

A SERIES IN
JOSHUA BY
CROSSWALK
CHURCH

Impact

Dear Youth Leader,

Crosswalk is grateful for your ministry! This series, we are working in-step with our teaching team as we dive into the life of Joshua. As you teach, there will be many opportunities to talk about how God has plans and a purpose for each of us to impact the world. Accepting and living out this reality will lead to momentum and growth as God impacts our personal life, and we let that overflow into contributing to our church and our world. Please share your stories and struggles with open hearts and encourage questions. High school is a time where students feel that they don't have that much importance (impact? yeah right), and they are not sure how God is unfolding His plan in their lives. Try to put yourself in their shoes (or ask them about it), and encourage them to rise to the challenge God has set before them.

I am praying for you as you prep your time with your youth group, and can't wait to hear how it went. Please reach out if you have any questions, ideas, or stories! I'm here to support you!

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Series Outline

Week 1 | Numbers 13:1-14:38

who was joshua

Week 2 | Joshua 1:1-5

the coronation of
a new leader

Week 3 | Joshua 1:6-3:16

crossing the jordan river

Week 4 | Joshua 3:17-6:16

the battle of jericho

Week 5 | Joshua 6:17-14:12

caleb and joshua

Suggested Format

Belonging | 25 - 30 min

Breakfast / Welcome

Sharing / Activity

Experience | 25 - 30 min

Worship

Message / Discussion

Momentum | 5 - 10 min

Challenge / Application

Announcements / Visioning

who was joshua

Preparation

Read Numbers 13:1-14:38

notice main ideas, points of tension, and any resonant for your youth

Listen to the *Crosswalk Daily Study* podcast

also listen to the *Abide Daily* podcast and sit in the texts with Pastor Jon

Reflect on your experience

find a story in your life where you did not meet the pressure of expectations

Sharing Activity

Activity Idea

Have everyone pull out their phone and look up the meaning of their name. Go around sharing or have them share in groups. How many are living up to their name?

Possible Icebreaker Questions

- Have you ever felt pressure to accomplish something you didn't feel capable of? How did you respond?
- Do you like working behind the scenes, or leading from the front? Why?

Message Main Points

- Read Numbers 13:16. Joshua's original name (Hoshea) means "salvation."
- Read the rest of the chapter.
- Hoshea must have felt like a disappointment after not being able to convince the Israelites that they were capable of conquering the promised land.
- Joshua's new name is a combination of Hoshea (salvation) and Yahweh (the Lord). His new name Joshua, "the Lord will save" is both a prophecy and a promise to God's plan and purpose in Joshua's life when he will lead God's people.
- It is God who saves, and he used Joshua in the story's context. He can use you in our context to impact the community and world around you.

Discussion Questions

- When Moses gives Joshua his new name, it helps reframe his future impact (him + God). How do we make a similar identity shift in our life?
- What is more difficult to accept, that you can do nothing without Jesus, or that you can do anything through Jesus?
- What is something you have tried to do on your own that you should submit to Jesus?

Application

What potential impact is God talking to you about right now?

Challenge

Think about the circles you are a part of. What uncomfortable role is God asking you to consider so you can impact your circle and move it in a direction God is guiding towards?

the coronation of a new leader

Preparation

Read Joshua 1:1-5

notice main ideas, points of tension, and any resonant for your youth

Listen to the *Crosswalk Daily Study* podcast

also listen to the *Abide Daily* podcast and sit in the text with Pastor Jon

Reflect on your experience

find a story in your life where you were uncertain of the future, but one first step made all the difference

Sharing Activity

Activity Idea

Give each student a paper and markers. Have them draw themselves in 10 years. Tell them to draw items or accessories to symbolize the goals they will have accomplished and all that they will be doing. Share with each other, and have a fun time reacting to each other.

Possible Icebreaker Questions

- What is a project you took on that was more successful than you expected? How did it happen?
- If you could have any superpower, what would it be?
- What is more stressful, thinking about today's goals, or where you should be in 5 or 10 years?

Message Main Points

- Read Joshua 1:5 together.
- Moses has died, and God tells Joshua "the time has come for you to lead"
- God promises that wherever Joshua steps, that land He will give to the Israelites. It depends on God, but begins with Joshua stepping out (action step).
- This is what it means to have faith (Hebrews 11:1).
- Every time we try to change a lifestyle habit, it always begins with one step at a time, starting now. God is inviting us to take action (a small one) towards where we feel he is leading today!

Discussion Questions

- What is something you have been praying for that has not happened? Could it be that you have to take action steps alongside your praying?
- What would you say to someone who has no idea what kind of impact God wants them to have?
- Our parents sometimes talk about goals for our lives that are so far away (getting married, becoming a doctor, having kids). How can we choose to trust God with our future, and instead take the best steps we can today?

Application

What is something you wish you could do for God? What is holding you back? What conversation do you want to have with God as you step out in faith to make an impact.

Challenge

Whatever God has set in your heart, the important thing is to take the first step now! Do not dawdle or hesitate. Joshua acted on his faith, and challenges us to do the same today.

crossing the jordan river

Preparation

Read Josha 1:6-3:16

notice main ideas, points of tension, and any resonant for your youth

Listen to the *Crosswalk Daily Study* podcast

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Reflect on your experience

find a story in your life where you learned to overcome your fears

Sharing Activity

Activity Idea

Have a whiteboard up as people walk in with the title "What is your greatest fear? Have kids write answers. Once you are all seated together, take the fears on the whiteboard and rank them together, thinking about how the answers are a starting point for today's themes.

Possible Icebreaker Questions

- Are you an optimist or a pessimist? what areas of your life are you the opposite of your usual view.
- What are some of your good habits? what are some of your bad habits? Why do you think that is?

Message Main Points

- Joshua is told to be "strong and courageous" three times in Joshua 1:6-9
- To not be afraid is something that we and Joshua must face head on. Share your story.
- How do we approach such a daunting task? Read Joshua 1:10-15.
- We start by building small habits (getting our provisions ready), and walking one step at a time behind God's leading.
- Read Joshua 3:9-16
- The people of Israel have been to this river's edge before. They were afraid of giants on the other side. This time they cross over trusting God, keeping their eyes on the Ark of the Covenant (eyes focused on God) and taking one small step at a time.

Discussion Questions

- Are you someone that needs every step of the plan, or are you a "just send it" person?
- If you are a person who hesitates and has fear, how can we learn to trust and take the first step?
- If we are more impromptu, how can we learn to listen for God's leading and keep a thoughtful eye on God and what steps he wants us to take?

Application

What are some tasks you need to complete today? What fears stand in the way? Do you have clarity on how to start the task? Let's get going!

Challenge

What part of your spiritual journey do you sense God inviting you to step out in faith to see how He will guide you?

the battle of jericho

Preparation

Read 3:17-6:16

notice main ideas, points of tension, and any resonant for your youth

Listen to the *Crosswalk Daily Study* podcast

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Reflect on your experience

find a story in your life where you had an insurmountable challenge ahead

Sharing Activity

Activity Idea

Have student's scroll through their phone and find a picture that represents one of their most meaningful memories. Have them share with each other in groups or together (pro tip: do the activity over breakfast and have them airdrop the photos to you. Connect to the nearest TV and present the pictures together)

Possible Icebreaker Questions

- Why do we love scrolling through past memories?
- How does remembering the past help us look at today and tomorrow's challenges?

Message Main Points

- Read Joshua 4:1-9. Memorials help us look at the past and gather courage for the future. We see what God has done and trust in what He will do.
- Read Joshua 5:13-15. When we face the challenges in our lives, we often think about what is for or against us. What if we shifted our thinking to this: "am I on God's side, do I serve the Lord?"
- Read Joshua 6:15-20. God does all the heavy lifting, but he commands the people to shout as loud as they could in faith and participation of overcoming the challenge before them.
- To put these ideas together: as we face the challenge before us, it helps to look backwards (to see what God has done), to look beside us (to see how we are aligning with God in relationship and intention), and to yell with gusto as we take our first step (to gather courage and make an impact).

Discussion Questions

- What are you currently facing or are likely to face that you have no idea how to get through?
- Is it easy or hard for you to accept help from others? How easy is it to give your difficulties to God? What does that look like in your life?
- What are ways you can keep memorials around you for when you get discouraged?
- How can you add more energy and passion as you try to make an impact on your world?

Application

What are you concerned about today?

How might God plan to use your voice to bring victory from this situation?

Challenge

Ask students to go around, excitingly declaring (yelling?) what they will do this week in response to our time and discussions in the text.

caleb and joshua

Preparation

Read Numb 13, Josh 6:17-14:12

notice main ideas, points of tension, and any resonant for your youth

Listen to the *Crosswalk Daily Study* podcast

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Reflect on your experience

find a story in your life where someone kept their promise with you and how it affected your trust in them

Sharing Activity

Activity Idea

Play charades together where someone gets to act (no sounds) like someone famous in history who has made an impact on the world. Guess as a group! You can cut out names of people ahead of time and put them in a hat if you feel your group will have trouble thinking of people.

Possible Icebreaker Questions

- Who has made the most impact on your life?
- Who do you know is getting more inspiring the older they get?
- Is there a promise of God that you believe less today than you used to? or one you believe more? Why?

Message Main Points

- Read Numbers 13:25-30. Caleb and Joshua are the only two spies who see that God is bigger than the challenge before them, and are excited for what God has in store. (spoiler: negativity wins out, and they are sent back into the wilderness to learn)
- Joshua 14:9-12. Caleb followed God wholeheartedly, and 45 years later, he asks Joshua for the most difficult hill country as his inheritance. There are giants, fortified cities, and challenges, but he says he is just as vigorous to go out and battle and the Lord will help drive them out.
- Caleb's faith grows with age, and his continued answer to God's calling to push for His direction and leading is clear.

Discussion Questions

- What do you think you would learn if you had the opportunity to spend a week with Caleb?
- What is the hardest work you have ever done? Was it worth it? Did you lean on God or others?
- What is God put before you to conquer? How is he inviting you to step forward in faith? Is it something that your friends in the group can help you with?

Application

As you listen to God's leading, he will give you clarity in an area where others are wavering. How can you be bold in expressing your opinion and standing in your belief?

Challenge

What does it look like in your life to keep the "pedal to the metal" like Caleb does as he ages? Aim to live with the trust in God and boldness to build your impact as you grow older.

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A Final Note,

Life gets crazy. Sometimes we walk into a room knowing we haven't prepped enough. A high-schooler might walk in with the weight of a hard week on their minds, and the last place they want to be is youth group. The teenage community you are leading will have cliques, crazy couples, and apathetic kids. All this to say that teaching in this scenario will rarely feel like you did a great job. Don't worry, you don't need to. **Jesus shows up.**

If every week you
eat together,
pray together,
worship together,
and study the word together,
then you have faithfully structured the youth time for God to work.

Thank you for your effort and compassionate heart.
I'm a leader in the church because of influencers like you!

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