

JOSHUA 1:1-18

10 JANUARY 2021

ICE BREAKER: What do you see as a challenge for you this coming year?

GROUP QUESTIONS:

(Read verses 9-11) Joshua received his **orders from the Lord** to conquer the Promise Land. The Israelite **leaders** received their orders from Joshua. In turn, the Israelite **people** received their orders from the leaders. The **success** of the entire effort to conquer a territory of fierce, intimidating inhabitants involved **obedience**.

However, it is often easier to listen to God or obey God's word than it is to obey people. Of course, we have reasons; we have excuses.

1. What often makes it **hard** for you to **obey** others?

(Read verse 16) This new generation of Israelites responded to Joshua with complete support and obedience, '**Whatever** you have commanded us **we will do**, and **wherever** you send us **we will go**.' Their **unity of obedience** would indeed enable them, **a nation of slaves**, to conquer the warrior Canaanite nations.

In stark contrast, a previous generation of Israelites had received the same orders from the Lord, through a similar chain of command, but **disobeyed**. The result? **Disunity, division** and **defeat** (Numbers 14). As in war, physical or spiritual, a divided kingdom Jesus explained will not stand (Mark 3:24-25).

2. How have you seen disunity, **a divided kingdom**, bring **defeat** to a marriage, family, ministry or work?

(Read verses 12-15, 17) In exchange for claiming the land east of the Jordan River as their inheritance, the Reubenites, Gadites and half-tribe of Manasseh made a promise to the Lord and to fellow Israelites (Numbers 32:17-18,24). They gave their word that their men, 20 years and older, would cross over and lead the Israelites into battle.

Now the time had come for these three tribes to fulfill their promise. Would they keep their word, even putting their lives at risk? Listen to their integrity, 'Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you.'

3. How have you been **inspired by someone** in your life **who has kept their word**, despite the **difficulty**?

(Read verses 5, 8-9, 16) To this monumental task of leading the Israelites to conquer the Promise Land, notice the **various types** of **encouragement** God gave Joshua. **From the Lord Himself**, 'As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; **I will never leave you nor forsake you**.'

From the Word of God, 'Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; **meditate on it day and night...Then you will be prosperous and successful**.' From **his countrymen**, '**Whatever** you have commanded us **we will do**...'

Following God demands courage. But God always **en-courages** us so we may have courage.

4. Describe the **persons, habits** or **conditions** the Lord uses to **en-courage you** to be strong and courageous.

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to share Christ with this week.)
