

# “God’s Commission of Joshua”

## INTRODUCTION

When God commissions a new leader it may evoke feelings of excitement and hope but also concern, in anticipation of changes that will take place. This week was our installation service of David Hutsko to celebrate unity and direction concerning the will of God for New Life Community Church. This week’s study examines another commissioning, that of Joshua as he was called to lead the children of Israel into the Promised Land. Joshua’s commissioning serves as an example of the way God faithfully continues His purposes even when leadership changes hands.

### **Ice Breaker (Optional):**

What are you most looking forward to as Pastor David begins his service at New Life?

## Study Questions (45 MIN)

### **Continuing in God’s Purpose**

**Q1. Read Exodus 3:10-12; Exodus 3:8; Joshua 1:2-3; Deuteronomy 34:8; Joshua 1:5**

God through Moses delivered the people of Israel from their bondage to Egypt. How did Moses initially respond to his calling? (Exodus 3:11) What was it that enabled Moses to bring the people out from bondage (v. 12)? God’s will for His people went beyond their escaping slavery. Where did He intend to take them? (Exodus 3:8) How do we see God’s purpose for His people continued through His call upon Joshua? (Joshua 1:2-3) The generation standing at the threshold of the Promised Land had only known Moses as their leader, and when they lost him they mourned. (Deuteronomy 34:8). It would have been easy to lose faith when their great leader died. But consider God’s statement to Joshua in Joshua 1:5. How does this statement apply to any church trusting God to provide a new leader?

### **The Conditions of God’s Promise**

**Q2. Read Joshua 1:2-3,6-9; Colossians 3:16**

God was offering the Promised Land to the children of Israel, but what was required for them to possess it? (Joshua 1:3, 6-9) Following God’s Word was absolutely essential to their victory in the Promised Land. How was Joshua to handle God’s Word (v.8)? What are believers

similarly encouraged to do with the Word in Colossians 2:16? Why is it important for us to meditate on God’s Word during times of change?

### **Preparing to Take The Land**

**Q3 Read Joshua 1:11, 16-17**

As he assumed leadership Joshua told his officers to prepare for battle because they were going to take possession of the land God was giving them. What kind of “territory” do you think God might be calling our church to take? What role do you think you might have in that area? Look at the response of the people to their new leader in verses 16 and 17. In verse 16 they pledge their obedience, but what conditions did they put on their obedience in verse 17? Why is it significant that we follow those who “only the Lord be with?”

### **Wrap-Up**

In some ways New Life Community Church is starting a new chapter in our journey, but in other ways we are continuing down the path God has prepared in advance for us. Just as God prepared Moses when he was called to be the one who took the Israelites out of bondage, God enabled our previous pastors, including Pastor Ron, for the tasks He called them to. God enabled Moses to do what he was called to do because he was faithful to listen for God’s direction and do God’s will. But it was Joshua God called to take the people into the Promised Land. And the people trusted God to prepare Joshua to lead them in the next step of their journey. As we embark on the next step of our journey at New Life, we look to God to direct our new pastor in what He has called him to do as well.

### **Memory Verse**

*Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”*  
Joshua 1:9 ESV

### **Prayer (20 MIN)**

Ask your group to pray for you regarding one area where you can apply this study in your life:

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### **Challenge:**

*During your prayer time this week remember to pray for Pastor David and for God to reveal how you can partner with him to accomplish God’s purposes for New Life.*

**Q1**

Exodus 3:10-12- 10 Come, I will send you to Pharaoh that you may bring my people, the children of Israel, out of Egypt." 11 But Moses said to God, "Who am I that I should go to Pharaoh and bring the children of Israel out of Egypt?" 12 He said, "But I will be with you, and this shall be the sign for you, that I have sent you: when you have brought the people out of Egypt, you shall serve God on this mountain."

Exodus 3:8 ESV - 8 and I have come down to deliver them out of the hand of the Egyptians and to bring them up out of that land to a good and broad land, a land flowing with milk and honey, to the place of the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites.

Joshua 1:2-3 ESV - 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. 3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses.

Deuteronomy 34:8 ESV - 8 And the people of Israel wept for Moses in the plains of Moab thirty days. Then the days of weeping and mourning for Moses were ended.

Joshua 1:5 ESV - 5 No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you.

**Q2**

Joshua 1:3, 6-9 ESV - 3 Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses....6 Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. 7 Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. 8 This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

Colossians 3:16 ESV - 16 Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly, teaching and admonishing one another in all wisdom, singing psalms and hymns and spiritual songs, with thankfulness in your hearts to God.

**Q3**

Joshua 1:11, 16-17 ESV - 11 "Pass through the midst of the camp and command the people, 'Prepare your provisions, for within three days you are to pass over this Jordan to go in to take possession of the land that the LORD your God is giving you to possess.'" ... 16 And they answered Joshua, "All that you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. 17 Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you, as he was with Moses!"

**Prayer Notes cont.**


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