



## Loving Jesus, Loving People, Plowing a Counter-Culture

**SERMON TEXT:** Joshua 1

**KEY POINT:** God's calling is what sustains us in ministry.

### FOR LEADERS

- **Welcome back!:** Welcome back to Communities!! This Summer was a LONG one, for obvious reasons. If your group didn't meet last week for the series Intro, spend some time setting expectations for this Season. Otherwise, take some time making some introductions, if necessary, and open up your time tonight (and this season) in prayer!
- **Attendance!:** We're asking ALL of our Communities to take attendance on Emergence Connect this season. Please be sure to make a note of who attended your group this week, and input that on your weekly event in EConnect! If you need any assistance with this we're happy to help!

### GETTING STARTED

**[1] Communities Video:** Watch this week's community extras video!

**[2] Icebreaker:** Name the biggest challenge you faced this summer during quarantine, as well as one blessing you discovered.

**[3] Opener:** What was one takeaway you had from the sermon this week?

### THE POWER OF GOD'S CALLING

**Ask for a volunteer to read Joshua 1:1-5.**

The beginning of the book of Joshua opens with God handing the ministry of leading Israel from Moses to Joshua. In the sermon Ryan explained how these were very big shoes to fill but reminded us that Moses was not without his own shortcomings and weaknesses.

**[1]** In the sermon, Ryan joked about how Moses was, "The guy after the guy," implying that stepping into leadership after a great leader has gone before you is inherently difficult. Do you agree with this? Name a time where you either saw or experienced a leader stepping into the leadership "shoes" of someone before them.

**Ask for volunteers to read Exodus 4:1-17, and 3: 10-12.**

**[2]** What were some of the weaknesses that Moses was challenged with and what was the true reason for his success in ministry?

**[3]** How do you think this account of Moses compares with God's commission of Joshua in Joshua 1:5, and Jesus' Commission to us in Matthew 28:18-20.

**[4]** What are some of your own weaknesses or incompetencies that you struggle with? How should Jesus' promise to be with us in Matthew 28 help us see past those incompetencies?

**[5]** Many times the truths in this passage are mistakenly taken in the wrong direction. One way this happens is by assuming that, since God will be "with us" in ministry, we have no need to adequately address our incompetencies. In what way is this unbiblical? How should we guard against using this promise from God as an excuse for either being "unqualified" for ministry, or otherwise ignore our shortcomings?



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***THE PRIORITY OF GOD'S CALLING***

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**Ask for a volunteer to read Joshua 1:6-9.**

- [6]** According to this text, from where does true strength and courage come? What does it look like, practically, for us to be faithful with the kind of strength and courage this passage is talking about?
- [7]** What do you think are some of the greatest challenges and frustrations facing us today?
- [8]** What does studying the Bible look like for you today? How would you like it to look? Are there any aspects about your time in God's Word that you'd like to see changed?

**Ask for a volunteer to read James: 1:22-25.**

- [9]** How can we make sure that there isn't a disconnect between what we read in Scripture, and how we behave in our day to day lives?

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***PREPARING GOD'S PEOPLE FOR THEIR CALLING***

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The passage that we most often return to for keeping our calling front and center is Jesus' Great Commission in Matthew 28:18-20. Take a moment to read this together as a group.

- [10]** What is it that Jesus is calling us to in this passage?
- [11]** What are some things that God's people can sometimes end up committing themselves to that may not have much to do with Jesus' commission to us?
- [12]** In what way does a deep knowledge of God's Word help us in fulfilling this calling?

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***PRAYER***

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- [1]** Pray for those in your group who may be struggling with some unique challenges of this season, as well as those who've been heavily impacted by the virus and subsequent lockdowns.
- [2]** Pray that God would give us a love for His Word, a passion to study it, and make us fruitful in this season.
- [3]** Pray that the Lord would give us the kind of strength and courage these passages speak of to help us fulfill Jesus' calling on our lives.