

WEEKLY GUIDE

TEACHING NOTES | ADULTS | YOUTH | CHILDREN

JANUARY 10, 2021

TEACHING NOTES

TAKE THE LAND / PT. 1: THIS LAND IS YOUR LAND

Joshua 1:4 NIV, *“Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west.”*

YOUR LAND IS WHERE YOU...

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

DO YOU KNOW YOUR LAND?

- **Joshua 2:1 NIV**, *Then Joshua son of Nun secretly sent two spies from Shittim. “Go, look over the land,” he said, “especially Jericho.” So they went and entered the house of a prostitute named Rahab and stayed there.*
- What _____ are in your land?
- Learn about the land from those who know it _____.

GOD LED THEM TO _____ SO THEY COULD LEAD RAHAB TO _____ .

COMMUNION DISCUSSION:

1. List the different Jerichos (or dark places) where you live, work, and play.
2. What personal Jerichos are in your life (ongoing sin, hurt, anxiety, etc.).
3. Who is someone from whom you can learn about the land?
4. Pray: Ask God for courage to take the land, to send a person of peace to help you, and His power to overcome the strongholds in your land.

ADULT GROUPS

For each of the following questions, answer together if in a group or write in a journal if doing it individually. For more details on each of the questions, go [here](#).

This Sunday, we will begin a study on the book of Joshua called Take The Land. Just as God did with the Israelites in the Old Testament, He has promised to walk with us as we reclaim our personal spaces, our city, and our country in His name. But have we taken the time to consider the battlefield before us? What is it like? What kind of people are there? What is our role in this great campaign? These are all the same questions the Israelites dealt with as they made their first move to reclaim the Promised Land. Lets see how this story begins in our groups this week as we study **Joshua 2:1-24**.

SHARE AS A GROUP

1. **Thankfulness:** What is something you're thankful for that happened this past week?
2. **Challenges:** What challenges are you facing?
3. **Assistance:** How can the group (or those you're in contact with) help with those challenges?
4. **Accountability:** How did you practice and share with someone what you read last week?

STUDY AS A GROUP

1. Read **Joshua 2:1-24**. Re-read it in a different version, re-tell it in your own words, and write down any parts that really stuck with you.
2. What did you learn about God from this passage?
3. What did you learn about people from this passage?
4. How can you put the passage into practice? "I will..."
5. Who needs to hear about what you learned from this passage? "I will tell..."

PRAYER

1. Give thanks for everything listed in Share Q. 1
2. Ask God to help with everything listed in Share Q. 2
3. Ask for a greater understanding of what you read in Study Q. 1
4. Ask for courage to do the things listed in Study Q. 4-5

MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL

ICE BREAKER

Can you think of a time you had an awesome opportunity and you let it slip by you? What about a time when you DID NOT let it slip by you?

GROUP DISCUSSION: Ephesians 5:15-19

1. Use parts 1, 2 and 3 of the DBS steps listed in the adult group section above.
2. Discussion Spark Questions in the event that your group is not responding well.
 - ***“What did you learn about God from this passage?”***
 - In this passage Paul describes wisdom as seizing the right opportunities every chance we can. How is that different from how the world may generally perceive wisdom?
 - The passage then goes on to say that we should put an emphasis on singing songs. How does that reflect the wisdom mentioned before (how is that making the most of our opportunities?). Furthermore, what does this tell us about the importance God puts on worship in song?
 - The passage wraps up by the simple charge to give thanks for everything. The primary instruction of the passage is: make the most of opportunities, understand the lord’s will, be filled with the spirit rather than wine, worship the lord in song, and give thanks - how does God’s picture of a fulfilled life based on these instructions look different from the world’s picture?
 - ***“What did you learn about people from this passage?”***
 - This passage assumes that the people of God will encounter significant temptation in this world. It assumes our inclination will be to stray. Do you think this is true? Why or why not?
 - Serving as a warning and as a reminder, vs. 16 provides the reason for the wisdom/foolishness argument that Paul makes in the next few verses. In what ways can living with spiritual wisdom help protect us from the wickedness of the world?
 - We read a specific contrast between wisdom and folly - a theme often visited in scripture. Looking at the two contrasting examples (drunkenness vs. being filled with the spirit), how do you see foolishness in the former, but wisdom in the latter?
 - ***“How can you put the passage into practice? ‘I will...’”***
 - Who do you have in your life whom you can go to when you need help choosing wisdom over foolishness, or when you’ve already strayed from God’s desire for you and need to correct course?
 - Which practice mentioned in this passage is the practice that you feel your life is lacking the most? What can you do this week to pursue that goal?
 - ***“Who needs to hear about what you learned from this passage? ‘I will tell...’”***
 - Who, outside of your family, do you expect to have an interaction with later this week and what would it take for you to bring these truths into your conversation?

PRAYER

1. Give thanks for everything listed in Share Q. 1
2. Ask God to help with everything listed in Share Q. 2
3. Ask for a greater understanding of what you read in Study Q. 1
4. Ask for courage to do the things listed in Study Q. 4-5

CHILDREN

SING:

- Spy on Canaan (preK) www.youtube.com/watch?v=fV03OuvwPZs
- Promised Land (preK) www.youtube.com/watch?v=YEplxGla5R0
- God is Good (Elementary) www.youtube.com/watch?v=JSbWs6cJs1A
- Full of Faith (Elementary) www.youtube.com/watch?v=IPPGvudBaiM
- Strong and Courageous (Elementary) www.youtube.com/watch?v=FwcJpmEzXRw

WATCH: Rahab and the Spies www.youtube.com/watch?v=0_wf9TICHzo

READ: Joshua 1:1-3 and 2:2-22

BIG PICTURE QUESTIONS: God is with you!

1. What land did the Israelites leave? What land did God say go next?
2. How many spies went to Jericho to learn about the city? (ages 2-5 can hold up fingers to show)
3. Who helped them? What item helped the spies to safety? (have a string, piece of red yarn, or a red twizzler to show)
4. How might it have felt if God had forgotten the spies and left them alone?
5. God gives us instructions to obey that help us and others. Like the two spies and Rahab obeyed God by helping the spies stay safe, how can you obey and help others this week? I will obey when _____, and help others by _____.

PRAY:

Awesome God, You do great things! Your love for people is endless and special. Thank you for the story of Joshua, the spies bravely going to Jericho, and Rahab that helped them. Show us how we can obey in our homes, school, and when we play. We want to help others know you and do what you say is right. Thanks for making a way to save us like you did the spies and Rahab in our story today. Thank you for Jesus! Amen.

ACTIVITY/CRAFTS:

1. Print off the word search for Grades 2-5. Discuss the text provided about the spies and their conclusions.
sundayschoolzone.com/activity/joshua-explored-the-promised-land-word-search/
2. **Play Hide the Spies:** Using small figures or stuffed animals, tell the kids you will hide the “spies” in a given space and they will need to find them. Be sure to hide them so well that they are difficult to find. Play as much as you want. Talk about how God used Rahab to make sure that His spies were not found. Explain how God can use people to do important tasks.
3. **Coloring Sheet:** <https://www.pinterest.com/pin/84724036716318580/> For ages 3-7 print off the coloring sheet and have the kids color it while you talk about how God used Rahab and the spies to accomplish what He wanted them to do.