



**Week One: Joshua 1:1-9**

**“Your Turn”**

Study Guide for the week of  
September 11, 2022

**Some questions to answer and discuss:**

1. How would you feel if you had to move to a different country?
2. When have you experienced a major change in your life?
3. Why do you think change makes people feel uncomfortable?
4. What prepared Joshua to lead the nation of Israel into the Promised Land? ([1:1](#))
5. For what major change did the Lord want Joshua to get the Israelites prepared? ([1:2](#))
6. What promise did the Lord give to Joshua? ([1:5](#))
7. Why was it important for Joshua to "be strong and courageous"? ([1:6](#))
8. Who had been promised to inherit the land, according to the Lord? ([1:6](#))
9. What specific steps did the Lord instruct Joshua to take in order to be successful? ([1:7](#))
10. What did God say meditation on the Book of the Law would accomplish? ([1:8](#))
11. How do you think Joshua felt when God commanded him to lead the nation of Israel into the Promised Land?

**Going deeper: More questions for discussion and reflection:**

1. What keeps me from relying on the promises of God?
2. When have I been most confident of God's presence with me?
3. How can trusting in Jesus free me from fear and empower me to step courageously into my calling?
4. What would I do tomorrow if I was certain God was with me?

**Life Application Bible Notes**

[1:1](#) As the book of Joshua opens, the Israelites are camped along the east bank of the Jordan River at the very edge of the Promised Land, and they are completing the mourning period for Moses, who has just died ([Deuteronomy 34:7, 8](#)). Thirty-nine years earlier (after spending a year at Mount Sinai receiving God's law), the Israelites had an opportunity to enter the Promised Land, but they failed to trust God to give them victory. As a result, God did not allow them to enter the land, but made them wander in the wilderness until the disobedient generation had all died.

During their wilderness wanderings, the Israelites obeyed God's laws. They also taught the new generation to obey God's laws so that they might enter the Promised Land (also called Canaan). As the children grew, they were often reminded that faith and obedience to God brought victory, while unbelief and disobedience brought tragedy. When the last of the older generation had died and the new generation had become adults, the Israelites prepared to make their long-awaited claim on the Promised Land.

**1:1-5** Joshua succeeded Moses as Israel's leader. What qualifications did he have to become the leader of a nation? (1) God appointed him ([Numbers 27:18-23](#)). (2) He was one of only two living eyewitnesses to the Egyptian plagues and the Exodus from Egypt. (3) He was Moses' personal aide for 40 years. (4) Of the 12 scouts, only he and Caleb showed complete confidence that God would help them conquer the land.

**1:2** Because Joshua had assisted Moses for many years, he was well prepared to take over the leadership of the nation. Changes in leadership are common in many organizations. At such times, a smooth transition is essential for the establishment of the new administration. This doesn't happen unless new leaders are trained. If you are currently in a leadership position, begin preparing someone to take your place. Then, when you leave or are promoted, operations can continue to run efficiently. If you want to be a leader, learn from others so that you will be prepared when the opportunity comes.

**1:5** Joshua's new job consisted of leading more than two million people into a strange new land and conquering it. What a challenge—even for a man of Joshua's caliber! Every new job is a challenge. Without God it can be frightening. With God it can be a great adventure. Just as God was with Joshua, he is with us as we face our new challenges. We may not conquer nations, but every day we face tough situations, difficult people, and temptations. God promises, however, that he will never abandon us or fail to help us. By asking God to direct us we can conquer many of life's challenges.

**1:6-8** Many people think that prosperity and success come from having power, influential personal contacts, and a relentless desire to get ahead. But the strategy for gaining prosperity that God taught Joshua goes against such criteria. He said that to succeed Joshua must (1) be strong and courageous because the task ahead would not be easy, (2) obey God's law, and (3) constantly read and study the Book of Instruction—God's Word. To be successful, follow God's words to Joshua. You may not succeed by the world's standards, but you will be a success in God's eyes—and his opinion is most important.

**Acts Study Guide questions and notes are from**

