



5. In verses 7-8, the command to be strong and courageous is linked with being careful to do what? List all of the commands in these two verses.

6. On what did Joshua's prosperity and success depend?

7. The third command to be strong and courageous is contrasted with its opposite. What was not to characterize Joshua? What truth did God give to encourage him to this end?

## Day 2

1. Read **Joshua 1:10-2:24**.
2. In the very wording of his command to the officers to ready the people to cross the Jordan in three days, how does Joshua encourage the people in verse 11?
3. To the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh, Joshua reminded them of Moses' words (cf. Num 32:20-28; Deut 3:18-20), in which he allowed them to keep the conquered land east of the Jordan but told them they had to help the other tribes of Israel conquer the promised land west of the Jordan. Verses 13 and 15 introduce another advantage of conquering the land (which Moses had previously spoken of in Deut 3). What else would God give Israel (something very welcome after 400 years of slavery in Egypt and 40 years of wandering in the wilderness)?
4. Even though God is giving Israel the land, note below the description of the men from these tribes that God wanted to be a help to Israel in conquering the land.
5. The people responded that they would obey all Joshua commanded just as they obeyed Moses (I'm not certain that was encouraging?!?), as long as God was with Joshua as he had been with Moses. They promised death to anyone who disobeyed him. What final words did they give Joshua, echoing God's own encouragement/command?



## Day 3

1. Read **Joshua 3**.
2. After Joshua led the people from Shittim, they camped for three days next to the Jordan River. At the end of three days, the officers instructed the people to follow from a distance the ark of the covenant. What purposes did the ark have in going with the people?
3. For Joshua personally, what would the events of the day result in?
4. Joshua explained to the people that God wanted them to cross the Jordan. While we are probably familiar with the story, the terrifying nature of God's command was likely a reality for the people. Not only was the river overflowing at that time of year (3:15), but the river also ran through a very deep valley surrounded on both sides by mountains with steep slopes. So when God told the priests bearing the ark, "You shall stand still in the Jordan" (v. 8) and then the people that the waters would be rolled back in a heap, this was truly a miraculous event. According to verse 10, what was the purpose of this miracle (besides their crossing into Canaan)?

5. Note/mark in your text all of the references to the priests' standing/resting in the river and the people's passing over it in both chapters 3-4. It's easy to pass over these phrases, but they highlight the miraculous nature of what God did.
6. By what names does Joshua refer to the Lord in his instructions to the people in verses 10-13? How would these two names encourage Israel as they anticipate armies in the near future and an impassable river just ahead?
7. Verse 16 mentions that the people crossed the Jordan "opposite Jericho." I would imagine its inhabitants were made aware of this miraculous crossing. Recall Rahab's describing the fear of Israel that the people had in hearing about the crossing of the Red Sea (cf. 2:8-11). How do you think they felt now?

## Day 4

1. Read **Joshua 4**.
2. Once the entire nation had passed over the Jordan, the purpose for the 12 men selected in 3:12 is made clear. What were they to do and for what purpose?
3. One of the many purposes for this miracle was to simply move the people across the river and prepare for battle. This is brought to our attention by the mention of the armed men from the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and  $\frac{1}{2}$  of Manasseh crossing with Israel. How many men ready for war did these tribes provide?
4. Another purpose for the miracle was related to Joshua. The Lord had already mentioned this purpose to Joshua in 3:7. How did this miracle effect Joshua's leadership in the eyes of the people?
5. What happened once the feet of the priests bearing the ark were lifted (remember it's a deep river) onto the river bank?
6. Again, God commands the people on what to say when their children ask about the meaning of the stones. God compares this deliverance through the Jordan to that of the Red Sea. How were the peoples of the earth to respond to this miracle? How was Israel to respond to the peoples' response? (We've already seen a taste of this 2-fold response with Rahab and the spies.)

## Day 5

1. Read **Joshua 5**.
2. Rahab had already said that the Lord's drying up the Red Sea and Israel's conquering Og and Sihon had caused great fear to fall on the Canaanites (2:9-11). Now that a new leader has come and the Lord has again brought Israel through an impassable body of water, what was the response of the kings of the Amorites and Canaanites?
3. During this time, God commanded Joshua to circumcise the men of Israel. Circumcision was a physical symbol of Israel's agreement to keep the covenant God established with Abraham (cf. Gen 17:9-11). Verses 4-6 explain why Joshua had to circumcise the current generation. Implicit in the explanation seems to be a warning and reminder for Israel. What happened to the previous generation?
4. Notice God's mercy in verse 7. He raised up their children in their place. Once they were circumcised, verse 9 records God saying he had what for them?



