

Joshua

The following questions are for group discussion. The discussion should aim to help participants think through the lesson and its application both personally and in the church.

1. It would be very difficult to assume leadership after one so great as Moses. But Joshua was not self-appointed or elected by popular vote. He was chosen by God and prepared through many years of training and demonstrated faithfulness (Exodus 17:9-10; 24:13; Numbers 11:28; 14:6-10, 30; 27:18-23; 32:12). Moses renamed Joshua (Numbers 13:16) and commissioned him a second time for all the people to know with certainty that Joshua was chosen by God to lead the children of Israel (Deuteronomy 31:23; 34:9). Read Joshua 1:5-9. What was to guide Joshua's leadership? His position would require great courage. But to what was this first applied (1:7-8)?

2. Rehearse the character of God (Psalm 103:8; 145:17; 119:137-8; 96:13). In light of the character of God, how do you explain the conquest? Was the destruction of the Canaanites genocide? Why or why not? Read Genesis 15:13-16; Deuteronomy 9:4-5; Leviticus 18:25; 20:23. What two reasons are given for the conquest? What was God's primary purpose for the land (Genesis 12:1-3)?

3. While avoiding turning this historical account into allegory, how might this history be a reminder to us (1 Corinthians 10:11) and our encouragement for our own hope (Romans 15:4)? How does this story remind us of Christ?