

Series Overview and Guides

2021-2022 ANNUAL THEME | SERIES 6

JULY - AUGUST

Objective

what we hope to see God accomplish in us through this study

That we choose to serve the Lord with our inheritance in Jesus.

STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"And if it is disagreeable in your sight to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves today whom you will serve: whether the gods which your fathers served which were beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you are living; but as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

—Joshua 24:15 NASB

"The word inheritance is found over fifty times in these nine chapters, and it is a very important word. The Jews *inherited* their land. They didn't *win* their land as spoils of battle or *purchase* their land in a business transaction. The Lord, who was the sole owner, leased the land to them. 'The land is mine and you are but aliens and my tenants.' (Lev. 35:23)...The 'rent' God required was simply Israel's obedience to His Law. As long as the Jewish people honored the Lord with their worship and obedience, He would bless them, make their land productive, and keep their nation at peace with their neighbors... Their *ownership* of the land was purely the gracious act of God; but their *possession* and *enjoyment* of the land depended on their submission and obedience to the Lord."

—Warren W. Wiersbe
Be Strong



Frisco Bible Church
a redeemed community

Premise

why we are studying this

The Christian today needs to cling to the Lord our God, learning that the life of possessing our inheritance is a life of faith. We are quick to abandon that singular trust in God which has brought us life, hope, joy, justification, and every spiritual blessing. Instead, we become so enamored with ourselves, the stuff of life, or even the good spiritual blessing we're granted that we lose sight of the Giver Himself.

STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

"Be very strong and continue obeying all that is written in the book of the law of Moses, so that you do not turn from it to the right or left and so that you do not associate with these nations remaining among you. Do not call on the names of their gods or make an oath to them; do not serve them or bow in worship to them. Instead, be loyal to the Lord your God, as you have been to this day. The Lord has driven out great and powerful nations before you, and no one is able to stand against you to this day. One of you routed a thousand because the Lord your God was fighting for you, as he promised. So diligently watch yourselves! Love the Lord your God!"

—Joshua 23:6

"May grace and peace be multiplied to you through the knowledge of God and of Jesus our Lord. His divine power has given us everything required for life and godliness through the knowledge of him who called us by his own glory and goodness."

—2 Peter 1:2-3

Theme

what the study is about

For Israel, this study details the granting of the land of inheritance and the instructions for fully possessing it. Further, it re-emphasizes the themes of reliance upon the Lord God, His Word, and the keeping of the covenant. Finally, a tidy spiritual history of Israel is included, emphasizing the accomplishments of those full of faith. For the Christian, these last two sections of Joshua remind us of our great inheritance in Christ (our Joshua) and of the need to live by trust in the Lord and His Word. Otherwise, our inheritance will become fouled, our sanctification sullied.

STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

"On that day Joshua made a covenant for the people at Shechem and established a statute and ordinance for them. Joshua recorded these things in the book of the law of God; he also took a large stone and set it up there under the oak at the sanctuary of the Lord. And Joshua said to all the people, 'You see this stone—it will be a witness against us, for it has heard all the words the Lord said to us, and it will be a witness against you, so that you will not deny your God.' Then Joshua sent the people away, each to his own inheritance."

—Joshua 24:25

OVERALL THEMES OF JOSHUA

At least eight big ideas drive the thought in *Joshua*: YHWH's character, God's promises, undaunted leadership, the land, the Mosaic covenant, obedience, holiness, and rest.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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SERIES 6 | SESSION 1

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

UNDAUNTED

SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 13:1-7

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Joshua is given the command to issue Israel's inheritance. This critical word is repeated so that the idea of God's overlordship might be emphasized. The text seems to reflect on Joshua's long and stellar career and look ahead to the gradual possession of Israel's inheritance. This gradual "sanctification" was planned all along as part of God's testing and development of His people.

OBJECTIVE

We serve the Lord with our inheritance.

POSSESS OUR POSSESSIONS

"If you and I have cast ourselves upon Christ, if we have believed in him in the biblical way, if we have been justified, the central battle has been won, just as when the Israelites' southern and northern campaigns broke the heart of the resistance. But there are also promises made to Christians. We are called upon to *possess our possessions*...What was the Israelites' trouble? Why did they not possess their possessions? Very simple: They wanted their peace and materialism."

—Francis Schaeffer
Joshua and the Flow of Biblical History

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we keep our focus on eternity and not become distracted with temporal things.

Session 1: Inheritance Choices

1. Read Joshua 13:1, 6 and 7. Though he is "advanced in years", what does God want Joshua still to do?
 - a. What is the significance of Joshua's age in relation to God's command?
 - b. What is the key statement in verse 6?
2. Discuss the importance of relying on the Lord when we seek to do His will?
 - a. List some Biblical examples of leaders who were relying more on themselves.
 - b. How does relying on our own efforts, apart from God, usually work out?
3. How does keeping an eternal perspective help in placing your trust fully in God?
4. What things in this life distract you from having an eternal perspective? (Colossians 3:2)
5. Consider this quote from Warren Wiersbe's *Be Strong*:

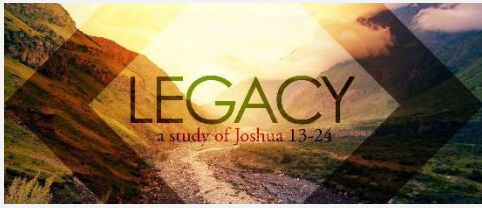
"Their ownership of the land was purely the gracious act of God; but their possession and enjoyment of the land depended on their submission and obedience to the Lord."

 - a. *Obedience* was a factor in the conquests of Joshua and the Israelites. How is obedience essential for fully enjoying the Christian life today?
 - b. How will you commit to using your spiritual gifts in light of fully enjoying the Christian life?



SERIES 6 | SESSION 2

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

UNDAUNTED

SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 13-19

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Joshua makes the assignments of the inheritance for each tribe – speaking first from Gilgal and then from Shiloh. The places are significant as representing covenants with God and man. This division of property teaches us:

- to be encouraged in our spiritual journey (Ephesians 1:3, 1 Peter 1:3-6).
- to complain less and work more. See the complaints and Joshua's answer (Joshua 17:14-18). James 3:16 is a tidy summary.
- to be bold in asking for chances to expand God's kingdom (Joshua 15:16-19; 17:1-6) The prayer of Jabez and James 4:2 tie in here as well.

OBJECTIVE

We work hard for God's glory.

HEIRS OF GOD

"God wants to give all His people their inheritance: 'You do not have because you do not ask' (James 4:2). In Jesus Christ, all believers are one and are heirs of God. Nothing from your first birth should hinder you from claiming all that you have in Jesus Christ."

—Warren. W. Wiersbe
The Bible Exposition Commentary

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we act on God's promises.

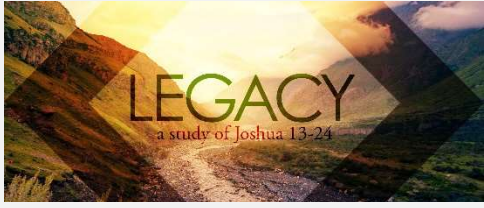
Session 2: This Land is Your Land

1. Read Joshua 17:14 – 18.
 - a. What basic issue did Joseph's descendants complain about?
 - b. What are some examples in our own lives where we might have similar complaints?
 - c. What was Joshua's response?
 - d. What principles can we learn from Joshua's instructions?
2. Read Joshua 18:1-7.
 - a. Why did some of the Israelites delay in taking possession of the land?
 - b. What are some examples in our lives where we may delay acting in a situation?
 - c. What are some reasons people avoid taking action?
 - d. Discuss potential consequences of hesitating to do something we know is essential.
3. Read Joshua 15:13-19.
 - a. Discuss the contrast between these earlier events and chapters 17-18.
 - b. How does this illuminate our approach with the gospel to those whom God has placed in our sphere of influence?



SERIES 6 | SESSION 3

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

UNDAUNTED

SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 14:6-15; 15:13-15

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Joshua 14:6-15 and 15:13-15 walk us through the last years of Caleb. This remarkable man was the Lord's spy, warrior, and leader for over 50 years. He teaches us that one is never too old or too young to do what's right. As God desired, so Caleb did all his adult life. Joshua 18:3 stands in contrast to Caleb's faithfulness and 17:13 tells us why – the people desired peace and wealth more than faithfulness. For us, the fruit of the Spirit that comes from relying upon God can also be contrasted with the "peace" and materialism that chokes us (Luke 8:14).

OBJECTIVE

We boldly serve God without flagging.

CHRISTIAN LIFE IS A QUEST

"The Christian life is not about becoming a nicer person. *It's a quest.* When men see other men living the adventure, they'll want in... There are wise churches that are *taking risks, dreaming big,* and bringing a measure of adventure back to Christian life."

—David Morrow
Why Men Hate Going to Church

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we follow God completely and don't lose heart.

Session 3: Never Too Old

1. Read Numbers 13:26-14:10 and Joshua 14:6-9.
 - a. Discuss the significance of Caleb.
 - b. How are Joshua and Caleb unique in their roles during the 40 years of wandering?
2. Read Joshua 14:12.
 - a. Now, at age 85, what does Caleb want to do?
 - b. In what way is he setting an example for the rest of the people?
3. Read Joshua 15:14, and 18:3
 - a. What is the significance of how Caleb dealt with the Anakim?
 - b. What contrast do you see between Caleb and these other tribal leaders?
4. Discuss ways older generations in the church can encourage younger generations to be active in practicing their faith.



SERIES 6 | SESSION 4

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

UNDAUNTED

SCRIPTURE READING

1 Peter 1:13-21

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Believe it or not, this seemingly mundane passage contains the most powerful philosophic treatments within Joshua. The principal points include:

- From Shechem the Levites are granted their inheritance – 48 cities among Israel.
- The Levites are to be supported by the tithe, and the priests by the tithe of the tithe.
- Six of the cities were cities of refuge.
- The cities of refuge represent Jesus Christ.

OBJECTIVE

We live in light of real history, law, and refuge.

THE MORAL LAW

“The moral law is the expression of God’s character, and we are not to set it aside when we become Christians. Our obedience to it will make a difference in what happens to us both in this present life and in the believers’ judgment in the future.”

—Francis Schaeffer

Joshua and the Flow of Biblical History

PRAYER

Pray for each other, that we are obedient and holy in all our conduct.

Use the back of this page to write specific prayer requests.

Session 4: Refuge

1. Read the history of Levi’s obedience in Exodus 32:25-29.
 - a. How did the Levites demonstrate they were on the Lord’s side?
 - b. How did God bless them as a result?
2. Read Numbers 18:21.
 - a. How did God provide for the Levites who did the work of overseeing the spiritual matters for Israel?
 - b. How does this compare to why and how you give to the Lord today?
3. Read Joshua 20:1-5. What was the purpose for establishing the cities of refuge?
4. How can Christians today support justice based on the Biblical principal that all life is sacred?
5. How do the cities of refuge give us a beautiful picture of salvation in Jesus Christ?

SUGGESTION: Have someone in your Life Group tell their story of how he or she came to know Christ.

