

WHO
WILL
YOU
SERVE?



ontrack devotions

JULY

2021

JOSHUA

MONTHLY PRAYER SHEET

“...The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” James 5:16

Reach out...

How I will do it...

How it went...

Other requests...

Answered

How it was answered...

MONTHLY COMMITMENT SHEET

Name: _____

This sheet is designed to help you make personal commitments each month that will help you grow in your walk with God. Fill it out by determining

1. What will push you
2. What you think you can achieve

If you need help filling out your commitments, seek out someone you trust who can help you. Share your commitments with those who will help keep you accountable to your personal commitment.

Personal Devotions:

How did I do with my commitment last month? _____

I will commit to read the OnTrack Bible passage and devotional thought _____ day(s) each week this month.

Church Attendance:

How did I do last month with my attendance? _____

I will attend Youth/Growth Group _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend the Sunday AM service _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend the Sunday PM service _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend _____ time(s) this month.

I will attend _____ time(s) this month.

Scripture Memory:

How did I do with Scripture memory last month? _____

I will memorize _____ key verse(s) from the daily OnTrack Devotions this month.

Outreach:

How did I do last month with sharing Christ? _____

I will share Christ with _____ person/people this month.

I will serve my local church this month by _____

Other Activities:

List any other opportunities such as events, prayer group, etc., that you will participate in this month. _____

How do you think the nation of Israel felt after Moses was gone? Do you think they were fearful of their future because the one who had led them to this point had died? They must have wondered if God knew what He was doing. He had brought His people to the border of the land He had promised and then took Moses away from them. While it must have been a frightening time, it was something God had been preparing them for during their wandering years. God knew their needs and the kind of leader that would most effectively serve His people. God began long before Moses died to prepare Joshua for the responsibility he was about to assume. When the time came, Joshua was ready. As you read this book, you will see just how prepared he was. It's easy to put our confidence in those who lead and not in the God who prepares our leaders and brings them to us. God will never leave us alone. He always has a plan in place. When the people we trust are gone, we ought to look to God and trust His plan. In whom have you placed your trust? Don't allow yourself to trust others above God.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 1

JOSHUA 2:1-16

LYING

SAY WHAT?

What situations might you face in which you are tempted to lie?

SO WHAT?

Why is it so easy to make excuses that justify disobedience to God?

NOW WHAT?

How can you make right choices when temptation comes?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

When you are faced with what seems like an impossible situation, how do you respond? Have you ever responded like Rahab did in this chapter? While this is a familiar passage, it is often misunderstood. In this chapter, Rahab lied in order to protect the two spies. To her, the end justified the means. While that may seem like an acceptable way to respond to the situation, it was not the right way. Although the results were desirable and she was commended for her faith, she still lied, and lying is always sin. God had a plan to protect the spies and did not need her help by lying. Imagine how different the story could have been had she been honest. She could have said "Yes, they are upstairs" and let God supernaturally hide them from the soldiers. Or, she could have said "If you want to look for yourself, go right ahead." Had God wanted the spies protected, they would have been, regardless of Rahab's actions. When faced with an impossible situation, we must never disobey God. Even if our motives are right, our actions cannot be justified if they are sin. Is there an area in which you are justifying sin?

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 2

Tomorrow, we celebrate our independence as a nation. You may even be celebrating it today with your community. This is a time that we usually take to reflect on what God has given to us and thank Him for the blessings of this great country of ours. Scripture is filled with principles on how we ought to respect our country and the people who govern over us. Take some time today to read the suggested passages and then record some of your thoughts about these verses. Then, thank God for this country, ask Him to uphold our leaders, and to help you fulfill your responsibilities as a citizen of this great land.

SAY WHAT?

God, I am thankful I live in America because...

SO WHAT?

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NOW WHAT?

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THEN WHAT?

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EXTRA READING
1 TIMOTHY 2



PROVERBS 4

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE	WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES	HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE
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If you had been with the Israelites as this chapter unfolded, what do you think your response would have been? Which part of the day would have thrilled you the most? While there are many details in this chapter that are exciting, one particular detail is almost unbelievable. Did you notice it? It is found in the very last verse of the chapter. When this miracle took place, the river was at “flood stage,” which would be the highest level of the year. God not only stopped up the water, but piled it in a heap upstream. Imagine what that looked like to the townspeople of Adam. What an astounding act of God! Even more amazing is what verse 17 tells us. We read that the water not only stopped, but the Israelites walked across on dry land. Scripture tells us that it was completely dry, not even damp, or a bit wet. Sometimes, in the midst of the great things God does, we can also see little unnoticed miracles. We often walk through life so preoccupied that we can miss the little details of God’s provision. What little miracles have been taking place in your life? Take some time today to think of some of them and thank God for His provision.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 3

JOSHUA 4:1-14

EXALTED

SAY WHAT?

What things do people do in order to earn respect or favor?

SO WHAT?

In what areas of your life are you trying to control how people view you?

NOW WHAT?

How can this passage help you in this area?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

What qualities does a leader need to have in order for people to be willing to follow him? How would he need to be viewed in order to gain the trust and respect of the people? In what ways could he enhance his reputation so he would be viewed as the leader? According to today's reading the answer is simple: NOTHING. God told Joshua that He would exalt him before the people. It was God's job to take care of the people, not Joshua's. He did not need to concern himself with how he was viewed and what needed to be done. God would bring circumstances into his life and move the hearts of people so that they would see him as their leader. In verse 14, we see that God did just that. The nation exalted Joshua all the days of his life. We often get caught up in how people view us and then try to manipulate their opinion of us favorably. We try to achieve a favorable opinion by creating situations that will make us look good in front of others. We should be like Joshua—live a life of integrity and let God do the rest. Trust God to move the hearts of people the way He desires. Remember, it's up to Him, not you!

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 4

What was God trying to teach the nation of Israel in this chapter? How can this chapter help you when you face a difficult obstacle? When we look closely at this chapter, we realize it has fascinating implications. If you read ahead, you already know that the walls of Jericho fell down. But, Joshua didn't have the benefit of knowing what was to take place. The most important thing to God was to be sure that their hearts were right. You see, it is not the plan that is most important, but one's relationship with God. In fact, what God wanted engraved on the hearts of these people was that their dependence on and obedience to God was more important than any plan they could create to defeat Jericho. Far too often, we spend huge amounts of time trying to figure out what we are going to do when we are faced with obstacles, and very little time making sure our hearts are right before God. After seeking advice from friends, we lie awake at night trying to decide what our next move should be. Instead, we should begin on our knees, examining the condition of our hearts. What is the condition of your heart? Take steps to make it right with God.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 5

JOSHUA 6:12-27

GOD'S PLAN

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

Yesterday we learned that when we face obstacles in our lives, we must make the condition of our hearts, not our plans, the priority. So, how will these verses help us to know what to do when the time comes for action? How about realizing that God's plan may be totally different than your plan? Think what Joshua, a trained military man, must have imagined God's plan for defeating Jericho might be. He must have had his own ideas about how they could defeat such a powerful army. Can you imagine how shocked he must have been when God revealed the strategy? He had to have wondered what in the world was going on—no battering rams, no ramps to the top of the city walls, not even a parachute jump. No, God's plan was for them to walk around the walls for seven days and then yell. That sure sounds like competent military strategy, doesn't it? God does not often do things in the most logical ways. His plans are designed to reveal to us His greatness and creativity. His character demands that He receive the credit. As you face obstacles in your life, remember God has a plan and His plan will always bring Him glory!

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 6

When the nation of Israel was defeated by Ai, what was their first response? How can we benefit from this story and the actions of this nation? One lesson would be to check the condition of our hearts before we blame God. Another lesson is that any sin in our individual lives impacts the whole group. The entire nation of Israel lost the battle because they had individual sin in the camp. Someone had clearly disobeyed God's instructions, and the whole group had to forfeit the blessing of God. After their defeat by the Amorites, they immediately blamed God. God revealed the sin and again explained that they would continue to fall if the sin was not removed from the camp. While it was not their own personal sin, they needed to deal with it as a group. We can't say that our behavior will not hurt anyone. It may, in fact, be hurting us all. We also need to learn that when God is not blessing us, we need to take a long, hard look at our hearts. When we have an area of our lives that is not right with Him, even if it seems small, it affects not just ourselves, but those around us as well. God blesses when our lives are pure.

SAY WHAT?

How can you tell if God is blessing your life?

SO WHAT?

In what ways might the condition of your heart be affecting the people around you?

NOW WHAT?

What do you need to do to make sure your heart is clean?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 7

JOSHUA 8:1-29

WAITING

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

Is there a phrase that seems significant to you in this passage? Could it be the phrase near the end of verse two? Consider the implications of what God had said to Joshua in 6:18. The nation of Israel was originally defeated because Achan stole what had been devoted to God from Jericho. God had clearly instructed them, but Achan was selfish and could not wait, so he disobeyed. As a result of his sin, many lives were lost. The irony in this whole thing was that God had intended to give to Achan and all of Israel a great deal of the plunder. What he selfishly took was something that God had intended to give. He didn't trust God enough to live according to His commands while he waited. Much too often, we are just like Achan. We want something and do not trust God's timing on when to give it to us. He commands us to wait until marriage for sex, but it seems like a long way off, so we selfishly do what we want. He commands us to obey Him but, out of fear of rejection, we do what is necessary to be accepted. If He wants us to have something or, if we really need it, He will provide it. Can you wait for God's timing?

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 8

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE	WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES	HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE
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JOSHUA 8:30-35

BIBLE READING

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

How important is it to read your Bible regularly? How does the passage for today relate to that question, anyway? If you think about it, this passage says a whole lot about personal devotions. To understand the importance of what we read, we need to keep in mind what was going on during this time. Israel had just entered the Promised Land. Their leader had left them and had been replaced by a new leader, Joshua. Jericho and Ai had been defeated, and they were ready to continue in the plans for taking possession of the land. Before they went any further, Joshua stopped to demonstrate to the people how vital the Word of God was to them. He built an altar of stone and sacrificed offerings to the Lord. He then copied the law of Moses on stones. Afterward, he read every word to the entire assembly. The message he sent was that God's Word was vital to their lives, and they had to know what God's commands and expectations were. The same is true today. The Bible is the most important possession we have. We must read it daily to know what it says and know how we should live our lives. Without knowing it, you will fail.

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 8

What mistakes did the Israelites make in this chapter? Reread it and number them in your Bible. Which mistake was most costly to them? The greatest mistake could very well be found in verse 14. The Israelites evaluated the situation from “their” own point of view. On the surface, everything seemed to be fine. They investigated the Gibeonites to determine if they were telling the truth, but did not bother to seek God’s help and insight into this situation. Before they received clear direction about how He wanted them to handle the situation, they went ahead with their own plan. The result was devastating for them. Folly often follows when we depend on our own wisdom. Even when the correct thing to do seems obvious, we must always be convinced that we are acting according to God’s will. Poor decisions are made, not only by those living far from God, but also by those who truly desire to live righteously, but fail to involve God in their decisions. What decisions must you make soon in which you are depending on your wisdom and have not “inquired of the Lord?” Wouldn’t it be good to seek God’s wisdom?

SAY WHAT?

What decisions do you have to make right now, both seemingly unimportant and important?

SO WHAT?

How are you determining what you should do?

NOW WHAT?

How can you be sure that you will do what God wants you to do?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 9

JOSHUA 10:1-15

SUN SHINES

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

If you had fought in the battle found in this chapter, what events would have been part of your conversations long after it was over? Would it have been the incredible victory you had won? Would you have discussed the brilliant strategy or the strength of the army? The feats of individuals would probably not have made it to the list of top ten events. God would have been the topic of everyone's conversations. It must have been remarkable to have seen hailstones rain from the sky and known that God was fighting for you. Imagine your surprise when you realized the sun had not moved all day so that the battle could be won. The truly amazing things that God had done for His people would be talked about for years to come. We do not often talk to others about the things we see God do on our behalf that demonstrate His watch care over us. We get caught up in our individual battles and do not even notice the role He has been playing. Today, list all the things you can remember that God has done for you this year. Think of ways you can continually remind yourself of how God has moved on your behalf and then thank Him.

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 10

If you were to make a list of the successes you have experienced so far this year, what would they be? Did you get great grades in school? Did you get a promotion at work? If you were to list next to those items the reason for your success, what would they be? Would you say that you were faithful in your studies or that you worked hard, and that is the reason for your success? Or, would you use the words found in verse 42? The nation of Israel had won the battle “because the Lord God of Israel, fought for Israel.” There was no reason other than the work of God. Everything we accomplish results from God’s work in our lives. If we receive good grades, God has given us the ability and the desire to achieve them. If we excel at work, God has given us that ability and the desire to excel. We must not allow our pride to convince us that we are anyone special. We have talents and abilities because God gave them to us. Some have not been given as much as others, but still should be held in high esteem. Underline verse 42 to remember God’s workmanship in our lives. Never forget that whatever you have has been given to you by God.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 10

JOSHUA 11:1-9

I WILL

SAY WHAT?

What situation might you encounter that could frighten you?

SO WHAT?

What are you afraid will happen?

NOW WHAT?

What has God said in His Word about that kind of situation?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

What causes us to be afraid? What could dispel that fear? Having read this chapter, imagine being in Joshua's shoes. He must have been scared to death when he thought about what lay before him. Knowing that, God came to comfort him and told him not to be afraid. In verse 6, God explained exactly what was going to happen and the outcome of the battle. He would be victorious. Joshua was not to evaluate the situation and the resources he had. God wanted Joshua to look at Him only and know that the victory was certain. If victory were guaranteed, there would be no reason for fear. Joshua could fight the battle with total confidence. Are you facing a battle that has filled you with fear? What has God said in His Word that applies to your battle? You know that God has always provided just what you have needed and continues to do so. God commands us to be anxious for nothing. Just as He was with Joshua, He has promised to be with us and provide all we need to be victorious in every battle we face. What battle are you facing that requires you to keep this in mind?

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 11

Why would God put such a detailed list here for us? What should we find in this chapter that will help us serve God better? Has someone ever told you about an experience they had and you found it hard to believe them? This situation could never happen with Scripture because God has included records like the one found in this chapter. Accurate accounts of history can grow into legends and myths after many years of storytelling. Numbers can grow with each generation telling the story to the next generation. You may have heard your parents or grandparents tell of the miles they walked to school in waist-high snow. It may actually have been a mile in 12 inches of snow and an occasional blizzard. The snow gets deeper over the years. God recorded with great detail exactly what had taken place. He included specific details to ensure that the facts were clearly given. Every king was listed. God has eliminated the chance for exaggeration or fabrication. Chapters like this ought to increase our confidence in the infallibility of God's Word. If Scripture says it happened, it did and you can believe it!

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 12



PROVERBS 6

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE	WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES	HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE
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Have you ever expected to receive a specific present for Christmas and found that everyone got just what they wanted, except you? What feelings did you have? Did you feel anger, jealousy, or disappointment? If so, you can imagine how those in the tribe of Levi must have felt when Joshua distributed the land. They waited with expectation while every tribe of Israel received land except them. They knew what the plan for their tribe's inheritance was, but it may have caused some hard feelings. God had been clear in His instructions about who would receive what, but was that enough for them? In verse 33, we see that their inheritance was far more valuable than land. God was their inheritance. They would possess something that money could not buy and no amount of land could compare. They had the privilege of receiving the greatest gift—God Himself. He is your inheritance too! God has given to true believers something incredible. Knowing our future is secure with Him and that He is constantly present with us is all we need to ever hope for or desire. Focus on what God has given you, not on what you don't have.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 13



JOSHUA 14:6-15

FINALLY

SAY WHAT?

In what situations do you find it difficult to stand alone for your convictions?

SO WHAT?

Why is it difficult for you to take a stand in those situations?

NOW WHAT?

What would you need to do to become someone who can stand for his convictions?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment should you make?

If you had to pick two words to describe Caleb from today's reading and, from what you can remember in the account of Numbers 13, what would they be? Now, imagine how difficult it must have been for Caleb to speak against a group of men who were doing their best to thwart the plan of God. He knew what was right and followed the Lord with all his heart, even though there may have been implications involved. He was willing to risk friendships and the respect of people to obey the Lord and hold true to his convictions. He would not agree with anyone who compromised God's plan. It took 40 years for Joshua to be able to give to Caleb what God had promised him. After another 40 years of faithfulness, he was finally rewarded for his devotion and his commitment to believe and obey. How much like Caleb are you? When you find yourself in a situation in which you must stand alone for your convictions, have you stood, without considering the implications? When was the last time you took a stand? Commit this summer to be more like this man whenever you are faced with opposition. God will help you stand firm.

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 14

How would you feel if you were convinced that God had a specific job for you to do but you were unable to accomplish it? Would you become angry with God and blame Him or be discouraged with yourself? Throughout the next few chapters, you will be reading about the land that was given to the tribes of Israel and their inability to take total possession of it. In this passage, we find that Judah attempted to drive out the Jebusites but, according to verse 63, was unable to dislodge them from Jerusalem. In the margin of your Bible next to this verse, write the words "but God could." We often head out to do what God wants without having God come with us. We try to do it in the human strength God has given us, or we quit because it becomes too difficult. God could have removed the Jebusites from Jerusalem. We have no record that Judah even asked. They tried and were not successful, so they quit. Is there a task that you began, knowing that it was given to you by God, but you gave up and quit? If God calls you to do something, He will always make sure it happens. Ask Him to enable you to complete it.

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 15

JOSHUA 16:5-10

THEY DID NOT

SAY WHAT?

What did you want to see happen during the last few months that never did?

SO WHAT?

Why didn't it happen?

NOW WHAT?

What can you do to see that it happens in the next few months?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

Most of us, at one time or another, have come home from an event excited and determined to impact our worlds for Christ. We were committed to share with everyone the difference Christ had made in our lives. In activities, school, and work, we were willing to take the opportunities God had given us to share our faith. So, what happened? Why didn't we follow through? In chapter 15, we read that Judah could not dislodge the Jebusites. Today, we read that Ephraim did not dislodge the Canaanites from their allotment. Do you think they even tried to take the land or do you think that it was easier for them to simply settle for less? Could this be what happens to us when we lose the determination we previously had to serve God? We have great plans, but never actually get around to following through with them. We didn't grab the opportunities to share Christ because we had a lot going on at the time. Our ideas fell by the wayside as other commitments took the place of the one to Christ. The church is full of well-intentioned people who don't accomplish anything. Are you becoming one of them?

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 16

Have you ever faced opposition so great it overwhelmed you? Maybe you've faced opposition so great, that even with the most courageous heart you could muster, you were still terrified? Hopefully, you did not quit before you even began. In this passage of Scripture, the people of Manasseh did not take the land God had given them. According to verse 12, failure came because the Canaanites were determined to stay. What did they expect? Did Manasseh think they could just walk into town and announce that they would be taking over and it was time to leave? Did they think the inhabitants would just cooperate with them? Eventually, they became big enough to subdue the Canaanites and, over time, were encouraged by Joshua to drive them out. The problem was that although the adversary was great and the chariots were iron, they were capable of prevailing with God's help. They just never did what God told them to do. With God strengthening us, we can do anything He wants us to do, regardless of the opposition. Do you possess His strength?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 17

JOSHUA 18:1-10

THE LEVITES

SAY WHAT?

Why do you think God sees vocational ministry as being special?

SO WHAT?

Why do you think people today do not see it that way?

NOW WHAT?

How can you tell if God desires you to pursue vocational ministry?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

How would you feel about being in full-time ministry? When you consider what God may have for your future, are you open to the option of pursuing vocational ministry? Would you consider being a pastor or missionary an exciting way to spend your life? As we read today's passage, we are reminded that God sees that type of occupation as being a valuable calling. God, once more in verse 7, emphasized that the calling of the Levites as priests, like vocational ministry today, was their inheritance. God considered serving as a priest a privilege. Being chosen to serve in vocational ministry was worth more than a piece of land. The fact that they could stand in the presence of God set them apart from the other Israelites. They viewed it as a distinct honor rather than a sacrifice. Serving God in vocational ministry is the most exciting, rewarding, and significant way anyone could spend his life (not to mention how much fun it is). Could you be ignoring God's voice because you have an inaccurate view of vocational ministry? Are you open to His calling on your life? How would you know if that is where God might want you?

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 18

The book of Proverbs was designed to help us in "attaining wisdom and discipline; in understanding words of insight; in acquiring a disciplined and prudent life, doing what is right and just and fair; in giving prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the young." As you read through this chapter, write down the verses that are most significant to you in your present circumstances.

VERSE	WHAT TRUTH IT COMMUNICATES	HOW IT IMPACTS MY LIFE
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JOSHUA 19:40-51

FINISHED

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

As you read this chapter, what thoughts went through your mind? Did it occur to you that God is faithful? Did you think about how He fulfilled the promises He made to Moses and the Israelites? God had called Moses years earlier to go down to Egypt and deliver the nation of Israel from their bondage. Through many miraculous events, God brought them out with not only their possessions, but also with the wealth of Egypt. He parted the sea, provided water from the rock, manna from heaven, fought their battles and, finally, in verse 51, "they finished dividing up the land." God had fulfilled His promise to them and they were occupying the land. What God told them He would do, He did. I am sure there were many times the Israelites wondered if God would come through, and He always did. That same God is still faithful today. The promises He has made to us today will be fulfilled. Just like the history of the Old Testament demonstrates, we can trust Him with everything. Are you trusting Him for every area in life or relying on yourself and your own wisdom? What promise has God made that you find yourself doubting?

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 19

Why do you think that God provided Cities of Refuge for this nation? It was because He wanted to equip them with a means of justice and eliminate revenge in the attempt to solve problems. The Old Testament Law was designed to make sure that the punishment fit the crime and to prevent people from taking matters into their own hands. It would be easy for a person who had just lost a family member to act on his grief and seek revenge on the one responsible for his loss. He may even feel that the Law, that demanded an eye for an eye, justified his revenge. God provided a means to ensure that justice was allowed due process. The Cities of Refuge provided a safe place where one could have his case heard by impartial judges. If the injured party felt the accused deserved death, he could also be heard by the judges. God wants us to seek justice and not act on our desire for revenge. Revenge damages the cause of justice and the opportunities for appropriate punishment or vindication. We, as believers, should be known for our justice and not as people who lash out in revenge. Do you seek revenge when you've been hurt?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 20

JOSHUA 21:40-45

PEACE

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

In verses 43 and 44 of today's reading, we learn that God gave the Nation of Israel both the land He had promised and rest from their enemies. How are these two things different? God had promised not only a place for the people to live, but also rest from their enemies. God not only wants us to have the material things we need to live, like clothing, food and housing, but also to have peace and rest in the place He has put us. Having things is of little comfort if you can't enjoy them. Most people would give anything to have peace in life, and it is part of the reward He gives us as believers. Although there may be times when we must fight battles with the enemy, there is rest and peace at the end of the road. Our lives are often filled with turmoil and upheaval. It is during those times that we realize we are in the wrong place and not where God wants us to be. He will keep us in perfect peace whose minds are stayed on Him (Isaiah 26:3). There are certainly battles to be fought but, in the midst of them, there is peace. Look closely at your life. Do you have rest on every side? Do you think you are where God wants you to be?

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 21

If you were to list the greatest tools of Satan used to defeat Christians today, what would your top five be? Would you have placed perception on your list? It should be there. Perception is seeing or hearing something and assuming you have correctly interpreted it. Instead of believing the best or finding out what really happened, you believe your negative perception based on what you heard or saw. While your observations may be accurate, your conclusion might not be. Today's reading reveals what can happen when someone acts on perception. The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half tribe of Manasseh built an altar to ensure that they would always remain part of God's chosen people. However, when the other tribes saw the altar, their perceptions were negative. Fortunately, instead of acting on the misinformation, they went to find out what the altar meant. A wrong perception can be a dangerous thing. We can easily come to wrong conclusions based on our perception and not the facts. This can and does cause tremendous hurt. We must evaluate our perceptions before acting upon them.

SAY WHAT?

What are some examples from your own experience in which your perception of something was wrong?

SO WHAT?

What were the consequences from your wrong perception?

NOW WHAT?

How can you avoid acting on perception?

THEN WHAT?

In light of this passage, what personal commitment can you make?

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 22

JOSHUA 23:6-16

GRATITUDE

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

Have you ever taken time to reflect on your life? When you did, what came to mind? Hopefully, it is what Joshua wanted the Israelites to think about. God proved His faithfulness to them over and over. They had seen miracle after miracle bring them to this point as a nation. Everything they possessed resulted from God fighting their battles. With that in mind, Joshua, in verse 11, wanted to remind them to love the Lord their God. God had fulfilled all of His promises. Not one of them had failed. When they had a need, He provided. To demonstrate their love for Him, it was necessary to heed His commands and to obey the Book of the Law. If they did this, then all of His blessings would continue. If, however, they turned aside and disobeyed His Law, they would "quickly perish." As you reflect on your life, what has God done for you? How have you seen God move on your behalf? Why not make a list of all God has done for you? As you remember, allow it to motivate you to love God with all your heart and obey Him out of gratitude, not duty. His blessing awaits the obedient.

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 23

Now that you have completed this book, what impressions do you have? In what ways has this book impacted your life? Here, in this final chapter, Joshua reminds the people of all God has done for them by having brought them this far. He does not want them to ever forget what God has done. According to verse 31, Joshua was able to lead Israel to do just that. While he was in leadership, the people served God. He was obviously an exceptional leader. As you think about the qualities he possessed, ask yourself what kind of impact you have on the groups you are a part of? Could it be said that you influenced your school to honor God? Could it be said that you influenced your workplace toward godliness? We often stand around and watch our believing comrades fall in battle and do nothing to help. We complain to our leaders that our church is going downhill, yet we do nothing to change it. We leave the responsibility of the welfare of our friends to others instead of doing what we can to change things. Don't just sit there and watch it! Be a Joshua and do something about it. What can you do with the remaining weeks of summer?

SAY WHAT?

Observation: What do I see?

SO WHAT?

Interpretation: What does it mean?

NOW WHAT?

Application: How does it apply to me?

THEN WHAT?

Implementation: What do I do?

EXTRA READING
JOSHUA 24

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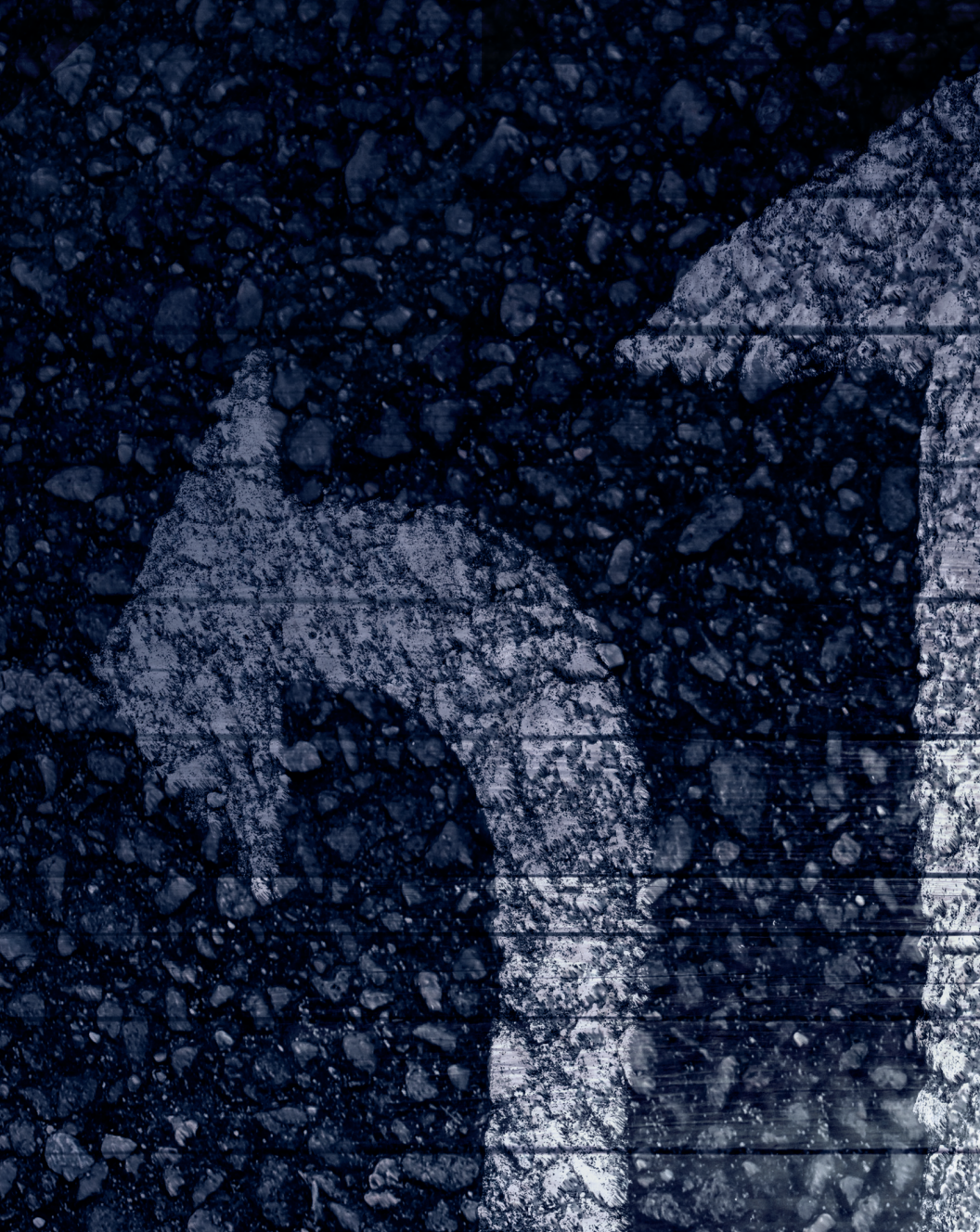


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