

Group Study Questions – Joshua 1:1–11, 16–18 (NKJV)

Joshua 1 is about active faith: God speaks, Joshua rises, the people prepare, feet move, and obedience follows. The Jordan is ahead, but God’s promise stands. Joshua must lead, the people must respond, and the Word of God must remain central.

1. Why is the phrase “After the death of Moses” important to the beginning of Joshua? (*Joshua 1:1–2*)

Joshua begins with transition. Moses, the great leader who brought Israel out of Egypt, has died. But God’s purpose has not died with him. The Lord says to Joshua, “Moses My servant is dead. Now therefore, arise, go over this Jordan” (Joshua 1:2).

This teaches that God’s work is bigger than any one leader. Moses was important, but the promise was God’s. God had promised the land to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob long before Joshua’s generation (Genesis 12:7; Exodus 3:8). Now Joshua is called to continue what God had already begun.

Everyday Application: Transitions can feel uncertain, especially after the loss of a strong leader, season, job, or relationship. Joshua reminds us that God’s faithfulness does not depend on one person or one season. When something ends, God may still be calling us to arise and move forward.

2. What does “every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon” teach us about faith in action? (*Joshua 1:3*)

God says the land is already given, yet Israel still has to walk into it. The promise is secure, but possession involves obedient movement. This does not mean they earn the promise; it means they must actively respond to what God has spoken.

This pattern appears throughout Scripture. At the Red Sea, God told Moses, “Tell the children of Israel to go forward” (Exodus 14:15). In Joshua 3, the priests had to step into the Jordan before the waters stood still (Joshua 3:13–17). Faith is not merely agreeing that God can act; faith moves in response to His word.

Everyday Application: Many believers know what God has said but hesitate to take the next step. Joshua 1:3 reminds us that faith often has “footsteps.” Obedience may begin with a conversation, a decision, a commitment, repentance, service, or preparation. God’s promises are not meant to make us passive; they call us forward.

3. What does God’s promise of the land reveal about His faithfulness? (*Joshua 1:3–4*)

God says, “Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given you” (Joshua 1:3). This promise was not new. It reaches back to God’s covenant with Abraham, when God promised his descendants the land (Genesis 12:7; Genesis 15:18–21).

Joshua's generation is stepping into promises made long before them. This shows that God's timing may span generations, but His word remains dependable. The promise is sure because it rests on God's character, not Israel's strength.

Everyday Application: God may fulfill His purposes over a longer timeline than we expect. This helps us trust Him when answers feel delayed. Faith means believing that God is faithful even when His timing is not immediate.

4. Why does God repeatedly tell Joshua to be strong and courageous? (Joshua 1:5–7, 9)

God tells Joshua to be strong and courageous three times in this passage. The repetition shows Joshua had real reasons to feel afraid: Moses was gone, the Jordan had to be crossed, the land was occupied, and leadership now rested on him.

But Joshua's courage is not based on personality or confidence. God says, "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you" (Joshua 1:5). The foundation of courage is God's presence.

This same theme appears when Jesus sends His disciples and promises, "I am with you always" (Matthew 28:20). God does not always remove the challenge, but He promises His presence in it.

Everyday Application: Biblical courage is not pretending we are fearless. It is choosing obedience because God is with us. We can face difficult conversations, responsibilities, or changes with courage when our confidence rests in God's presence.

5. Why is obedience to the Law central to Joshua's success? (Joshua 1:7–8)

God tells Joshua to observe the Law carefully and not turn from it "to the right hand or to the left" (Joshua 1:7). Joshua's success would not come merely from military strategy, charisma, or experience. It would come from submitting to God's instruction.

Verse 8 deepens this by saying the Book of the Law should not depart from his mouth, but he should meditate on it day and night. This means God's word was to shape Joshua's speech, thinking, decisions, and leadership.

Psalm 1:2–3 gives a similar picture of the blessed person who delights in and meditates on God's law. Jesus also connects discipleship with abiding in His word (John 8:31).

Everyday Application: God's Word should not be something we visit occasionally but something that shapes our daily thinking. The question is not only, "Have I read Scripture?" but "Is Scripture shaping how I speak, decide, respond, and lead?"

6. What does meditation on God's Word mean in this passage? (Joshua 1:8)

Meditation in Joshua 1:8 is not emptying the mind; it is filling the mind with God's instruction. God tells Joshua to keep the Law in his mouth and meditate on it day and night so that he may do what is written.

The goal of meditation is obedience. Joshua is not told to think deeply about Scripture merely for information, but so that God's Word would shape his actions.

This connects with James 1:22, which says to be doers of the word and not hearers only. It also connects with Jesus' words in John 14:15: "If you love Me, keep My commandments."

Everyday Application: Meditating on Scripture can look like carrying a verse through the day, praying it back to God, asking how it applies to a situation, or letting it challenge our attitude. The goal is not just knowing more, but living differently.

7. How do Joshua's instructions to the officers show practical leadership? (Joshua 1:10–11)

After hearing from God, Joshua speaks to the officers and gives practical instructions: "Prepare provisions for yourselves" (Joshua 1:11). This shows that faith and preparation go together. Joshua believes God's promise, but he still organizes the people for obedience.

Spiritual leadership is not only vision; it also involves clear communication, planning, and helping people take the next step. Moses had prepared Joshua earlier (Numbers 27:18–23; Deuteronomy 31:7–8), and now Joshua begins leading with clarity.

Everyday Application: Trusting God does not mean neglecting responsibility. If God calls us to something, we should pray, obey, and prepare. Faith is not carelessness; it is confident action under God's direction.

8. What does the people's response, "All that you command us we will do," reveal about obedient faith? (Joshua 1:16–18)

The people do not merely say, "We agree," or "We believe." They say, "We will do" and "we will go." Their commitment is active, not theoretical. After years of wilderness delay caused by unbelief and rebellion (Numbers 14:1–4, 26–35), this generation is being called to respond differently.

Their words also show that God's mission requires shared obedience. Joshua must lead, but the people must move. The promise of God does not cancel human responsibility; it creates the basis for courageous action.

This fits Joshua 1:7–8, where God tells Joshua to observe the Law "to do according to all that is written in it." The Word was not given merely to be heard, recited, or admired, but obeyed. James later says the same principle clearly: "Be doers of the word, and not hearers only" (James 1:22).

Everyday Application: It is possible to respect God's Word without actually doing what it says. Joshua 1 challenges us to move from intention to obedience. A good question for the group is: *What is one thing God has already made clear that I need to actually do?*