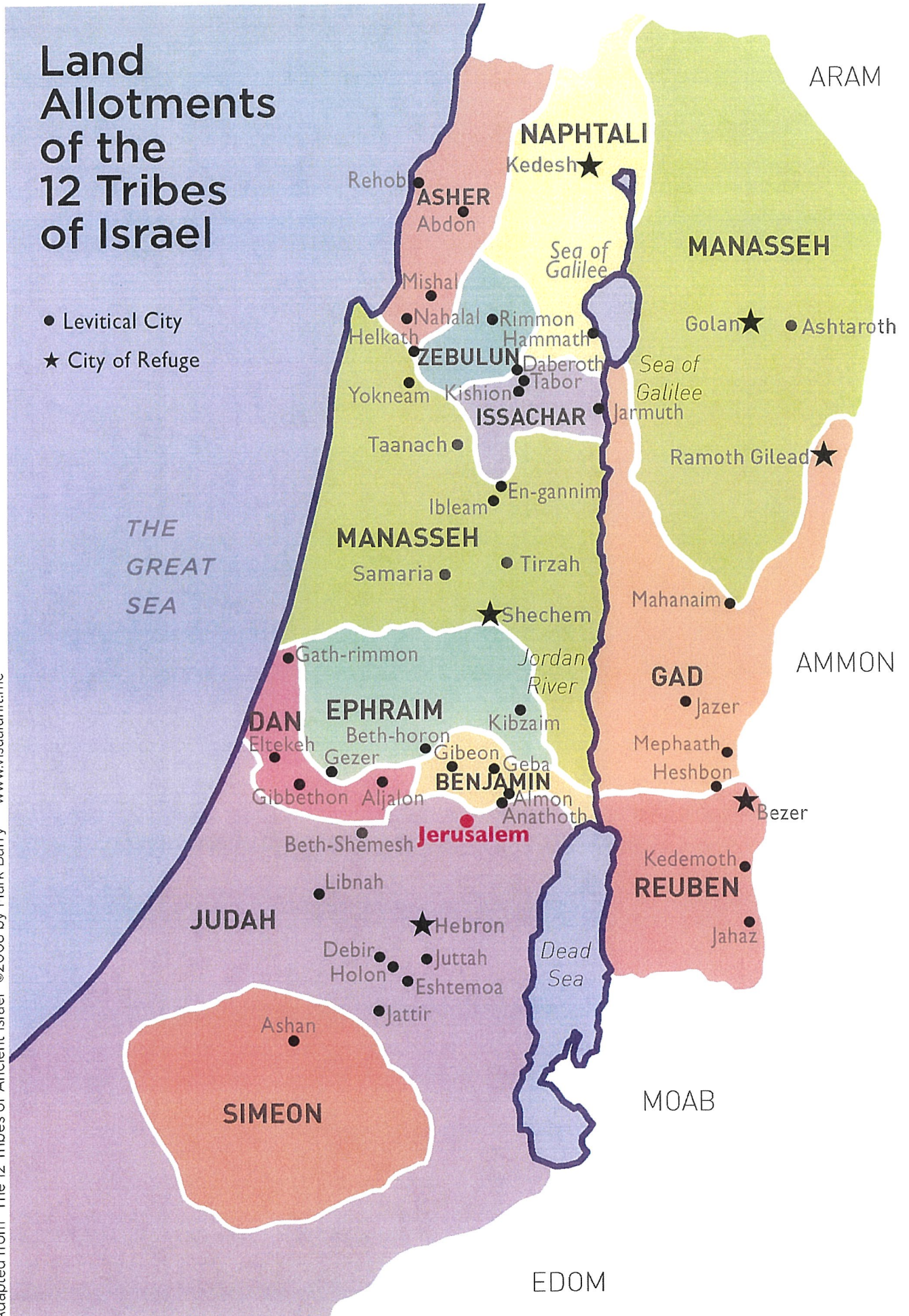


Land Allotments of the 12 Tribes of Israel

- Levitical City
- ★ City of Refuge



Joshua 7-8

October 14, 2020

1. How would you define “discouragement”?

In what ways can discouragement lead us into a closer walk with God?

2. The Israelites won a great military victory in Jericho. Read Joshua 6:20, 24 and 27 for a quick summary. Describe the dark side of this victory after reading Joshua 7:1.

Why was Achan’s action sinful considering Joshua’s words in Joshua 6:18-19?

3. Read the last sentence in Joshua 7:1. Explain why this was true from the following verses:

Exodus 19:5-6

Deuteronomy 23:14

1 Corinthians 12:12

4. It is discouraging when others’ sins cause us pain, but it can also motivate us to stay on God’s path for the sake of others. Can you share a time when your concern for others kept you obedient to the Lord? Also read Philippians 2:1-4.
5. Read about Israel’s next battle at Ai in Joshua 7:2-5. If you had been watching this battle from behind a tree, how would you describe it to your friend?

6. Read Joshua's despairing words after Israel's defeat in Joshua 7:6-9. Summarize the three questions that Joshua asks the LORD. Verse 8 can be read: "O LORD, what can I say, now that Israel has retreated from their enemy?"

From what we have studied in Joshua so far, how would you answer each of those questions?

7. Read God's answer to Joshua's discouragement in Joshua 7:10-15. Why must God judge the transgressor Achan, according to verse 15?

According to verses 10-13, what would have been some of the ramifications for Israel if Achan had kept the devoted things and gone unpunished?

Can you think of some other ramifications that may have resulted from Achan willfully disobeying God and attempting to hide his sin?

8. Joshua obeyed God quickly. Read Joshua 7:16-21. What word does Achan use to describe the sin that led to his taking the devoted things?

What does Colossians 3:5 teach us about the person who covets?

What are the four steps in the progress of Achan's sin from Joshua 7:21?

At which step should Achan have walked away from this temptation?

9. Read Joshua 7:22-26. What does the fact that Achan's stolen goods were hidden in his tent tell you about Achan?

At the beginning of a new period in Bible history, God often revealed His wrath against sin in a dramatic way. What important warning is God giving Israel by Achan's public judgment?

"Valley of Achor" is translated "Valley of Trouble." One day, the Valley of Achor will be a place where the Jews will have a new beginning and no longer be associated with shame and defeat. How is it described in Isaiah 65:10 and Hosea 2:15?

What can we also realize when we have battled sin in our past? Read Lamentations 3:19-25.

10. Israel returned to Ai for battle. Read about this battle in Joshua 8:1-29. Compare the main elements of this battle with the first battle at Ai in Joshua 7:2-5.

What elements brought about the different outcome?

11. Read Joshua 8:30-35, in which the nation of Israel stood on two mountains renewing their covenant with God. Israel was fulfilling the commands Moses set up for the nation to obey after they entered the Promised Land. What are the major actions that Joshua performed?

From this point on, the history of the Jews depended on their attitude toward the Law, which had been read in their hearing that day. List a few of the ways God's Word has been your encouragement as you face both failures and victories.

12. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

Joshua 9-10

October 21, 2020

1. How often do you seek the Lord's counsel when making decisions in life? Never? Occasionally? Often? Always?

List some obstacles that can discourage us from seeking God's counsel.

2. Read Joshua 9:1-13. Compare the reactions of the kings in the hill country and the lowlands with the reaction of the Gibeonites.

How did the Gibeonites represent themselves to Joshua and his leaders?

Describe the evidence they provided to convince him of their story.

What were the Gibeonites seeking from Joshua and his leaders?

Why is it important for Joshua and his leaders to recognize the truth about the Gibeonites?
Read Exodus 34:11-12.

3. Read Joshua 9:14-21. What costly mistakes do Joshua and his leaders make in verses 14-15?

Describe the reaction of the people when they discover their leaders have been duped.

Why do Israel's leaders stand behind the peace agreement they have made with the Gibeonites?

What insight do their actions give you into the character and commitment of Joshua and his leaders?

4. What leadership lessons do you learn from Joshua's and the men of Israel's experience with the Gibeonites?
5. Read Joshua 9:22-27. Why were the Gibeonites motivated to lie and deceive Joshua and his leaders?

Although their lives are spared, they reap a consequence of their action. Describe what their future holds following their covenant with Joshua and Israel.

6. Joshua 10 reveals a gathering of Canaanite kings who unite against the Gibeonites. Read Joshua 10:1-5. What has caused their alarm and what is their plan?
7. Read Joshua 10:6-11. How is the covenant between Israel and the Gibeonites put to the test?

Although Joshua may be regretting his covenant with Gibeon, he defends them against an impressive coalition. What encouragement does he receive from the LORD in verse 8?

How do God's words to Joshua and His intervention during the battle reflect His promise to Joshua in Joshua 1:5, 9?

8. Picture the scene recorded in Joshua 10:12-15. How would you describe Joshua's faith as he prays for a unique miracle?

What is the result of Joshua's prayer of faith?

9. Looking back through the chapters we have studied, record some ways God has encouraged Joshua's faith to grow during his time as the leader of Israel's conquest of Canaan.

What are some of the ways God increases your faith and trust in Him during life's journey?

10. Read Joshua 10:16-27 to learn the outcome of the battle and the defeat of the five kings. What words does Joshua use to strengthen his men and leaders as they continue to face down their enemies in verse 25?

Who spoke similar words of encouragement to Joshua in Joshua 1:6, 7 and 9?

11. Read Joshua 10:28-43, which gives the details of the conquest of southern Canaan. What is Joshua's part in these battles according to verse 40?

Who is responsible for Israel's victory? Read verse 42.

12. In chapter 9, Joshua and his leaders neglected to partner with God in prayer and the result came with a price for Israel. In chapter 10, Joshua called on God for an amazing miracle and received a miraculous answer. What wisdom do you glean from Joshua's experience?

What steps can you take to become a woman who partners with God in prayer in all areas of your life?

13. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

Joshua 11-17

October 28, 2020

1. Think of a time when you inherited something. Did it bring you joy, hardship or both? Please share.
2. Last week we saw the conquests of central and southern Canaan were completed by the Israelites under the mighty hand of the LORD. Chapter 11 describes the conquest of northern Canaan. Read Joshua 11:1-9. Verses 1-3 explain how all the kings from different places united to fight against the Israelites. What words describe them in verses 4-5?

What do we also learn about these people from verse 19?

Read verses 10-19. What is the only city burned in this northern campaign? Did this military campaign take a long time or a short time?

Read Deuteronomy 20:16-18. What is one reason for God destroying all these people in northern Canaan?

3. Read Joshua 11:20-23. How are the actions of Joshua described in verses 15 and 23? Also read Joshua 1:7.

Name a *specific* way you could apply this behavior to your walk with the Lord this week.

4. Chapter 12 summarizes the places and kings defeated by the Israelites, and concludes the description of the conquest of Canaan, the good land. Read verses 1-6, which describe the two kings Moses defeated on the east side of the Jordan River before his death. More details of these events are recorded in Numbers 21:21-55. What did the Israelite messengers originally say to King Sihon in Numbers 21:21-23?

Which tribes inherit this land according to Joshua 12:6?

Skim through verses 7-24 for the description of the 31 kings defeated by Joshua and the Israelites, and the land they now possess on the west side of the Jordan River. What will Joshua do with this land according to verse 7?

5. Chapters 13–21 in Joshua describe the division of the land, God’s promised inheritance to the 12 tribes of Israel. The 12 tribes come from the 12 sons of Jacob: Reuben, Simeon, Levi, Judah, Zebulun, Issachar, Dan, Gad, Asher, Naphtali, Joseph and Benjamin. Joseph received a double portion of blessing, one each for his sons Ephraim and Manasseh. In this week’s study we will look at some high points in chapters 13–17. According to Joshua 13:7, how many tribes will inherit this land, which is west of the Jordan River?

Read verse 8. Which tribes received their inheritance east of the Jordan River?

After reading verses 14 and 33, record the tribe who would not inherit a specific area of land.

Describe this tribe’s inheritance according to Joshua 13:33 and Deuteronomy 10:8-9. How do you see this inheritance superior to the gift of land?

6. Read Joshua 14:1-5. From verse 1, list the people dividing up the inheritance among the 9 and a half tribes.

How was each inheritance determined? Also read Numbers 33:54 and 34:13.

Why do you think this was a good plan for dividing up the land?

7. Read Joshua 14:6-15. Caleb, from the tribe of Judah, recounts the story of spying out the land with Joshua 45 years ago. How does Joshua describe himself in verses 10-11?

What is amazing about Caleb’s request in verse 12? The Anakim in these verses were called giants.

What phrase in verse 14 explains the secret to Caleb’s great faith?

Consider a hard task facing you today. In what ways might Caleb’s faith encourage your faith in the Lord as you take on this task?

8. Skim chapter 15, which records the allotment of land given to the tribe of Judah. Reread carefully verses 13-17 and write a newspaper headline for these verses.

Continue reading verses 18-19. What does Caleb's daughter request of Caleb in faith?

Consider how living a lifetime of faith can be more valuable than any material inheritance you give your children, grandchildren, friends or family. Please share your thoughts.

9. Chapters 16–17 describe the inheritance of land given to the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh. (Joseph was the father of Ephraim and Manasseh.) Read chapter 16 and 17:1-2. Now read the interesting story of Zelophehad's daughters in Joshua 17:3-6 along with Numbers 27:1-8. What do you learn about the LORD God from this story?

What does Galatians 3:25-29 say about our spiritual inheritance as believers in Jesus Christ?

Describe your response in one word.

10. Read Joshua 17:7-18. What words would you use to describe the attitude of the people from the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh after they received their promised inheritance from the LORD?

How does Joshua respond to them in verse 15? What encouragement does he give them in verses 17-18?

11. Think of some promises from the Lord for you and write them down.

List some ways you can have a grateful heart to the Lord for the good gifts He gives you.

12. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

Joshua 18-21

November 4, 2020

1. Begin by reading Joshua 18:1-3. Joshua moved the Israelites from Gilgal to Shiloh, where the remaining tribes of Israel would receive the land the LORD promised them. Under the leadership of Joshua, what was the first thing the Israelites did upon arriving at Shiloh?

Why was the tent of meeting (also known as the tabernacle) so important to the Israelites? Look at Exodus 25:8 for insight.

What does this reveal about Joshua's character and leadership skills?

2. The remaining seven tribes would soon be receiving their inheritance. In your own words, describe what the phrase, "The land lay subdued before them" would have meant to the Israelites.
3. Jesus' death and resurrection conquered our enemy and ensured us a spiritual inheritance. Look up the following portions of Scripture and record what is included in our spiritual inheritance through our belief in the redemptive work of Jesus.

John 10:28

2 Corinthians 1:21-22

Ephesians 1:7

1 Peter 1:3-4

4. In Joshua 18:3, Joshua rebukes the remaining seven tribes for not yet taking possession of the land which God provided for them. What are some possible reasons they were slow to take possession of their inheritance?

Look up the definition for the word "complacent." Explain how we can be complacent in our spiritual life.

Recall a time when you were complacent in taking possession of your inheritance in Christ. Who or what encouraged you to move forward and claim your rightful inheritance?

5. Continue by reading Joshua 18:4-10. What steps did Joshua put in place to help the remaining seven tribes take possession of their inheritance?

We learn a great deal from Joshua's well-organized and purposeful plan for these seven remaining tribes. What are some practical steps you can take in possessing and settling into your spiritual inheritance?

6. The remainder of chapter 18 and all of chapter 19 records the assignment of land to each of the seven remaining tribes. Skim over these verses and notice how many times the word "inheritance" is used. It was important for the Israelites to understand this land was inherited and not earned. Why is it equally as important for us to understand the same truth about our spiritual inheritance? Look at Ephesians 2:8-9 and 2 Timothy 1:8-10 for insight.
7. Read Joshua 19:49-50. How did God honor Joshua's faithfulness? What did Joshua do with what he was given?
8. Continue by reading Joshua 20:1-9. The LORD instructed Joshua to appoint six cities of refuge. What specific information about these cities of refuge do we get from the following portions of Scripture?

Numbers 35:10-11

Numbers 35:12

Numbers 35:13-14

Numbers 35:15

Joshua 20:1

Joshua 20:4

Joshua 20:6

9. Many theologians see these cities of refuge as a picture of our salvation in Christ. Explain how the cities of refuge foreshadow our salvation in Christ. Look at Matthew 11:28-30, Romans 6:23 and Hebrews 6:17-18 for insight.

In what way(s) did the cities of refuge differ from salvation in Christ?

10. Read Joshua 21:1-3 and 41-42 along with Numbers 35:1-8. The Levites were promised a total of 48 cities, which included the six cities of refuge. Record the details of the LORD's promise to the Levites.

What was the role of the Levites? See 2 Chronicles 17:7-9 for insight.

Some have estimated that no one in Israel would have lived more than 10 miles from one of these 48 Levite cities. What was the importance of having the Levites spread throughout the Promised Land?

11. Finish by reading the last three verses of Joshua 21. According to verse 43, what did the LORD do for Israel and how did Israel respond?

One definition for the word "settled" is "to become fixed, resolved or established." What does it mean to you to take possession and settle into your spiritual inheritance?

How do the words recorded in Joshua 21:45 encourage you as you settle into your spiritual inheritance?

12. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

Joshua 22

November 11, 2020

1. Joshua 22 begins with the words, “At that time ...”. Look back at Joshua 21:43-45 and briefly summarize what Israel has just experienced as this new period in their history begins.
2. The Israelite tribes of Reuben, Gad and half of Manasseh made an agreement with Moses before the conquest of Canaan to settle on the east side of the Jordan River. Read Joshua 22:1-3 along with Numbers 32:1-5 and 16-22. What obligation to the rest of Israel have these three tribes kept?

What words or phrases do you see in Joshua 22:1-3 that describe the commitment of Reuben, Gad and Manasseh during the years of the conquest of Canaan?

3. Read verses 4-6. Joshua charges these three tribes with carefully following the law and commandments given them by Moses. List these commandments.

Circle the verbs in the commandments you just wrote. What might inspire this kind of devotion to the Lord?

Write down and share one or two practical ways *you* can put these commandments into practice this week.

What makes keeping God’s commandments personally difficult for you?

Jot down one example from the Book of Joshua that will strengthen or encourage you as you strive to obey the Lord.

4. Read Joshua 22:7-12 along with Leviticus 17:8-9. Given that this altar was a replica of the altar where sacrifices were offered at the tent of meeting (also known as the tabernacle), what was the motivation for Israel to attack their brothers from Reuben, Gad and Manasseh?

5. Read Joshua 22:13-16. Who was sent to speak with Reuben, Gad and Manasseh?

What phrase in verse 16 reveals that this was a matter of spiritual and political importance for the whole nation and not just the concern of a select few?

Where do you see wisdom on display in the choice to send a delegation to speak with their fellow Israelites before rushing into war? See Proverbs 18:13.

Think of a time when you had the desire to act before you understood the full story. Did you move forward or wait and gather all the information? Looking back, what wisdom did you glean?

6. Read Joshua 22:15-20. Israel had learned the hard lesson that the sin of one or a few can deeply affect entire communities. What is the specific concern voiced by Israel about Reuben, Gad and Manasseh? See verse 18.

What generous offer does Israel make to their fellow tribesmen in verse 19?

Write down one or more biblical principles you see demonstrated in this exchange. Use Scripture if you would like.

7. Read Joshua 22:21-29. Who is at the forefront of the thoughts and speech of the people of Reuben, Gad and Manasseh? What is said about Him? See verse 22.

In a sentence or two, summarize how these tribes respond to the accusation mounted against them.

8. Read Joshua 22:30-34. How did the people of Israel react to the news that their fellow tribesmen to the east of the Jordan River had not sinned against God?

What name did the people of Reuben and Gad give to the altar?

Why was this a fitting name?

9. Look back at Joshua 22:5. What are some ways the tribes of Reuben, Gad and Manasseh lived out Joshua's charge to them in this chapter?

What are some ways the rest of Israel lived out Joshua's charge in this chapter?

10. Conflict is an inevitable part of living in community. What lesson(s) have you gleaned from this chapter that can guide you the next time you have conflict with a brother or sister in Christ?

11. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.

Joshua 23-24

November 18, 2020

1. Imagine Joshua near the end of his life, many years after Israel's conquest of Canaan and the distribution of the land. Now read all of Joshua 23. The heart of Joshua's message is found in verse 14. What does Joshua want all Israel to know?

2. Joshua leads the people in reflecting on the activity of God. Read the following verses and record God's activity toward the Canaanite nations that have been cut off.

Joshua 23:3

Joshua 23:9

How does God's activity compare to His promise made in Joshua 1:2-9?

Read Joshua 23:5 and record what God has promised to do to the Canaanite nations that remain.

3. In the following verses, how does Joshua instruct the Israelites to respond to God's faithfulness?

Joshua 23:6

Joshua 23:8

Joshua 23:11

The ESV translation says, "*Be very careful, therefore, to love the LORD your God.*" What do you think these words mean?

Considering your own life, how can you be *very careful* to love the Lord?

4. Joshua's greatest concern for Israel is described in Joshua 23:7. What is it?

5. Read Joshua 23:12-13 and 15-16 and write down what God promises to do if Israel clings to the Canaanites' pagan practices.

God compares the Canaanites to four specific things in verse 13. List them and describe what these items do.

6. Joshua's final charge to the people is recorded in Joshua 24. Read verses 1-13. Reviewing the history of Israel, note how often God uses the pronoun "I," and list some of the verbs that follow the pronoun "I."

According to this history, does God attribute any of Israel's success to her own power or strength?

How would you summarize this message from God to Israel?

7. Read Joshua 24:14-15. In response to God's faithfulness, how does Joshua instruct Israel to respond?

Read Israel's response in verses 16-18. Why do they believe it would be wrong to serve other gods?

8. Prayerfully reflect and make a list of God's faithful activity in your own life. When appropriate, use God's words such as, "I gave, I sent, I delivered ...".

Now respond to God's faithful activity in your life by writing a pledge to God below.

9. According to Deuteronomy 6:10-15, what is the greatest risk to Israel once they are established in the good land?

10. In Joshua 24:19-24, Joshua challenges the people to take seriously their enthusiastic commitment to God. Read these verses and list the characteristics of God mentioned in verse 19.

How do these characteristics sober us as we consider our own commitment to God?

Read Romans 5:8 and Isaiah 53:5-6. How does God ultimately provide for our forgiveness?

Joshua pushes them to commit to God with actions in addition to words. What action should they take in Joshua 24:23?

11. An idol is anything that takes God's rightful place in your heart. It can be a piece of shaped metal, a desire, a dream or a secret sin. Take some time to examine your heart asking God to help you recognize idols. What are some steps you can take to *put away idols and incline your heart to the Lord*?

12. Read the first two commandments in Exodus 20:1-6. God's warning against idols leads the list of commandments and He repeats it often. Then, Joshua repeats it in his last days. What does God's repetition tell us about His desire for us, and what does it tell us about our own nature?

13. Read Joshua 24:25-28 and describe the things Joshua does to help the people remember their commitment to God.

14. Three burials are described in Joshua 24:29-33, marking the end of an era for Israel. Based on verse 31, how would you describe this era?

At the end of your life, it might be said of you, "She served the LORD all the days of her life." What can you learn from Israel under Joshua's leadership that could help make this statement a reality?

15. Write out a personal prayer request in one or two sentences to share with your small group.