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 = God told them to

How long had passed when Israel reached Moab (Zered Brook)? = Almost 2 years from Egypt to Kadesh
Deuteronomy 2:14-15 = 38 years since Kadesh (Israel failed to trust God), Entire generation died

What was significant about the date that God brought them across the Jordan River?
Joshua 5:10 = Arrived on the Passover, 40 years to the day, Celebrated and remembered

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

How did Joshua summarize the stories of the Israelites in the book of Genesis?
Joshua 24:2-4 = God picked Abraham, led him to Canaan, sent Jacob to Egypt

How did Joshua summarize the stories in the book of Exodus? = Then lived in desert a long time
Joshua 24:5-7 = God sent Moses & Aaron with plagues, saved from Egyptians in Red Sea

How did Joshua summarize our stories from last week?
Joshua 24:8-11 = God gave them Amorite land east of Jordan, plus Jericho and others

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 = God gave these lands to descendants of Esau & Lot

How did the Israelites later feel about these people? = Accepted Edomites as brothers
Deuteronomy 23:3-7 = They despised Moabites and Ammonites for attempted Balaam curse

To whom did God give the next land the Israelites encountered?
Deuteronomy 2:24 = God gave the southern land of the Amorites to Israel (from Sihon)
To whom did God give the northern land of the Amorites?
Deuteronomy 3:1-2 = God gave the northern land of the Amorites to Israel (from Og)

How did God bless the Israelites through these victories? = Large territory of Arnon Gorge to Mt Hermon
Deuteronomy 2:25; 3:7-8 = Put fear in the hearts of others, Gave them the livestock & plunder
What did Moses do with this land? = Men of Rueben, Gad & Manasseh had to help with rest of conquest
Deuteronomy 3:12-13a, 18 = Gave it to tribes of Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh
Israel Crosses the Jordan River  *(Joshua 3-4)*

What was God's plan to get land for the rest of the tribes?
Joshua 1:1-5  =  He replaced Moses with Joshua, promised to be present and give victories

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  =  God exalted Joshua with river parting - like Moses & Sea of Reeds

Did this impact anyone besides the Israelites that Joshua was to lead?
Joshua 5:1  =  Others heard about it and feared the Israelites

What happened right after the Israelites crossed the Jordan River?
Joshua 4:20-24  =  Joshua stood up 12 stones as a memorial of God's power and love for Israel
Joshua 5:3  =  Males were circumcised - reminder to be set apart from other people for God
Joshua 5:10  =  Celebrated the Passover and remembered what God did
Joshua 5:11-12  =  Manna stopped, they ate the produce of the land
Joshua 5:15  =  Angel met Joshua and told him, Promised Land is holy (God's)

?? Joshua Fought the Battle of Jericho??  *(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  =  Jericho, God gave it to the Israelites

How were the Israelites able to break into this heavily fortified city?
Joshua 6:3-5  =  March around the city 6 days, 7 times on 7th, blow trumpets & shout

How did they respond to God with this first victory on the west of the Jordan River?
Joshua 6:20-21, 24  =  Devoted everything to God - killed everything, valuables in God's treasury

“Devoted” *(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?  =  Rebuilt 1Kings 16:34

Ai, Yai, Yai  *(Joshua 7)*

What was the next city-state for Israel to conquer and how did Israel feel about their chances?
Joshua 7:2-3  =  Ai *(the ruin)* - east of Bethel (Abraham & Jacob worshipped God) - easy win

How did the battle go?
Joshua 7:4-5  =  Israel was routed

What was the cause of this loss?  =  All Jericho was to be devoted to God
Joshua 7:6, 10-11  =  Someone had taken valuables from the Jericho plunder

How did they find the offender?
Joshua 7:14, 19-21  =  They threw lots for God to tell them who - Achan confessed

What rigid discipline did God prescribe to cleanse Israel from this sin?  =  Achor means trouble
Joshua 7:15, 25-26  =  They stoned, then burned, Achan, his family and everything he had

Ai Win  *(Joshua 8)*

What plan did God give Joshua for defeating Ai with His help?
Joshua 8:3-8  =  They drew the army out of the city and then attacked with an ambush

How did this work?
Joshua 8:18-22  =  Joshua held out his javelin and God gave them a complete victory

Was Ai to be devoted to the Lord like Jericho?
Joshua 8:2  =  No.  they were to kill all people, but could take the plunder for themselves

What did Joshua do in response to God's gift of victory?  =  Moses gave instructions in Deut 27
Joshua 8:30, 32, 34  =  Joshua renewed God's covenant on Mount Ebal, the people listened
Gibeon Deceives Israel into Treaty  (Joshua 9)

How did the nearby city of Gibeon respond to the Israelite threat? = Joshua 10:2 - large, powerful city
How did the Israelites respond to this request for a treaty?
Joshua 9:7 (7-13) = Afraid to do so in case they were neighbors
Why were they afraid to make a treaty with a neighbor?
Numbers 33:51-53 = God commanded Israel to wipe Canaan clean & take the land
What would happen if they left natives in the land?
Numbers 33:55-56 = Those remaining would become a snare, Israel would be punished by God

What did Joshua and the leaders decide to do?
Joshua 9:14-16 = Made a treaty since apparently distant, didn't inquire of God, learned bad news
What did Israel do with the Gibeonites after learning of the trick?
Joshua 9:18b-21 (17-27) = Let them live, became woodcutters & water bearers

Israel Defeats Southern Coalition  (Joshua 10)

What did 5 southern kings do in response to Gibeon siding with the enemy?
Joshua 10:5 (1-5) = They joined forces and attacked Gibeon – for allying with Israel
How was this a bad mistake?
Joshua 10:7-10 (6-10) = Israelites came to the rescue and God gave them victory
Besides confusing the armies during the surprise attack, how else did God act to give Israel a victory?
Joshua 10:11-13 (11-28) = God killed most with hailstones, Stopped the sun to give more time
What happened as a result of the clean-up attacks on the cities that these armies protected?
Joshua 10:40-42 (29-43) = Israel captured southern region - KB to Gaza (west), G to G (east)

Israel Defeats Northern Coalition  (Joshua 11)

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

Settling Down  (Joshua 11-22)

Were there any other specific towns that the Israelites targeted for attack?
Joshua 11:21-22 (Numbers 13:33) = Anakite (giants seen by the spies) towns in the south
What territory did Joshua and the Israelites conquer in these battles?
Joshua 11:16-17 (16-20) = Southern Negev to Mount Hermon
Did Israel conquer the entire Promised Land under Joshua? = Philistine coastline, north of Mt Hermon, +
Joshua 13:1 (2-5) = Large areas of land remain to be taken

What details are given in Joshua Chapters 13 through 21?
Joshua 13:8 (9-33) = Reuben, Gad, Manasseh land as defined by Moses
Joshua 14:1-2 (Chapters 14-19) = Land for rest of tribes assigned by Joshua & Eliezar
Joshua 20:1-3 (1-9) = Cities of refuge defined - protection for those who accidentally kill another
Joshua 21:3 (1-42) = Levite towns defined

You can find Bible Stories for Adults on the web at www.biblestoriesforadults.com
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) = Eastern tribes (Reuben, Gad & 1/2 of Manasseh) to return home

What did these tribes do on the way home?

Joshua 22:10 = They built an altar by the Jordan River

How did the other Israelites respond when they heard about this, and why?

Joshua 22:11-12, 16, 19 = They prepared to fight them for building an altar in place of God's altar

Was this the intention of the altar?

Joshua 22:26-27 = No, they did it to remind their descendants to worship only Yahweh

Did this satisfy the Israelites? = Faithfulness was so important they were willing to even attack their own

Joshua 22:31 = Yes, they were thrilled that Rueben, Gad & Manasseh were still faithful

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

Did Joshua feel he had completed the conquest before he died?

Joshua 23:1-5 = No, he reminded the leaders that God would give them victories

What instructions & warnings did Joshua give the Israelites before he died?

Joshua 23:6-8, 12-13 (6-16) = Obey God & remain separate from others still left

What choice did Joshua ask the Israelites to make?

Joshua 24:14-15 = Choose this day whom you will serve

What choice did the Israelites make?

Joshua 24:24-25 (16-27) = We will serve & obey, Covenant renewed at Shechem

How faithful did the Israelites remain?

Joshua 24:29, 31 = They stayed faithful while this generation lasted

**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*