

STRONG+ courageous

SERMON
STUDY

02.18.2024

Leader Corner

Joshua 1

Main Idea: Though Moses has died, the God of Israel has not. Have courage that the same God is still with us.

Main Practice: God is the power and strength of his people. Make sure you are His.

Main Teaching: Joshua 1

Refocus with Praise

For a Psalm on God's eternality, read Psalm 90 as a group.

with Prayer

In this chapter, we will see a life completely devoted to God. Telling God you are His is one thing, but believing it and living that truth out is another. Read the prayer below by Hannah Whitall Smith. Give your whole self to Him, and go forward believing that He has accepted your gift.

Lord Jesus, I believe that thou art able and willing to deliver me from all the care and unrest and bondage of my Christian life. I believe thou didst die to set me free, not only in the future, but now and here. I believe thou art stronger than sin, and that thou canst keep me, even me, in my extreme of weakness, from falling in its snares or yielding obedience to its commands. And Lord, I am going to trust thee to keep me. I have tried keeping myself, and have failed, and failed, most grievously. I am absolutely helpless. So now I will trust thee. I give myself to thee. I keep back no reserves. Body, soul and spirit, I present myself to thee as a piece of clay, to be fashioned into anything thy love and thy wisdom shall choose. And now I am thine. I believe thou dost accept that which is present to thee; I believe that this poor, weak, foolish heart has been taken possession of by thee, and that thou hast even at this very moment begun to work in me to will and to do of thy good pleasure. I trust thee utterly, and I trust thee now. Amen.

— From *The Christian's Secret of a Happy Life* by Hannah Whitall Smith

with

Principle

1. Read Joshua 1 as a group. What central truths are present?
2. Focus in on the first 6 verses of this section. What do we learn about God from this passage? Do those characteristics still ring true today?
3. Recall a time in the past when you heard or sensed a specific prompting to obey. What was it and how did it go? What did you learn from it?
4. Verses 6-9 repeat the phrase "Be strong and courageous." What did strength and courage look like for Joshua and the Israelites? What does it look like for us today?
5. Despite upheaval in their leadership, the God of Israel wasted no time in calling His people to action. What did their obedience look like? What is He asking of you?
6. In light of the new lead pastor announcement, what are you sensing God is calling your group and our church family toward in this next season?

with

Practice

Be strong and courageous is a command of God to Joshua and Israel, not a suggestion. Pray your group would follow Him this week, wherever that may lead. Specifically, choose another small group member to confide. What specific act or service of obedience are you being called toward for this week? Commit to one tangible way you will follow through with this and pray with one another for God's courage to act.

For Further Focus