

“Developing a Vision”

Made For More Sermon Series | Week One | Newbreak Church

January 9th, 2022

Newbreak’s Sermon Study Guide is an in-house resource that serves sermon-based Life Groups and/or individuals who want to reflect further on how the message contributes to their spiritual formation.

In this week’s study, we begin a series in Joshua seeing how life’s transitions are opportunities for God to bring us into new territory.

Icebreakers for Life Groups

- What are some new year’s goals you have?
- What is your understanding of the book of Joshua coming into today?
→ The [Bible Project’s video on Joshua](#) on YouTube provides a great introduction to this book of the Bible.

Going Deeper Into the Message

Read Joshua 1:1–6

Point 1 – Be willing to move beyond the past.

For 40 years Moses was *the guy*—he was the leader of God’s people out of Egypt and into the wilderness into the promised land. Originally, the people were supposed to go straight into the promised land but their wayward hearts constantly led them away from God and into idolatry. The problems were manifold, but one way of summing them up is that the people of Israel weren’t fixated on the possibilities and the promises of God but rather on the doubts and dangers associated with the adventure to occupy the promised land.

But like the death of Moses, sometimes something old has to die for something new to happen. In our own lives, the possibilities are sometimes held back by a dim view of the future.

Some of us need to hear this: *God is always wanting us to step into new territory.* **What if that which you have grown accustomed to is far less than what God has for you?**

These are not easy to solve, but they are also not to be accepted realities—God’s inviting us into a new possibility of being! The life of the Christ-follower is an adventure of always being challenged away from complacency and into the fullness of life, He offers! After all, remember that the definition of insanity is doing the same thing over and over again and yet, expecting different results.

Every time you are tempted to do something the same old way, ask yourself. Do I want to be a prisoner of the past or a pioneer of the future?

But sometimes we don’t have a broad and bright vision of the future because we are stuck processing the past. Have I processed the pain of the past? If not, then maybe I need to include that as part of my action plan. If so, then it’s time to navigate the path forward in new ways. It’s important to learn from the past but not to live in it. Joshua had to help the people advance forward. The past held great memories but also tragedies—lessons to be found in each. And either way, God wasn’t calling Joshua *backward*, He was calling Joshua *forward*. He is calling *you* forward today, too.

Questions for Group Discussion or Personal Reflection

- How do you honor your past? Do you tend to reflect on it to appreciate or learn from it? Do you daydream about it and relive it? Or do you ignore it altogether? Is your method healthy? What can you do today to keep from being stuck in your past?
- How do you discern God calling you forward into new territory this season of life? What does “new territory” look like for you?

Read Joshua 1:2–3

Point 2 – The time is now.

Although the land was not in Joshua's possession yet, God can say, "I have given it to you" (verse 3), using the Hebrew perfect aspect to convey the absolute certainty of something that has yet to happen. God is being prophetic here promising what He will deliver. And as we learn day-by-day, God keeps His promises. When He puts His promise as a seal on something, He will not forfeit fulfilling it any more than He would cease to be who He is. He stakes His entire reputation and being on keeping His word, regardless of our perceived worth.

Notice how the land is even attached to this idea of *promise*. It became known as the *promised land* because it was the specific place God would lead His people. It is promised not only in speaking prophetically that they will obtain that land, but also in that it is a gift from God.

But let's not forget to humanize Joshua. Joshua definitely had some doubts when God showed him the size of the land he was supposed to take. After all, God often said to him: "Do not be afraid," (e.g., Joshua 1:9). It would not be an easy job. When you stand on the verge of a new land, a little voice will always say "You don't have what it takes for this one." And the voice is not wrong. Technically we are never qualified or ready to walk through the door God opens because it's most likely a challenge we have never faced. But that is part of the adventure of faith—that we usually find ourselves in situations where we have to have the courage to trust God, despite the obstacle or opposition ahead!

Questions for Group Discussion or Personal Reflection

- Has there been a time when God gave you assurance of His faithfulness before something happened? How did that inspire your faith moving forward? Is there anything God is trying to give you certainty about even though it is still down the road?
- The voice that tells us: "You don't have what it takes" is technically right. But how does our faith push out fear when we feel intimidated by circumstances or feel unqualified for situations?

Read Joshua 1:4-5

Point 3 – Believe that God has more.

One of the greatest qualities of God's love for us is that He loves us too much to leave us in a state of "good enough." God could have led them to the brink the Jordan River and could have said "This is far enough." But He wanted to give to His people an abundant land, not just enough land. He wants us to be more, to do more, to love more, and to know Him more. In this growth, He promises to be with us, to go before us, and to never leave us. It's scary to go into new situations. But God tells us not to fear because He is faithful in His promises.

God has plans and purposes for each one of us. As He planned for Joshua to lead His people to inhabit the Promised Land, He has a "promised land" for you and I today. We have to take hold of that which He has already given us. This starts by believing that He has more for us. This starts with a step of faith into the unknown. The people of Israel had to have faith to step into the Jordan river, to go to a place they had not been. They had to believe God would do for them what He had promised.

For us to be people who impact the history of the world, of our families, our neighborhoods, or our places of business, we have to move out of where we've been to where He's calling us. We have to say, "Send me, I'll go." We have to listen to the Spirit. Maybe God doesn't lead us to *physically* go anywhere. Maybe He leads us to more opportunities to show His love to others. Maybe He tells us we need to forgive more, we need to study His Word more, we need to become more involved in ministry. Whatever God has for you this week, believe it's more than what you think it is. **"Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us" (Ephesians 3:20, NIV).**

Questions for Group Discussion or Personal Reflection

- Are you open to God doing more in your life? What would this look like for you? Is there a persistent dream He has given you that you are resisting? What is a first step you can take today towards that dream?
- What is something you need to ask God to give you His courage to accomplish? Consider all of the promises God has kept for you this far. Does that increase your faith? Be honest with God about any fears you have.

Read Joshua 1:6

Point 4 – You are the only one who can fulfill your calling.

God chose Joshua to lead the people after Moses. He prepared Joshua, under Moses, to do for the Israelites what no one else was in a position to do. Joshua was mentored by Moses. Joshua was a skilled warrior. Joshua went up the mountain with Moses. Joshua saw God's might and power work through all of the miracles God had shown His people. Joshua had already been to the Promised Land and saw that it was good.

You are in a unique position to do what God has created you to do. You are the only one who has the relationships you do, who has the experiences you do, who knows what, and who, you do. You can reach people for God who others can't. ["For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do"](#) (Ephesians 2:10).

Questions for Group Discussion or Personal Reflection

- Focus on the skills you have acquired over the years through your unique experiences and relationships. What ways do you think God is calling you to use those skills today? What does God want you to actively do this week for Him?
- Before Joshua could do anything *for* God he had to listen to what God was saying to him. Are you taking time to listen to God? What do you need to do to listen to Him more regularly?

—FINAL CHALLENGE QUESTIONS—

How are you going to think differently in light of what you have read, heard, and discussed this week?

What is one thing you are going to change in your life in light of the sermon?

BONUS: For those of you with kids or around kids: What is one truth from this message that you can share with your kids?