

Men in the Bible

Applying Truths from Their Lives to Today

Joshua

Joshua's Story

- Slave
- Key Lieutenant (Exodus 17:8-18, 24:13, 32:17)
- Spy (Numbers 13 and 14)
- Leader in Waiting (Numbers 27:18; Deuteronomy 31:14,23)
- Leader and Warrior (Joshua 1:1-10, 11:18-23, 12:7-24)
- A **MAN** (Joshua 23-24. See 23: 3, 8-11,14-16; 24:14-15, 31)
- ★ Joshua proved to be **God's man** because he stood alone for God. He was devoted and loyal to God. He obeyed God.

Discussion Questions

1. Joshua did not follow the crowd. He chose God's path. Read Joshua 1:6-9. What does it look like to be "strong and courageous"? Why did God emphasize that phrase? Why was the message in v. 8 so important? Throughout his life, why was Joshua able to take such a firm stand?

God told Joshua to be "strong and courageous" several times. Why? God knows men need to be people that stand firm, that have the courage to stand against the crowd, and that have the ability to stand for what is right even if the message is unpopular. In order to be that kind of man, God reminded Joshua, and us, that we must stay faithful to God's commands; i.e., know His words in Scripture and fully obey Him. Bottom line, Joshua was able to stand firm and be a successful man because he completely believed God and acted on that belief.

2. In Joshua 24:15, Joshua says, “choose who you will serve”? What does it mean to serve the Lord? (see the verses in that chapter) Why do we have a difficult time of consistently serving the Lord?

Serving God means that we act as a faithful servant doing what He wants us to do each day. Imagine the example of Joshua, Joshua stands before a great crowd and says....‘you decide, are you going to follow God, the way of success, or are you going to follow so-called other gods, the way of failure?’. He takes a HUGE stand for God and impacted the crowd to pursue God. Notice, because of his stand, they decided to follow God.

Imagine the impact on Joshua’s family. They knew exactly where Joshua stood and his life backed up his words. Where would your family say you stand? Our most significant hindrance is our own selfishness. We do not serve God because we want to do things our way and get immediate results. We must trust that God’s way is best. Realize that God loves you, wants the best for you, and make the decision to follow God fully.

3. How did God work in Joshua’s life to develop him? How has God worked in your life for your development?

Joshua was a slave in Egypt, a witness to God’s deliverance, and a witness to miracles such as the parting of the Red Sea. He was victorious in battle and saw God’s faithfulness to Israel. He was tested as a spy in Numbers 13 and 14 and stood true to God. Through it all, God protected him and reminded him of His care. All along this journey, Joshua was placed in areas of increasing responsibility and stayed faithful.

In much the same way, God has worked, and is working, in your life. Hopefully, you have understood His great love for you and accepted His gift of an eternal relationship with you (if you have not accepted His gift, you should). God may have placed you in positions of responsibility so that you could learn and develop. He may have placed you in areas so you could handle adversity, learn to manage people, etc. In any case, you can trust that God is at work in your life. (Philippians 1:6, 2:13) Are you responding to His work in your life?

4. What actions will you take today to make sure your family knows your stand will be, “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”?

Ask yourself, is my day to day example showing my family that God is THE TOP PRIORITY in my life.

Commitment

Pray to God today. Declare your loyalty to Him. Commit to following Him, no matter the cost. Commit to stand for Him, even if unpopular. Commit to make an eternal impact on your family.