the city walls and blowing trumpets to make the walls fall. Joshua was faithful to all of God's commands, leaving nothing undone that was asked of him.

Joshua's leadership continued within the Promised Land as he distributed the land among the tribes. He trusted God's faithfulness in battles and challenges with the current inhabitants of the Promised Land.

Before the end of his life, Joshua encouraged the Israelites to remain faithful, choose to follow God, and renew their covenant promises. Although Joshua was not a perfect man, he was a great leader who left a lasting legacy among the Israelites.

SESSION ONE: JOSHUA 1–5

THE JOURNEY TOWARDS THE PROMISED LAND

- What promise did God make to both Moses and Joshua (Joshua 1:5–7)?
- In Joshua 1:8–13, what instructions did God give Joshua for leading the Israelites? What did God say about the land He was giving them?
- According to Numbers 13–14, what was Joshua’s role during Israel’s time in the wilderness? How was he faithful in this position?
- In Joshua 2, how did Rahab provide for the Israelite spies? What did she ask for in return?
- What miraculous acts inspired Rahab to have faith in God? How did she exhibit greater faith than the previous generation of Israelites (Joshua 2:9–11)?
- Matthew 1 contains the genealogy of Jesus. Read Matthew 1:5. Who from this story is included in Jesus’ heritage?
- In Joshua 3, what did the Israelite priests carry with them on their journey to Canaan? What is the significance of this (see Exodus 25:10–22)?
- How is the story of the Jordan River crossing similar to the crossing of the Red Sea? How is it different (see Joshua 3 and Exodus 14)?
- In Joshua 5, why was the new generation of Israelites circumcised? What is the significance of circumcision (see Genesis 17)?
- In Joshua 5:13–15, who did Joshua encounter? What information did this person share with Joshua?

SESSION TWO: JOSHUA 6–11

ISRAEL BATTLES THE CANAANITES

- The number seven is referenced frequently in Joshua 6. What does the number seven often represent throughout the Bible?
- Why do you think God would use the unusual strategy of marching around the walls instead of providing Israel with a powerful military?
- How did the Israelites keep their promise to Rahab (Joshua 6:17–23)?
- After the Israelites entered the land of Canaan, they were defeated by the people of Ai. How would you summarize Joshua's prayer in 7:7–9?
- Read the story of Achan in Joshua 7:10–26. Using a Study Bible or internet search, look up the meaning of Achan's name and the meaning of "Valley of Achor." What do these names reveal?
- How would you describe Israel's military strategy against Ai in Joshua 8?
- After Israel's victory, how did Joshua glorify God and remind the Israelites of His provision (Joshua 8:30–35)?
- In Joshua 9, how did the Gibeonites trick the Israelites? Why did they want to be among the Israelites?
- In what ways did God intervene for the Israelites in Joshua 10? How does this show His ultimate authority?
- How was Joshua's faithfulness described in Joshua 11:15? Do you feel like there is something God has called you to do that you have left undone?

SESSION THREE: JOSHUA 12-17

THE PROMISED LAND IS DIVIDED AMONG THE TRIBES

- How many kings were defeated by Moses and Joshua? Considering that the Israelites were recently enslaved, does this number surprise you?
- The primary message of Joshua 13-22 is land allocation between the tribes. Why was this land so important to the Israelites?
- Which tribe did not receive a land inheritance (Joshua 13:14, 13:33)? What was the specific role of this tribe?
- What city did Caleb receive as an inheritance? Why did he receive this reward?
- Read Joshua 15:63. Who remained among the tribe of Judah? How might this influence the Israelites?
- What is significant or special about the tribe of Judah?
- According to Joshua 16:10 and 17:12, who remained among the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh?
- Why did Ephraim and Manasseh ask for more land? What was Joshua's response to their request (Joshua 17:16-18)?

SESSION FOUR: JOSHUA 18–24

JOSHUA'S CHARGE TO THE ISRAELITES

- Why was it important to record the land boundaries and cities so specifically? What do you think this chapter teaches us about trusting God with the details of our future?
- In Joshua 20, what purpose did cities of refuge serve? What does this reveal about God's justice system?
- Why do you think the Levites were spread throughout Israel to live among the other tribes?
- Read Joshua 21:23–45. Which of God's promises were fulfilled?
- In Joshua 22:5, what command did Joshua give as a reminder for the eastern tribes?
- What did the eastern tribes build upon their arrival? What did the other tribes assume they had built?
- In Joshua's final charge to the Israelites, what wisdom did he share? How did he remember God's faithfulness?
- What warning did Joshua provide the Israelites about breaking the covenant and worshiping other gods (Joshua 23:15–16)?
- What significant accounts were recalled in Joshua 24? How does God's past faithfulness serve as a reminder for future hope?