



Rooted

IN HIS WORD



A Year Through The Bible

OBEDIENCE



Rooted In His Word: Obedience

Genesis 1 – Creation

January 3, 2021

FOR THE LEADER

"In the beginning..." These first three words given in scripture completely sets the stage for the entire sixty-six books of the Bible. In 2021 Lexington Baptist Church will embark on an amazing journey, "walking through the Bible" in a year. Your class will rediscover the amazing truths our Lord has for us. Think about that, our entire church, every age, every grade, every person no matter the stage of life they are in will be going through the scriptures together each week. Our purpose and goal this year are to spur cross-generational conversations about the Bible. Today we begin with Genesis, the first book of the Bible.

In today's lesson we will uncover Biblical truths as we examine God's masterful work at creation. The goal today is for us to see the role of Grace as God's words spoke into being the creation of the world.

MAIN GOAL: To see the role of grace as God's words spoke into being the creation of the world.

TODAY'S TRUTHS:

TRUTH #1: God created the world for HIS GLORY. Everything was created to glorify God.

TRUTH #2: God created grace for HIS GLORY.

I. INTRODUCTION

Why Did God create everything?

Read Genesis 1:1-5

In the beginning, God created the heavens and the earth. 2 The earth was without form and void, and darkness was over the face of the deep. And the Spirit of God was hovering over the face of the waters. 3 And God said, "Let there be light," and there was light. 4 And God saw that the light was good. And God separated the light from the darkness. 5 God called the light Day, and the darkness he called Night. And there was evening and there was morning, the first day.

The message from Genesis 1—God created the heavens and the earth and mankind. The truth that God alone creates "ex nihilo", "out of nothing," teaches God created Adam and Eve and he creates every person on earth. God was at the beginning and at our beginning. Creation proves that everything he created is significant to God, especially man who he created in his own image. "In the beginning, God created."

The first five words, from Genesis 1, give us a clear picture in understanding God. I can't think of a more powerful statement. God created. God created out of his passion and love for us. It shows us God's control and authority at creation. It shows us how he prepared the earth for mankind. Of course, not everyone agrees with our confidence in God's creation. The first few words of the Bible begin with an epic statement, "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth." With that statement, the Word of God affirms the existence of the universe and everything in it as the result of God's creative act. These five words tell us...

- There is ONE true God.
- The ONE true God existed before the universe was created and will continue to exist long after the world is gone.
- The ONE true God is the Creator of the universe; therefore, the universe depends on Him.

You may remember Carl Sagan, the astronomer. He promoted astronomy and its "billions and billions" of stars. Sagan saw no real meaning in the universe. He called it, "a random collection of natural forces," (BIG BANG). Even the term "nature", which is now so much more common than "creation;" seems to suggest that there is nothing behind the natural world, that everything around us happened by chance or some inevitable force just happened to create life itself. As Christians we can't comprehend the idea of no director, no creator, no author of the world. It takes an unshakable faith to confess "I believe in God the Father, Creator of heaven and earth." It takes faith to believe there was a beginning and that at the beginning, the Heavenly Father created everything.

Read Psalm 33:4-9

"For the word of the Lord is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness. ⁵He loves righteousness and justice; the earth is full of the steadfast love of the Lord. ⁶By the word of the Lord the heavens were made, and by the breath of his mouth all their host. He gathers the waters of the sea as a heap; he puts the deeps in storehouses. ⁸Let all the earth fear the Lord; let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of him! ⁹For he spoke, and it came to be; he commanded, and it stood firm."

The book of John in chapter one opens with these words, ***"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. ²He was in the beginning with God. ³All things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. ⁴In him was life, and the life was the light of men. ⁵The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."*** (John 1:1-5)

God created out of nothing, "ex nihilo", by the power of His spoken words. Nothing, at creation happened by chance but only when God spoke life-giving Words. God's command caused light to shine in darkness, separated the waters from the dry land, it brought forth greenery, animals, and creatures of the sea. His spoken words defined the sky and brought form to the world. And at the end of each day, God also pronounced a blessing on all that He made, saying, "It was good." Each day, during the days of creation, the uttered words of the Father sounded forth and created all things. Each day God saw what had been made and called it "good."

Why did God create the world? What do you think His purpose was?

II. GET FOCUSED

Read Genesis 1:26-31

"Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth." ²⁷So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸And God blessed them. And God said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth." ²⁹And given every green plant for food." And it was so. ³¹And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day.

Reflect on verse 31. In your mind why did God say this time "it was very good"?

TRUTH #1: GOD CREATED THE WORLD FOR HIS GLORY. EVERYTHING WAS CREATED TO GLORIFY GOD.

Read Isaiah 43:6-7

"I will say to the north, Give up, and to the south, Do not withhold; bring my sons from afar and my daughters from the end of the earth, everyone who is called by my name, whom I created for my glory, whom I formed and made."

How does it make you feel to read those words, "whom I created for my glory?"

Read Genesis 1:27

"So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them."

How is being created in God's image a reflection of His Glory?

We reflect the image of God, and at creation God made us to be distinctive and different. Every day we reflect the glory of God because we were created in His image. Many people feel judged and struggle with personal appearance and self-value.

How does knowing that we are a direct reflection of the image of God help us with self-esteem?

How does it help you help others who struggle with these things?

When God created the world, he did not do it based on personal need, personal gain or weakness. God didn't have a deficiency he needed to cover up. He wasn't lonely, he created all things out of strength and complete abundance. As Jonathan Edwards said, "Tis no argument of the emptiness or deficiency of a fountain that it is inclined to overflow." We can't improve on God's glory. We can live for him and by that others will see his glory.

Does this conflict with or support your view of creation?

What is the most important part of creation in your view?

What role does FAITH play in analyzing what God did over six days?

What part of the creation story do you find most energizing or exciting?

SCIENCE'S VIEWPOINT:

Keep in mind, not every scientist looks at the world and sees accidental or random chance like Carl Sagan did. Robert Milliken, a winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics, once wrote, "When I view the universe, at its microcosm and macrocosm, its incredible order, and ponder its vast unknown and unknowable, I join the Psalmist of old and say, 'The heavens declare the glory of God and the firmament sheweth forth His handiwork.'"

Read Psalm 19:1

"The heavens declare the glory of God, and the sky above proclaims his handiwork."

Why is explaining creation so difficult?

YOUR VIEWPOINT

TRUTH #2: GOD CREATED GRACE FOR HIS GLORY.

What God made was perfect, but it wasn't going to remain that way. It wasn't long before sin entered the hearts of both man and woman. The wonder of the Gospel is that the same God who created the world later made provision to redeem the world. (Genesis 3)

Read Ephesians 1:3-10

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, ⁴even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him. In love ⁵he predestined us for adoption to himself as sons through Jesus Christ, according to the purpose of his will, ⁶to the praise of his glorious grace, with which he has blessed us in the Beloved. ⁷In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace, ⁸which he lavished upon us, in all wisdom and insight ⁹making known to us the mystery of his will, according to his purpose, which he set forth in Christ ¹⁰as a plan for the fullness of time, to unite all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth."

How do you define grace?

Based on the verses we just looked at, how do you interpret verse 4?

How and where do we see God's grace in the creation story?

GRACE IN CREATION THROUGH JESUS:

Read 2 Timothy 1:8-9

"Therefore do not be ashamed of the testimony about our Lord, nor of me his prisoner, but share in suffering for the gospel by the power of God, ⁹who saved us and called us to a holy calling, not because of our works but because of his own purpose and grace, which he gave us in Christ Jesus before the ages began..."

What does 2 Timothy 1:9 show us about grace?

GRACE IN THE FALL OF MAN:

Read Genesis 3:1-13

Now the serpent was more crafty than any other beast of the field that the Lord God had made. He said to the woman, "Did God actually say, 'You shall not eat of any tree in the garden'?" ²And the woman said to the serpent, "We may eat of the fruit of the trees in the garden, ³but God said, 'You shall not eat of the fruit of the tree that is in the midst of the garden, neither shall you touch it, lest you die.'" ⁴But the serpent said to the woman, "You will not surely die. ⁵For God knows that when you eat of it your eyes will be opened, and you will be like God, knowing good and evil." ⁶So when the woman saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate. ⁷Then the eyes of both were opened, and they knew that they were naked. And they sewed fig leaves together and made themselves loincloths. ⁸And they heard the sound of the Lord God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God among the trees of the garden. ⁹But the Lord God called to the man and said to him, "Where are you?" ¹⁰And he said, "I heard the sound of you in the garden, and I was afraid, because I was naked, and I hid myself." ¹¹He said, "Who told you that you were naked? Have you eaten of the tree of which I commanded you not to eat?" ¹²The man said, "The woman whom you gave to be with me, she gave me fruit of the tree, and I ate." ¹³Then the Lord God said to the woman, "What is this that you have done?" The woman said, "The serpent deceived me, and I ate."

How did God show grace to Adam and Eve?

How does his grace play out in your own life?

YOUR VIEWPOINT:

III. CONCLUSION

This morning we started with this question, why did God create the world? Now, after we have discussed “why God created the world,” what are your thoughts?

God created the world for his glory. God did not create out of need. He did not create the world out of a deficiency that needed to be made up. He was not lonely. In fact, we can be certain He was completely happy in the fellowship of the Trinity — Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. He created the world to put His glory on display that his people might know him and love him the way he loves them.

IV. EXTRA TIME

Why did He create a world that would become like this world — a world that fell into sin, a world that exchanged HIS glory for the glory of images and idols? Why do you think our God would allow, permit, guide and sustain such a world?

V. MEMORY VERSE

Genesis 12:2

Rooted In His Word: Obedience

Genesis 12 – God’s Redemption

January 10, 2021

FOR THE LEADER

Have you ever played a team-building game where ultimate trust in someone else is required? For instance, the Trust Fall, one person falls backwards trusting that two others will catch him/her before he/she hits the ground. Trust is something that is earned. Trust in all phases of life is important. Until we trust someone completely, we can’t have full faith in their abilities. Our lesson today will focus on two important aspects of Abram’s life. First, we will look at his faith to follow the Lord, then we will see his failure in handling a critical moment where trust in God was needed.

Today our focal passage will be Genesis 12. Our goal for today is for your class members to trust God wholeheartedly and for their faith to extend beyond the normal borders set by society. The world struggles to understand faith and trust in an unseen God. Faith is the foundation of what we believe. Trust is how we put faith into action. This is often true with Christians as well. So often we struggle in our daily routines to fully trust the Father and recognize his sovereignty.

MAIN GOAL: For your class members to trust God wholeheartedly and for their faith to extend beyond the normal borders set by society.

TODAY’S TRUTHS:

TRUTH #1: It takes remarkable faith to trust Jesus and follow where He leads.

TRUTH #2: Our level of trust will bring either success or failure in our walk with Christ.

TRUTH #3: Even in moments when our faith is weak, God will intervene on our behalf because of His love for us.

I. INTRODUCTION

Everyone everywhere seems to ask a similar question when it comes to their relationship with God. They want to know, “What is God’s will for my life?” In the first nine verses of Genesis 12, Abram is given a strong invitation by God to “GO and become a blessing for all of mankind.” The words spoken in these verses, by the Lord will change the trajectory of Abram’s life forever. Abram has a choice to make, follow the directions given by God, and be blessed, or live outside the will of God forever. Abram is told great things will happen and even greater things will come if he follows where the Lord is leading him. The choice and outcome to follow would be left to Abram. Follow God, and the promises God made would be fulfilled (his name would be great), stay and do nothing and Abram would be showing his disobedience to the Father. Truth is, all of us have our own personal agendas, we all have individual goals and desires we want to fulfill. But what happens when our agenda doesn’t coincide with God’s?

Read Genesis 12:1-2

Now the LORD said to Abram, “Go from your country and your kindred and your father’s house to the land that I will show you. ²And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.

How does God challenge Abram in Genesis 12:1?

Have you ever been in Abram's shoes? Have you ever felt God saying to move away, leave what you have always known? Or has he called you to make a radical change in some area of life? If so, how did you respond? If not, what do you think you would do if put in that position?

Read Genesis 11:27-30

Now these are the generations of Terah. Terah fathered Abram, Nahor, and Haran; and Haran fathered Lot. ²⁸Haran died in the presence of his father Terah in the land of his kindred, in Ur of the Chaldeans. ²⁹And Abram and Nahor took wives. The name of Abram's wife was Sarai, and the name of Nahor's wife, Milcah, the daughter of Haran the father of Milcah and Iscah. ³⁰Now Sarai was barren; she had no child.

In verse 30 we learn Sarai, Abram's wife, is barren and cannot conceive a child. How does Genesis 11:30 and Genesis 12:2 create tension for Abram as God calls him to leave and follow Him?

God's request of Abram challenges him to leave everything behind and follow a new direction in life. How does God's request challenge Abram? How is this going to completely change his personal identity? (Like all of us Abram's personal security, family, and surroundings made him who he was. Now he was being asked to change.)

II. GET FOCUSED

TRUTH #1: IT TAKES REMARKABLE FAITH TO TRUST JESUS AND FOLLOW WHERE HE LEADS.

Read Genesis 12:3

³I will bless those who bless you, and him who dishonors you I will curse, and in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed.

Abram was asked to abandon everything and trust God with his future. In verse three we read the remarkable words given to Abram.

- "I will bless **those** who bless you."
- "And **him who** dishonors you I will curse."
- "In you **all** the families of the earth shall be blessed."

It is important for us to recognize how God's favor is being poured out to others. Consider, Abram had to follow God to receive the blessing, now we see how others receive Abram will determine their blessing or curse. The people who are positive towards Abram will receive God's favor; others will feel how displeased God is with them.

The text shows us Abram will be a blessing to others more than God will curse those who aren't positive towards him. Notice God says that He will bless those (plural) and will curse him (singular).

What do you think verse three teaches us about Abram's future?

The Lord completes this statement in verse three, "... in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed!

Read Genesis 22:18, 26:4 and Genesis 28:14

26:18 and in your offspring shall all the nations of the earth be blessed, because you have obeyed my voice.

26:4 I will multiply your offspring as the stars of heaven and will give to your offspring all these lands. And in your offspring all the nations of the earth shall be blessed...

28:14 Your offspring shall be like the dust of the earth, and you shall spread abroad to the west and to the east and to the north and to the south, and in you and your offspring shall all the families of the earth be blessed.

How do these verses back up the promises made in Genesis 12:3?

YOUR VIEWPOINT

Notes on Abram's dilemma and your personal response:

TRUTH #2: OUR LEVEL OF TRUST WILL BRING EITHER SUCCESS OR FAILURE IN OUR WALK WITH CHRIST.

Discuss the difference between a high level of trust in the Lord and a low level of trust. When our trust in the Lord decreases our declining faith causes us to make poor choices.

How do faith and failure go together?

When has your faith been a strength and brought success? When has your faith been a weakness and brought failure?

Based on their faith, how were Abram and Sarai going to find success or failure in their walk with God?

Read Genesis 12:4-9

So Abram went, as the LORD had told him, and Lot went with him. Abram was seventy-five years old when he departed from Haran. ⁵And Abram took Sarai his wife, and Lot his brother's son, and all their possessions that they had gathered, and the people that they had acquired in Haran, and they set out to go to the land of Canaan. When they came to the land of Canaan, ⁶Abram passed through the land to the place at Shechem, to the oak of Moreh. At that time the Canaanites were in the land. ⁷Then the LORD appeared to Abram and said, "To your offspring I will give this land." So he built there an altar to the LORD, who had appeared to him. ⁸From there he moved to the hill country on the east of Bethel and pitched his tent, with Bethel on the west and Ai on the east. And there he built an altar to the LORD and called upon the name of the LORD. ⁹And Abram journeyed on, still going toward the Negeb.

How does Abram show his faith in these verses? The move from Haran to Canaan was no small task. With all his possessions and all the people with him, how does this show his faith?

Read Genesis 14:14

When Abram heard that his kinsman had been taken captive, he led forth his trained men, born in his house, 318 of them, and went in pursuit as far as Dan.

Read Genesis 12:10-20

Now there was a famine in the land. So Abram went down to Egypt to sojourn there, for the famine was severe in the land. ¹¹When he was about to enter Egypt, he said to Sarai his wife, "I know that you are a woman beautiful in appearance, ¹²and when the Egyptians see you, they will say, 'This is his wife.' Then they will kill me, but they will let you live. ¹³Say you are my sister, that it may go well with me because of you, and that my life may be spared for your sake." ¹⁴When Abram entered Egypt, the Egyptians saw that the woman was very beautiful. ¹⁵And when the princes of Pharaoh saw her, they praised her to Pharaoh. And the woman was taken into Pharaoh's house. ¹⁶And for her sake he dealt well with Abram; and he had sheep, oxen, male donkeys, male servants, female servants, female donkeys, and camels. ¹⁷But the LORD afflicted Pharaoh and his house with great plagues because of Sarai, Abram's wife. ¹⁸So Pharaoh called Abram and said, "What is this you have done to me? Why did you not tell me that she was your wife? ¹⁹Why did you say, 'She is my sister,' so that I took her for my wife? Now then, here is your wife; take her, and go." ²⁰And Pharaoh gave men orders concerning him, and they sent him away with his wife and all that he had.

How does Abram show his lack of faith in these verses?

YOUR VIEWPOINT

TRUTH #3: EVEN IN MOMENTS WHEN OUR FAITH IS WEAK, GOD WILL INTERVENE ON OUR BEHALF BECAUSE OF HIS LOVE FOR US.

Abram in these verses shows his lack of faith. Think back over the verses we've read today and make two lists. In what ways did Abram show great faith and what ways did he show a weakness of faith?

Abram's Strong Faith	Abram's Weak Faith

Make two lists for yourself. Over the last year when have you shown strong faith and when have you shown a weakness of faith?

Abram's Strong Faith	Abram's Weak Faith

Even in his moments of weakness, God intervened on behalf of Abram. What did God do?

Why do you think God intervened? Was Abram's lack of faith going to impact God's plan to make Abram a blessing to all nations?

YOUR VIEWPOINT

III. CONCLUSION

Genesis 12 is filled with great reminders for all of us. So often in life when our faith gets tested it's hard to trust God and depend on Him fully. When we are faced with difficult decisions, our focus must turn to our faith in the Almighty God. We must remember that he has a plan and we must be willing to stay the course set by the Father. God's will for all of us starts and ends with our faithfulness. When our faith lapses and we don't trust God completely we fall into the trap Satan has set for us. Being faithful to God means trusting Him in both the easy times and the hard times. It means committing to his will and trusting his plan for our lives fully. So, the next time you are in a difficult situation that requires faithfulness, remember these three things.

TRUTH #1: It takes remarkable faith to trust Jesus and follow where He leads.

TRUTH #2: Our level of trust will bring either success or failure in our walk with Christ.

TRUTH #3: Even in moments when our faith is weak, God will intervene on our behalf because of His love for us.

God said that the whole world would be blessed through Abram, what is the blessing that the whole world has received?

What have you learned from today's lesson that will help you in your faith walk moving forward?

IV. EXTRA TIME

Name other times in scripture Abraham showed great faith:

Can you name other great leaders from scripture who showed great strength and weakness in times where faith was needed? (ex. David, Moses)

V. PRAYER

Pray that your faith will be strong in difficult circumstances

VI. MEMORY VERSE

Exodus 3:5

Rooted In His Word: Obedience

Exodus 3:1-22 - Moses

January 17, 2021

FOR THE LEADER

This week we are going to be studying from a very familiar passage of scripture. Exodus 3 is Moses' call by God to go and win the release of the Israelites from the hands of the Egyptians. Moses wasn't exactly the leader you would expect knowing the magnitude of the task at hand. His past and his present situations presented challenges that only God would be able to help him overcome. In addition, Moses had personal insecurities and a severe lack of self-confidence which led him to believe he wasn't capable of such a huge task. Our goal today is to help your class understand we all have a divine calling on our lives, and we can't allow self-doubt to keep us from fulfilling God's ultimate purpose.

MAIN GOAL: No matter what our past or present looks like, God is building a path for our future.

TODAY'S TRUTHS:

TRUTH #1: Knowing the promises God made in the past helps us anticipate God's promises for the future.

TRUTH #2: God is holy, and only He can declare a place or a person holy.

TRUTH #3: It is important for us to always remember, God doesn't break His promises.

TRUTH #4: God's presence confirms our calling and revives our purpose.

I. INTRODUCTION

Background on Moses... Moses was born during a difficult time for Israelites. At the time of his birth, Pharaoh issued a decree to the midwives of the Hebrew women for all male boys to be killed, and all females were to live. Twice in Exodus 1, the scriptures use the phrase, "The midwives feared God." The midwives feared God more than they feared Pharaoh. The midwives told Pharaoh, "the Hebrew women are strong and give birth before we arrive." This was a sign God was blessing the Israelites and was giving them families. Pharaoh became enraged when he learned this and ordered all male boys to be thrown into the Nile and drowned. Pharaoh worried the Israelite boys would join a foreign army and destroy Egypt. When Moses was born, his mother hid him for three months, then took him and placed him in a basket among the reeds by the bank of the river. When the daughter of Pharaoh came down to bathe, she saw the basket and sent her servant to go check it out. Moses' sister watched as this took place then asked Pharaoh's daughter if she should get a Hebrew woman to nurse the child. Because Pharaoh's daughter felt sorry for the child she agreed, and Moses' own mother was able to nurse and raise him. When he grew older his mother took him to Pharaoh's daughter and he became her son, and she is the one who actually named him Moses, which means, 'to pull out or draw out', since he was taken out of water.

How does the story of Moses' childhood prove God really does have a purpose for every person?

Read Exodus 2:11-22

One day, when Moses had grown up, he went out to his people and looked on their burdens, and he saw an Egyptian beating a Hebrew, one of his people. ¹²He looked this way and that, and seeing no one, he struck down the Egyptian and hid him in the sand.

All of us have things in our past that we wish we could erase. There are decisions we've made, actions we've committed, or circumstances that were out of our control that we wish we could just wipe away. But God is not limited by our past or present. There is nothing we've done or are currently doing that makes us unusable to God. Moses killed an Egyptian and ran. He thought he was unusable, scarred, an outsider unworthy of God, but God didn't see it that way. God pursued Moses because God had a plan for him.

MAIN GOAL: No matter what our past or present looks like, God is building a path for our future.

II. GET FOCUSED

Read Exodus 2:23-25

During those many days the king of Egypt died, and the people of Israel groaned because of their slavery and cried out for help. Their cry for rescue from slavery came up to God. ²⁴And God heard their groaning, and God remembered his covenant with Abraham, with Isaac, and with Jacob.

²⁵God saw the people of Israel—and God knew.

What did God hear, remember, and know from these verses?

BACKGROUND: Exodus 1:1-7 lays the foundation for what was to come. The Abrahamic covenant found in Genesis 12, which we studied last week sets the stage for what is transpiring now with Moses. God's covenant with Abraham was for a great nation meaning Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob would be defined by the covenant relationship God made with them not the slavery they were under.

Why is it important for us to remember the covenant God had made with Abraham?

TRUTH #1: KNOWING THE PROMISES GOD MADE IN THE PAST HELPS US ANTICIPATE GOD'S PROMISES FOR THE FUTURE.

God wasn't going to sit idly by while his people, the great nation of Israel, suffered at the hands of Pharaoh. He heard their cries for help and remembered the promise he had made to them. Sometimes we forget how God has responded to us in the past because of something we are facing currently.

Tell of a time in your life when you forgot how God brought you through something because you were facing a new challenge in the present?

Before we dig into the call of God placed on Moses, take a minute and explore the passages we read earlier. In Exodus 2:11-22, we journey with Moses through some very interesting situations.

How do you think killing a man, fleeing his country, becoming alienated from both the Hebrews and his Egyptian family, and marrying into a priest's family impacted him for his future calling?

How do you think these things shaped his self-confidence?

How do you think they would have impacted you if you were in his place?

What promises can you claim today from your past that will help you in the future?

Read Exodus 3:1-12

Now Moses was keeping the flock of his father-in-law, Jethro, the priest of Midian, and he led his flock to the west side of the wilderness and came to Horeb, the mountain of God. ²And the angel of the LORD appeared to him in a flame of fire out of the midst of a bush. He looked, and behold, the bush was burning, yet it was not consumed. ³And Moses said, "I will turn aside to see this great sight, why the bush is not burned." ⁴When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

⁷Then the LORD said, "I have surely seen the affliction of my people who are in Egypt and have heard their cry because of their taskmasters. I know their sufferings, ⁸and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. ⁹And now, behold, the cry of the people of Israel has come to me, and I have also seen the oppression with which the Egyptians oppress them. ¹⁰Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." ¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" ¹²He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

God speaks to Moses through a burning bush. In verses 4-6, God reveals himself. He categorizes the area as holy and reminds Moses of his true identity.

God reveals himself as the One True God, and commands Moses to remove his sandals for the "...place where you are standing is Holy ground."

YOUR VIEWPOINT

TRUTH #2: GOD IS HOLY, AND ONLY HE CAN DECLARE A PLACE OR A PERSON HOLY.

What made the place holy?

What does that teach us about God's holiness?

The presence of God is what makes a place Holy, not a building, or dirt, or mortar. There are plenty of churches, homes and structures in our country and around the world that lack the presence of God. The building is just a building; but if God resides there it becomes a holy place due to the presence and power of the Holy Spirit.

Share with your class when and where you have experienced the Holiness of God in your life.

Read Exodus 3:4-6 again

When the LORD saw that he turned aside to see, God called to him out of the bush, "Moses, Moses!" And he said, "Here I am." ⁵Then he said, "Do not come near; take your sandals off your feet, for the place on which you are standing is holy ground." ⁶And he said, "I am the God of your father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob." And Moses hid his face, for he was afraid to look at God.

How does God explain who He is as He speaks to Moses?

God identifies himself in verse six as, "The God of your Father, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, the God of Jacob." Why is that important?

YOUR VIEWPOINT

TRUTH #3: IT IS IMPORTANT FOR US TO ALWAYS REMEMBER, GOD DOESN'T BREAK HIS PROMISES.

God reveals Himself this way so Moses will identify with Him. God is helping Moses remember his roots. He was from the offspring of Abraham and therefore he belonged to the people God had made the covenant with years before.

By reminding Moses of his covenant and promises, Moses had to realize this was a special moment. How does Moses respond? (v.6)

Why do you think Moses hid his face?

Compare and contrast Moses' response in verse six to his response in verse three?

What changed? Why was he now hiding his face when before he looked directly at the burning bush?

Why was Moses so eager to say, "Here I Am," but so quick to turn away when God revealed himself?

YOUR VIEWPOINT

TRUTH #4: GOD'S PRESENCE CONFIRMS OUR CALLING AND REVIVES OUR PURPOSE.

Read Exodus 3:10-12 again

Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." ¹¹But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" ¹²He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

How does Moses respond to the news that God had a purpose for him?

How does God's response, "But I will be with you..." prove to us His love for Moses and to all who accept the call to fulfill their individual purposes?

God's words empowered Moses. Now Moses knew he would not be alone on his journey. Moses was carrying out a God-ordained plan that included the Presence of God. In scripture when God called someone to do something, He was with them. Moses may not have grasped the magnitude of that but at least he knew he wasn't being thrown out there all alone.

How does this help Moses overcome his doubt and insecurities?

How does it make you feel to know God is always with us and he doesn't send his people out all alone?

YOUR VIEWPOINT

III. CONCLUSION

MAIN GOAL: No matter what our past or present looks like, God is building a path for our future.

God's calling of Moses included a confirming sign. God tells Moses the mountain they are standing on will be a place they will worship and serve Him. The future promise after everything he had been through had to have been an uplifting moment for Moses. His past was filled with miracles and bad decisions. And yet, God had a huge task and purpose for him to accomplish.

Have you ever allowed your past to hinder you from experiencing the fullness of your role in God's will?

IV. EXTRA TIME

Read Exodus 3:13-21

Then Moses said to God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'What is his name?' what shall I say to them?" ¹⁴God said to Moses, "I AM WHO I AM." And he said, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'I AM has sent me to you.'"¹⁵God also said to Moses, "Say this to the people of Israel: 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, has sent me to you.' This is my name forever, and thus I am to be remembered throughout all generations.

¹⁶Go and gather the elders of Israel together and say to them, 'The LORD, the God of your fathers, the God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob, has appeared to me, saying, "I have observed you and what has been done to you in Egypt, ¹⁷and I promise that I will bring you up out of the affliction of Egypt to the land of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites, a land flowing with milk and honey.'" ¹⁸And they will listen to your voice, and you and the elders of Israel shall go to the king of Egypt and say to him, 'The LORD, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us; and now, please let us go a three days' journey into the wilderness, that we may sacrifice to the LORD our God.' ¹⁹But I know that the king of Egypt will not let you go unless compelled by a mighty hand. ²⁰So I will stretch out my hand and strike Egypt with all the wonders that I will do in it; after that he will let you go. ²¹And I will give this people favor in the sight of the Egyptians; and when you go, you shall not go empty.

When Moses asks God, "If I come to the people of Israel and say to them, 'The God of your fathers has sent me to you,' and they ask me, 'what is his name?' What shall I say to them;" do you think Moses received the answer he expected?

In v.18 Moses is told, the people will listen to him. In this situation would that have been hard or easy for you to comprehend? Why?

How do these verses prove what God had said to Moses when he told him in verse 12, "But I will be with you..."?

V. PRAYER

Pray that we will respond and be obedient when God calls us to do something.

VI. MEMORY VERSE

Exodus 14:29

Rooted In His Word: Obedience

Exodus 20:1-21 – The Ten Commandments

January 24, 2021

FOR THE LEADER

If you grew up going to church, I would imagine, if someone asked you right now, you could probably name at least half of the Ten Commandments without giving it much thought. The Law or Ten Words as it was known, gave the expectation God had for his people in the Old Testament and in many ways shaped the legal fabric of our world today. The Commandments were given to Moses at Mount Sinai, following their release from Pharaoh. God gave them to Moses to share with the people. The Ten Commandments were given to define for both Jews and Gentiles the kind of moral lifestyle God calls his people to live. Today our focus will be on the expectation of obedience God expects from his people.

Read Exodus 34:28

So he was there with the LORD forty days and forty nights. He neither ate bread nor drank water. And he wrote on the tablets the words of the covenant, the Ten Commandments.

What makes the Ten Commandments so distinctive from other rules or government commands?

1. They were spoken by God Himself.
2. They set in motion God's will for human life as He wrote it originally on the heart of man.

The Ten Commandments were not first thought of on Mount Sinai. The Commandments were previously written on the heart of man, not on tablets. We find them throughout the book of Genesis. Here are just a few examples...

Genesis 35:2 – "Get rid of other gods." (No other gods)

Genesis 2:3 – "God blessed the seventh day and made it Holy." (Sabbath)

Genesis 4:9 – "Where is your brother." (Do not kill)

Genesis 44:4-7 – "Why have you stolen my silver cup." (Do not steal)

MAIN GOAL: The Ten Commandments weren't arbitrary ideas for living, they were necessary for God's people to fulfill the Great Commission.

TODAY'S TRUTHS:

TRUTH #1: Experiencing God's grace is essential before we can attempt to follow God's law (the Ten Commandments).

TRUTH #2: There is one true God, and we should worship Him in spirit and in truth.

TRUTH #3: We have an expectation to keep the Lord's day holy.

TRUTH #4: How we live our lives is a direct result of our ability to love the Lord with all our heart, soul, and might.

I. INTRODUCTION

In 1963, the U.S. Supreme Court decided that reading the Bible and reciting the Lord's Prayer in public schools violates the U.S. Constitution. Then in 1980, the court ruled it is unconstitutional for public school to post the Ten Commandments on classroom walls. Here was the reasoning by a 5-4 vote.

"If the posted copies of the Ten Commandments are to have any affect at all it will be to induce the schoolchildren to read, meditate upon, perhaps to venerate and obey, the Commandments. However desirable this might be as a matter of private devotion it is not permissible state objective under the Establishment clause."

In other words, don't post the Ten Commandments because students might actually read, obey, and follow them. It is easy to blame the media or government for the lack of morals in our country, but truthfully believers are just as much to blame. The influence of moral relativism in our churches has created misconceptions as to what is sin and what isn't. Too many church-going believers think grace is a right afforded to them and they aren't going to be held accountable. In other words, "It doesn't matter if I sin, God will forgive me."

Understanding God's Law is vital for believers. If you have carefully and prayerfully contemplated the subject, you already understand how God's law is essential for a healthy Christian life. As we jump into our study, keep in mind we can't grasp the Law of God without knowing the grace of God.

Read Exodus 20:1-2

And God spoke all these words, saying, ²"I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery."

At the end of chapter 19, Moses has stopped speaking. God Himself is going to speak the Ten Commandments to the people. Moses went up on the mountain and brought the tablets back, but it was God who spoke the words. Consider for a moment how beautiful these words are, God is about to command His will to the people. It's not Moses' will. It's not a collection of rules based on tradition. This was not the idea of men. The words about to be spoken were the will of God. God Himself says, "Moses, step aside. I'm going to speak directly to My people." God directly gives the commands and from that we learn His will and His expectations for His people. The Ten Commandments can be divided into three distinct groups. God tells us how to worship, how to work, and how to live.

TRUTH #1: EXPERIENCING GOD'S GRACE IS ESSENTIAL BEFORE WE CAN ATTEMPT TO FOLLOW GOD'S LAW (THE TEN COMMANDMENTS).

Grace is the gift given to us by God without any merit of our own. (Ephesians 2:8-10)

Where do you see grace in the Ten Commandments?

II. GET FOCUSED

As we have already mentioned, we will be looking at the Ten Commandments and dividing them into three distinct groups; (1) How We Worship, (2) How We Work, and (3) How We Live. Let's look at our worship of God.

1. HOW WE WORSHIP

Read Exodus 20:3-7

"You shall have no other gods before me. ⁴"You shall not make for yourself a carved image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth. ⁵You shall not bow down to them or serve them, for I the LORD your God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers on the children to the third and the fourth generation of those who hate me, ⁶but showing steadfast love to thousands of those who love me and keep my commandments. ⁷"You shall not take the name of the LORD your God in vain, for the LORD will not hold him guiltless who takes his name in vain.

TRUTH #2: THERE IS ONE TRUE GOD, AND WE SHOULD WORSHIP HIM IN SPIRIT AND IN TRUTH.

The first three commandments given on Mount Sinai deal with our personal and corporate worship of the Father. In these verses, God calls for everyone to make an unbreakable covenant with Him. We are to worship Him and Him alone. It is an exclusive arrangement. We cannot worship God and allow our attention to wane. Worship of the Father requires complete focus, we can't concentrate on other things and call that worship.

What are some images or items you have seen people worship today?

How have sports, work, money, travel, etc. become God-like in our society?

How do these things impact our ability to worship God? What happens to our relationship with God when these circumstances become a strong force in our lives?

COMMANDMENT #1: "You shall have no other gods before me."

The Hebrew expression "before me" is critical here. It means "in preference to me" or "in competition with me." In other words, we should see God and worship Him as superior. There are several places in scripture where we can see God's superiority.

1. Genesis 1: At creation He created.
2. Exodus 7-12: God's display of power over Egypt and the world.
3. Deuteronomy 4:35: No other gods besides the one true God.

COMMANDMENT #2: "You shall not make for yourself a carved image..."

Read Exodus 34:14

(for you shall worship no other god, for the LORD, whose name is Jealous, is a jealous God),

How does this verse relate to Ex. 20:4?

Why do you think the first three commandments are in this particular order? What progression can you see?

COMMANDMENT #3: "You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain..."

Deceptive oaths, dishonesty, irreverence, or being disrespectful are some of the ways this verse says we would be breaking this command.

In the first three commandments, the Israelites are being instructed on how to worship their God. They are called to a very high standard. What standard do you feel the Lord wants to hold us accountable to today? Has the standard changed?

YOUR VIEWPOINT

2. HOW WE WORK

Read Exodus 20:8-11

"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy. ⁹Six days you shall labor, and do all your work, ¹⁰but the seventh day is a Sabbath to the LORD your God. On it you shall not do any work, you, or your son, or your daughter, your male servant, or your female servant, or your livestock, or the sojourner who is within your gates. ¹¹For in six days the LORD made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, and rested on the seventh day. Therefore the LORD blessed the Sabbath day and made it holy.

TRUTH #3: WE HAVE AN EXPECTATION TO KEEP THE LORD'S DAY HOLY.

COMMANDMENT #4: "Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."

The second main theme given in the Ten Commandments is found in these verses. God gives His expectations for how the people of Israel should work. These verses are a continuation of the standard God set at creation.

Read Genesis 2:1-3

Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. ²And on the seventh day God finished his work that he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work that he had done. ³So God blessed the seventh day and made it holy, because on it God rested from all his work that he had done in creation.

God's expectation for His creation was for mankind to fully depend on Him for all things. The pace He had created in everyday life was for people to work six days and rest on the seventh by keeping the Sabbath day holy.

Looking at the Genesis passage and these words given in Exodus 20:8-11 what do you think God's expectation for His people is supposed to be?

Read the fourth commandment again. Did you notice the way it is worded? God makes it clear; the Sabbath day was already holy because he had ordained it at creation. The people weren't going to create a holy day; God had previously ordained the Sabbath as a holy day.

How do you see people treating God's holy day in our current world?

YOUR VIEWPOINT

Read Exodus 20:12-17

"Honor your father and your mother, that your days may be long in the land that the LORD your God is giving you. ¹³"You shall not murder. ¹⁴"You shall not commit adultery. ¹⁵"You shall not steal. ¹⁶"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor. ¹⁷"You shall not covet your neighbor's house; you shall not covet your neighbor's wife, or his male servant, or his female servant, or his ox, or his donkey, or anything that is your neighbor's."

TRUTH #4: HOW WE LIVE OUR LIVES IS A DIRECT RESULT OF OUR ABILITY TO LOVE THE LORD WITH ALL OUR HEART, SOUL, AND MIGHT.

The third and final theme of the Ten Commandments forms the moral fiber for how we are to live. This does not mean our theology is based on morals alone. God is not a moralistic deism. The final six commands given by God are specific standards required for people to live in a civilized, yet generous manner. There are a couple of things to keep in mind. One, and this goes back to our central theme, for God's people to fulfill the Great commission they must follow the law. Second, Jesus, later, in the Sermon on the Mount added to these statements by making it clear it's not enough to do the minimum, more is expected. For instance, it's not enough to refrain from murder; we are called to love and refrain from hate or disdain for our neighbors.

COMMANDMENT #5: "Honor your father and mother..." This is the only commandment given with a specific promise attached.

Why do you think that is? What is the promise given?

What does it mean to "honor your father and mother?"

3. HOW WE LIVE

Commandments 6-10 are the "Shall Not's." Each one gives a specific prohibitive action we are to refrain from.

COMMANDMENT #6: "You shall not murder."

COMMANDMENT #7: "You shall not commit adultery."

COMMANDMENT #8: "You shall not steal."

COMMANDMENT #9: "You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."

COMMANDMENT #10: "You shall not covet."

Why is not coveting so hard in today's culture?

How have these commands shaped the moral fiber of the United States and the world?

Sermon on the Mount scriptures:

Read Matthew 5:21

You have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.'

Read Matthew 5:27

You have heard that it was said, 'You shall not commit adultery.'

Read Matthew 5:33

Again you have heard that it was said to those of old, 'You shall not swear falsely, but shall perform to the Lord what you have sworn.'

Why is it important to remember Jesus' words when we study the Ten Commandments?

Why do you think Jesus added to the Law?

YOUR VIEWPOINT

III. CONCLUSION

Today's lesson for most of us isn't new material, but it's always good to have a reminder to help us stay on track with what God expects from his people.

Read Exodus 20:18-22

Now when all the people saw the thunder and the flashes of lightning and the sound of the trumpet and the mountain smoking, the people were afraid and trembled, and they stood far off ¹⁹and said to Moses, "You speak to us, and we will listen; but do not let God speak to us, lest we die."

²⁰Moses said to the people, "Do not fear, for God has come to test you, that the fear of him may be before you, that you may not sin." ²¹The people stood far off, while Moses drew near to the thick darkness where God was. ²²And the LORD said to Moses, "Thus you shall say to the people of Israel: 'You have seen for yourselves that I have talked with you from heaven.'

Why were the people afraid for God to speak and only wanted Moses to speak to them?

Read Exodus 9:23-24

Then Moses stretched out his staff toward heaven, and the LORD sent thunder and hail, and fire ran down to the earth. And the LORD rained hail upon the land of Egypt. ²⁴There was hail and fire flashing continually in the midst of the hail, very heavy hail, such as had never been in all the land of Egypt since it became a nation.

The moment in Exodus 20 reminded them of what they had just experienced with the plagues. They were fearful, but Moses tells them to not be afraid. Why was God testing them?

God was testing them to make sure they knew He expected them to live and be governed by the power of God. There is a difference between having a healthy respect and fear of the Lord and being fearful of God. He wanted them to see His power not to scare them but so they would know He was gracious and loving.

Read Deuteronomy 6:2

...that you may fear the LORD your God, you and your son and your son's son, by keeping all his statutes and his commandments, which I command you, all the days of your life, and that your days may be long.

By following the Ten Commandments how do we show God our love for him by relying on His grace?

MAIN GOAL: The Ten Commandments weren't arbitrary ideas for living, they were necessary for God's people to fulfill the Great Commission.

Why are the Ten Commandments necessary for God's people to fulfill the Great Commission?

IV. EXTRA TIME

Can you name the Ten Commandments without looking from memory? Here's an easy way to remember. The Ten Commandments were known as the Decalogue or ten words. Just try and remember these ten words to help you recite the Ten Commandments.

gods -- **"You shall have no other gods before me."**

Image -- **"You shall not make for yourself a carved image..."**

Vain -- **"You shall not take the name of the Lord your God in vain..."**

Sabbath -- **"Remember the Sabbath day, to keep it holy."**

Honor -- **"Honor your father and mother..."**

Murder -- **"You shall not murder."**

Adultery -- **"You shall not commit adultery."**

Steal -- **"You shall not steal."**

False -- **"You shall not bear false witness against your neighbor."**

Covet -- **"You shall not covet."**

V. PRAYER

Pray for more than a moralistic approach to the Gospel. Pray we will love people enough to share Jesus with them.

VI. MEMORY VERSE

Learn the 10 words of the decalogue found in the extra time section.

Rooted In His Word: Obedience

Joshua 1:1-9 - Joshua

January 31, 2021

FOR THE LEADER

Over the last couple of weeks in our Bible studies we have focused our attention on Moses. First, we studied his recognition and response to the burning bush. God called him to lead the Israelites out of the hands of Pharaoh and the Egyptians. Then, last week, we concentrated on God giving the Ten Commandments to Moses at Mt. Sinai. This week, we will touch on Moses' death and God's call for Joshua to take his place in leadership. It's easy to recall Joshua's life and think of all the military battles he won. From the win over the Amalekites to the victory over Jericho, Joshua was a great military leader. We could acknowledge his remarkable prowess on the battlefield, but truth-be-told, Joshua should be remembered for his faithfulness to God, not just the battles he won. Joshua was an obedient servant and even though he followed Moses, who scriptures identify as the greatest prophet in Israel, Joshua ultimately is the one God used to lead the Israelites into the promised land.

MAIN GOAL: Great leaders know the way the Lord is leading them, go in the same direction as God and consistently show others the path to the Lord.

TODAY'S TRUTHS:

TRUTH #1: Our inheritance is given when we believe Jesus delivered us from our sin. As a result, we recognize the journey God has us on by being obedient.

TRUTH #2: We can fully trust and depend on God because God always keeps His promises.

TRUTH #3: God's word is more than enough.

I. INTRODUCTION

Following the death of Moses, God looks to another leader to get the people into the promised land. He calls on and commissions Joshua, son of Nun, to take the role as leader and guide the people to the land they were seeking.

Read Deuteronomy 34:8-12

And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended. ⁹And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses. ¹⁰And there has not arisen a prophet since in Israel like Moses, whom the LORD knew face to face, ¹¹none like him for all the signs and the wonders that the LORD sent him to do in the land of Egypt, to Pharaoh and to all his servants and to all his land, ¹²and for all the mighty power and all the great deeds of terror that Moses did in the sight of all Israel.

Based on these scriptures, why was Joshua the perfect person to lead the people after the death of Moses?

Read Deuteronomy 34:9 again

And Joshua the son of Nun was full of the spirit of wisdom, for Moses had laid his hands on him. So the people of Israel obeyed him and did as the LORD had commanded Moses.

Why do you think the “people obeyed him and did as the Lord had commanded Moses?”

MAIN GOAL: Great leaders know the way the Lord is leading them, go in the same direction as God and consistently show others the path to the Lord.

Great Leaders -- Know the way, Go the way, Show the way.

Filling the shoes of Moses wasn’t going to be easy. What do verses 10-12 teach us about Moses?

Under the leadership of Moses, the children of Israel had been journeying towards the promised land. The journey probably should have taken less than a month, but ended up being a voyage occupying forty years. The Israelites under Moses’ leadership wandered in the wilderness, sometimes close to the border of the land promised to them, and other times they rambled along lost in the desert.

In spite of not being able to lead the Israelites into the promised land, what characteristics made Moses such a great leader?

Do you think these same leadership qualities apply to Joshua? Why or Why not?

Do these leadership qualities apply to us today?

II.GET FOCUSED

Read Joshua 1:1-2

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, ²"Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel.

What specific directions does God give Joshua?

Joshua is told he is now the leader of the Israelites, and it is his responsibility to lead the people to the promised land. Moses couldn't get them there, but now the journey would be continued with a new leader. Based on the scriptures we read from Deuteronomy 34, we already know Joshua had what it was going to take to get the people to the inheritance that awaited them.

The inheritance (the promised land) had been just out of their reach for many years. I would imagine they were anxious and ready to see the area they were going to inhabit. Each passing day they awoke with expectations, but you have to wonder how much the journey was weighing on the people. Maybe they grew weary and frustrated always thinking it was near but never reaching their destination. To some, it may have felt it was so far away, and they didn't need to worry about it. The truth is some people today think our inheritance is so far away they don't need to think or worry about it right now. Consider, in order for us to receive the inheritance God has for us, we must be willing to follow God without hesitation and without regrets every single day. Symbolically, Luke 9:23 teaches us something must die in order for us to receive the promise.

Read Luke 9:23

And he said to all, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross daily and follow me.

What must we do daily?

How does this verse help us to understand Joshua 1?

God's expectations of his people don't change. We must be consistent in our walk with Him and daily deny ourselves. The inheritance of heaven awaits all who believe. If we are willing to follow Jesus, even if it means wandering in the desert for many years, it may seem as if it will never arrive, but that is where our obedience comes into play. Our journey may seem like the ending point is a long way off, but scripture teaches us we don't know the exact day or time. So, what if it takes a little longer, the wait means more time to display our faithfulness to God. We only get one life to share Jesus and the gospel with those who are lost. We should embrace the journey and seek to bring as many people along with us on this journey.

We cannot get to our inheritance on our own, and Moses wasn't going to get the people into the promised land on his own. The only way to really follow God and receive the inheritance that awaits is to believe and trust Jesus fully.

Read John 15:5

I am the vine; you are the branches. Whoever abides in me and I in him, he it is that bears much fruit, for apart from me you can do nothing.

We cannot do anything apart from Christ. On our own we will wander. With God we will know the way, go the way, and show the way to others.

TRUTH #1: OUR INHERITANCE IS GIVEN WHEN WE BELIEVE JESUS DELIVERED US FROM OUR SIN. AS A RESULT, WE RECOGNIZE THE JOURNEY GOD HAS US ON BY BEING OBEDIENT.

Read Deuteronomy 32:51-52

because you broke faith with me in the midst of the people of Israel at the waters of Meribah-kadesh, in the wilderness of Zin, and because you did not treat me as holy in the midst of the people of Israel. ⁵²For you shall see the land before you, but you shall not go there, into the land that I am giving to the people of Israel."

Read Numbers 20:11-12

And Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock with his staff twice, and water came out abundantly, and the congregation drank, and their livestock. ¹²And the LORD said to Moses and Aaron, "Because you did not believe in me, to uphold me as holy in the eyes of the people of Israel, therefore you shall not bring this assembly into the land that I have given them."

What did Moses do? Why wasn't he allowed to take the people to the promised land?

The inheritance for the Israelites was the Promised Land. What is the inheritance for us today?

Read John 10:10

The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and have it abundantly.

How does John 10:10 apply to us?

What do we need to do in order to claim the inheritance promised to us?

Were the people inheriting the land because they deserved it? Do we inherit the kingdom of God because we deserve it?

Then, why were they, and why are we promised an eternal inheritance if we believe in the Lord Jesus?

Recite Together John 3:16

For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.

How does God's love prove his grace to both the Israelites who inherited the land and believers today who inherit the kingdom?

YOUR VIEWPOINT

TRUTH #2: WE CAN FULLY TRUST AND DEPEND ON GOD BECAUSE GOD ALWAYS KEEPS HIS PROMISES.

Read Joshua 1:3-5

Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. ⁴From the wilderness and this Lebanon as far as the great river, the river Euphrates, all the land of the Hittites to the Great Sea toward the going down of the sun shall be your territory. ⁵No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.

God was going to keep his promise to both Moses and to Joshua. The people would inhabit the land. Keep in mind, God's promise still required his servants to follow His commands and continuously show their faithfulness and obedience.

What did God promise Joshua? Look at verses 3-5 and count the many promises God makes to him.

- Every place the sole of your foot touches is given to you. (v.3)
- The depth and width of the land is described in verse 4.
- No man can stand against you. (v.5)
- Just as I protected Moses I will protect you. (v.5)
- I will never leave or forsake you (v.5)

How do these promises speak to us in our own lives?

YOUR VIEWPOINT

TRUTH #3: GOD'S WORD IS MORE THAN ENOUGH.

Read Joshua 1:6-9

Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. ⁷Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. ⁸This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. ⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

How many times do the words strong and courageous appear in these four verses? What did strength and courage look like to the Israelites?

What does it look like for us?

God Himself is addressing Joshua, and God is clearly identifying Joshua as the new leader. Joshua is to lead Israel into the “promised land” filled with adversaries and pagan idolatry. Temptation was awaiting them, and warfare was bound to occur. So, what does God tell Joshua he must do?

Does He tell Joshua to load up on weapons, or to make sure the soldiers have their weapons in good shape? No, he doesn’t. God tells Joshua to make sure the Word of God is their main focus, and through it His word will provide all that he needs in order to assure the Israelites take over the land promised to them.

What role was faith and obedience going to play for Joshua and the other Israelites as they journeyed to the promised land?

What role does it play in our attempt to claim the inheritance waiting for us?

How do we remain strong and courageous in the world we currently live in?

Take a moment to reflect on Joshua 1:8. Why was it important for them to not let the “Book of the Law” depart from their mouths?

How is that good advice for today?

YOUR VIEWPOINT

III.CONCLUSION

The Israelites under the leadership of Joshua enter the promised land and take control just like God had promised.

How do you think Joshua 1:9 helped them in battles that were to come?

How can we claim the promises of that verse today?

Read Joshua 23:6-8

Therefore, be very strong to keep and to do all that is written in the Book of the Law of Moses, turning aside from it neither to the right hand nor to the left, ⁷that you may not mix with these nations remaining among you or make mention of the names of their gods or swear by them or serve them or bow down to them, ⁸but you shall cling to the Lord your God just as you have done to this day.

In Joshua 23 we are told God gave the Israelites rest from all the surrounding enemies. At this point in time Joshua is very old, and in these verses that we just read, he imparts wisdom and truth to them in an effort to help on their journey.

How are these words similar to what they heard in Joshua 1?

How important are these words to us in our own journey with God?

We started today looking at how **Leaders Know the way, Go the way, and Show the way.**

How does Joshua accomplish these three characteristics of leadership?

MAIN GOAL: Great leaders know the way the Lord is leading them, go in the same direction as God and consistently show others the path to the Lord.

Great Leaders -- Know the way, Go the way, Show the way.

IV. EXTRA TIME

Read Psalm 1:1-3

Blessed is the man who walks not in the counsel of the wicked, nor stands in the way of sinners, nor sits in the seat of scoffers; ²but his delight is in the law[b] of the Lord, and on his law he meditates day and night. ³He is like a tree planted by streams of water that yields its fruit in its season, and its leaf does not wither. In all that he does, he prospers.

We will never know the power of God until we grasp the promises found in His word. For the Israelites, claiming the promises of God's law meant keeping it in faith. Today, we are called to that same understanding. We are called to keep God's word and meditate on it often. We should constantly claim the promises found in it and recognize it holds the key to the journey we call life.

What are some ways you claim the promises of scripture?

How does knowing God's word help us to understand Psalm 1:3?

V. PRAYER

Pray specifically that God will help you know the way, go the way, and show the way for others.

VI. MEMORY VERSE

Joshua 1:9

