

Going Deeper: Joshua 1-5

A Devotional Study Guide

God's people are always on the move, but they are **not alone**. There is a day of rest coming when we settle into an eternity of enjoying fellowship, peace, and worship forever. Until then, God's kingdom is ever expanding and growing. The Gospel is taken to the edges of the kingdom by his people: the church. Great leaders will come, others will struggle. Each has a mission to chase and a contribution to give. In all circumstances and paths, God's presence provides **courage for the journey**.

As we enter into the book of Joshua, the greatest leader in the history of Israel dies and passes on the mantle of leadership to Joshua. Moses and the people of Israel were redeemed out of Egypt by the mighty hand of God through miracles, wondrous acts, and the Lord's abiding presence. God had supplied His people with the numbers and resources necessary to accomplish the mission of taking the land that He had promised their forefathers. In doubt and fear, they stood at the edge of the promised land and looked upon giants that seemed bigger than God. God sends this faithless generation into the wilderness to suffer death as the next generation is raised up to take the land. As they wandered the desert, an entire generation falls under God's hand of judgment.

Now again, at the edge of the Promised Land, a new leader stands in front of God's people. A clear mission has been given - from the redemption out of Egypt to the conquest of the Promised Land! This generation is marked by faith as Joshua and Caleb set the tone.

Even as leaders change, God's presence remains constant. Faith rests not in the leader, but in the Lord of the leader. Never do we look to our own hands for the power and ability to accomplish the mission – we look to the God who put us on mission.

As we study the pages of Joshua, we are asking God to grow our faith in Him. A beautiful picture of God working in and through His people is painted. We are studying Joshua as a church, because God has raised up new leaders, He has given us a clear mission, and we recognize that Jesus' presence is ever with us. BCC can be strong and courageous because Jesus sets our direction, supplies our needs, and prepares us for battle.

In God's power and presence,

may we live on mission and become

A Church that Charleston Can't Live Without

On the journey with you,