

Promised Land 1 Study and Discussion Questions

Lesson One: Preparation for Conquest - Joshua 1:1 – 5:12

Unless otherwise noted, all questions in this lesson and subsequent lessons refer to the underlined Scripture references listed at the beginning of each of the five sections within the lesson (often given as readings).

From Joshua 1:1-11:

- 1) Read Genesis 12:1-7 and 15:13-21. What promises had God given Abraham, the Patriarch of the nation of Israel?

- 2) Read Joshua 1:1-6 with Genesis 12:1-7, Exodus 1:1-7, 12:40-41, and Numbers 32:13. From these passages and what you discovered in question 1, give a short history of the Israelites (Abraham's descendants) ending with the Joshua 1 passage (Abraham's grandson Jacob is also known as "Israel").

- 3) What challenges and promises did God give Joshua (Joshua 1:1-11), and how can you apply one or more of them to your own circumstances today?

From Joshua 1:12 – 2:24:

- 4) Read Joshua 1:2, 12-18 with Numbers 32:1-2, 5, 16-22 and record the basic facts about the land inheritance of the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of the tribe of Manasseh. How does Joshua 1 say these tribes responded to his reminder of their obligation?

- 5) How did Rahab explain her reason for helping the two Israelite spies (include verse numbers with your answers)? What do Rahab's words and actions cause you to conclude about her faith?
- 6) According to Joshua 2:1, what was Rahab's occupation? With this in mind, glance at Matthew 1:1, 5 and tell how Rahab has been honored. What does this tell you about the God of the Bible (see 1 Corinthians 1:26-31)?
- 7) For whom will you commit to pray this week that, like Rahab, they might shift their allegiance to the Lord, God of heaven and earth?

From Joshua 3 and 4:

- 8) Skim Exodus 25:1-22, Numbers 10:33-36, and Deuteronomy 10:8 and record what you learn about the Ark of the Covenant.
- 9) Based on what you learned in question 8, why would Joshua have sent out instructions to follow the Ark (Joshua 3:2-4) and why would he also have wanted the Israelites to also keep their distance? For students who are familiar with New Testament teachings, explain how a person today can "draw near" to God's presence today (refer to Hebrews 10:19-22).

10) Is there some “territory” that you can trust God to lead you through at this time in your life, since “you have never been this way before” (Joshua 3:4)? If so, what is it?

From Joshua 3 and 4:

11) List all the reasons why God miraculously stopped the flow of the Jordan River during its flood stage to allow the Israelites to cross on dry land?

12) Refer to Joshua 4:6 and 21. What has God done in your life recently that you ought to share with someone, in order that they might consider or delight in His awesome deeds? It does not need to be as dramatic as the crossing of the Jordan on dry ground!

From Joshua 5:1-12:

13) What two events occurred at Gilgal after the Israelites had crossed into the Promised Land but before they began to conquer it?

14) From Joshua 1:1-5:12, list all the events that should have prepared the Israelites for the conquest of the Promised Land. Explain your reasoning.

15) Reread Joshua 1:8. How do reading, meditating on, and obeying God’s word prepare you for spiritual victory? Can you think of a way that it can help you gain victory this week?