

Not
one
Failed
Promise.

Life Group Study Series

Joshua: Preview

10th October 2016

Bible

Deuteronomy 31:14-23 (NIV)

Israel's Rebellion Predicted

14 The Lord said to Moses, "Now the day of your death is near. Call Joshua and present yourselves at the tent of meeting, where I will commission him." So Moses and Joshua came and presented themselves at the tent of meeting.

15 Then the Lord appeared at the tent in a pillar of cloud, and the cloud stood over the entrance to the tent. **16** And the Lord said to Moses: "You are going to rest with your ancestors, and these people will soon prostitute themselves to the foreign gods of the land they are entering. They will forsake me and break the covenant I made with them. **17** And in that day I will become angry with them and forsake them; I will hide my face from them, and they will be destroyed. Many disasters and calamities will come on them, and in that day they will ask, 'Have not these disasters come on us because our God is not with us?' **18** And I will certainly hide

my face in that day because of all their wickedness in turning to other gods.

19 "Now write down this song and teach it to the Israelites and have them sing it, so that it may be a witness for me against them. **20** When I have brought them into the land flowing with milk and honey, the land I promised on oath to their ancestors, and when they eat their fill and thrive, they will turn to other gods and worship them, rejecting me and breaking my covenant.

21 And when many disasters and calamities come on them, this song will testify against them, because it will not be forgotten by their descendants. I know what they are disposed to do, even before I bring them into the land I promised them on oath." **22** So Moses wrote down this song that day and taught it to the Israelites.

23 The Lord gave this command to Joshua son of Nun: "Be strong and courageous, for you will bring the Israelites into the land I promised them on oath, and I myself will be with you."

Questions

These questions are a guide for conversation. Please take your time over them, and don't feel in a rush to finish them. The objective of a LifeGroup discussion is to engage in meaningful conversation around a Biblical idea, invite the Holy Spirit to lead your time of reflection.

You might want to have a go at question 1 before reading the passage.

1. Opening Discussion: Share a significant transition in your life (e.g., a new role at work, from school to uni, marriage, new living arrangements) and how you felt about it. What, if anything, helped you manage this change?
2. Take a moment to read Deuteronomy 31:14-23. As you read, or hear it read, notice if there is a word/phrase in this passage that 'jumps out at you'. What is it? (Try to resist the urge to explain why this word/phrase jumped out – this is about observing, not judging). Invite the Holy Spirit to lead you into that word/phrase. Take some time to share what these words/phrases/pictures are.
3. As part of Joshua's commissioning Moses taught the people of Israel the song of Deuteronomy 32:1-43. Take some time to read this song and identify the sins of Israel, as well as the Lord's response. What does this song say about the nature of the people?
4. This context of spiritual failure suggests that the call to be strong and courageous has less to do with bravery in battle and more to do with spiritual courage and strength. What does it mean to be strong and courageous spiritually?
5. The primary way in which Joshua and the Israelites were to be strong and courageous was to keep the law of God close to their hearts. What other ways can you foster strength and courage?
6. Are there particular circumstances for which you desire greater spiritual strength and courage in your life? Take some time to share these with the group.

Prayer

Take some time to thank God for each other's answers to question 6, and pray that God might continue to help us know his strength and courage in our lives.

Extras

To help inform this series, Marc also asks:

1. Have you ever read the book of Joshua before?
2. What questions do you have about the book (or the sections you have read)?
[Please feel free to email these to Marc.Rader@gymeabaptist.org.au]