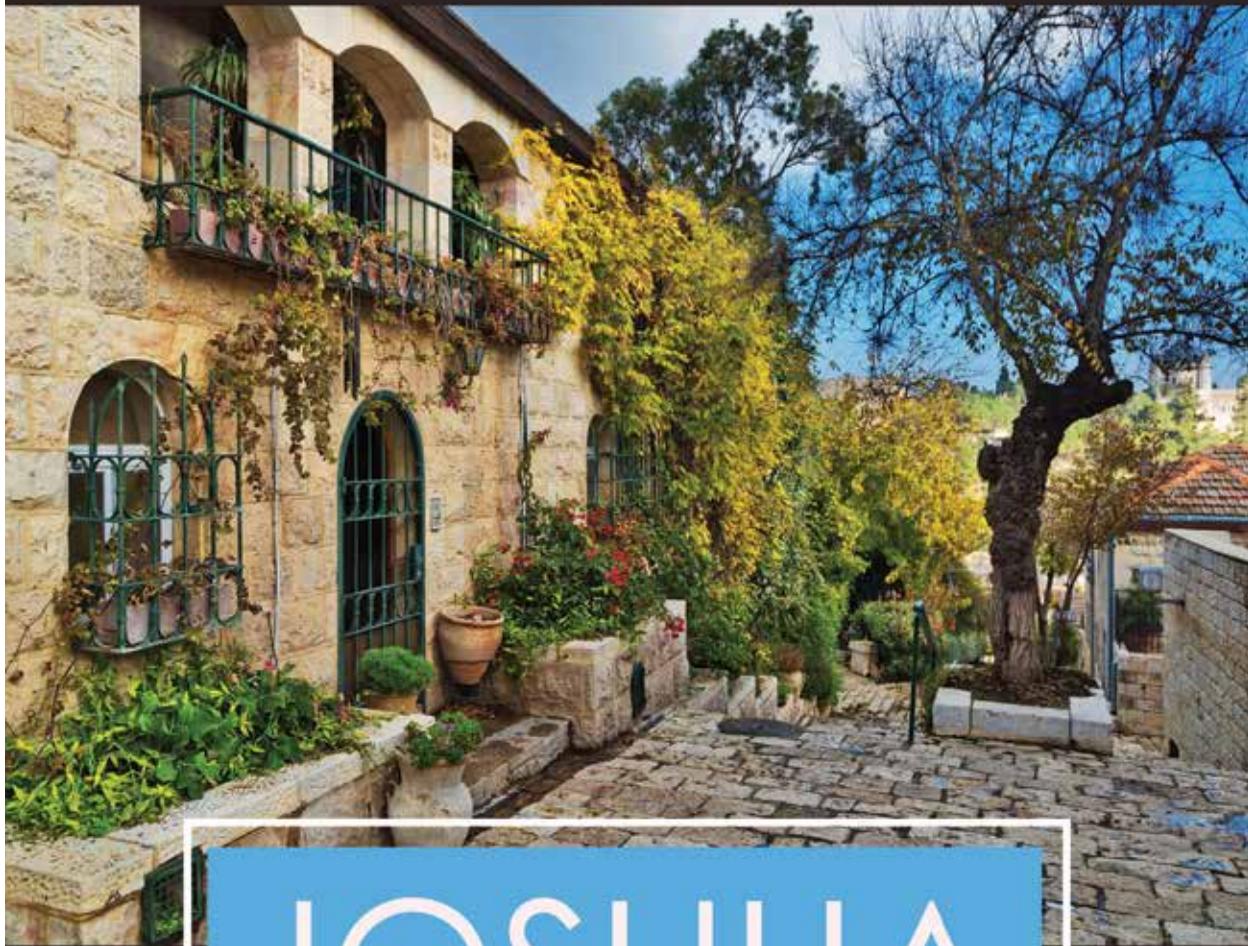


2018/2019 WOMEN'S MINISTRY BIBLE STUDY INFORMATION



JOSHUA

“...As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”
Joshua 24:15

**Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia
2018-2019 Women's Ministry Bible Study**

Our final year studying the book of

JOSHUA

Chapters 19-24

And, behold, this day I am going the way of all the earth: and ye know in all your hearts and in all your souls, that not one thing hath failed of all the good things which the LORD your God spake concerning you; all are come to pass unto you, and not one thing hath failed thereof.

Joshua 23:14

2018-2019 Women's Ministry Bible Studies

Women's Ministry is offering the following Monthly Bible Studies from October-May (no Studies in April). **All Bible Studies are for Women High School Age & Older.** We are sorry but there is no childcare offered at any of our Bible Studies and no children are permitted to attend.

- **Women's Ministry Thursday Evening Bible Study:**

Meets at the church on the third Thursday Evening of each month with the exception of December (first Thursday Evening). **No registration is required to attend the Worship & Teaching but registration is required to be at a table for the Small Group Discussion & Prayer Time.** (See pages 5-6 for details)

- **Women's Ministry Small Home Groups:**

We have 5 Small Home Groups which meet in various homes throughout the area on different Thursday Evenings each month. **Registration for the Small Home Groups was held in August and all the groups are now FULL. Registration is required for these groups as space in the homes is very limited. Therefore, please no "walk-ins" (people not registered for the group).** (See pages 7-10 for details)

- **Women's Ministry Over 65's Bible Study:**

Meets at the church on the first Friday Morning of each month. You must be 65 years or older to attend. **Registration is required to attend; however, the group is full for this year.** (See page 11 for details)

A Study in the Book of Joshua & Guest Speaker Jean McClure

This year we will be finishing the book of Joshua, chapters 19-24 at all of our Women's Ministry Bible Studies. Jean McClure will be teaching at the Thursday Evening Bible Study at church again this year (her bio is on page 3). If you are unable to make it to a Study, Jean's teachings for this year and from the past 2 years on Joshua chapters 1-18 are available to watch or listen to online. Go to <http://resources.ccphilly.org> and click on Women's Bible Study. "The Trunk" by Jean McClure is available for purchase in the Straight from the Heart Bookstore for \$5.

You can read an excellent overview of the book of Joshua by Warren Wiersbe called "A Great Life in Review" on pages 14-19 of this brochure.

Free Online Bible Study Resources on Joshua

Pastor Joe Focht Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia- www.ccphilly.org, click on the Listen to Pastor Joe button. Click on the Teaching Library and select Joshua. You can also find the teachings on our Mobile App. For more information, search under Calvary Chapel of Philadelphia in the App store on your device or go to www.ccphilly.org and click Download the Mobile App.

Pastor Chuck Smith Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa Commentary in English-

https://www.blueletterbible.org/commentaries/smith_chuck/. Click on C2000 to find the study on Joshua.

Pastor Chuck Smith Calvary Chapel of Costa Mesa Commentary in Spanish-

https://www.blueletterbible.org/audio_video/smith_chuck/spanish/

Women's Ministry Thursday Evening Bible Study

Guest Speaker - Jean McClure



I was born in Rochester, Minnesota where my dad was in school at the Mayo Clinic. But I was “born again” in California at Mt. Hermon Christian Conference Center when I was seven. God had blessed me with good, mature, Christian parents. I was the youngest child and have two older brothers. One thing our parents believed strongly in was Christian schools. My middle brother and I were both sent to Christian schools at the age of 14. I took the train from Southern California to Orlando, Florida to go to a boarding school called Hampden Du Bose Academy. I went all four years. Life wasn't always perfect or easy but it was wonderful because I was exposed to great speakers such as Billy Graham and many of his team. I was introduced to great authors like Amy Carmichael, Hudson Taylor, and Elizabeth Elliot, who had been a teacher there years earlier, before she married Jim. I found that the Lord was real and relevant and that He was always right there with me, even when my parents were 3,000 miles away. It was a good experience for me, although the discipline of a boarding school is not always easy. Difficult as it was, however, it prepared me with valuable and necessary life lessons that would serve me in the years ahead as a believer, mother and pastor's wife. Many missionaries sent their children to this high school and as I listened to their stories, they put me to shame with the sacrifices they had made in life. One friend, Marilyn, did not see her parents for four years because they were missionaries in Africa. Billy Graham's daughters attended this school as well and two of them were my roommates. Although I was surrounded by amazing people, there was one girl named Lolly who was two classes ahead of me who made the greatest impact on my life. She caused me to realize that it is one thing to be saved and another to follow Jesus and give up your will for His will. It was because of her prayers for me for one whole year that I felt God calling me to full time Christian service. Lolly also was called as a missionary to South America.

I went on to Westmont College for 2½ years and then transferred to Point Loma and graduated from there. Don and I met at our church and were married our senior year in college. God had called him to the ministry shortly before I met him. We were headed down the same road and excited about our future. The following year we went to Bible College in England and then home to land in the middle of an exploding revival that would later be known as the “Jesus Movement.” We were on staff at Calvary Chapel in Costa Mesa, CA when Kay Smith, Pastor Chuck's wife, came and taught a Bible Study in our home. It grew so large that it had to move to the church. It was during this time that I fell in love with ministering to women. Kay, my mother, and mother-in-law were great examples to me of how to pray, what it looked like to have a heart for God's Word, and how to practically show the love of Christ to the women in the church. Out of those experiences, the Lord has given me the privileged opportunity of heading up women's ministries in the churches Don has pastored and sharing through the years at women's retreats and couple's retreats with Don. The Lord gave us three boys that have given me countless illustrations and now twelve grandchildren and two great-grandchild that do the same. It is not easy to be a wife or mother or woman in the crazy world we live in today but Jesus has answers for us. How grateful I am to Him and His precious Word.

What You Will Need to Bring to the Study

Please have these items prior to the first Study.

- **Bible:** You will need your Bible for the Study.
- **This Year's Required Commentary is "Gleanings in Joshua" by A.W. Pink on Joshua Chapters 19-24:** If you are already registered for a Small Home Group, the Over 65's Study, or at a table for the Thursday Evening Study, we will be giving you a free copy in a folder of the online version when you come to your group. If you are not registered for a group, you can view it online or print it out for free at [http://www.grace-ebooks.com/library/Arthur W. Pink/Gleanings in Joshua - Arthur W. Pink](http://www.grace-ebooks.com/library/Arthur%20W.%20Pink/Gleanings%20in%20Joshua). The Straight from the Heart Bookstore has this commentary as well as other amazing commentaries on the book of Joshua that the Pastors recommend if you would like to purchase any. "Be Strong" by Warren Wiersbe is not a required commentary for this year but is still a great resource.
- **Journal:** You will need to have a journal to write down what the Lord shows you each month as you study.

Monthly Homework Schedule for the Book of Joshua Chapters 19-24

Each month read the assigned Chapter/Verses in your Bible for the month & the commentary pages in "Gleanings in Joshua" so you can be prepared to take part in the Small Group Discussion Time.

<u>Month:</u>	<u>Chapters/Verses to Read:</u>	<u>Commentary Pages:</u>
October:	Joshua 19	"Gleanings in Joshua" pages 1-7
November:	Joshua 20	"Gleanings in Joshua" pages 7-20
December:	Joshua 21	"Gleanings in Joshua" pages 20-33
January:	Joshua 22	"Gleanings in Joshua" pages 33-49
February:	Joshua 23	"Gleanings in Joshua" pages 49-59
March:	Joshua 24:1-13	"Gleanings in Joshua" pages 60-72
April:	No Study	
May:	Joshua 24:14-33	"Gleanings in Joshua" pages 72-79

Some Guidelines to Help You as You Study Each Month:

1. Pray and ask the Lord to speak to you through His Word.
2. Read the assigned chapter/verses in your Bible for the month, and highlight or underline the verses that spoke to your heart.
3. Read the pages in the commentary "Gleanings in Joshua" by A.W. Pink that correspond with the chapter/verses we are studying each month.
4. Write in your journal what the Lord has shown you as you study.

Women's Ministry Thursday Evening Bible Study

Third Thursday Evening of the Month/Calvary Chapel Sanctuary

All ladies High School Age & Older are invited to attend. No childcare is provided for this group.

October & May Studies Only

Light Refreshments before the Study from

6:30 - 7:15 PM:

Dates:

10/18/18 & 5/16/19

Schedule:

6:30 - 7:15 PM: Doors Open & Registration in Front Foyer & Light Refreshments in Fellowship Hall.

7:15 - 7:45 PM: Announcements & Worship

7:45 - 8:30 PM: Teaching by Jean McClure

8:30 - 9:00 PM: Small Group Discussion Time

9:00 - 9:15 PM: Prayer Time

November-March Studies:

Dates:

11/15/18, 12/6/18 changed to the first

Thursday, 1/17/19, 2/21/19, 3/21/19,

No April Study.

Schedule:

6:30 PM: Doors Open & Registration in Front Foyer

7:00-7:30 PM: Announcements & Worship

7:30-8:15 PM: Teaching by Jean McClure

8:15-8:55 PM: Small Group Discussion Time

8:55-9:15 PM: Prayer Time

Registration for the Small Group Discussion & Prayer Time: Registration is required to be at a table for the Small Group Discussion & Prayer Time. No registration is required to attend the Worship and Teaching. If you came to the Study last year and were at a table, and told us that you wanted to return to the Study this year, you are already registered. We contacted everyone who was registered for the Study last year to see if they wanted to return and if you told us no, but have now decided to attend the Small Group Discussion & Prayer Time, you will need to re-register in October.

Registration will take place at the first Bible Study on October 18th in the Front Foyer and will continue at each Bible Study until all the tables are full. At that time, we will have a Waiting List for anyone who is interested in joining a table. We are asking that you plan on attending the Bible Study on a regular basis if you register to be at a table for the Small Group Discussion & Prayer Time. If you do not plan on attending the Study on a regular basis, we invite you to come for the Worship & Teaching only.

Attending the Worship & Teaching Only: No registration is required. We will meet in the Sanctuary for the Worship and Teaching. After the Teaching is over, we will dismiss those ladies who are only staying for the Worship & Teaching.

Parking & Entering the Building: Please park in the front parking lot and enter through the main front doors. If you cannot do steps, please park on the Philmont Avenue side of the building and use the Handicapped Entrance.

Front Foyer: Please pick up a nametag, Bible Study Information Packet and any other materials needed for the Study.

Women's Ministry Thursday Evening Bible Study



2018-2019 Table Leaders & Assistant:

Back Row: Diane Richardson, Peggy Pongia, Barb Bailey, Michele Tuttle, Kathy Smith, Hannah Chandler, Cathy Focht, Dee Dee Ricker

Middle Row: Denise Hoagland, Jeanne Chandler, JoAnn Tomlinson, Robyn Brogan, Gwen Coppola, Jeri Gouse, Jill Martin, Joyce Black,

Front Row: Pat Zaborowski, Sandy Orwig, Lori Petosa, Pam Lawler, Ade Oyemola, Kelly Simpson, Kristin Steenbakkers

Not Pictured: Pam Holmes, Dianna Yurko



2017-2018 Women's Thursday Evening Bible Study

Cancellation Information: In the event of inclement weather, please check the church website at www.cphilly.org for cancellation information. If you are registered at a table for the Small Group Discussion & Prayer Time you will receive an automated phone call and/or email if you give us permission to contact you by filling out the Contact Permission Paper in your group.

Questions: Any questions regarding this Study, email Kristin Steenbakkers at ksteenbakkers@cphilly.org or call 215-969-1520 ext. 355.

Women's Ministry Small Home Group Bible Studies

Registration for the Small Home Groups was held in August and all the groups are now FULL. Registration is required for these groups as space in the homes is very limited. Therefore, please no "walk-ins" (people not registered for the group).



2017-2018 Ivyland #2



2017-2018 Ambler

We are blessed this year to have 5 Small Home Groups for women to study the Word together. As stated, these groups are currently FULL but if you do want to be part of a Women's Ministry Bible Study, we encourage you to join us at our larger Study held in Calvary's Sanctuary on the third Thursday Evening of the month. Please see pages 5 & 6 in this Brochure for more details. If you would like more information or if you have any questions about the Small Home Groups, please call Jill Martin at 215-307-0072 or email her at jmartin@ccphilly.

Important Information about the Small Home Groups

- There is no childcare at any of the Small Home Groups.
- The Small Home Groups are for women, High School Age and Older.
- Registration is required to attend one of the Small Home Groups.
- Since there is limited space in the homes of these groups, we ask that there would be no "walk-ins" (people not registered for the group).

Women's Ministry Small Home Group Bible Studies

Ivyland Group #1 **FULL**



Host Home:

Pat Zaborowski
61 Hill Rd.
Ivyland, PA 18974
215-364-4755 (H)
(some GPS use Warminster instead of Ivyland)
2 steps at the entrance, no pets.

Jeri Gouse (Group Leader)
Pat Zaborowski (Group Leader)
Robyn Brogan (Group Leader)

Day/Time:

Second Thursday Evening 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Dates:

10/11/18, 11/8/18, 12/13/18, 1/10/19, 2/14/19, 3/14/19, **No April Study, 5/2/19***

***May is changed to the first Thursday Evening.**

Ivyland Group #2 **FULL**



Host Home:

Dee Dee Ricker
15 Hampshire Dr.
Ivyland, PA 18974
267-304-9805 (C)
2 steps at the entrance, no pets.

Dee Dee Ricker (Group Leader)
Bonnie Grow (Group Leader)

Day/Time:

First Thursday Evening 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Dates:

10/4/18, 11/1/18, **12/13/18***, 1/3/19, 2/7/19, 3/7/19, **No April Study, 5/2/19**

***December is changed to the second Thursday Evening.**

Women's Ministry Small Home Group Bible Studies

Ambler Group **FULL**



Host Home:

Kae Comfort
607 Bellaire Ave.
Ambler, PA 19002
215-643-5929 (H)

No steps at the entrance, pets-1 dog.

Denny Mazza (Assistant)
Kae Comfort (Group Leader)
Jill Martin (Group Leader)

Day/Time:

Second Thursday Evening 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Dates:

10/11/18, 11/8/18, **12/20/18***, 1/10/19, 2/14/19, 3/14/19, **No April Study**, 5/9/19

***December is changed to the third Thursday Evening.**

Somerton Philadelphia Group **FULL**



Host Home:

Jeanne Chandler
2674 Bluebell Court
Philadelphia, PA 19116
(215) 722-4058 (H)

2 steps at the entrance, no pets.

Katelyn Johnson (Group Leader)
Kae Comfort (Group Leader)
Jeanne Chandler (Group Leader)
Collette McBratney (Assistant) (not pictured)

Day/Time:

First Thursday Evening 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Dates:

10/4/18, 11/1/18, **12/13/18***, 1/3/19, 2/7/19, 3/7/19, **No April Study**, 5/2/19

***December is changed to the second Thursday Evening.**

Women's Ministry Small Home Group Bible Studies

Langhorne Group **FULL**



Kathy Cordon (Host Home)
Dee Gray (Group Leader)
Mary Thompson (Group Leader)
Janice Bendzlowicz (Assistant) (not pictured)

Host Home:

Kathy Cordon
118 S. Green St.
Langhorne, PA 19047
215-752-5472 (H)

3 steps at the entrance, pets- 1 dog
& 1 cat.

Day/Time:

Second Thursday Evening 7:00 - 9:00 PM

Dates:

10/11/18, 11/8/18, 12/13/18, 1/10/19, 2/14/19, 3/14/19, **No April Study**, 5/9/19



2017-2018 Somerton

Women's Ministry Over 65's Bible Study

(You must be 65 years or older to attend)

First Friday Morning of the Month

Calvary Chapel Bride's Room

Registration is required to attend the Over 65's Bible Study; however, this year the group is already FULL. No walk-ins allowed because space in this group is limited.



Group Leaders & Assistant:

Kathy Hoagland (Assistant), Gwen Coppola, Peggy Rockwell

Arrive & Sign-in: 9:45 AM

Time of Study: 10:00 - 11:30 AM

Dates: 10/5/18, 11/2/18, 12/7/18, 1/4/19, 2/1/19, 3/1/19, **No April Study**, 5/3/19

Our Koinonia luncheon will be on 5/3 after the Study.

Parking & Entering the Building: Please park in the front of the building, and use the door marked Church Office Entrance closest to the Bookstore or use the Handicapped Entrance if you prefer. The main front doors will be locked due to the security guidelines for the church and the school. Whichever door you come in, you will need to sign-in by the Bookstore door with Pat Zaborowski and get a sticker that says Women's Bible Study.

Any questions regarding this Study, email Peggy Rockwell at mrockwell45@comcast.net or call 215-946-0173. **Any registration questions, email Jill Martin at jmartin@ccphilly.org or call 215-307-0072.**



Outreach for Calvary Chapel Word of Life (North Philadelphia)

The Women's Ministry is doing an Outreach for Calvary Chapel Word of Life called "Change For Christ." A "Change For Christ" box will be out at all of our Women's Bible Studies, and during the week in the Church Office (see Joyce Black). All of the proceeds will go to Calvary Chapel Word of Life for their outreaches and ministry to the people of Philadelphia. **Last year, we were able to collect \$1,411.09 to give to Calvary Chapel Word of Life!** Thank you all for giving so generously!



Pastor Mark Abrams loves the Word of God and His people. He also has a heart for inner city missions and evangelism coupled with a desire to serve and partner with local pastors in inner city churches for the furtherance of the gospel. Mark has served many churches in the inner city as a missionary and has witnessed countless souls being ushered into God's kingdom. During that time Mark responded to God's call for him to settle down and start a Bible Study in North Philadelphia. Responding to the call, Calvary Chapel Word of Life was birthed, where he teaches the scripture verse by verse. Mark loves serving at Calvary Chapel Word of Life together with his family and has seen God add to their spiritual family a host of wonderful people that they labor with daily. They have recently added a Saturday Night Service that is followed by a community pantry geared toward helping single moms.

In addition to pastoring Calvary Chapel Word of Life, Mark has continued to reach out to local homeless shelters, and to men and women who are hurting and broken throughout the city. He has also partnered with the Philadelphia Housing Authority (PHA) on a project that has granted him access to the potential of reaching up to 88,000 people, where a very large percentage of these people are single moms with children. This project, known as "Philly Seed," will grant the privilege to feed and clothe those in need and share the gospel with an unimaginable amount of lost souls.

Calvary Chapel Word of Life has adopted PTTI (Philadelphia Technician Training Institution). They have come alongside this post vocational trade school to minister to various students who come to this program downtrodden, brokenhearted and battered. They have also been able to share the love of Jesus Christ and several of the students have become a part of their fellowship. They are able to serve them in a number of ways: they provide them with steel toe work boots for those that cannot afford them; they feed them every Wednesday prior to the Bible Study and assist them with transportation, clothes, and short term housing arrangements.



Pastor Mark Abrams



Church services at Calvary Chapel Word of Life



Outreach to the community

2018-2019 Women's Ministry Leadership

Women's Ministry Board

We would like to introduce you to the ladies on the Women's Ministry Board. The Lord has brought us together as a team to pray for the women at Calvary and to seek the Lord for what He would want us to do for Women's Ministry.

We thank the Lord for all the ladies who volunteer each year to help us with the different Women's Ministry functions. We are also thankful for all the ladies who come out to the Women's Bible Studies and Special Events. You are all such a gift to us! We are very excited about serving Him this year!



Back Row: Dee Dee Ricker, Pat Zaborowski, Joyce Black, Cathy Focht, Kae Comfort

Front Row: Dee Gray, Kristin Steenbakkers, Hannah Chandler, Jill Martin

Women's Ministry Bible Study Committee

Small Home Group Committee:

Cathy Focht: Overseer

Jill Martin: Overseer

Church Group Committee:

Cathy Focht: Overseer

Jill Martin: Overseer

Hannah Chandler: Assistant Overseer

Kristin Steenbakkers: Assistant Overseer

Joyce Black: Secretary

Women's Ministry Bible Study Office Work:

Pat Zaborowski

Kim Bittle

To contact Women's Ministry, call 215-969-1647, or email us at womensministry@ccphilly.org. You can also view or print out this brochure from our website at <http://www.ccphilly.org/womens-ministry/bible-studies/>.

Chapter 13 “A Great Life in Review”

Taken from “Be Strong” by Warren Wiersbe

In his *Autobiography*, Mark Twain wrote: “Biographies are but the clothes and buttons of the man—the biography of the man himself cannot be written.”

The book of Joshua is not a biography of Joshua in the strictest sense, but it certainly tells us a great deal about this godly man. Like the rest of the Old Testament Scriptures, this book was written both to warn us (1 Cor. 10:11) and to encourage us (Rom. 15:4). Therefore, we ought to take time to review Joshua’s life and ministry and learn from him lessons that will help us know the Lord better and serve Him more effectively.

JOSHUA’S PREPARATION

When God wants to accomplish something, He prepares a servant for the task and prepares the task for His servant. The Lord invested seventeen years preparing Joshua for his work in Egypt and eighty years getting Moses ready for forty years of ministry to the people of Israel. David experienced many years of trials and testings before he ascended the throne of Israel. “A prepared servant for a prepared place” is God’s approach to ministry.

What were some of the “tools” God used to prepare Joshua for his ministry?

Suffering. Joshua was born into Egyptian slavery and knew what it was to suffer. In Exodus 3:7-9, the Lord’s words make it clear that the Jews experienced great affliction in Egypt and cried out to God for deliverance. Nevertheless they had at least three encouragements as they suffered: God’s promise to Abraham that his descendants would inherit the land (Gen. 12:7); God’s prophecy concerning their deliverance from bondage (Gen. 15:12-17; see Deut. 4:20); and Joseph’s words concerning Israel’s deliverance and possession of the Promised Land (Gen. 50:22-26).

God’s pattern for life is that suffering must come before glory. This was true of our Savior (Luke 24:26; 1 Peter 1:11) and it is true of His people (1 Peter 4:13; 5:10). When we suffer in the will of God and depend on His grace, that suffering has a maturing and purifying effect on our lives. Sadly, we have too many leaders today who proudly display their medals, but they can’t show you any scars. Our Lord’s Calvary wounds are now glorified in heaven, eternal reminders that suffering and glory go together in the purposes of God.

Of itself, suffering doesn’t make people better. Sometimes it makes them bitter. But when suffering is mixed with faith and God’s grace, then it becomes a wonderful tool for building godly character (2 Cor. 12:1-10). If suffering alone gave people wisdom and character, then our world would be a far better place, because everybody suffers in one way or another. When we accept our suffering as a gift from God and use it for His glory, then it can work in us and for us to accomplish the will of God.

Submission. Joshua knew how to submit to authority. As leader of the Jewish army, he followed Moses’ orders and defeated the Amalekites (Ex. 17:8-16). As Moses’ “assistant” for many years (24:13), Joshua stayed with his master and served him faithfully. God’s pattern for leadership is summarized in Matthew 25:21, and that pattern still stands today:

Chapter 13 “A Great Life in Review”

When we prove ourselves faithful as servants over a few things, then God can make us rulers over many things. Joshua was able to *give* orders because he’d learned how to *take* orders.

Because he was submitted to authority, Joshua was an obedient servant. During the first half of his life, he obeyed Moses, and during the last half, he received his orders from the Lord. The key verse in Joshua’s life was, “Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go” (Josh. 1:7 NIV). This should be balanced with 11:15, “As the LORD commanded Moses his servant, so did Moses command Joshua, and so did Joshua; he left nothing undone of all that the LORD commanded Moses.”

Delay. It’s through faith and patience that we inherit what God has promised (Heb. 6:12). Had the people of Israel listened to Joshua and Caleb, they would have entered their inheritance four decades sooner and enjoyed it that much longer (Num. 13:26-14:10). Both Joshua and Caleb patiently endured the trials of the wilderness because they knew they would one day claim their inheritance in the Promised Land. In their unbelief, the Jews rejected the “work of faith” and refused to enter the land, but they couldn’t rob Joshua of his “patience of hope” (1 Thess. 1:3).

Leaders must learn how to wait. Their followers don’t always see as far as they see or have the faith that they have. The vision of future victory is what motivates a true leader; but, like Israel, too often the people are looking back. I suppose every leader has at one time or another identified with Jesus when He said, “O unbelieving and perverse generation, . . . how long shall I stay with you and put up with you?” (Luke 9:41 NIV). On more than one occasion Joshua witnessed Moses pouring out his heart to God because of the unbelief and stubbornness of the people.

JOSHUA’S LEADERSHIP

Are leaders born or made? Probably both. God gives them the genetic structure they need and then develops their gifts and abilities in the “school of life.” Management seminars promise to teach *leadership*, but if there isn’t some fuel there to ignite, the fire won’t burn. Principles of leadership certainly may be taught, but what it means to be a leader can only be learned on the field of action. To think you’re a leader because you attended a seminar is as dangerous as thinking you’re an athlete because you watched the Olympics on television.

What were the characteristics of Joshua’s leadership style?

He walked with God. Like Moses, his predecessor, Joshua was a man of God. Whoever the Holy Spirit selected to complete the book of Joshua was led to call him “the servant of the Lord,” a title not given to everybody in Scripture. We aren’t told that God spoke with Joshua face-to-face, as He had with Moses (Deut. 34:10), but we do know that God communicated His will to Joshua and that he was obedient. Joshua meditated daily on the law of the Lord (Josh. 1:8) and did what it said (11:15). He was a man of prayer (7:6-9), for the Word of God and prayer go together (Acts 6:4).

Chapter 13 “A Great Life in Review”

He had courage. At the beginning of his ministry Joshua was told four times to be courageous (Josh. 1:6-7, 9, 18). It takes courage to be a successful leader, courage to stand for what you believe, and courage to do what you know God wants you to do. All of us need to imitate Martin Luther when he said, “Here I stand. I can do no other.”

General Omar Bradley defined bravery as “the capacity to perform properly even when scared half to death.” We aren’t told whether Joshua was ever afraid as he faced the enemy, but we do know that he did his job and won battle after battle. Most of us aren’t called upon to lead armies, but any kind of leadership involves risks and demands moral courage. “He who loves his life will lose it, and he who hates his life in this world will keep it for eternal life” (John 12:25 NKJV). If we’re timid about life and ministry, we’ll never accomplish much for the Lord. It was because the servant was afraid that he hid his master’s wealth and didn’t take the risk of investing it (Matt. 25:24-30).

Joshua’s courage involved much more than fighting the enemy, as great as that was. He also had the courage to deal with sin in the camp of Israel (Josh. 7) and to challenge the tribes to “get with it” and claim their inheritance (17:14-18). Sometimes it takes more courage to face your own people at home than it takes to face the enemy on the battlefield.

He had a plan and followed it. The conquest of Canaan wasn’t a haphazard affair; it was carefully planned and skillfully executed. First, Joshua cut straight across the land and isolated the north from the south. Then he conquered the cities in the south, followed by the invasion of the north. He moved quickly to subdue the population centers and take control of the whole land. More than once, Joshua led his men on an all-night march in order to catch the enemy by surprise.

It takes planning and strategy to do the work of the Lord successfully. The leader who drifts with the tide and changes direction with every new wind isn’t a leader at all. A Roman proverb says, “When the pilot doesn’t know what port he’s heading for, no wind is the right wind.” If you know where you’re going, you can adjust your sails when the storm starts to blow and still arrive at the right port.

He didn’t quit. When he was defeated at Ai, Joshua admitted failure, sought the face of the Lord, went back, and won the battle. When he foolishly made a league with the Gibeonites, he admitted his mistake and put it to work for him. The successful leader isn’t the one who is always right, because no such person exists. Successful leaders are people who make the best decisions they can and keep on going when they make mistakes. They learn from their mistakes and know how to snatch victory out of defeat.

The American humorist Elbert Hubbard said, “Experience is the name everyone gives his mistakes.” Someone has said that experience is a tough teacher because it always gives the exam first and teaches the lesson afterward. If we turn our mistakes into mirrors, we’ll see only ourselves, and this will make us miserable. But if by faith we turn our mistakes into windows, we’ll see the Lord and get the strength we need to try again. To quote Elbert Hubbard again:

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“There is no failure except in no longer trying.”

He enlisted others and commanded their respect. Except for Achan, the traitor at Jericho, and Caleb, the man of faith, we don’t know the names of any of the soldiers who served with Joshua, *but he couldn’t have done the job without them*. The conquest of Canaan wasn’t the work of one man; it was the work of thousands of people who served faithfully in the battle and behind the lines.

True leaders don’t *demand* respect; they *command* it. When you read Joshua 1:10-18 and see the way the troops responded to Joshua’s orders, you can’t help but conclude that he commanded their respect and loyalty. He was serving the Lord and the Lord’s people, and they followed him because they knew they could trust him. His motives were pure, his life was godly, and his character was above reproach.

As Moses’ successor and God’s appointed leader, Joshua had *authority*, but it takes more than authority to lead others. It also takes *stature*, the kind of character and achievement that will make people look up to you and listen to you. In this day of “media magic,” a public relations firm can “hype” a nobody into becoming an international celebrity, but they can’t give that celebrity the kind of stature that can come only from sacrifice and service. We don’t need more celebrities, but we certainly do need more servants.

Real leaders don’t use people to build their authority; they use their authority to build people. Many a soldier in the Jewish army became a hero because Joshua was in command. A true leader is one who leaves behind people who have achieved far more than they would have achieved had they not followed his or her leadership.

He was concerned about the future. When King Hezekiah was told that the kingdom of Judah would eventually go into captivity in Babylon, his response was, “At least there will be peace and truth in my days” (Isa. 39:8 NKJV). I don’t want to be critical of a great king, but this statement seems to reek of selfishness. Isn’t a king supposed to be concerned about the generations to come?

Joshua’s two farewell speeches (chaps. 23-24) give ample evidence that he was a true leader, burdened for the future of his country. He wanted to be sure that the people knew the Lord and wanted to serve Him with their whole heart. People who think only of what they can get today are only opportunists and not true leaders. Leadership means planting the right seeds that will bear fruit in years to come for the benefit of others, and Joshua did that.

He glorified God. There was a time in Joshua’s life when he was jealous for the honor of his master, Moses (Num. 11:24-30), but he learned that the most important thing was the glory of the Lord. When the nation crossed the Jordan, it was God who received the glory. “By this you shall know that the living God is among you,” he told the people (Josh. 3:10 NKJV). When that miracle march was over, Joshua put up a monument so that Israel and “all the peoples of the earth may know the hand of the LORD, that it is mighty” (4:24 NKJV). A lesser man would have put up a monument glorifying himself.

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As you read the book that Joshua wrote, you see that he repeatedly gave God the glory for all that happened (6:16; 8:1; 10:14; 11:6-8; 13:6; 18:3; 21:43-45). It was the Lord who conquered the enemy and gave the land to the people. It was the name of the Lord that was to be magnified in all the earth. It has been said that a leader is somebody who takes twice as much blame and half as much credit, and Joshua would qualify on both counts.

JOSHUA’S MESSAGE

The practical message of the book of Joshua is that God keeps His promises and enables His servants to succeed if they will trust Him and obey His Word. The spiritual message is that God has a rich inheritance for His children *now*, and they can claim it by faith. This message is amplified in the book of Hebrews, especially chapters 3 and 4.

We have seen that, when it comes to the things of the Lord, there are several different kinds of people in this world. Most people are still in bondage in Egypt and need to be delivered by faith in Jesus Christ. Others have trusted Christ and been delivered from bondage but are wandering in the wilderness of unbelief because they won’t enter into their inheritance by faith. Still others have “sampled” the inheritance but prefer to live on the borders of the blessing. Finally, there are those who follow their Joshua (Jesus = “Jehovah is salvation”) and enter the Promised Land and claim their inheritance.

Remember, crossing the Jordan and entering the land is not a picture of dying and going to heaven. It’s a picture of dying to self and the old life and entering our spiritual inheritance here and now, enjoying the fullness of God’s blessing as we serve the Lord and glorify Him. It’s what Hebrews 4 calls “entering into His rest.”

The greatest need in the church today is for God’s people to see how much they are missing by wandering in unbelief, or by living on the borderline of the blessing, and then to claim God’s promises and enter into their spiritual inheritance. We’re a deprived people because we’ve failed to claim our spiritual riches, and we’re a defeated people because we’ve failed to trust our Joshua to lead us on to victory. Too many of us are like Achan, stealing from God, when we ought to be like Caleb, claiming the mountains and overcoming the giants.

JOSHUA’S GOD

The Lord, not Joshua, is the key person in this book. As you read the book of Joshua, you discover many wonderful truths about God.

To begin with, He is the God of His people Israel, the God of the covenant that He made with Israel through Moses. Though Moses was dead, the living God was still at work in and through His chosen people. When Joshua commanded the people, he often called God “the Lord your God.” Israel belonged to Him.

But He is also “the LORD of all the earth” (Josh. 3:11). While He has a special relationship to Israel, He established that relationship in order to bring His blessing to all the nations (Gen. 12:1-3). The pagan nations in Canaan heard about what God had done for Israel, and they were frightened (Josh. 2:10-11), for none of their gods had ever done such

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mighty deeds.

He is the God who keeps His promises. He had promised the fathers of the Jewish nation that He would give them their land, and He kept His promise. He had promised Moses that Israel would drive out the nations in Canaan and defeat them, and He kept that promise too. At the close of his life Joshua was able to say to his people that not one thing had failed of all the good things that the Lord their God spoke concerning them (23:14).

He is a holy God who will not tolerate sin. When Achan disobeyed the ban that God had put on Jericho, God withdrew His blessing. The army of Israel was defeated at Ai, and they could not expect victory until Joshua dealt with the sin in the camp. But He is also a forgiving God who cleanses us when we confess our sins, and then gives us another opportunity for victory.

He is a God who requires obedience on the part of His people. Before Israel could enter the land, they had to submit to the requirements that God had laid down; for they were His covenant people. The Lord told Joshua that the secret of his success would be faith and obedience to the Word of God. God had a plan for the conquest of the land; all Joshua had to do was obey that plan.

He is the God who never fails! We may fail Him, but He will never fail us. “When God ordains our service,” wrote J. Oswald Sanders in *Robust in Faith*, “He is morally obligated to see us through.”

Although much more could be said, let’s close on this note: He is a God who is gracious. In view of the fact that thousands of people were slain during the conquest of Canaan, it may seem strange to think about God’s grace, but the grace of God was there just the same. God was gracious to delay His judgment for centuries before bringing Israel into the land (Gen. 15:16). He was gracious to send the reports about Israel into the land so that the people could fear and, like Rahab, turn to the Lord. He was gracious to wipe out the filthy religion of the Canaanites so that the Jewish boys and girls could grow up in a land where Jehovah was honored and worshiped.

When I was about to graduate from seminary, our class went on a weekend retreat, and for one of his messages, the speaker used Joshua 3:5 as his text: “Sanctify yourselves: for tomorrow the LORD will do wonders among you.” I’ve forgotten the outline, but I remember the message: Our tomorrows can be exciting and wonderful if we are all that God wants us to be.

He is still the God of wonders, and He is still calling us to be a sanctified people who will trust and obey. The God of Joshua lives—but where are the Joshuas?