



Plans & Promises

Date: June 9, 2024

Text: Joshua 1: 1-9

BIG IDEA

Moses has just died and Joshua is hearing from God. After 30 days of mourning God is ready for the Israelites to enter the Promised Land. In order to be successful, God tells Joshua to be strong and courageous. God says this 3 times; each time painting with greater detail what strength and courage means.

Last week we talked about Faith, *being able to Trust God not just intellectually (Oida) but personally (Ginosko)*. With this faith we can do many wonderful things that God has planned for us (Ephesians 2:10). God gave Joshua great faith, and told him to build upon his faith with strength and courage.

Conversation Starter

- What is a good example of being strong and courageous?
How would the world define being strong and courageous?
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COMMENTARY #1

(Verses 1-6) The first time God tells Joshua to be strong and courageous, it is surrounded by the promises that God has made. You should be strong and courageous *because you will cause this people to inherit the land*, you should be strong and courageous *because I will be with you*, you should be strong and courageous *because no man shall be able to stand before you*.

Joshua can be strong and courageous because he knows (*Ginosko*) what God's goal is and who God is. Paul writes in 1 Corinthians 9:24, "Do you not know that in a race all the runners run, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it." God has prizes in your life—promises that may be known or unknown—and with them you can build your faith with strength and courage.

Discussion Questions

1. Are there any examples (personal or historical) of a promise providing strength and courage?
 2. What promises were made to people in the Bible? How did that make them stronger or give them courage?
 3. What promises from God do you lean on in your life?
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COMMENTARY #2

(Verses 7-8) The second call to be strong and courageous emphasizes following the law Moses gave them. God says "This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall

meditate on it day and night.” For this the Israelites will be prosperous. This is the same for us. Even though we are not under the law (Romans 2:17-8:25) we have God’s Word in the Bible to reference, study, memorize, and emulate.

Discussion Questions

1. Why would following the Law (or God’s word) make someone strong and courageous?
 2. What does it mean not to turn from the right or to the left in this passage?
 3. What examples (Biblical or personal) of strength and courage coming from following the law or studying the Bible?
 4. What are your Bible study habits? Do you have personal study time? Multiple Bible studies? Memorize scripture?
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COMMENTARY #3

(Verse 9) The third call begins with remembering God’s commandment to Joshua. This is slightly different than the previous section referring to God’s Word. This is more speaking personally than study. God has a plan for everyone and has works He has prepared for us (Ephesians 2:10). In order to see these come to fruition we must be strong and courageous. Sometimes the only thing holding us back from being strong and courageous is ourselves. God has provided the talent, resources, time, and support to achieve his vision, we just need to step into it with the faith we have been given.

Discussion Questions

1. Have you ever felt called or convicted to do something (big or small) that you believe was from God?
 2. Did your experience build your strength and courage?
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GOING DEEPER

1. What is a stumbling block for you from having strength and courage?
 2. Do you need strength and courage to do what God has planned? Why?
 3. Is it better to have strength and courage alone or with others? Should we look at these passages as individuals, as groups, or both?
 4. How can you bring out strength and courage in your fellow group mates?
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ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

<https://biblehub.com/> - To study close to the original written language

<https://www.navigators.org/resource/bible-study-tools/> - To learn how to navigate the Bible

GROUP ACTIVITY

Find the Verse

This activity is meant to be a fun activity to help identify where in the Bible verses are, even if they are not directly memorized.

First, the leader reads the verse and the translation they are using but not the book, chapter, or verse. Then the first player or team to say where the verse is located gets a point. I.e., Leader: “Jesus Wept, NIV”; Player: “That is John 11:35”. Leaders should prepare a list of verses beforehand, and/or use the list of verses below. Players can use their Bibles or an app. However, they should refrain from using a search engine.

Verse Content	Translation	Answer
For God so loved the world that he gave his one and only Son, that whoever believes in him shall not perish but have eternal life.	NIV	John 3:16
You foolish Galatians! Who has bewitched you? Before your very eyes Jesus Christ was clearly portrayed as crucified.	NIV	Galatians 3:1
Now there was a famine in the land, and Abram went down to Egypt to live there for a while because the famine was severe.	NIV	Genesis 12:10
When the builders laid the foundation of the temple of the LORD, the priests in	NIV	Ezra 3:10

<p>their vestments and with trumpets, and the Levites (the sons of Asaph) with cymbals, took their places to praise the LORD, as prescribed by David king of Israel.</p>		
<p>Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan and was led by the Spirit into the wilderness,</p>	NIV	Luke 4:1
<p>"I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me—</p>	NIV	John 10:14
<p>But the day of the Lord will come like a thief. The heavens will disappear with a roar; the elements will be destroyed by fire, and the earth and everything done in it will be laid bare.</p>	NIV	2 Peter 3:10