

2021-2022 ANNUAL THEME | SERIES 3

# Series Overview and Guides

JANUARY-FEBRUARY

## Objective

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

That we prepare ourselves for all the adventures God has crafted for us.

### STATEMENTS OF THE OBJECTIVE

"...that you may know the way by which you shall go, for you have not passed this way before."

— Joshua 3:4 NASB

"That's why we're embarking on this study. *The Book of Joshua* is the book of new beginnings for the people of God, and many believers today need a new beginning. After forty years of wandering in the wilderness, Israel claimed their inheritance and enjoyed the blessings of the land that God had prepared for them, 'as the days of heaven upon the earth' (Deut. 11:21). That's the kind of life God wants us to experience today. Jesus Christ, our Joshua, wants to lead us in conquest *now* and share with us all the treasures of His wonderful inheritance. He has 'blessed us with all spiritual blessings' (Eph. 1:3), but too often we live like defeated paupers."

—Warren W. Wiersbe  
*Be Strong: Putting God's Power to Work in Your Life*

## Premise

*why we are studying this*

The Christian today finds himself in increasingly hostile territory. Leadership seems difficult—in the home, in life stage transitions, in the workplace, and even in the church. To enjoy fulfillment, the Christian must both recognize God's work in his/her past and prepare for the adventures to come.

### STATEMENTS OF THE PREMISE

"Be strong and courageous!"

—Joshua 1:6

"Be aware that it will take work to stimulate and motivate your team to keep on pioneering, to keep on stretching. We all tend to prefer the comforts of the settlement over the rigors of the trail. We tend to choose the grocery store over the garden, or fast food over cooking up a meal ourselves. Why? It is easier. But when we assess, envision, and adjust, we set ourselves up to break through the overload zone and reach new goals."

—H. David Burke  
*How to Lead and Still Have a Life*

## Theme

*what the study is about*

God prepares the people of Israel for their new adventure of conquest. Rather than shirk from the tasks before them, this new generation embraces the opportunities presented to them. Their leader, Joshua, becomes a new Moses—a leader that cements the establishment of the nation and gives them a permanent home. In these first five chapters, we see Joshua and the people work in great harmony as they take the serious, exciting, and sacrificial steps to prepare for their victory.

### STATEMENTS OF THE THEME

"They answered Joshua, 'Everything you have commanded us we will do, and everywhere you send us we will go. We will obey you, just as we obeyed Moses in everything. Certainly the LORD your God will be with you, as he was with Moses. Anyone who rebels against your order and does not obey your words in all that you command him, will be put to death. Above all, be strong and courageous!'"

—Joshua 1:16-18

"This was not a mechanical readiness. An act of will was involved. If we do not stress this, we will be giving an inaccurate picture of Joshua's (and the people's) preparation."

—Francis Schaeffer  
*Joshua and the Flow of Biblical History*



## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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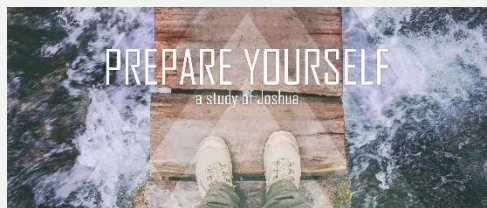
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**Frisco Bible Church**  
*a redeemed community*

SERIES 3 | SESSION 1

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

UNDAUNTED

SCRIPTURE READING

Selected Scriptures

KEY IDEAS

THEME

We will overview the book of *Joshua* and the preparation of the leader Joshua. This first section of *Joshua* is about God's preparation of His people for His work – a hard work that requires great sacrifice and leads to great blessing. Joshua emerges as a powerful leader for a difficult time because he has spent so much time engaged with God's preparation plan for him. Corporately and individually, we can emulate such preparation so that we too are the right leaders for our homes, businesses, nation, and church.

OBJECTIVE

We engage with God's preparation of us.

THE LORD JEHOVAH

"The leading person in the Book of Joshua is not Joshua but the Lord Jehovah, the God of Joshua and Israel."

—Warren W. Wiersbe  
*Be Strong: Putting God's Power to Work in Your Life*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we remember and rely on what God has taught us.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

## Session 1: Power of Preparation

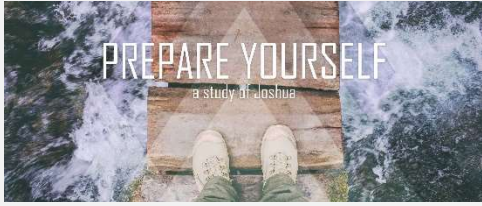
1. Was there a time in your life when you looked back and saw how God had prepared you for that season? Describe what happened.
2. Read the Objective, Premise, and Theme of this study on page 1 of this guide. What idea resonates the most with you?
3. Joshua lived through the exodus from Egypt. Briefly review the events in Exodus chapters 7-14.
  - a. What did Joshua learn about God?
  - b. How did this experience prepare Joshua to lead the Israelites into Canaan?
4. Read Exodus 24:12-18.
  - a. What did Joshua learn about God?
  - b. How did this experience prepare Joshua to lead the Israelites into Canaan?
5. Read Numbers 14:1-10 and 26-30.
  - a. What did Joshua learn about God?
  - b. How did this experience prepare Joshua to lead the Israelites into Canaan?
6. Paul told the Corinthians that Old Testament examples were written down for our instruction (1 Corinthians 10:11).
  - a. How have you relied upon past experiences with God to trust Him in future circumstances?
  - b. What future uncertainties are you facing right now?
  - c. What has God already taught you about Himself that will help you trust Him in this season?
7. Church leaders today face many uncertainties. Ask an elder how you can pray for him and his leadership of your church. Tell your group what you learned.



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SERIES 3 | SESSION 2

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

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SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 1:1-9

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Joshua is commissioned with the great work of the last half of his life – to lead the people across the Jordan and into their inheritance. Specifically, the New International Version seems to have the better translation in saying “get ready to cross.” God’s preparation for leadership involves strength and courage.

OBJECTIVE

We are strong and courageous.

CAUSES FOR COURAGE

Donald K. Campbell (in the *Bible Knowledge Commentary*) sees three specifically mentioned causes for courage: God’s promise of the land, God’s power through His Word, and God’s presence. As we live in this age, we note that each of these has a parallel in our lives. God promises us an eternal possession, power through His Word, and His unfailing presence. Therefore, we must gird our loins for our spiritual battles as well, following our Yeshua as His captains and partners.

—Wayne Braudrick  
*Prepare Yourself series notes*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we find our strength in God and His word.

Use the back of this page to write prayer requests.

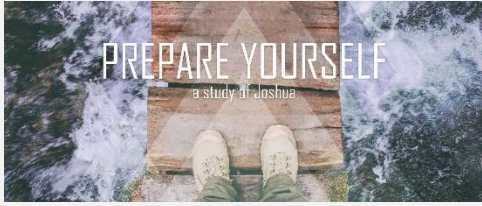
## Session 2: Prepare Yourself for Leadership

1. Read Joshua 1:1-9 together.
  - a. What did God command Joshua to be three times in verses 6-9? What was Joshua preparing to do that he needed to be told this?
  - b. As Christians, what battles do we face which require strength and courage?
2. In verse 6, what reason for courage did God give Joshua?
  - a. What promises has God made to Christians to encourage our faith?
  - b. How has a promise of God strengthened you in a past battle?
3. In verses 7-8, what reason for courage did God give Joshua?
  - a. As people saved by grace alone, how is our obedience to God’s word still important?
  - b. How would you counsel a new believer to stay prepared in the word of God?
4. In verse 9, what reason for courage did God give Joshua?
  - a. Was there a time when God made His presence known to you in an extraordinary way?
  - b. How can even the ordinary knowledge of God’s presence strengthen you? (For example, see Hebrews 13:5-6.)
5. What issues do you face now for which you need strength or courage? How can this group pray for you?



SERIES 3 | SESSION 3

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

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SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 1:10-18

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Joshua commands the people to get ready for the possession of the nation (place) to go with the nation (people) of God. Further, he instructs the tribes whose inheritance was east of the Jordan to come help their brethren fight west of the river. The text even implies that they are working with their brethren before they are finished with their own work. Their response is unifying, submissive, and motivating – especially in their reminder to Joshua to be what God calls him to be: strong and courageous.

OBJECTIVE

We sacrifice for our God-ordained work together.

GOD'S PURPOSES

"This was no natural prudence or a spirit of expediency which actuated Joshua to seek their co-operation. And it was not merely a matter of seeking more help... No, the appeal and authority came from the commands of the Word of God. Servants of God must learn to lean on the power of the Word to motivate others and to accomplish God's purposes."

J. Hampton Keathley, III  
*The Commissioning of Joshua*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we sacrificially partner with God and our brethren.

## Session 3: Prepare Yourself for Teamwork

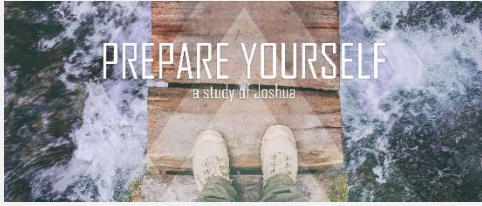
1. Read Joshua 1:10-11.
  - a. Even though God gave Israel the land, what was their responsibility? How easy was their role?
  - b. Read Ephesians 2:8-10. Even though salvation is a free gift of God, what is our response supposed to be?
  - c. What are some ways that the people of your church partner with God?
2. Read verses 12-15.
  - a. Why were the Reubenites, Gadites, and half tribe of Manasseh obligated to help their brethren?
  - b. What are some New Testament passages which explain our obligation to help our brethren?
3. Read the response of the two and a half tribes in verses 16-18.
  - a. Discuss how this response was a) unifying, b) submissive, and c) motivating.
  - b. What would an opposite response have looked like?
  - c. What happens when people are divisive in a church instead of unifying?
  - d. What are healthy ways that church members should be submissive to their pastors and elders?
  - e. How can you encourage the ministry leaders in your church?
4. What is your default response when called on to partner with God and your brethren in spreading the gospel? How are you preparing yourself?





SERIES 3 | SESSION 4

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

UNDAUNTED

SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 2:1-24

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Joshua sends two spies to ascertain the situation in the key city-state in central Canaan, Jericho. The spies go secretly, likely for military reasons and to protect Israel from an unfavorable report back at Kadesh. There, they meet Rahab, a harlot and thus a person of great gossip knowledge. Rahab believes in the Lord, for which she is rewarded with a covenant of *hesed* with the spies, a place in the Hebrew faith Hall of Fame, and a role in the Messiah's step-father's lineage. Both Rahab and the spies show remarkable trust in God and in each other. This combination of faith and *hesed* is similar to Ephesians 4, where the church prepares for conflict using the same tools.

OBJECTIVE

We prepare for conflict by faith and *hesed*.

UNITY IN THE SPIRIT

"Therefore I, the prisoner for the Lord, urge you to walk worthy of the calling you have received, with all humility and gentleness, with patience, accepting one another in love, diligently keeping the unity of the Spirit with the peace that binds us."

—Ephesians 4:4-6

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we are faithfully preparing for the next conflict.

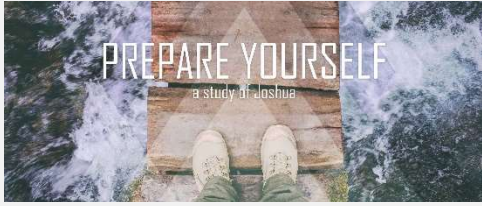
## Session 4: Prepare Yourself for Conflict

1. Review Joshua chapter 2 together.
2. How did Joshua prepare for conflict—the start of the conquest of Canaan?
  - a. How did Joshua's actions demonstrate wisdom?
  - b. What was the outcome for Joshua?
3. How did Rahab prepare for conflict—the impending fall of her city?
  - a. How did Rahab's actions demonstrate her faith?
  - b. What was the outcome for Rahab? (See Joshua 6:22-25, Hebrews 11:31, and Matthew 1:1-17, particularly verse 5.)
4. How did the two spies prepare for conflict—getting in and out of enemy territory?
  - a. How did the spies' actions demonstrate a *hesed* commitment?
  - b. What was the outcome for the two spies?
5. As Christians, how should we prepare for conflict?
  - a. What conflicts might come your way?
  - b. How can we demonstrate wisdom and faith in preparing for spiritual conflicts?
  - c. How can we demonstrate faith and *hesed* commitment in preparing for natural conflicts?
  - d. What helps us to endure conflicts?
  - e. What should we expect the outcome to be?



SERIES 3 | SESSION 5

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

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SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 3:1-17

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Joshua takes the people through their baptism of possession. Crossing the flooding Jordan is a miracle of epic proportions, and the story is redolent with powerful symbolism. Among the highlights:

- God is triumphant over all – truly the Lord of heaven and earth, as Rahab declared.
- God's Word is to be followed as a divine guide.
- God and His people demonstrate divine right to the land, as evidenced by their water trial (an ancient Near East practice).
- The priest is to be connected to the Scriptures in guiding God's people.

OBJECTIVE

We trust in and follow God and His Word.

A STEP OF FAITH

"Duty often calls us to take one step without knowing how we shall take the next; but if brought thus far by the leadings of Providence, and while engaged in his service, we may safely leave the event to him."

—George Bush (1852)

*Notes, Critical and Practical, on Joshua*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we trust and obey God's word in all circumstances.

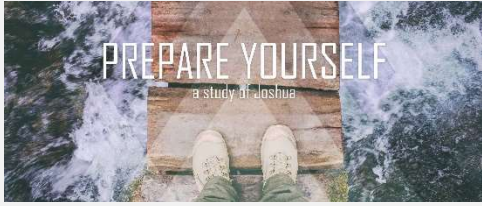
## Session 5: Prepare Yourself for a Miracle

1. Describe a time when you trusted in God despite overwhelming circumstances. What happened?
2. Read Joshua 3.
  - a. What aspects of this episode were miraculous?
  - b. What aspects of this episode demonstrated trust in "the Lord of the whole earth"?
  - c. How would this miracle prepare the nation for their uncertain future? (See verse 10.)
3. God promised His presence with them, just as He has for us.
  - a. Read Matthew 28:19-20; 1 Corinthians 3:16; 2 Corinthians 13:11; Philippians 4:9; Colossians 1:27; Hebrews 13:5; and 1 John 4:4.
  - b. How does this promise encourage your faith? Give some examples.
4. What are some ways in which you keep God's word "in sight" (that is, constantly in mind) so that you can follow it?
5. In verses 14-18, the entire nation trusted and obeyed. When is it most difficult for you to trust and obey God?
6. When you think about future challenges for the church, do you see a flooded Jordan or a dry river bed?



SERIES 3 | SESSION 6

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

UNDAUNTED

SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 4:1-24

KEY IDEAS

THEME

The men picked in Chapter 3 are now put to use by selecting 12 stones for a cairn, or standing remembrance, unto the Lord. Joshua gives us the purpose of this exercise in his speech, commenting that this memorial is two-fold:

- That the whole earth might know of God's power.
- That God's people might fear the Lord. Since awe of God is the beginning of wisdom, this becomes a pattern for God's people. Celebrating God's powerful provisions becomes an important step in learning and growing wise in the Lord.

OBJECTIVE

In our church and homes, we prepare for remembrances of God's power.

BY HIS POWER

"Seeing that rock pile and hearing the story, the people of Israel would know clearly that they had not crossed Jordan on their own. Those stones cried out, 'God did this! By His hand we have forded this river. By His power and faithfulness we have accomplished this!'"

—Lloyd Stille  
*The Lesson of the Stones*

PRAYER

Pray for each other this week, that we intentionally remember and tell of God's power.

## Session 6: Prepare Yourself for Remembrance

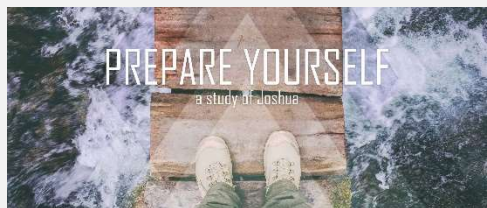
1. Is there something in your home which reminds you of a past event? Describe it.
2. Read Joshua 4:1-11.
  - a. Why did God want the Israelites to remember this event?
  - b. How long was the nation supposed to remember this event? How was that supposed to happen?
  - c. Why are spiritual memories valuable for us today?
3. Read verses 12-18.
  - a. How did God create unity among the people of Israel?
  - b. Why was unity going to be critical for them?
  - c. How important is unity for the church today? Why?
  - d. What are some ways in which the New Testament teaches us to live in unity?
4. Read Joshua 4:19-24.
  - a. What was God's two-fold purpose for this event?
  - b. Does your family have memories of God's past provision? If so, how have they been preserved, and how are they currently being passed on?
  - c. How does your life demonstrate the work of the Lord God Almighty?





SERIES 3 | SESSION 7

GROUP DISCUSSION



ANNUAL THEME 2021-2022

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SCRIPTURE READING

Joshua 5:1-12

KEY IDEAS

THEME

Joshua leads the people in Passover and circumcision. Each of these is a distinctive sacrifice that represents God's covenant with Israel. Each also hints at the coming new covenant in Jesus.

- In exercising the covenant sign of circumcision, the Israelites were making themselves a distinctive people. Thus, the reproach of Egypt – not wanting to advance in victory but to instead return to slavery – was rolled (Gilgal) away.
- The Passover is celebrated – a symbol of personal sacrifice and sovereign provision combined. As such, it becomes the perfect introduction to the hard work to come in possessing their new life in Israel.

OBJECTIVE

We circumcise our hearts before God.

CIRCUMCISION OF THE HEART

"Desire not to live, but to praise his name: Set your heart firm on him, and on other things only as they are in and from him. Let your soul be filled with so entire a love of him, that you may love nothing but for his sake."

—John Wesley  
*John Wesley Sermons, No. 17*

PRAYER

Pray for each other, that we live distinctive lives worthy of our calling.

## Session 7: Prepare Yourself for Distinction

1. Read Joshua 5:1-9.
  - a. What physical and spiritual problems needed to be addressed?
  - b. How did God respond to this obedience? Why was this important?
  - c. In Romans 2:28-29, Paul wrote of "circumcision of the heart." What does this look like for a Christian? (See, for example, Colossians 3:1-17.)
2. Read Joshua 5:10-12.
  - a. What past event was celebrated by the people? How could remembering that event have been particularly significant just before the conquest began?
  - b. How did Passover, which celebrated God's provision, also foreshadow God's future provision?
  - c. What was different about the 15th day of that month? How might you have reacted to the ending of this 40-year daily experience?
  - d. When has your daily routine been interrupted by God? What work was He doing in your life through that time?
3. Thinking back over this series, which of the "Prepare yourself. . ." statements resonated most with you, and why?
 

a. Prepare yourself for leadership	Joshua 1:1-9
b. Prepare yourself for teamwork	Joshua 1:10-18
c. Prepare yourself for conflict	Joshua 2
d. Prepare yourself for a miracle	Joshua 3
e. Prepare yourself for remembrance	Joshua 4
f. Prepare yourself for distinction	Joshua 5:1-12

