

Name: _____

Date: _____

PREPARING TO ENTER THE PROMISED LAND

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:9)

Objectives

<i>Knowledge of God’s Will</i>	Understand God’s commission to Joshua. Learn how the Israelites’ trust in God allowed them to enter the promised land. Understand the preparations that God wanted His people to undergo before taking the land.
<i>Knowledge of God’s Divine Nature</i>	God is faithful. He wants us to trust in Him.
<i>Good Works</i>	Learn to seek God’s abidance, and linger in the tabernacle to find strength and courage in God. Cultivate fear and trust in God’s power in order to change ourselves.

A. God’s Commission to Joshua (Josh 1)

God gave three commissions to Joshua. To: (1) lead the people into the land and conquer Canaan; (2) divide the land as an inheritance among the Israelites; and (3) keep God’s commandments.

“Be strong and of good courage”

The strength and courage Joshua needed wasn’t just about going into battle. It was also about Joshua having the strength and courage to hold on to his faith. In the end, the key to the Israelites’ success lay not in their personal skills or abilities, but in a deeper relationship with God.

B. Scouting the Land (Josh 2)

1. *The Scouts’ Report:* While the ten spies sent by Moses focused on the “giants” in Canaan, the two spies sent by Joshua trusted the Lord and expressed this in their report.
2. *Rahab*
 - a. *A leap of faith:* It couldn’t have been easy to turn away from the gods that she used to worship, but Rahab let her fear of God drive her to change her beliefs.
 - b. *A scarlet cord:* Because she chose to trust in God’s power, Rahab and her family were saved.

C. Crossing and Renewal (Josh 3–5:12)

1. *Place Your Feet in the River:* To place their feet into the waters was a gesture of trust. Unlike the Red Sea crossing, they were now active participants in God’s miracles.
2. *Remember God’s Presence:* When we share our personal experiences, we remind ourselves of God’s power and encourage both ourselves and others to trust in Him.

Upon entering Canaan, their priority was not in finding their enemies’ weaknesses, gathering their military strength, or preparing for battle. Instead, the Israelites first had to renew their covenant with God through circumcision, and learn to keep His commands through Passover. Becoming God’s holy nation and entering the promised land meant learning to obey His commands.

Life Application

1. Jacob: Strength and Courage as a Worker of God
2. Rahab: Faith that Changes Your Heart

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Lesson 8 Homework Assignment

Preparing to Enter the Promised Land

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Read							
Pray							

Memory Verse (Josh 1:9):

1. What does this verse teach us about how we can face any obstacles, burdens, or responsibilities?
2. “[Rahab] said to the men: ‘I _____ that the _____ has _____ you the land, that the _____ of you has fallen on us, and that all the inhabitants of the land are _____ because of you.’” (Joshua 2:9)
3. What was so different about the two scouts’ report compared to those sent by Moses in the past?
4. What can we learn from the Israelites’ actions upon first entering the promised land?
5. How did Joshua learn to receive strength and courage from God while serving under Moses?
6. Why is it often difficult for us to trust in God as Rahab did? Share a time when you struggled to trust in God’s plan and instead tried to rely on your own wisdom or understanding. How did God teach you to trust Him after this incident, or how did you turn your heart back to trusting God?