

# THE BIG STORY

FROM CREATION TO CHRIST

## WEEK 7

*Enter the Kingdom: Joshua and the Battle for God's Land*

### DAILY READING – March 2-6th

Mon – Joshua 1

Tue – Joshua 2

Wed – Joshua 3–4

Thu – Joshua 5

Fri – Joshua 6

### DEVOTIONAL

**Memory Verse:** “Be strong and courageous... for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

**Story Thread:** God brings His people into His promised reign through courageous, obedient trust in His presence.

By the time we reach Joshua, Israel is no longer in Egypt and no longer wandering in the wilderness. They are standing at the edge of promise. The Jordan River flows in front of them. The land God swore to Abraham lies ahead. The story has been moving toward this moment for generations.

Yet stepping forward still requires faith.

God speaks to Joshua clearly: “Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan... into the land that I am giving to them” (Joshua 1:2, ESV). The promise is already in motion. God is giving the land. But Israel must still cross the river.

This is the tension of faith. God promises. God is faithful. Yet obedience still matters. The land is not merely about territory—it is about God's reign restored among His people. From Genesis onward, humanity was called to live under God's rule. Sin fractured that calling. Now, through Joshua, God is restoring a visible place where His authority, holiness, and presence are displayed.

When God repeats, “Be strong and courageous,” He does not ground that courage in personality or skill. He grounds it in presence: “for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go” (Joshua 1:9, ESV). Biblical courage is not confidence in self. It is obedience rooted in God's nearness.

Even the battle of Jericho makes this clear. The strategy is unusual—marching, trumpets, waiting, shouting. No siege towers. No military innovation. The walls fall not because Israel is impressive, but because God is faithful. Victory comes through obedient trust.

Before Jericho falls, Joshua meets the Commander of the army of the LORD (Joshua 5:13–14). When Joshua asks, “Are you for us, or for our adversaries?” the answer reframes everything. The real question is not whether God joins our mission, but whether we are aligned with His.

This story ultimately points to Jesus. Joshua's name in Hebrew is the same name later translated as Jesus—“The LORD saves.” Joshua leads Israel into a temporary land. Jesus leads us into an eternal kingdom. “He has

delivered us from the domain of darkness and transferred us to the kingdom of his beloved Son” (Colossians 1:13, ESV).

The Jordan still stands before us in different forms—obedience we have delayed, forgiveness we have postponed, trust we have resisted. The good news is this: the God who calls us forward does not remove every obstacle first. He promises His presence in it.

Crossing into deeper obedience is not about having no fear. It is about trusting that the Lord is with us wherever we go.

## **FAMILY DEVOTIONAL**

**TALK** What does it feel like to face something new or challenging? Why do you think God told Joshua to be strong and courageous?

**READ** Joshua 1:9 and Joshua 6:20

**SING** Look up the old Sunday school song – *Joshua fought the battle of Jericho*

**PRAYER** God, thank You for being with us wherever we go. Help our family trust You, obey You, and remember that victory comes from You. Amen.

## **SMALL GROUP QUESTIONS**

### **Week 7**

#### ***Enter the Kingdom: Joshua and the Battle for God’s Land***

1. **In Joshua 1, God repeats “Be strong and courageous.”** Why do you think Joshua needed to hear that more than once?
2. **God promises the land but still tells Israel to cross the Jordan.** What does this teach us about the relationship between God’s promises and our obedience?
3. **The land represents God’s reign among His people.** Where are some everyday places (home, work, relationships) where God’s rule can be made visible through simple obedience?
4. **Before the battle, Joshua learns that the real question is whether he is aligned with God’s mission.** How can we make sure our plans are aligned with God’s purposes?
5. **The battle of Jericho shows that victory comes through faithful obedience, even when it seems unusual.** Why can simple obedience sometimes feel harder than complicated strategies?

