Bible Stories for Adults
The Conquest of the Promised Land
Joshua 7 - 24

Opening

Gathering: Share a time when you were victorious only by God's help.

Today’s Focus: God has a plan for us, His people, and He works through us to fulfill it.

Key Verses: Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve. …
As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord. Joshua 24:15
If God is for us, who can be against us? Romans 8:31

Opening Prayer

Lesson

God's Fullness of Time (Deuteronomy 2)

After wandering in the wilderness for years, how did Israel decide it was time to head north? Deuteronomy 2:1-3
How long had passed when Israel reached Moab (Zered Brook)? Deuteronomy 2:14-15
What was significant about the date that God brought them across the Jordan River? Joshua 5:10

Joshua's Executive Summary of Our Stories Thus Far (Joshua 24:1-11)

How did Joshua summarize the stories in the book of Exodus? Joshua 24:5-7
How did Joshua summarize our stories from last week? Joshua 24:8-11

A Summary With a Bit More Detail (Deuteronomy 2-3)

Why didn't God give to the Israelites the first lands they reached when they came out of the desert? Deuteronomy 2:5, 9, 19
How did the Israelites later feel about these people? Deuteronomy 23:3-7
To whom did God give the next land the Israelites encountered? Deuteronomy 2:24
To whom did God give the northern land of the Amorites? Deuteronomy 3:1-2
How did God bless the Israelites through these victories? Deuteronomy 2:25; 3:7-8
What did Moses do with this land? Deuteronomy 3:12-13a, 18
Israel Crosses the Jordan River  \textit{(Joshua 3-4)}

What was God's plan to get land for the rest of the tribes?  
Joshua 1:1-5

How would God make sure Israel looked to Joshua as their leader as they entered the Promised Land?  
Joshua 3:1, 7, 15-16a, 17

Did this impact anyone besides the Israelites that Joshua was to lead?  
Joshua 5:1

What happened right after the Israelites crossed the Jordan River?  
Joshua 4:20-24  
Joshua 5:3 (2-9)  
Joshua 5:10  
Joshua 5:11-12  
Joshua 5:15 (13-15)

Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho  \textit{(Joshua 2, 6)}

What was the first city-state that Israel encountered across the Jordan and to whom did God give it?  
Joshua 6:1-2

How were the Israelites able to break into this heavily fortified city?  
Joshua 6:3-5

How did they respond to God with this first victory on the west of the Jordan River?  
Joshua 6:20-21, 24  
“Devoted” (\textit{herem}) is same word as used for “completely destroyed” (Joshua 2:10)

With Jericho destroyed and gutted, did they intend to rebuild a city for themselves?  
Joshua 6:26

Ai, Yai, Yai  \textit{(Joshua 7)}

What was the next city-state for Israel to conquer and how did Israel feel about their chances?  
Joshua 7:2-3

How did the battle go?  
Joshua 7:4-5

What was the cause of this loss?  
Joshua 7:6, 10-11

How did they find the offender?  
Joshua 7:14, 19-21

What rigid discipline did God prescribe to cleanse Israel from this sin?  
Joshua 7:15, 25-26

Ai Win  \textit{(Joshua 8)}

What plan did God give Joshua for defeating Ai with His help?  
Joshua 8:3-8

How did this work?  
Joshua 8:18-22

Was Ai to be devoted to the Lord like Jericho?  
Joshua 8:2

What did Joshua do in response to God’s gift of victory?  
Joshua 8:30, 32, 34
Gibeon Deceives Israel into Treaty  \((\text{Joshua 9})\)

- How did the nearby city of Gibeon respond to the Israelite threat?  
  Joshua 9:3-6 (10:2)
- How did the Israelites respond to this request for a treaty?  
  Joshua 9:7  (7-13)
- Why were they afraid to make a treaty with a neighbor?  
  Numbers 33:51-53
- What would happen if they left natives in the land?  
  Numbers 33:55-56
- What did Joshua and the leaders decide to do?  
  Joshua 9:14-16
- What did Israel do with the Gibeonites after learning of the trick?  
  Joshua 9:18b-21  (17-27)

Israel Defeats Southern Coalition  \((\text{Joshua 10})\)

- What did 5 southern kings do in response to Gibeon siding with the enemy?  
  Joshua 10:3-5  (1-5)
- How was this a bad mistake?  
  Joshua 10:7-10  (6-10)
- Besides confusing the armies during the surprise attack, how else did God act to give Israel a victory?  
  Joshua 10:11-13  (11-28)
- What happened as a result of the clean-up attacks on the cities that these armies protected?  
  Joshua 10:40-42  (29-43)

Israel Defeats Northern Coalition  \((\text{Joshua 11})\)

- What did the northern kings do in response to this powerful threat?  
  Joshua 11:4-5  (1-5)
- What happened at the Waters of Merom?  
  Joshua 11:6-8  (6-9)
- What happened as a result of the clean-up attacks on the cities that these armies protected?  
  Joshua 11:12-14  (10-15)
  Note:  Hazor was a huge city,  Archaeology confirms  the destruction and burning in verse 11

Settling Down  \((\text{Joshua 11-22})\)

- Were there any other specific towns that the Israelites targeted for attack?  
  Joshua 11:21-22  (Numbers 13:33)
- What territory did Joshua and the Israelites conquer in these battles?  
  Joshua 11:16-17  (16-20)
- Did Israel conquer the entire Promised Land under Joshua?  
  Joshua 13:1 (2-5)
- What details are given in Joshua Chapters 13 through 21?  
  Joshua 13:8  (9-33)
  Joshua 14:1-2  (Chapters 14-19)
  Joshua 20:1-3  (1-9)
  Joshua 21:3  (1-42)
Oh, Gad! What Did Reuben Manasseh To Do? *(Joshua 22)*

What did Joshua allow after these major victories?  
Joshua 22:1-2, 6 (1-34)

What did these tribes do on the way home?  
Joshua 22:10

How did the other Israelites respond when they heard about this, and why?  
Joshua 22:11-12, 16, 19

Was this the intention of the altar?  
Joshua 22:26-27

Did this satisfy the Israelites?  
Joshua 22:31

Joshua's Final Acts  *(Joshua 23-24)*

Did Joshua feel he had completed the conquest before he died?  
Joshua 23:1-5

What instructions & warnings did Joshua give the Israelites before he died?  
Joshua 23:6-8, 12-13 (6-16)

What choice did Joshua ask the Israelites to make?  
Joshua 24:14-15

What choice did the Israelites make?  
Joshua 24:24-25 (16-27)

How faithful did the Israelites remain?  
Joshua 24:29, 31

Closing Prayer

**Response** - Consider and meditate on one each day this week

1. Do I see the Bible as a book of interesting stories, or do I recognize the unfolding of God's eternal plan for His people and how I am a part of that plan?  
   *(Joshua 23:14-24:15; Deuteronomy 29:29; Jeremiah 29:11-13; Ephesians 3:2-6; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)*

2. When have I wanted something so much that I was willing to sin to have it?  
   *(Joshua 7; Genesis 3; Romans 7:7-11; James 1:13-17)*

3. Do I look to God for guidance or do I rely on my own *wisdom* to make decisions?  
   *(Joshua 9; 1 Kings 22:1-40; Jeremiah 10:21; 1 Corinthians 1:18-25)*

4. When has God made me victorious over something in a way that only He could have done?  
   *(Joshua 10:10-14; Judges 7; 2 Kings 6:8-23; Luke 18:24-27; John 14:12)*

5. Do I read God's word regularly? Can people see God's Word active in me?  
   *(Joshua 8:30-35; 24:25-31; Deuteronomy 6:4-9; Romans 15:4; 2 Corinthians 3:2-3)*

Next Week - *Judges Rule Israel*