



Reading the Law

Date: July 7, 2024

Text: Joshua 8:30-35

BIG IDEA

A few weeks ago, we saw where God told Joshua to be strong and courageous 3 times each with a command/promise. Here in Joshua 8:30 we see Joshua living into this calling, Israel conquering another enemy, building an altar (the first altar in the Promised Land), and then Joshua proclaiming the Law of the Lord unapologetically. Through his obedience, knowledge and relationship with God, Israel is being blessed. This is the same for us today.

Conversation Starter

- How do you worship God?
 - Does that change on weekday or weekends?
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COMMENTARY #1

(Joshua 8:30-33) After the construction of the altar, all of Israel gathers around. They did so in the manner that Moses had told them to receive God's blessing. They worshiped God through

sacrifices on the altar. Just like them, we worship God though not through the sacrifice of animals but with prayer, study, fellowship and ministry. We follow what Jesus told us to do, and in that we receive God's blessings.

Discussion Questions

1. What does worship mean?
 2. What does worship do for God? What does it do for the worshiper?
 3. Is following God's commandments a form of worship?
 4. What are different examples in the Bible of worship?
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COMMENTARY #2

(Joshua 8:34-35) After worship, Joshua took the time to teach. He taught everything that had been written down to the whole assembly—including strangers. The Word of God would prove to be a foundation for all the people of Israel; no one would be excluded from this gift.

Discussion Questions

1. Why is it important to note that Joshua omitted nothing? What implications does this have for our lives today?

2. Why did he do it in a manner where strangers could hear as well? Does the Church share God's Word in a manner that those outside the church can hear? Explain.

3. What from our past weeks of study prepared Joshua for this moment?

GOING DEEPER

Study Methods

How do you study the Bible? There are many routines to study the Bible, with some being more effective than others. The best routines have a few elements: 1) they quiet all noise from the world to better listen to the Word, 2) they produce daily reading in the Bible, 3) they include the whole cannon and do not skip books, 4) they increase memorization and comprehension of the text, and 5) they illuminate or convict areas of our lives God wants to focus on.

Elements 1 through 3 we can focus on in our routine while elements 4 and 5 are fruits from the effort. Do your current study habits have elements 4 and 5?

Below is an example of a bigger scale study effort designed to incorporate each of those habits. This study effort has 3 parts to it: 1) daily quiet time, 2) large group study, and 3) verse memorization.

1. **Daily Quiet Time:** Quiet time should start off in prayer (typically no-ask prayer), and worship, talking about praises from the day, singing, etc. Once all the noise is quieted, move into daily reading. Target five books of the bible (three

from the Old Testament | Genesis - Malachi, one from the Gospels | Matthew - John, and one from the New Testament | Acts - Revelation). Read quickly and do not linger on questions or words (the next part focuses on that). Once the daily reading is completed, write out any questions or observations you have if you want to and close in prayer. This is meant to be quick around 15 to 30 minutes, but take as long as you want to.

2. **Weekly Deep Study:** Weekly study is a Bible study you attend weekly. The study should focus on going into the word and asking and answering questions it produces. Attending one of the Life Groups at Asbury is exactly what this step is describing.
3. **Verse Memorization:** Verse memorization is an important part that completes study. Places the words of God center in your mind and heart. A pace of 1one verse every week or every two weeks is a good pace to memorize scripture.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Navigator's Wheel - <https://www.navigators.org/resource/the-wheel-illustration/>

[*The Front Door: First Steps into a Life of Prayer*](#)

Bible hub - <https://biblehub.com/>

Blue Letter Bible Commentary - <https://www.blueletterbible.org/>

App Recommendations - Verse Locker App and Bible Memory App

Group Activity

Study Plan

Break up into pairs or groups of three. Discuss what study methods you do and develop a shared plan for how your group is going to study and worship this upcoming week. Check up with each other as you go throughout the week for accountability for your plan. Next week, talk with the rest of your Life Group about how you did, what was easy, and what was challenging.