

**sermon notes  
and  
study questions**



JOSHUA

CROSSING

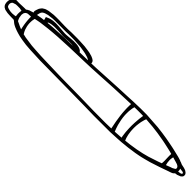
THE

JORDAN

# Joshua 1

---

## 'Be strong and courageous'



## 2.

1. Recount a situation in your life that required strength and courage.

2. Read Joshua 1. Describe the moment. Moses was dead but what about the plan?

3. Read Deuteronomy 34:9. What qualified Joshua to take over from Moses as leader?

4. Read Numbers 13:31-14:4. In what ways did Israel fail?

5. How would things be different now under a new leader?

6. How does Jesus provide our needed leadership?

7. The Promised Land is described in Joshua 1:3-4. What made Israel think they could just walk in and take it?

8. 'This passage condones invasion, violence and destruction.' How would you answer such an objection?

9. God promises us the new heavens and the new earth. How does that promise impact your life today?

10. How is strength and courage related to obedience?

11. How does this passage build your strength and courage?

# Joshua 2 **'A good mother'**



## 4.

1. Read Joshua 2. What is surprising about God's provision of a hero like Rahab?

2. What is the impact on the reader when God uses unconventional means to achieve his objectives?

3. Was it right for Rahab to lie? When is lying OK?

4. Re-read Joshua 2:8-11. What is Rahab's faith based upon?

5. How is your faith similar/different?

6. Hebrews 11:31 commends Rahab for her faith. How did she demonstrate faith and how was it rewarded?

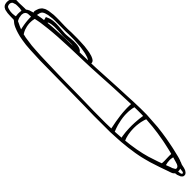
7. Matthew 1:5-6 lists Rahab in Jesus' (and David's) genealogy. How does this add meaning to Joshua 2?

8. 'God uses the unexpected to save'. Discuss.

9. 'God is the real hero in this story'. Discuss.

**Joshua 3**

**'Crossing the Jordan'**



## 6.

1. What is a significant milestone in your life? What part did you play in achieving it?

2. Read Joshua 3:1. Why were the Israelites preparing to cross the Jordan? (Joshua 1:1-2,10-11)

3. Read Joshua 3:2-17. What is the ark of the covenant? (Exodus 25:10-22; Numbers 10:33-36) What is its significance?

4. How were the Israelites to prepare themselves for the crossing? Why was this necessary?

5. Do you prepare before coming to growth groups? Why or why not?

6. Conduct a risk assessment of the activity: crossing the Jordan. How could the Israelites proceed?

7. Why did God lead the Israelites through the Jordan River? (Joshua 4:22-24)

8. How do we reconcile the grand display of God's power in the Jordan crossing on the one hand and Jesus crucified in weakness on the other?

9. How have you seen God's power on display in your life and in the life of our church?

# Joshua 6

---

## 'War cry'





## 8.

1. Read Joshua 5:13–6:27.  
What strikes you about this story?

2. How would you expect Joshua and his army to take the city? What warfare would you expect them to use?

3. In gifting Jericho to the Israelites, why would God permit the destruction of the inhabitants? Is this just? (Genesis 15:16).

4. Read Hebrews 9:27–28. Why is it important that we understand God's character to judge as well as to show mercy?

5. Generally speaking, what do people think will happen after they die?

6. The battle of Jericho was unconventional. In what way is the cross of Christ unconventional?

7. Read Ephesians 6:10–18. Describe the true battle that we face on a daily basis?

8. How do the 'weapons' match the 'battle' we are involved in?

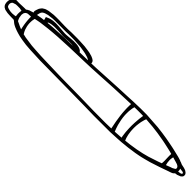
9. What other means can we be tempted to resort to?

10. How have you been encouraged or challenged by this passage?

# Joshua 11

---

## 'Annihilation'



## 10.

1. When have you struggled to trust in the LORD's sovereignty?

2. Read Joshua 11:1-5. What was against Israel? Humanly speaking, why should they fear?

3. Read Joshua 11:6. What does the LORD promise?

4. Read Joshua 1:3-6. The LORD promised Israel territory, victory and his ongoing presence. How far back do these promises go? If you were to encourage Joshua, what would you say to him as he faced the Northern Kingdoms' alliance?

5. Read Joshua 11:7-20. How does the language convince you of the totality of the destruction?

7. Why were the Hivites spared? (Refer to Joshua 9)

8. How did 'hardened hearts' lead to the destruction of the Kings?

9. How do you feel about this passage? Can it be said that the LORD promotes violence? What could justify such violent destruction?

10. Discuss the parallelisms to the cross. (Mark 9:7, 14:34, Col 2:15)

11. How would this story have encouraged and exhorted the people of God throughout Biblical history?

# Joshua 14

---

## 'Inheritance'



## 12.

1. Does 'fear' show a lack of faith?

2. Read Joshua 14:1-5. Why do only nine and a half tribes receive portions in Canaan? (Numbers 26:55; 32:1-5, 28-29; Deuteronomy 18:1-5)

3. Read Joshua 14:6-15. What made Caleb and Joshua a minority among the Israelites?

4. 45 years on, is Caleb simply an optimist? Why or why not?

5. Read Joshua 17:14-18. How do the people of Joseph compare to Caleb?

6. Why such contrasting responses to the challenge of possessing the land?

7. Read 1 Peter 1:3-6. What inheritance lies ahead in the future?

8. How do we enter into it?

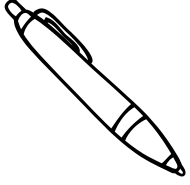
9. How is Caleb an example of faith for us as we too navigate being a minority in today's society?

10. Do you feel you might fall short of the promised inheritance? How might you address those fears?

# Joshua 22

---

## 'Misunderstanding'



## 14.

1. List the things that could break 'unity' in the church? Should they?

2. Read Joshua 22:10-14. What has caused this conflict?

3. What would be the consequence of war between the tribes of Israel?

4. Read Joshua 22:15-20. Why is Israel so sensitive about this?

5. The 'sin of Peor' is mentioned here (Numbers 25:1-13). What happened and how has Israel suffered ongoing consequences?

6. Israel talks before attacking. What is the value of these discussions?

7. Read Joshua 22:21-29. What is the explanation for the altar?

*Note: The three tribes were allocated land East of the Jordan, while the rest of Israel would possess land West.*

8. Was the altar needed? How has the memory of the 'deal' been preserved?

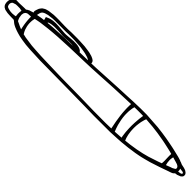
9. How has the issue of 'trust' been brought into question?

10. What does our security and access to God depend on? Can it ever be threatened by the action of other people? Use Scripture to back your answers.

# Joshua 23

---

## 'Farewell'





## 16.

1. Has your faith grown over time? What caused it to grow?

2. Read Joshua 23. How does Joshua explain their success?

3. How does this speech prepare Israel for the future?

4. Re-read Joshua 23:14. Which promises was Joshua referring to?

5. List the promises that God has made and kept. What promises are yet to be fulfilled?

6. John Lennox, "Faith is not a leap in the dark; it is the exact opposite. It's a commitment based on evidence... It is irrational to reduce all faith to blind faith and then subject it to ridicule." Discuss.

7. Re-read Joshua 23:15-16. How secure was Israel's future?

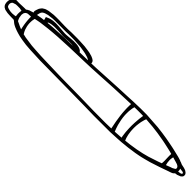
8. From what you know about Israel's history, how does this warning pan out?

9. What warning has God given us, today? How confident are you that he means what he says?

# Joshua 24

---

## 'Renewal'



## 18.

1. Are you the type of person who takes an all-or-nothing approach to life?

2. Read Joshua 24:1-13. What is the significance of Shechem? (Genesis 12:6)

3. What is Joshua recounting to the people?

4. Read Joshua 24:14-18. Why does the LORD demand exclusive commitment from Israel?

5. What did the people think of the demand?


6. Read Joshua 24:19-24. Joshua doesn't seem overly encouraged by the people's positive response. Why is that?

7. Read Joshua 24:25-28. What is the covenant being renewed? (Exodus 34:10-14)

8. What does the covenant teach us about God?

9. Read Hebrews 8:1-13. How is the new covenant that Jesus inaugurated better than the one renewed in Joshua 24?

10. What sort of commitment does Jesus demand from us?

 (02) 9311 0309

 [office@oceansideanglican.org.au](mailto:office@oceansideanglican.org.au)

 [www.oceansideanglican.org.au](http://www.oceansideanglican.org.au)



Printed May 2024