

DISCUSSION RESOURCE

Joshua 13-22

After all the battles have been won, Joshua divides up the land for the Israelites. Although it's not the most exciting sections in Joshua it represents the fulfillment of God's promise to Abraham.

Briefly read over:

Joshua 14:6-15

Joshua 17

Joshua 18:1-10

- Clarify any parts of the passage that you don't understand.
- Discuss the things that stand out to you.
- What do you notice about the response of the Israelites in each reading? How would you describe their attitudes and actions?
- Consider how you respond to God's promises. Share an example from your life?

If you want to dive deeper into the passages here a few more specific discussion questions?

Joshua 14

- In what way did Caleb stand firm to his convictions?
- What can we learn from Caleb's character and faith journey?
- What does it mean to follow the Lord wholeheartedly?

Joshua 17

- What did the Manassites demonstrate in their appeals to Joshua?
- What principle do you learn from Joshua's response to them?
- How do you see the attitude of the Manassites present in our world today? How do you see it present in your own life?
- What fears or uncertainties stop you from stepping into what God is calling you to?
- What are some specific things you could do to overcome these obstacles?

Joshua 18

- Why do you think the Israelites were slow to divide the land they had conquered?
- In what ways was Joshua a good leader?
- What do you learn from Joshua's direction to those tribes?
- Why was this direction helpful in leading them to claim their land?

Discerning the Promises of God

Here are a few guidelines for you to learn the promises of God and which are relevant to us today.

Take note of the "IF"

Promises that contain an "If" require some form of obedience before we can expect them to come to pass in our lives. They are conditional. If we want to claim them, obedience is required. Often "if" promises of blessing are accompanied by corresponding "if" warnings about disobedience.

Understand the context

We often apply a promise to ourselves before considering its original audience or its historical, cultural, or textual context. In some cases, a promise was made to a specific person for a specific reason and has no further application beyond its immediate context. Have a read of the surrounding passages as well as how the statement fits into God's overarching plan.

Know the difference between a promise and a principle

Promises are always fulfilled every single time. Principles state general truths.

Take time to read through these verses. Discuss what stands out to you, what these are referring to and what they might mean for us today.

Genesis 12:1-3

John 10:28-29

Hebrews 13:5-6

James 1:2-7

Luke 12:40

Matthew 28:19-20

1 John 1:8-10

Matthew 11:28-29

Romans 10:9-10

Luke 12:40

2 Corinthians 1:20-22

John 14:1-3

- How does knowing and trusting the promises of God help you face a current situation, belief, or feeling?
- How might these truths influence how you will live in the days and weeks to come?

After reading **Ephesians 1:11-14** and **Hebrews 9:15**, describe your inheritance in Christ. How is this inheritance different than any other inheritance we may receive?

- What is one way you can begin stepping into what God has called you to? Share this with others your reflections and take time setting accountability around putting this into action.

What is God Calling you to?

In the Bible, the word “call” is used most often to refer to God's initiative to bring people to Christ and to participate in his redemptive work in the world.

Below are some helpful reminders of what it means to be 'called':

- **Everyone is called to belong to Christ and to participate in his redemptive work. (Romans 1:6)**
- **God calls us to a whole life approach to discipleship and mission, not just to a job or task. (Colossians 3:15-17)**

If you are struggling to discern what God might be stirring in you here are a few prompting questions that should help push us into action:

- Is the call to end a relationship you know is not God-honouring?
- Is it to begin a new chapter in your career life?
- Maybe you've tried to live a good life and react in a Christ-like ways, but always fall short?
- Is it to step out in faith into some ministry/serving opportunities?
- Have you met someone whose godly life challenges you?
- Is it to forgive the person who hurt you the most?
- Is it to trust Him with your finances, your family, or your future?
- Has something you've read or heard created a longing for something more?

These can certainly be ways God is 'calling' you to action. However, it is up to each of us to respond to him.

Spend time sharing what you sense God might be calling you to do, change or live into?

What is one step you can take to put this call into action?

Pray for one another and decide what helpful accountability looks like for you.