

LIVING THE PROMISES**Promise upon Promise****Joshua 1**

“Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

Day One: Read Joshua 1:1–5.

1. What event precedes the LORD speaking to Joshua?
2. Think about verse 4 in light of Psalm 16:5, 6. Notice in particular the idea of boundaries. What does this tell you about the way God works? What insight does this give you about your own circumstances?
3. What promises does God make in verse 5? Given the task ahead, how do you think these promises would affect Joshua?

Day Two: Read Joshua 1:1–3.

4. As Moses' aide Joshua was present at important times and places that prepared him for what was to come. Skim the following passages and jot down the significance of each for Joshua's future:
 - A. Ex. 17:8–16:
 - B. Ex. 24:12–18:
 - C. Ex. 32:15–35:
 - D. Ex. 33:7–11:
 - E. Num. 14:5–13, 26–32:
 - F. Num. 27:12–23:

5. How does looking at Joshua's history help you think about God's hand in your own life? (See Psalm 139, esp. vs. 16.)

Day Three: Read Joshua 1:6–9.

6. What does the LORD command three times in these verses? What reason does He give Joshua as to why this is possible?
7. According to verses 7 and 8, what are the results of obedience? What does this look like for Christians today? (Consider Eph. 2:6, 7 and Col. 2:3.)
8. Considering the work the LORD is calling Joshua to do, how is he supposed to meditate on the law day and night? What does this mean for you?

Day Four: Read Joshua 1:10–18.

9. Which of the Reubenites, Gadites and half tribe of Manasseh must cross over the Jordan? Why are those remaining in these tribes allowed to stay where they are? (See Deut. 3:12, 13, 18–20.)
10. What is the one condition that is put on Joshua by those who are crossing the Jordan? Why do you think this is so important to these men?

Day Five: Review Joshua 1:1–18.

11. As you review this chapter, what will be God's part to play in the days ahead? What part are the people to play?
12. Reread the promises in verses 5 and 9. How do they apply to your own life?

LIVING THE PROMISES**Rahab and the Spies Joshua 2**

“When we heard of it, our hearts melted and everyone’s courage failed because of you, for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below.” Joshua 2:11

Day 1: Read Joshua 2:1–3.

1. God has already assured Israel the victory over Canaan. Why, then, should Joshua bother to send spies to survey the situation? (vs. 1) How does God’s sovereignty work with man’s responsibility?
2. Why might the spies have chosen a prostitute’s house rather than some other? (Consider traffic patterns.)

Day 2: Read Joshua 2:2–11.

3. Why do you suppose the appearance of two spies from a ragtag army of nomads was news important and alarming enough to reach the king right away and to warrant his direct attention? (vss. 2, 3) Why were these people so scared? (vs. 9)
4. What stories had Rahab and all the Canaanites heard about God’s deeds on behalf of his Name and his people? (vss. 10, 11) Share a story or two from your own life.
5. A mysterious terror or sense of dread has fallen upon Jericho—and has been known to fall on unbelievers when they see the faith and fearlessness of God’s people. How do Philippians 1:28 and 2 Cor.2:15, 16 explain it? How was this an encouragement to the spies? How is it an encouragement to you?
6. What future event, on a cosmic scale, is foreshadowed by the fate of cities like Jericho and Sodom? (2 Peter 2:6)

Day 3: Read Joshua 2:4–21.

7. Hollywood’s take on Joshua 2 would be the classic “good-hearted prostitute” comes to the rescue of a couple of men. How would YOU characterize Rahab, her motives, her actions?

8. Like the prodigal son or like the unrighteous steward of Luke 15 and 16, or like Peter's audience in Acts 2:37, 38, Rahab sees she is on a sinking ship and has the good sense to bail out. What does this tell you about the qualifications needed to be saved?
9. Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is forcefully advancing, and forceful men lay hold of it." (Matt.11:12) What are some of the "forceful" actions taken by Rahab to lay hold of salvation in Joshua 2?
10. How is the scarlet cord in the window (vs. 21) like the lamb's blood over the door on Passover night?

Day 4: Read Joshua 2.

11. Who was not ashamed to take Rahab as his great-great-great-great grandmother? (Matt.1:5, 16; Heb.2:11) What does the salvation of a Gentile prostitute, even at this early stage of salvation history, show about God's long range plans? (Gen.12:3)
12. Rahab may have been a little rough around the edges in her moral strategy, especially as a brand new believer. But what is the kernel of gold in her actions for which she is highly commended in Hebrews 11:31?
13. Imperfect as our own knowledge and deeds are, what is the kernel of gold under them that God looks for in our life's decisions, and the only thing that "counts"? (Gal.5:6; 1 Thes.1:3)
14. Of what does James 2:25 use Rahab as an example (James 2:20–25)

Day 5: Read Joshua 2.

15. In Abraham's day, God was not yet ready to destroy Canaan because their sin had "not yet reached its full measure." (Gen.15:16) Now, evidently, the time was ripe. What does a nation look like when its sin has "reached its full measure"? (Deut.18:9–12; 2 Tim.3:1–7)
16. When God postpones his judgment on a nation or an individual, and holds back his wrath a little longer, how should that nation or individual regard that delay? (Romans 2:4, 5)
17. In chapter 1, what great encouragement did God give Israel for the battle ahead? (vs. 9) In chapter 2, what additional encouragement does he give to further strengthen their arms for battle? (vs. 24) What timely encouragements has the Lord given you in your struggles?

LIVING THE PROMISES**Crossing the Jordan Joshua 3–4**

“He did this so that all the peoples of the earth might know that the hand of the Lord is powerful and so that you might always fear the Lord your God.” Joshua 4:24

Day 1: Read Joshua 3:1–4:24.

1. For three days, according to God’s directive, Israel camps on the eastern shore of the Jordan River:
 - A. What is the condition of the river because of the melting snow of early spring? (3:15)
 - B. What is just visible in the distance across the river? (3:16)
 - C. Would you have had a better plan for how to move a couple of million people across a river than attempting it at flood stage in full view of a walled city of the enemy?
2. What three things does God want his people to learn through the crossing of the Jordan? (3:7–10)
3. Israel had to wait for three days before crossing the Jordan River. What does God often desire for us when he asks us to wait?

Day 2: Read Joshua 3:1–8.

4. Try to imagine what it would be like to lead an army. How would you prepare your army for battle? In Joshua 3:5 what are the Israelites told to do? What does this teach us about God’s priorities for us, his people?
5. To consecrate means “to dedicate to a sacred purpose.” Meditate on Psalm 86:11, 12 and rewrite it in your own words.
6. Moses must have been a hard act to follow. How does God encourage Joshua through the events of this period? (Reread Josh. 1:5 with 3:7.)

Day 3: Read Joshua 3:1–4:24.

7. How has God led Israel for the last 40+ years? (Num. 9:17–22) How does God lead them across the Jordan? (Josh. 3:3).
8. Amid life's uncertainties how do verses like Joshua 3:4a and 11 encourage you?
9. How many times is the ark of the covenant mentioned in these two chapters? What does the ark represent to Israel? (Ex. 25:22)
10. Israel being led by the ark of the covenant is a picture of what reality that God's people experience today? (1 Cor. 6:19)
11. Thought question: Notice that the Jordan River flows from a town called Adam (Josh. 3:16). God's presence represented by the ark cuts off the flood flowing from Adam and Israel is delivered. Who has delivered us from the flood of evil that flows down to us from our ancestor Adam? (1 Cor. 15:22; Rom. 8:9)

Day 4: Read Joshua 4:1–24.

12. In chapter 4 Israel erects a stone memorial following God's instructions. Who is this memorial for and why is it important?
13. What memorials do we have that serve as reminders of God's goodness and faithfulness?

Day 5: Read Joshua 4:1–24.

14. The story of Rahab in chapter 2 reminded us of God's long-range plan for the nations. How do these reminders continue in this week's passage (see 3:11, 13, and 4:24)?
15. In verse 23 Joshua compares the Jordan River crossing to the Red Sea crossing. Skim Exodus 14 and jot down some of the similarities and differences between these two miracles. Describe how the crossings are pictures of our lives as God's people?
16. According to verse 24, what two purposes did these two crossings have in common? Share what God has done for you to show you that he is all-powerful and worthy of your complete devotion.

LIVING THE PROMISES**The Israelites Are Restored****Joshua 5:1-12**

"Then the LORD said to Joshua, 'Today I have rolled away the reproach of Egypt from you.'"
Joshua 5:9a

Day 1: Read Joshua 5:1–12.

1. What had the rulers of the land heard about the Israelites? (vs. 1; see also 2:10) How did they respond?
2. Ordinarily, it would be unwise to circumcise an entire army when it is poised for battle in enemy territory (vs. 8). How has the fame of God's deeds made "that time" a good one for the circumcision?
3. What did circumcision signify for Abraham and his descendants? (Gen. 17:3–11)
4. What replaces circumcision for us, the heirs of the new covenant? (Col. 2:11–14)

Day 2: Read Joshua 5:2–9.

5. In this passage, Joshua circumcises a new generation of Israelites. Why did God condemn the previous generation? (Num. 14:1–11, 26–32)
6. While wandering in the desert under God's judgment, the Israelites did not perform the covenant ritual of circumcision.
 - A. Why must the Israelites circumcise and consecrate themselves before waging this holy war? (Josh. 6:6, 7; 1 Sam. 6:19–7:1; Ex. 19:10, 11, 22)
 - B. What are some other reasons they must circumcise themselves now? (Josh. 1:7, 8; Gen. 17:8, 11; Ex. 12:48)
7. Paul writes in Ephesians 6, "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms." How do we as Christians prepare for holy war? (Eph. 6:13–20) What are the implications of this for your life?

Day 3: Read Joshua 5:9.

8. What would have given Egypt cause to reproach or taunt the Israelites and their God? (Num. 14:11–16; Ex. 32:9–14)
9. Why is "today" the day the LORD has rolled away the reproach of Egypt, rather than after the Israelites' victories over the Canaanites? (Refer back to Gen. 17:7–11.)
10. What do passages like Josh. 2:9–11 and 4:24, as well as those in Question 8, show about God's concern for his reputation? (You may also want to look at Ezek. 36:19–23 and Luke 11:2.) Whose reputation are you most concerned about? How do we grow in sharing God's concerns?

Day 4: Read Joshua 5:10–12.

11. It has been thirty-nine years since the Israelites last celebrated the Passover (see Ex. 12:1–30). Why are they now resuming their celebration of it? (Ex. 12:25) How might their remembrance of God's past deliverance encourage them in their present situation?
12. Where have we seen an echo of the Passover already in Joshua? (2:12–21)
13. Read Luke 22:7–20. How is God's deliverance of his people from Egypt (under the old covenant) a picture of our deliverance through Christ (under the new covenant), which we commemorate in the Lord's Supper? How can the Lord's Supper be an encouragement to us, as the Passover was to the Israelites?

Day 5: Read Joshua 5:1–12.

14. The Israelites had been eating manna for forty years. (For more on manna, see Ex. 16.) When did it stop? (vs. 12) What is the significance of their eating "the produce of the land" (vs. 11) and of the stopping of the manna?
15. Although God provided for the Israelites during their time in the desert, what was the status of the Israelites as they wandered? (Num. 14:30–34; Heb. 3:17) How does Joshua 5:1–12 reflect a change in their status before God?
16. How has God changed our status? (Eph. 2:1–7; Col. 1:21–23) Think about your own life in light of this change.

LIVING THE PROMISES**The Fall of Jericho****Joshua 5:13—6:27***“See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands....”* Joshua 6:2**Day 1: Read Joshua 5:13–15.**

1. Who is the “man” Joshua meets already poised for battle near Jericho? (vss. 13–15)
2. How does the heavenly being show Joshua his place right from the start? Whose battle is this going to be? How would it help you to keep this in mind in your own life?
3. Besides humbling Joshua, how is the heavenly commander’s message undoubtedly a boost to his morale? How big is the army now?
4. What details of the meeting certify that this is a divine encounter? (vss. 14, 15; cf. Ex.3:5)

Day 2: Read Joshua 6:1–27.

5. How do God’s battle instructions to Joshua further serve to illustrate that the battle is the Lord’s, and the glory for its victory is His? (vss. 1–5)
6. What item from the tabernacle will be the centerpiece of the battle formation? (vs. 6) What does this signify? (Numbers 7:89)
7. Count the occurrences of the number seven. In Scripture, seven signifies completeness (there are 52 in the book of Revelation!). Why do you think there are so many sevens in this story of the fall of Jericho?

Day 3: Read Joshua 6:6–27.

8. As the battle is underway, where are the citizens of Jericho putting their trust? Where are the Israelites putting their trust? Which object of trust is visible, which invisible? Think through your last week, where did you tend to put your trust? (2 Cor.4:18; 5:7)

9. How are the Israelites—and we—going to win this battle? (1 John 5:4, 5)
10. In subsequent battles in Canaan, the Israelite army will take a more active and conventional role. But why do you think that for this first battle God has Israel just show up and watch? (Consider 2 Chronicles 20:17)
11. In subsequent contests, Israel would be permitted to share the spoils of war. But why do you think God commanded that in this first battle all the spoils should be “devoted” to the Lord?

Day 4: Read Joshua 6:17–27.

12. The Hebrew word “herem”, translated “devoted” in verses 17 and 18 (NIV), denotes that a ban has been placed on Jericho, that it is irrevocably and absolutely surrendered to the Lord, either to be used in His worship or to be destroyed (Lev.27:28, 29). Which kind of ban was this? (vs. 21)
13. This ban and judgment on Jericho must be complete and everlasting. Therefore, what solemn oath does Joshua pronounce? (vs. 26)
14. The curse on Jericho does not apply to those who made their houses there after this (cf. 18:21; Judges 3:13; 2 Sam. 10:5) but to those who sought to rebuild Jericho as a fortress. What happened when someone tried to do this later? (1 Kings 16:34)

Day 5: Read Joshua 6:22–27.

15. Who alone was saved from the city of destruction, and why? (vs. 22; Heb.11:31) How is that like your own situation?
16. How must we, the church, be like the priests sounding the trumpets of warning around Jericho? (Ezek.3:17–19; 2 Cor.5:20, 21)
17. God uses this first battle for the Promised Land as an object lesson for Israel (and for us). Think of at least two lessons you derive from it—one sobering and chilling, the other splendidly encouraging.

LIVING THE PROMISES**The Effects of One Man's Sin****Joshua 7**

Then Joshua said to Achan, "My son, give glory to the LORD, the God of Israel, and give him the praise. Tell me what you have done; do not hide it from me." Joshua 7:19

Day One: Read Joshua 7:1–5.

1. Why does the Lord get angry with Israel?
2. What is lacking in what the spies have to say in vs. 3 compared to previous spies such as those in Josh. 2:24 and Num. 14:6–9? Why is this significant?
3. Take a tough look at this situation and list Israel's failings.

Day Two: Read Joshua 7:6–9.

4. What do Joshua and the elders do upon Israel's defeat? What do you think they are expressing by their actions?
5. Is Joshua blaming God for Israel's defeat? Explain your answer.
6. Is Joshua concerned for his own reputation or for something else? What do you learn from his example?

Day Three: Read Joshua 7:10–15.

7. What reason does God give for Israel's defeat?
8. What is the result of Israel's sin? (vs. 12)

9. If only one man has disobeyed (vs. 1), why is God angry with all Israel? (See 6:17–19.)
10. What does God require Israel to do to set matters right?
11. Read vs. 13–15 and imagine yourself in Achan, the guilty person's, shoes. What do you think he might have been thinking, feeling, and doing between the time he heard God's words and the next morning?

Day Four: Read Joshua 7:16–26.

12. What impresses you about the way Joshua speaks to Achan in verse 19? What impresses you about Achan's response?
13. Look at the way Achan describes what he has done and write down the three verbs he uses in verse 21a. List three similar aspects of what happened with Eve in Gen. 3:6a. What does this teach you about your sin?
14. Achan is not the only one to suffer the consequences of his disobedience. What other individuals or groups are affected by his sin? Include not only those mentioned in today's passage, but those mentioned earlier in the chapter as well.
15. What examples come to mind of hidden sin in your own life that had far-reaching effects on others?

Day Five: Review Joshua 7:1–26.

16. This chapter is a sober reminder of the seriousness of sin and how our sin, including hidden or secret sin, affects others. Ask the Holy Spirit to work in your heart as you take time to:
- A. Read and pray through Psalm 51;
 - B. Confess your sin, particularly that which may not be obvious; and
 - C. Thank the Lord for the forgiveness he extends to you through Jesus who took your penalty on himself.

LIVING THE PROMISES**Learning Obedience****Joshua 8**

“Do what the LORD has commanded.” Joshua 8:8b

Day 1: Read Joshua 8:1–29.

1. Why does the LORD begin by telling Joshua not to be afraid or discouraged? (Consider all that happened to the Israelites in chapter 7, and all that they will be called upon to do in chapter 8.)
2. What are the differences between the two battles at Ai? (See 7:2, 3)
3. Describe a time when you experienced God’s gracious blessing after a time of repentance.

Day 2: Read Joshua 8:3–27.

4. Describe in your own words the strategy for the attack on Ai, or draw a sketch of the battle plan. You may want to look at the map in your folder. (Note: Scholars have proposed several explanations for the difference in the number of soldiers in the ambush [vss. 3, 12], but the overall strategy and outcome of the battle are the same.)
5. Look again at verses 4a, 8b, and 27. What is emphasized in these verses? Why is this important for the Israelites?
6. What role does obedience play in our lives as Christians? (Jn. 14:21, 23–26, 15:10–14; 1 Jn. 2:1–6, 3:21–24)

Day 3: Read Joshua 8:24–29.

7. Ai is under a ban that requires the destruction of all the inhabitants of the city. Why does God require the annihilation of those who live in Canaan? (Deut. 9:4, 5; 11:16, 17; 12:2–4; compare Deut. 13:12–16)

8. The king of Ai was probably killed and then hung or impaled on a tree for all to see. What does this punishment mean? (Deut. 21:22, 23)
9. Who else was hung on a tree, and what does that mean for us? (Gal. 3:13, 14)

Day 4: Read Joshua 8:30–35.

10. Why do Joshua and the Israelites take a break from their military campaign to perform this lengthy, large-scale religious ceremony? (Deut. 27:1–8, 11–13) What do you think this public reading and permanent display of the law meant to a people without Bibles at home on their nightstands?
11. Joshua was not the first of God’s people to build an altar at Shechem, the city between Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal. Abram (Abraham) built one there after the LORD appeared to him and said, “To your offspring I will give this land” (Gen. 12:6, 7). How does this history lend additional significance to this ceremony?
12. The Israelites made burnt offerings and fellowship offerings when they first received the law at Mount Sinai (Ex. 24:5, 7). Why is it appropriate for them to do the same thing now?

Day 5: Read Joshua 8:30–35.

13. This passage is emphatic that all the Israelites and all the aliens (foreigners) living among them participate in the renewal of the covenant. What aliens does this include? (Josh. 6:25; Ex. 12:38) Why are they included? (Lev. 19:33, 34; 24:22)
14. The Israelites have now constructed several memorials in the promised land: the stones at Gilgal commemorating the crossing of the Jordan (4:20); the heap of rocks over Achan (7:26); the pile of rocks over the king of Ai (8:29); and the altar and stones on which the law was written on Mount Ebal (8:30–32). What are future generations of Israelites meant to remember when they see the monuments described in chapter 8?
15. What are some “monuments”—big or small—from the last month that help you remember what God has done in your own life? Why are they important to you?

LIVING THE PROMISES**The Treaty with the Gibeonites****Joshua 9**

“Israel took some of their provisions; but they did not ask counsel of the LORD.” Joshua 9:14 NKJV

Day 1: Read Joshua 9:1–3.

1. Describe the Canaanite attitudes toward the invading Israelites and their God in Joshua 5:1 and 9:1. How are they different? What are the “things” that the Canaanites heard that may have caused this change?

2. Anybody opposed to the One and Only True God and his people can be classified as the “world.” Trace the opposition of the world to God from the first Joshua to the second Joshua (Jesus) by summarizing these verses:
 - A. Joshua 9:1, 2

 - B. Psalm 2:1–3

 - C. Acts 4:25–27

3. What had the Gibeonites heard about the fate of nations who had opposed Israel? What fate awaits the opposition to the second Joshua (Jesus Christ)? (see Revelation 19:11–16)

Day 2: Read Joshua 9:3–6.

4. As chapter 9 opens, what is fresh on the minds of Israel? (Read Josh. 8:34, 35 with Ex. 34:12 and Deut. 7:2.)

5. According to God’s instructions in Deuteronomy 20:10–18 what is the difference in how Israel is permitted to treat distant nations and local nations?

6. List the specific things that the Gibeonites do to give Israel the impression that they have traveled a great distance. How are the actions of the Gibeonites different from the other Canaanites?

Day 3: Read Joshua 9:7–15.

7. What is Israel's first reaction to the Gibeonites? (vs. 7)

8. How does Israel sin in reference to how they handle the Gibeonites (Josh. 9:14; Isaiah 30:1)? Notice that Israel's first reaction to the Gibeonites is correct. How then do they go wrong? (Ps. 78:10; 106:13; 119:1; Jer. 32:23)

9. Share a time when your first assessment of a situation was correct but when you then chose to disobey God's word and trust your own judgment rather than God's wisdom.

Day 4: Read Joshua 9:16–27.

10. When the leaders of Israel discover that they have been tricked by the Gibeonites, how do they respond?

11. How do the Israelites respond to their leaders who admit to having made a peace treaty with Gibeon? What does their response reveal about their hearts? How do you respond to those in authority over you? What does your response reveal about your own heart?

12. What role is assigned to the Gibeonites? (vs. 23) Interestingly, where is the tabernacle eventually set up? (see 2 Chron. 1:3)

Day 5: Read Joshua 9:18–27.

13. What do Rahab and the Gibeonites have in common? How are they different? (see Joshua 2:8–13; 6:25; 9:23) What do their stories teach us about God?

14. What do we learn about the Gibeonites in 2 Samuel 21:1–6? What does this account teach us about how God views promises—his promises to us and our promises to others?

LIVING THE PROMISES**If God Is For Us, Who Can Be Against Us?****Joshua 10**

“All these kings and their lands Joshua conquered in one campaign, because the LORD, the God of Israel, fought for Israel.” Joshua 10:42

Day One: Read Joshua 10:1–8.

1. List each king with his territory:
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
2. How is Gibeon described in this passage? What reason does Adoni-Zedek have for attacking Gibeon?
3. The Gibeonites can appeal to Joshua for help on the basis of the treaty (or covenant) that Joshua made with them. What does this illustrate about our relationship with the Lord?

Day Two: Read Joshua 10:9–15.

4. List the ways the Lord fights on Israel's behalf.
5. Describe Israel's contribution to the success of the battle.
6. In what ways does this battle help you to understand the nature of the Christian life?

Day Three: Read Joshua 10:16–28.

7. Why do you think Joshua has his army's commanders put their feet on the necks of the Amorite kings?

8. What similarities and differences can you see between the Amorite kings' being hung on trees after they were killed and Jesus' death on the cross?

Day Four: Read Joshua 10:29–39.

9. Trace the progression of the Israelite's battles on your map of the promised land. From a military perspective, what do you think makes the success of this campaign so important?

10. What phrases keep reoccurring in the descriptions of these battles?

11. What light does Deut. 20:16–18 shed on Joshua's treatment of the inhabitants of these cities?

Day Five: Read Joshua 10:40–43.

12. What reason is given for Joshua's overwhelming success during this campaign?

13. What indication do you get from these verses that Joshua is learning obedience?

14. What, in your own life, would show that you are becoming more obedient?

LIVING THE PROMISES**The Conquest Continues—the Northern Kingdoms Joshua 11 & 12**

“Do not be afraid of them, because by this time tomorrow I will hand them over to Israel.” Josh. 11:6

Day 1: Read Joshua 11.

1. The events recorded in Joshua 11 are not for the faint-hearted. What question might you be so bold to ask the Lord when you read of the total annihilation of “everything that breathes”? (Gen.18:25)

2. In the days of Sodom, there were not even ten righteous people to be found in the whole city to stay God’s hand of wrath (Gen.18:32). In Noah’s day, the world had likewise become totally corrupt (Gen.6:5, 11). How long did God wait before destroying the Canaanites of Joshua’s day? (Gen.15:16; Deut.9:4, 5)

3. Archeological excavations of these Canaanite cities have unearthed pornographic statuettes for worship. What future, cosmic event are these Canaanite cities—and their punishments—examples of? (Rev. 20:11–15)

4. Do you see any mercy in God’s showing us the harsh fate of these ancient cities? (2 Peter 2:6)

Day 2: Read Joshua 11:1–15.

5. How formidable are the northern kingdoms that are about to attack Israel? (vs. 4)

6. How does God encourage Israel in the face of this daunting military machine? (vs. 6)

7. How does Joshua respond to God’s words? (vs. 7)

8. What theme runs through the book of Joshua, and this chapter in particular? (vss. 9, 15)

Day 3: Read Joshua 11:7–23.

9. Why do you think God has Israel destroy the chariots and hamstring (cripple) the horses after the battle? (vs. 9; Ps.20:6, 7)

10. Who is it that both initiates and wins the battle against the Canaanites? (vss. 8, 20)

11. The theme of God as promise-keeper is a major one in Joshua. What promise does the author emphasize in his summary statement in verse 23? (Gen.15:18,19)

Day 4: Read Joshua 12.

12. Chapter 12 is a kind of appendix to the first 11 chapters, a review of Israel’s conquests and a complete list of the defeated kings. Why do you think the Bible so often gives us such lists of people and places and other detailed historical facts?

13. With these battles against the godless nations won, Joshua is now ready to parcel out the acquired territories to the twelve tribes of Israel (next chapters). How is he a “type” (or picture) of Christ in this? (Ps. 37:9–11; John 14:2b, 3; Matt. 25:31–34)

14. Joshua 12 is a retrospective of God’s faithfulness in the battles of the preceding chapters. Write your own little “retrospective” of the things God has done in your life.

Day 5: Review Joshua 11 & 12.

15. The destruction of the Canaanites in Joshua’s day exemplifies a future and final day when it will be too late for the nations to repent, when the peoples of the world will have “filled up the measure of their sins.” But that day is not here just yet. What age are we living in now? (Matt. 28:18–20; Luke 24:47–49)

16. In this age, what is our proper stance toward the unbelievers among us? (Jude 23a; 1 Cor.9:22b)

LIVING THE PROMISES**The Promised Inheritance Joshua 13 and 14**

“So on that day Moses swore to me, ‘The land on which your feet have walked will be your inheritance and that of your children forever, because you have followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly.’” Joshua 14:9

Day 1: Read Joshua 13.

1. What term does the writer of Joshua use repeatedly for the land God is giving the Israelites? (13:6, 7, 8, 14, etc.)
2. Who ordinarily receives an inheritance? What does this imply about Israel? (Ex. 4:22; Hos. 11:1)
3. Israel proves to be an unfaithful son. Who is God’s faithful Son and true heir? (Mt. 2:15, 3:16, 17)
4. Paul writes, “God sent his Son . . . to redeem those under the law, that we might receive the full rights of sons . . . and since you are a son, God has made you also an heir” (Gal. 4:4, 5, 7b). What is our inheritance as children of God? (Rev. 21:1–4, 7)

Day 2: Read Joshua 13.

5. This chapter and those that follow contain lists of place names that are unfamiliar to us. What would these detailed lists have meant to the Israelites, given that these lands were their inheritance?
6. Among the names of places and kings is a mention of Balaam son of Beor (vs. 22), a pagan diviner who advised the Midianites in turning many Israelites from the Lord to idolatry. Why do you think Balaam is given special mention here?

Day 3: Read Joshua 14:1–5.

7. The land is to be divided by tribe, each tribe consisting of the descendants of one of the twelve sons of Jacob (Israel). (Gen. 35:22b–26) What change is indicated in verses 3 and 4?
8. What inheritance do the Levites receive instead of land? (13:14, 33) Why is this so? (Ex. 32:25–29; Num. 8:13–17, 18:24)

9. The casting of lots is not a mere throw of the dice. What does the use of the lots to divide the land mean? (Prov. 16:33; Ps. 47:4; compare Ps. 16:5, 6)
10. Are our lives governed by chance? Read Mt. 10:29–31. How does this reassure you?

Day 4: Read Joshua 14:6–15.

11. What is Caleb asking Joshua for? What is the basis for his claim? (vss. 9, 12)
12. Why was Caleb promised this special inheritance? (vss. 7, 8, 14) (For the story of Caleb, see Num. 13, 14; Deut. 1:35, 36)
13. Caleb is 85 years old, and Joshua is that old or older (cf. 13:1).
 - A. How do you view old age?
 - B. How does the Bible speak of old age? (Lev. 19:32; Ps. 92:12-15; Prov. 16:31)
 - C. How can the examples of Caleb and Joshua be an encouragement to you as you contemplate your own old age?

Day 5: Read Joshua 14:6-14.

14. Look back at 13:6, 7. In vs. 6 God renews his promise to drive out the inhabitants of the land that remains to be conquered. In vs. 7 he commands Joshua to divide this unconquered land among the Israelites. What does this command imply about God's character? (compare Num. 23:19)
15. How long has Caleb waited to be able to claim his promised inheritance? (vs. 10)
16. Think of some of the many promises God has made to us (for example, Is. 43:1b–3a, 46:3, 4, 49:15, 16; Mt. 6:31–33, 11:28–30; Jn. 6:37; Rom. 8:28, 8:38, 39; 1 Cor. 10:13; 1 Thes. 5:23, 24; Heb. 7:25). Paul writes that “no matter how many promises God has made, they are ‘Yes’ in Christ” (2 Cor. 1:20a). Which of God’s promises is especially encouraging to you right now? Why?

LIVING THE PROMISES

Receiving the Inheritance Joshua 15–17

[The daughters] said, “The LORD commanded Moses to give us an inheritance” ...so Joshua gave them an inheritance...according to the LORD’s command. Joshua 17:4

Day 1: Scan Joshua 15–17.

1. Restate the subject of the book of Joshua (see Gen. 12:7; Josh. 1:6).

2. How do these chapters contribute to development of this theme?

3. How were the land allotments determined? (Recall Josh. 14:2.) Again, what is the significance of doing it this way? (Prov. 16:33)

Day 2: Read Joshua 15.

4. Which tribe is the first to get its inheritance within the Promised Land? What facts about this tribe give it preeminence? See Gen. 49:1, 8–10; Matt. 1:1–17; Rev. 5:5.

5. A little later we learn that Israel has some trouble dislodging Canaan’s residents. Why is Caleb able to claim his full inheritance without delay? (Read Josh. 15:14, 15 with 14:12–14.)

Day 3: Read Joshua 15.

6. Caleb’s daughter, Acsah, has inherited a desert. What does she need to make her inheritance fruitful? How does she acquire what she needs?

7. In John 4:10–15 Jesus has a conversation with a Samaritan woman. What parallels do you see between this conversation and Acsah’s request for water? What do these two examples teach us about prayer?

8. What do you thirst for? Ask God to show you how he can satisfy your thirst.

Day 4: Read Joshua 17.

9. Zelophehad’s daughters come to Joshua to remind him of the instruction God gave to Moses about their inheritance (vss. 3, 4). What happened prior to this that gave them the confidence to make this request (Num. 27:1–11 and 36:2–12)?

10. What is the attitude of the western half-tribe of Manasseh toward their allotment? (17:14)

11. How does Joshua respond to them?

12. What is your attitude toward your “lot” in life? What words do you think Joshua would have for you?

Day 5: Read Joshua 16 and 17.

13. Recall God’s instructions to Israel regarding their conquest of Canaan by skimming Deut. 7:1–6; 17–24. What fact mentioned in Joshua 16:10 and 17:12, 13 foreshadows certain trouble for Israel?

14. What heart attitude is behind Israel’s disobedience? Look ahead to Judges 2 to see God’s reaction to Israel’s disobedience.

15. In 2 Corinthians 5:17 we are told that in Christ we are new creations. Nevertheless, what sins do you rationalize? What compromises do you make? What does God want from you? (Col. 3:1)

LIVING THE PROMISES**Division of the Rest of the Land Joshua 18–20**

“And so they finished dividing the land.” Joshua 19:51

Day 1: Read Joshua 18 & 19.

1. God commands the children of Israel to divide the land in faith even before it is completely conquered. How is it that God’s people are able to “count their chickens before they hatch”? What characteristic about God do they know by this time? (Rom.4:17)
2. Look at other examples in Scripture where men have envisioned the dimensions of future realities as if they were present. (Heb.11:7–31, 39). How is the Christian life unique? (Heb.11:1)

Day 2: Read Joshua 18:11–19.

3. Why do you think these detailed allotments are included here? What does all this detail reveal about God? (Matt. 10:30)
4. Where is the Tent of Meeting moved to? (vs. 1)
5. Seven tribes seem to get a scolding from Joshua for showing little enthusiasm for taking over their share of the land (18:2–4). Name some ways we might also be lazy in claiming the good gifts God gives us. (Heb.6:10–12)

Day 3: Read Joshua 18:3—19:9.

6. What is the method for allotting the territories? (vss. 6, 8, 10) Who, then, is really assigning the land?
7. Benjamin’s allotment (18:11–28) is small but prime real estate, a position of honor between Judah and Ephraim, and close to Jerusalem. How does this accord with the prophecy in Deut.33:12?

8. In the case of Simeon's allotment (19:1–9), no boundaries are drawn, only a list of scattered cities within Judah are assigned. How does this accord with the prophecy in Gen.49:7?

Day 4: Read Joshua 19:45–51.

9. Why is Joshua allotted a special inheritance? (Num.14:6–10, 30)

10. Do you think that an act of obedience you perform will be remembered and blessed many years later, as Joshua's was? (Heb.6:10)

Day 5: Read Joshua 20.

11. In chapter 20:2–4, the land is by and large conquered. The territories are assigned. What is next on the agenda in the Promised Land that God is establishing?

12. What is the purpose of a "city of refuge"? (20:3)

13. What does the command to establish cities of refuge show about God's character?

14. In what ways does the establishment of cities of refuge show that God's law is concerned with heart motives as well as external behavior?

15. Who besides Israelites may avail themselves of these six cities of refuge? (vs. 9)

16. How is the city of refuge a picture of Christ? (Heb.6:18b–20; John 6:37)

LIVING THE PROMISES**Every Promise Fulfilled****Joshua 21**

“Not one of all the LORD’S good promises to the house of Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.” Joshua 21:45

Day One: Read Joshua 21:1–8.

1. Why does the LORD command that the Levites be given towns instead of land like every other tribe? (See Num. 8:13–18, Duet., 18:1, 2.) Would you have considered this arrangement fair?
2. Besides offering sacrifices and caring for the place of worship, what other duties do the Levites have? (See Num. 6:22–27, Num. 27:18–21, Deut. 17:8–11, Neh. 8:7, 8.)
3. In what ways does it benefit the Israelites to have the Levites scattered throughout their land? How does the Levite’s role compare with ours today? (See I Pet. 2:9–12.)
4. Why do you think the LORD arranges matters in such a way that the Israelites have to give up part of their inheritance to provide for the Levites? What connection do you see with our providing for our spiritual leaders? (I Cor. 9:14, I Tim. 5:17, 18)

Day Two: Read Joshua 21:9–19.

5. What are the responsibilities of the clan of Kohath? (See Num. 3:28b, 31.)
6. Why isn’t it surprising that the first lot falls to Aaron’s descendants? (Consider Ex. 28:1–5.)

7. Why does it make sense for Gibeon to be one of the towns given to the Levites? (See Josh. 9:23.)
In what way is this curse also a blessing?

Day Three: Read Joshua 21:20–33.

8. What are the tabernacle-related duties of the Gershonite clans? (See Num. 3:25, 26.)
9. Verses 21, 27, and 32 (as well as 13 and 38) all note that particular Levite towns are also “cities of refuge” (see chapter 20). What wisdom lies behind this arrangement?

Day Four: Read Joshua 21:34–42.

10. What are the tabernacle-related duties of the Merarite clans? (See Num. 3:36, 37.)
11. Emphasized in vs. 42 and mentioned throughout the chapter is the fact that pasturelands were given to the Levites along with their towns. Verse 2 indicates the pastureland was for their livestock. Since the Levites were supposed to live off the offerings provided by the people, why did they keep livestock?
12. Read Jacob’s words to Levi in Gen. 49:5–7. Considering the harshness of these words, who would have guessed that the Levites would be dispersed throughout Israel *as God’s chosen priests!* What does this teach you about God? What impact does this realization have on you?

Day Five: Read Joshua 21:43–45.

13. Joshua 21:43–45 is a summary of Joshua so far. Take a few moments to skim the book (especially Josh. 1:1–5) and reflect on how God has fulfilled his promises to the Israelites. Write a prayer of thanksgiving for what he has taught you, and be sure to include praise for his faithfulness in your own life.

LIVING THE PROMISES**Going Home Joshua 22**

Today we know that the LORD is with us. Joshua 22:31

Day 1: Read Joshua 22:1–4.

1. Read and compare Joshua 1:12–15 with verses 1–4 in this chapter. What specific words and phrases does Joshua repeat?
2. Joshua speaks of God’s people entering the rest that God promised them (Josh. 1:15; 22:4). Describe what this rest is.
3. Read Hebrews 4:8–11. How can *we* experience God’s rest? (Ps. 62:1; Is. 30:15)

Day 2: Read Joshua 22:5–8.

4. In view of where these tribes will live in relation to the rest of the nation, why does Joshua deliver the earnest admonition in verse 5?
5. Look closely at verse 5 and list Joshua’s final instructions to the departing tribes.
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.
6. Look at the above list; what heart attitude lies behind obedience to God’s law? Ask God to give you this heart attitude. Pray this for one other person you know.

Day 3: Read Joshua 22:9–20.

7. What is the reaction of the rest of Israel to news of the altar (vss. 11, 12)?

8. Why do they react this way? (See Lev. 17:8, 9 and Deut. 13:12–15.)
9. Read about the “sin of Peor” in Numbers 25:1–13. What role did Phinehas the priest play in this account? How does this prepare him for the task at hand?
10. Evaluate the investigation conducted by Israel’s leaders. What do they do right? Is there anything they could have done better?
11. Israel’s leaders are zealous for God’s honor; what would people say you are zealous for?

Day 4: Read Joshua 22:21–29.

12. What emotions do the accused tribes display in these verses?
13. For what purpose was the altar built?
14. Where might they have gotten the idea of building the altar? (Josh. 4:6, 7)

Day 5: Read Joshua 22:30–34.

15. How do Phinehas and the rest of the delegation react to the explanation of the accused tribes? Why do they react this way?
16. What is the sign of the Lord’s presence with his people? (vs. 31)
17. What parallel do you see between verse 31 and what happened when Christ died for us? (see Rom. 5:9)
18. Describe the effect of the delegation’s report on the rest of Israel.
19. What name is given to the altar? Put it in your own words.

LIVING THE PROMISES**Joshua Exhorts the Israelites Joshua 23**

“But you are to hold fast to the Lord your God, as you have until now.” Joshua 23:8

Day 1: Read Joshua 23:1–16.

1. Given Joshua’s remarks in vss. 2 and 14a, what do you think is the tone of this speech?

2. List some of the things that Joshua exhorts the people to do. How do these exhortations apply to your life today?

3. There has been a great emphasis throughout Joshua on obedience to the Law and God’s instructions for the conquest. What aspect of obedience emerges now, near the end of the book? (22:5, 23:11)
 - A. What does Jesus say is the heart of the Law? (Mt. 22:37–40)

 - B. Pray that God will increase your love for him and for others.

Day 2: Read Joshua 23:1–11.

4. Joshua reminds the Israelites of “everything the Lord your God has done to all these nations”. (vs. 3) Review the following passages from Joshua, noting the remarkable things that the Israelites have seen:
 - A. 2:10, 11

 - B. 6:8–11, 15, 16, 20, 21

 - C. 8:1, 2, 18–22

 - D. 10:5, 7–14

 - E. 10:29–39, 42

 - F. 11:1–8

5. What do all of these accounts have in common? (compare 23:9, 10) Why did the Lord do all these things? (vss. 3, 10) What battles have you seen the Lord fight “for you”?

Day 3: Read Joshua 23:1–16.

6. What view of “the nations” is presented in this chapter? (vss. 1, 7, 13)

7. What other view does the Old Testament give of Israel’s relationship to the nations? (Gen. 18:18, 26:4)

8. How do these two views fit together? (Is. 11:1–10; Eph. 2:11–14, 19, 20; Rev. 7:9, 10)

9. How are we to relate to “the nations” around us? (1 Cor. 9:19–22; 1 Pet. 2:11, 12)

Day 4: Skim Joshua 23:1-16.

10. What are God’s instructions to the Israelites in this chapter concerning the inhabitants of Canaan? (See also Deut. 12:2, 3, 20:16–18)

11. What will happen to the Israelites in the Promised Land? (2 Kings 17:5–12, 16–18 and 21:1–7, 9, 12–15) Why? What hints are there in Joshua of impending disaster? (Josh. 9:14–16, 13:13, 15:63, 16:10, 17:12-13)

Day 5: Read Joshua 23:1–16.

12. How might the people listening to Joshua’s exhortations be feeling?

13. We know that succeeding generations of Israelites failed to keep the covenant and paid heavily for their failure. Why are we able to have hope despite our wayward hearts? (Heb. 4:15, 16; Rom. 7:18, 19, 8:1, 2, 26–34)

14. The Lord has brought the Israelites into the land he promised their forefather Abraham hundreds of years before, and he has given them amazing victories over their enemies: “Every promise has been fulfilled; not one has failed”. (vs. 14) What are some promises that God has made to us as believers? Are there any promises you struggle to believe will be fulfilled in your life? How can the book of Joshua and the way God’s character is revealed in it reassure you?

LIVING THE PROMISES**Covenant Renewal****Joshua 24**

“But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.” Joshua 24:15

Day 1: Read Joshua 24.

1. We have come to the end of Joshua’s life. What does he do that Moses did before him at the end of his life? (vs. 25; Deut. 29:1)
2. What seems to be the first part of both these covenant renewal ceremonies? (Compare Deut.29:2–8 to Joshua 24:2–13.)
3. In these verses, God himself rehearses the deliverances he has performed for his people. Name some things they’ve been rescued from. What are some “gods” (vs. 2) and other threats that God has rescued you from?
4. Why repeat this well-known history of God’s gracious deeds again? What is there about us that we need to be reminded so often? (Deut.4:9; 8:11–14, 19) Lamentably, what will Israel soon do? (Judges 3:7)

Day 2: Read Joshua 24:1–13.

5. Though the national tabernacle is at Shiloh at this time, Joshua chooses Shechem for this solemn covenant renewal act. What is special about Shechem that every Israelite would know from his mother’s knee? (Gen.12:6, 7; 33:18–20; 35:2, 4)
6. The book of Joshua takes pains to tie promise to fulfillment, often quoting word for word from previous books. What prophecy does verse 13 fulfill? (Deut.6:10, 11)
7. List some things that others meant for Israel’s harm and that God turned to her good. When has he done the same for you?

Day 3: Read Joshua 24:14–27.

8. If the first part of the covenant renewal ceremony is a rehearsal of the Lord’s gracious deeds of salvation (vss. 2–13), what is the second part? (vss. 14, 15)
9. Before issuing the challenge of verse 15, Joshua has built a solid case for the choice to serve the Lord. (vss. 2–13) What case can you make from your own life for serving God and not other idols?
10. Pick out two verbs in verse 14b that summarize the two components—one negative and one positive—of Israel’s (and our) reasonable response to God’s love.

11. The people's response to Joshua is good. (vs. 16) But what does Joshua now respond in turn, lest they go into this commitment casually? (vss. 19, 20)

12. Mysteriously, the inanimate creation may not be quite as inanimate as we think! What is the role of the large stone Joshua sets up on the spot where the covenant is renewed? (vss. 26, 27; See also Deut. 31:28; 32:1; Psalm 147:4; Micah 6:1, 2; Luke 19:40; Rom.8:20–22.)

Day 4: Read Joshua 24:14–27.

13. Read Deut.30:15, 19b, Joshua 24:15, and 1 Ki.18:21, and describe what Moses, Joshua, and Elijah have in common in their outlook on serving God. Do you think like them? Recall a time this week when you made such a choice.

14. We know that God forgives a repentant sinner who turns to Him from sin. (1 Jn.1:9) So what does 24:19b mean? (Consider Joshua 23:15, 16.)

15. What warning is there to Israel if, after all God's grace, she chooses rebellion? (vs. 20) Peeking ahead to subsequent history, what in fact happens? (2 Chron. 36:15–20) Is that the end of the story for Israel? (Rom.11:5, 25, 26)

Day 5: Review of Joshua

16. If the Lord as promise keeper is the greatest theme of this book, a close second is distilled in verses like 11:15; 14:8, 9, 14. How would you phrase it?

17. "Joshua" painstakingly connects the dots between obedience and blessing in the above verses. "Judges" will tell the opposite tale, a tale of woe that connects the dots between rebellion and destruction. Does Joshua (and Moses before him) anticipate this possible turn of events? (Find some verses in this chapter, and see 23:12–16 and Deut. 30:17, 18.)

18. The theme of God as promise keeper soars right through to the last verses of the last chapter. Comment on the writer's artistry in relating the end of Joshua (24:32) to the end of Genesis (50:24–26).

19. In a radical contrast to New Age thought, "Joshua" teaches that history is going somewhere, that it has a beginning and an end, that there is cause and effect, that there is a connection between our choices of obedience or disobedience and the subsequent developments in the course of human events. Now that you know this, what difference will it make in the way you live?

LIVING THE PROMISES**To the Praise of His Glory****Ephesians 1**

“Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.” Eph. 1:3

Day One: Read Ephesians 1:1, 2.

1. An apostle is defined as “one who is sent.” Read the account of Paul’s conversion (he was formerly known as Saul) in Acts 9:1–19 and explain how he can make the claim to be “an apostle...by the will of God.”

2. Sometimes we pass over the greetings at the beginning of Paul’s letters because we’re anxious to get to the “good stuff” that comes afterward. But even Paul’s greetings are packed with good stuff. Express verse 2 in your own words in a way you might send greetings to a friend.

Day Two: Read Ephesians 1:3–10.

3. This passage shows how God has initiated every blessing we enjoy. Examine verses 4–10. Wherever God is the subject (the doer of the action), note what he has done for us:
 - A.
 - B.
 - C.
 - D.
 - E.

4. What words from this passage reveal the attitude or heart of God toward his Son and toward us? What do these words suggest about our God? What response do they evoke in you?

5. The ways God has blessed us spiritually span all time—past, present and future. For example, identify those found in the following verses:
 - Past (vss. 4–6):
 - Present (vss. 5–8):
 - Future (vss. 9–10):

Day Three: Read Ephesians 1:3–14.

6. Whose idea is it that we should become God’s children—his or ours? List some verses to justify your answer.

7. Verse 10 indicates the climax of God’s purposes. Describe what you imagine that will be like.
8. What guarantee have we been given that we will receive the full measure of our inheritance?
9. This passage refers three times to “the praise of his glory.” What do you think it’s saying about what it means to live to the praise of God’s glory?

Day Four: Read Ephesians 1:3–23.

10. What motivates Paul to pray for the Ephesians?
11. In verses 17–19 Paul tells his readers not only *what* he is praying for them, but also *why* he is praying that way.
 - A. Write down Paul’s prayer requests as well as his reasons for each:

 - B. Can you think of someone you know for whom Paul’s prayer is especially appropriate? Then pray for that person now, inserting his or her name into the text.
12. How does Paul describe the power that is at work within us? What impact do his comments have on your hope that you can change? What is something in your own heart that you will ask God to change?
13. If you had to pick one word to capture all that Paul has to say about Christ in verses 10–23, what would it be?

Day Five: Review Ephesians 1:1–23.

14. This chapter has a lot to say about who we are in Christ. Sometimes the text explicitly says “in Christ” or “in him,” while other times the statements are implied. Take another sheet of paper and make a list of as many references as you can find as to your identity in Christ and then write down the significance of each statement. For example:

vs. 1 “saint”	God has set me apart for himself.
“faithful”	God has given me the gift of faith—the ability to believe and trust in him. God means me to be loyal to him first and foremost.
vs. 3 “blessed with every spiritual blessing”	God has given me everything I need; I lack for absolutely nothing.

15. After reviewing your list, write or sing a song of praise to God for who he is and what he has done for you in Christ.

LIVING THE PROMISES**Made Alive and One in Christ Ephesians 2**

“We are God’s workmanship, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.” Eph. 2:10

Day 1: Read Ephesians 2:1–10.

1. What portrait does Paul paint of the person “dead in transgressions and sins”? (vss. 1–3) What things characterize this life? (Col. 3:5–10)
2. Is everyone as bad as Paul says? What about all the good, ethical people you know—how does his description fit them?
3. It has been said that the Gospel is bad news before it is good news. What bad news does an individual have to accept before she can hear the good news?

Day 2: Read Ephesians 2:4–7.

4. What do we learn about God’s character in verses 4–7?
5. What parallels do you see between 1:18–21 and 2:4–7? How can it be that what happened to Christ also happened to us at the same time? (See Rom. 6:2–11.)
6. What is the precondition of being raised and seated with Christ (vss. 6 and 7)?

Day 3: Read Ephesians 2:6–10.

7. What do you think is the most significant word in Paul’s discussion of salvation in verses 6–8?
8. Define “works” as it is used in verse 9. What kind of boasting is legitimate for us? (1 Cor. 1:31)
9. What is the purpose of God’s action in saving us? (vs. 10)

Day 4: Read Ephesians 2:11–22.

10. Describe the “before–after” contrast that is discussed in verses 11–13, 19.
11. What is God’s solution to the dismal plight of the Gentiles? (vs. 13) Does this inclusion of the Gentiles mark a change in God’s plans? (See Is. 2:2–4; 56:6, 7; Jer. 3:17.)
12. Write a prayer of praise to the God who has brought us near through the blood of Christ.
13. What is the theme of verses 14–18? Pick out some phrases that support your answer.
14. When Paul talks about “abolishing the law” in verse 15, is he contradicting what he said in Romans 3:31 and what Jesus preached in Matthew 5:17? (See also Gal. 2:15–16; 3:10–11; Rom. 7:7.)

Day 5: Read Ephesians 2:11–22.

15. In verse 18 what does it mean to have access to the Father? What difference does this make to you in day-to-day living?
16. What examples of temple and building imagery does Paul use in verses 19–22?
17. We live in an individualistic society. According to verses 11–22, what’s wrong with individualism for Christians?
18. As Christians, where is our home? How would you act toward fellow Christians if you really believed we are all part of the same family?
19. Pray and ask God to reveal the barriers that you have erected that contribute to disunity with your brothers and sisters in Christ.

LIVING THE PROMISES**Community in Christ Ephesians 3**

“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, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen.” Ephesians 3:20, 21

Day 1: Read Ephesians 3:1–13.

1. How does Paul identify himself in verse 1? For whose sake is he suffering? (vss. 1, 13)

2. Paul has been entrusted with the administration, or stewardship, of a “mystery.” How did Paul receive his insight into this mystery? (vss. 3, 5) What is Paul’s responsibility as a steward of this mystery? (vss. 8, 9)

3. What gift did God give Paul that enabled him to become a servant of the gospel? (vs. 7)

4. God’s grace enabled Paul to become a servant of the gospel (vs. 7), and the work God gave Paul to do was itself a grace. (vs. 8) What “graces”—or spheres of ministry—has God given you? What are some ways that God continually gives us grace to strengthen us for our ministry?

Day 2: Read Ephesians 3:2–21.

5. What is the mystery? List the 3 parts of Paul’s description of it in vs. 6.

6. The mystery entrusted to Paul “was not made known to men in other generations as it has now been revealed.” (vs. 5) What hints does the Old Testament give that Gentiles will have a share in God’s plan of salvation? (Gen. 12:1–3; Is. 2:2, 3; 49:5, 6)

7. How does the mystery Paul describes go beyond what was revealed in the Old Testament? (vs. 6; see also 2:14–16, 19, 20; Gal. 3:26–29)

8. In what ways does the church’s living out this mystery bring glory to God? (vss. 10, 11, 21; compare Rom. 15:5–9; Jn. 17:20–23)

9. The biggest division in the early church was between Jew and Gentile. What things divide the church today? How can today's church bring greater glory to God?

Day 3: Read Ephesians 3:1, 14–21.

10. In vs. 14, Paul resumes what he started to say in vs. 1: “For this reason. . . .” What is the reason Paul turns to prayer for the Ephesians? (Skim chapter 2.)
11. To whom does Paul address his prayer? (vs. 14; compare 1:17) What special significance would this name for God hold for the Gentile readers of this letter? (1:4, 5; 2:19, 20; 3:6a)
12. How does Jesus teach us to address God? (Mt. 6:6, 9) How can this relationship give us “freedom and confidence” (vs. 12) in our prayers? (Mt. 7:9–11)

Day 4: Read Ephesians 3:14–21.

13. One commentator notes that “One of the best ways to discover a Christian's chief anxieties and ambitions is to study the content of his prayers and the intensity with which he prays them.” Look again at Paul's prayer for the Ephesian church. What does it show about his heart?
14. What kinds of things do you pray for most? What do the content and intensity of your prayers reveal about your heart?

Day 5: Read Ephesians 3:14–21.

15. Paul's prayer emphasizes power and love.
- A. Where does this power work? (vss. 16, 20) How powerful is it? (1:18–21)
 - B. In what context do believers grasp the love of Christ? (vs. 18)
 - C. What effect will knowing “this love that surpasses knowledge” have on you? (vs. 19)
16. Pray Paul's prayer for yourself and your fellow believers in your church. Pray with “freedom and confidence” (vs. 12), trusting that your Father is “able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us” (vs. 20).

LIVING THE PROMISES**Unity in the Body of Christ****Ephesians 4:1-16**

“...one Lord, one faith, one baptism; one God and Father of all,
who is over all and through all and in all.” Eph. 4:5, 6

Day 1: Read Ephesians 4:1, 2.

1. Paul notes that it is as a prisoner that he makes his exhortations to the Ephesian saints (vs. 1). What credibility or authority do you think that fact lends to his preaching?
2. What does it mean to you to “live a life worthy” (vs. 1) of the calling you received?
3. List several graces that Paul urges us to in verse 2. Prayerfully try to put these into practice this very day.

Day 2: Read Ephesians 4:3–9.

4. “Make every effort” (vs. 3) is a vague and general exhortation (see its twin verse in Romans 12:18) that calls for an exercise of wisdom on your part in the working out of the details. Think of someone you need to pursue peace with, and list some ways you could approach it.
5. What is the deeper reason for the urgency of the need to pursue peace with your sister or brother? (vss. 4–6) Why does it make no sense to be at peace with God (Romans 5:1) and at odds with your brother? (Consider James 3:9–12 and 1John 4:19–21.)
6. According to verse 7 (and Romans 12:3–6), why does it make no sense to boast or gloat over your brother about your gift?
7. What was the major historical development that led to your being able to receive gifts in the first place? (vss. 7–9)

Day 3: Read Ephesians 4:10–13.

8. If Christ will “fill the whole universe” (vs. 10), is there any area of your life that is off limits?

9. Various gifts are listed in verse 11, as well as in 1 Corinthians 12:7–11 and Romans 12:6–8. What gifts has Christ given you, and how can you use them? (You may consider not only “talents” but circumstances and possessions He has gifted you with for the common good.)

10. What is the ultimate purpose of each of our gifts? (vss. 12, 13)

Day 4: Read Ephesians 4:13, 14.

11. According to these verses, describe the differences between a mature and immature Christian.

12. Think of specific ways in which you could be in danger of being “tossed back and forth by the waves...and by every wind of teaching and by the cunning and craftiness of men.” What is the remedy for this?

Day 5: Read Ephesians 4:15, 16.

13. Verse 15 contains a phrase that, in a nutshell, summarizes the principle and goal of all good counseling. What is it? Unpack what that phrase means. Relate a specific example where you either did it right or did it wrong.

14. The mystery and goal of all things, revealed in 1:10b, is here restated. What does Paul’s vision of the church look like? Describe in concrete ways what this will look like in terms of your relationships.

LIVING THE PROMISES**Off with the Old, On with the New****Ephesians 4:17–32**

“You were taught, with regard to your former way of life, to put off your old self...and to put on the new self, created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness.” Eph. 4:22a, 24

Day One: Read Eph. 4:17–19.

1. List phrases Paul uses to describe the intellectual condition of the Gentiles.
2. According to verse 18, what is the cause of the Gentile’s problems with their thinking?
3. What is the result of darkened thinking and a hardened heart? (See also Rom. 1:21–32.)
4. Why do you think Paul writes about wrong thinking before discussing wrong behavior? (Consider Matt. 15:16–20.)

Day Two: Read Eph. 4:20–24.

5. In verses 20 and 21 how does Paul account for the fact that the Ephesians’ way of thinking differs from that of other Gentiles?
6. What are the three truths Paul says that they have been taught?
7. The phrases “putting off” and “putting on” might give you a picture of simply changing clothes, i.e., changing only outward behavior. But what Paul is actually describing covers every aspect of our being—not only how we behave, but also what motivates us and how we think. How does this help you understand what it means that in Christ you have been “created to be like God in true righteousness and holiness”? (vs. 24)

Day Three: Read Eph. 4:25–32.

8. In verses 22–24 Paul has spoken of putting off your old self and putting on your new one. List specific examples he gives in verses 25–32. Notice that in every instance Paul not only states *what* is to be put off and on, but *why*, so list the reason he gives as well.

Put Off**Put On****Why**

9. Using this list or coming up with something on your own, what is God calling you specifically to put off and put on with regard to someone in your own life?

Day Four: Read Eph. 4:25-28.

10. What are the three prohibitions Paul gives when you are angry?

11. Does not sinning in your anger mean:
- A. Pretending you are not angry.
 - B. Being angry, but not acting on it.
 - C. Screaming into and/or beating a pillow.
 - D. Other:

Explain your answer. (Consider John 13–17, Gal. 2:11–14, James 4:1–3, Luke 6:41, 42.)

12. Why do you think it is important not to “let the sun go down while you are still angry?” What is likely to happen when anger is allowed to linger?

13. Is there anyone in your life with whom you are angry? What do you think God is calling you to do about it?

Day Five: Read Eph. 4:25–32.

14. Reading these verses alone you might be tempted to see Paul giving the Ephesians a dry, burdensome list of rules, of do’s and don’ts. However, taken in context, you can see that they flow out of his passion for the church and for God himself.

A. Review Eph. 4:1–16. What is one of Paul’s main concerns for the church?

B. Review Eph. 1. What phrase does Paul keep repeating that reveals his heart?

C. In light of your answers to A and B, how might you describe these verses other than a bunch of rules?

D. Who does Paul say empowers you to “live a life worthy of the calling you have received”? (See Eph. 1:18, 19; 3:16, 17.)

LIVING THE PROMISES**Living as Children of Light Ephesians 5:1–14**

For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light. Eph. 5:8, 9

Day 1: Read Ephesians 5:1–14.

1. In verse 1, the conjunction “therefore” directs our attention to something that comes before. Review chapter 4 and summarize briefly what Paul wants us to keep in mind as we embark on our study of chapter 5.
2. Why is it natural for us to imitate God? (vs. 1)
3. What are two aspects of Christ’s love for us that we are called to imitate? (4:32–5:2)
4. Imitating God seems like a pretty tall order. Does trying to imitate God doom us to fruitless striving and certain discouragement? Read Romans 7:14–8:4 to see how Paul himself struggled with his desire to imitate God and his inability to do so. What can you learn from his struggle?

Day 2: Read Ephesians 5:3–7.

5. In Ephesians 4:25–31 Paul lists sins that we are to avoid. What sins does he add to this list here in 5:3–4?
6. Rewrite verse 4 in your own words. How is thanksgiving the opposite of obscenity, foolish talk, and coarse joking?
7. Explain how the greedy person is an idolator. (vs. 5) (Hint: Think about how an idolator views God’s gifts.)
8. Are there ways in which you are an idolator? (What do you want more than God? What things would you disobey God to possess?) Ask God to show you where you need to repent.

Day 3: Read Ephesians 5:5–7.

9. Paul gives his strongest argument for turning from sin in verses 5–6. What is it?

10. What hope does the immoral, impure, or greedy person have? (1 Cor. 6:9–11; 1 John 1:9)

11. Read about Jesus' relationship with "sinners" in Luke 5:30–32 and 15:1–2. What's the difference between socializing with sinners and being their "partners"?

Day 4: Read Ephesians 5:8–14.

12. In verse 8 Paul picks up the theme of light and darkness. What does darkness represent? What about light?

13. What is startling about the wording in verse 8? Why is it worded this way?

14. As a believer you are "light in the Lord." Read verses 9–14 and describe how you are to live.

15. The "fruit of the light" is produced by whom? (See 1 John 1:5 and Gal. 5:22–23.)

Day 5: Read Ephesians 5:8–14.

16. In verse 10 we are told to find out what pleases the Lord. How do we find this out?

17. According to verse 11 what is our relationship to the "fruitless deeds of darkness"?

18. It is clear from these verses that living as children of light means that we will be different from the world. But consider three things in light of 4:32–5:2:

A. How can we be different without coming across as "holier-than-thou"?

B. How can we avoid participating in sin without being reactionary, prudish, and judgmental?

C. How can we avoid being destructive when we confront?

19. Ask God to show you how to be "in" but not "of" the world.

LIVING THE PROMISES**Living Together in Christ****Ephesians 5:15–33***“ . . . be filled with the Spirit ”* Ephesians 5:18b**Day 1: Read Ephesians 5:15–21.**

1. Wise living may be seen as the theme of this passage. What is the essence of wisdom? (Job 28:28) What does this mean?
2. What aspect of wise living is discussed in each of the following verses?
 - A. vss. 15 and 16 (compare Ps. 90:12; Pr. 14:8):
 - B. vs. 17 (compare Mt. 7:24; Rom. 12:2):
 - C. vs. 18 (compare Pr. 20:1):
 - D. vs. 19 (compare Pr. 16:23, 24):
 - E. vs. 20:
 - F. vs. 21 (compare Jas. 3:13, 17):
3. Where does wisdom come from? (Jas. 1:5) Pray to God, asking him to make you wise in the way that you live.

Day 2: Read Ephesians 5:15–21.

4. What is the connection between wisdom and the Holy Spirit? (1:17; 1 Cor. 2:9–13)
5. The verbs in verses 19–21 are connected grammatically to verse 18, being “filled with the Spirit.” According to these verses, what actions flow from the Spirit’s presence in our lives?
6. How can we be filled with the Spirit in our day-to-day lives? (Lk. 11:13)

Day 3: Read Ephesians 5:21–33.

7. All Christians are called to “Submit to one another out of reverence for Christ” (vs. 21). What does this look like? (4:2, 3; 4:31–5:2)

8. What are wives instructed to do? (vss. 22, 24, 33) What does this look like? (Look back at your answer to question 7.)
9. In submitting to their husbands, to whom are wives ultimately submitting? (vs. 22)
10. Where does the power to submit come from? (vs. 18)
11. Think of a relationship or an area of your life in which you tend to be proud rather than submissive. How can your attitude change?

Day 4: Read Ephesians 5:21–33.

12. What are husbands told to do? (vss. 25, 28, 33; compare 5:2) Who is their model to be? (vss. 23, 25, 29) What kind of example is this? (Phil. 2:3–8; Jn. 13:12–17)
13. Where does the power for this kind of love come from? (2 Tim. 1:7; compare Eph. 3:16)
14. What is the essence of marriage? (vs. 31; Gen. 2:23, 24; Mt. 19:4–6)

Day 5: Read Ephesians 5:22–33.

15. Paul has already used the images of the body and the temple to illustrate Christ's relationship to the church. What image does he introduce in this passage? (vss. 25–27, 31, 32)
16. The use of marriage to describe God's relationship with his people is not new. What has this relationship looked like in the past? (Jer. 31:31, 32) When will it finally be consummated? (Rev. 19:7, 8; 21:1, 2; cf. Eph. 5:27)
17. What did Christ do to change faithless, adulterous people and people who were “without hope and without God in the world” (2:12) to a splendid bride betrothed to him in righteousness and faithfulness forever? (vss. 25–27)
18. What does the image of marriage tell you about your relationship to Christ?

LIVING THE PROMISES**In Relationship****Ephesians 6:1–9**

“Serve wholeheartedly, as if you were serving the Lord, not men, because you know that the Lord will reward everyone for whatever good he does, whether he is slave or free.” Ephesians 6:7, 8

Day 1: Read Ephesians 6:1–9.

The commands of 6:1–9 are not dropped out of the blue but have a context in which to be appreciated. To refresh your memory, summarize the following high points of Ephesians thus far.

1. What has God done for you?

1:3–8 _____

2:1–7 _____

2. What is the destiny of all history?

1:10b _____

4:10 _____

3. To what purpose were you chosen?

1:12 _____

3:10 _____

4. In that purpose, how are we all interconnected?

2:20, 21 _____

3:18 _____

4:4, 7, 11–16 _____

Day 2: Read Ephesians 6:1–4.

5. Which two categories of people in the body of Christ have already received commands in Ephesians? (5:22; 5:25) Summarize the specific responsibility of wives (5:22–24). Of husbands (5:25–33).

6. What is the special responsibility of children in the household of God (6:1–4)? How do they play their part in “being for the praise of his glory” (1:12) when they obey?

Day 3: Read Ephesians 6:1–4.

7. What special incentive or encouragement does God attach to this command to children? (6:2, 3)
8. Now that you have learned about the glorious goal of history, and the specific contribution of each part of the body to that goal (3:10), how can you use 6:1–3 as more than a beating stick in parental control?

Day 4: Read Ephesians 6:4.

9. What kinds of things do parents do that can exasperate their children, to their harm?
10. What is the correct alternative to that, and what would it look like?
11. Why is the “father” singled out? What about a home with no father?

Day 5: Read Ephesians 6:5–9.

12. Applying this section on “slaves” and “masters” to our own modern American situation, what should your attitude and service toward your employer look like?
13. Whom should you be keeping in your mind’s eye as you do your job at work? (vs. 5) How is this a corrective to our tendency to backbite, gossip, and perform “eye service”?
14. Although for a short while on earth, “masters” seem to be in a more fortunate position than “servants,” why is one station ultimately no more privileged than the other? (6:9)
15. How does Ephesians’ perspective (see Day 1) help each category of believers in the body (wives, husbands, children, slaves, masters) see the specific commands addressed to them as unique opportunities to glorify Christ?

LIVING THE PROMISES**Be Strong in the Lord Eph. 6:10–24**

“Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand.” Eph. 6:13

Day One: Read Eph. 6:10–20.

1. In order to fight an enemy effectively, you have to know your enemy. What do we learn about our enemy from verses 11 and 12?
2. What difference does it make to read verses 10-12 in light of Eph. 1:19–21?
3. As we learned in Joshua, God has a part to play in our battles and we have a part to play. What does Paul suggest is God’s part? What is our part?

Day Two: Read Eph. 6:10–20.

4. Twice Paul stresses the need to put on the *full* armor of God. What armor does he describe?
5. “The belt of truth buckled around your waist” expresses the importance of knowing the truth as well as being truthful. Why is truth so important when it comes to fighting our enemy? (Consider John 8:43–45, Luke 4:1–13, Eph. 4:21, 5:6, 9.)
6. How does Paul describe the breastplate of righteousness in 1 Thess. 5:8?
7. In Eph. 2:1–18 Paul described the “gospel of peace,” i.e., that because of what Christ has done we are at peace with God, with others and with our own consciences. How does this reality help us to withstand the enemy’s attack?

Day Three: Read Eph. 6:10–20.

8. What does the shield of faith enable you to do? What sorts of things do you think are “the flaming arrows” that the adversary shoots at us? (Consider Gen. 3:1–6; Zech. 3:1–5, Eph. 4:26, 27.)
9. How does David describe the helmet of salvation in Psa. 140:7? What does Psa. 140:9, 10 suggest might happen if you’re not covered by the helmet of salvation?
10. How does Paul describe the word of God? Why is it important that the word be linked with the Spirit? (Consider Heb. 4:12, 1 Cor. 2:10–13.)

Day Four: Read Eph. 6:10–24.

11. In verse 18 Paul gives emphatic and comprehensive instructions as to how we should pray. What are the various aspects he stresses? In what way(s) will his instructions affect your prayer life?
12. Twice Paul has told the Ephesians how he prays for them (see 1:15ff, 3:16ff) and now he asks them to pray for him. What two requests does he make? Take a few moments to pray these things for yourself and for the others in your small group.
13. Paul ends his letter to the Ephesians the same way he began it—by offering them peace and grace. How has your understanding of peace been deepened by your study of Ephesians? How has your understanding of grace been deepened?

Day Five: Reflection on Joshua and Ephesians.

14. It seems appropriate that the last passage of this year’s study should have the same theme as the first—preparing for battle. Reread Eph. 6:10–20 and Joshua 1:1–9. What similarities and differences do you see between these two passages? What effect has this year’s study had on your heart and on your life?