

## CORE COMPETENCIES

### Core Beliefs

- Trinity
- Salvation by Grace
- Authority of Bible
- Personal God
- Identity in Christ
- Church
- Humanity
- Compassion
- Eternity
- Stewardship

### Core Practices

- Worship
- Prayer
- Bible Study
- Single-Mindedness
- Biblical Community
- Spiritual Gifts
- Giving Away My Time
- Giving Away My Money
- Giving Away My Faith
- Giving Away My Life

### Core Virtues

- Love
  - Joy
  - Peace
  - Patience
  - Kindness/Goodness
  - **Faithfulness**
- "I am faithful to fulfill God's will for my life."**
- Gentleness
  - Self-Control
  - Hope
  - Humility

One of my favorite people in all of Scripture is Caleb. In fact, we named our firstborn son after this man. What I love about Caleb (the one in the Bible) is the strength and tenacity of his character. Even at eighty-plus years old, he's as passionate, vibrant and doggedly determined as ever. His fierce love for God and willingness to take on any challenge is evidenced in him as a younger man (40-ish), as one of the two spies who stood with God and Joshua against the majority. Forty some years later, his fire is still burning brightly. I pray that my son (and all 3 of my children) will live up to this man's legacy, even as I pray the same for myself. I pray that you, too, will be inspired and motivated as you study this man's life and learn from him about following hard after God.

And, let me just say also—**thanks**. Thank you for taking the time to invest in the Scripture. I trust that you are benefiting deeply from God's Word and finding it a rich treasure.

In His Grace,

**Richard Gotthardt, Pastor of Spiritual Formation**

### If you are new to using the Engage for our Joshua series—

Included in the *Engage* for July 10<sup>th</sup> is an Appendix to our series in Joshua. You may access it through the Grace Community Church web site [www.gracecommunityaz.org](http://www.gracecommunityaz.org). Simply click on the "Messages" button and "Download Study Guide" for July 10<sup>th</sup>. You can then print the final three pages which contain the appendix. In the Appendix you will find three items that have been included in previous lessons, and are necessary for understanding and completing the daily assignments in the *Engage*. The first part is a brief introduction for using the *Engage* study guide and contains some basic instructions, techniques, and suggested tools. Please read through this before beginning your study time! Also included is a Reading Plan for the entire book of Joshua since we will only be looking in-depth at thirteen of the twenty-four chapters. Lastly is a map entitled "Occupying the Land."

### Review from last week's study in Joshua 10 and 11

Last week we saw God's faithfulness in times of war with the enemy. We witnessed the hand of a personal God who was involved in and cared about the very real battles of the children of Israel as they began to possess that which was promised to them. We observed God directly intervene and provide victory while the Israelites were careful to obey God's clear Word and commands. Perhaps you noticed that Joshua exhorted the people using the same words in Joshua 10:25, as God commanded him in Joshua 1:9... "*Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous.*"

And we saw that wholehearted obedience to God's clear commands through His Word takes strength and courage as they are often at odds with our natural comfort level, our rational reasoning and certainly the world's priorities and standards.

**Reading Plan Assignment for this week: Joshua 16-18**

### MEMORY VERSE

I am still as strong today as the day Moses sent me out; I'm just as vigorous to go out to battle now as I was then. Now give me this hill country that the LORD promised me that day. *Joshua 14:11-12*

## **Day 1 (Numbers 13 and 14)**

Review the passages you have been committing to memory (Joshua 1:6-11, Joshua 2:11, Joshua 3:3-5, Joshua 6:20, Joshua 7:13, Joshua 10:14). Begin today to memorize **Joshua 14:11-12a**. Remember as we store God's Word in our minds and our hearts, we are doing what God says is necessary to be strong and courageous, prosperous and successful (Joshua 1:8).

As with every day when we go to God's Word, begin your time in prayer asking Him to reveal His truth to your mind and heart, and to transform your life by that truth.

Our passage in the book of Joshua for this week is chapter 14 and falls in the midst of chapters 13-21 which describe the distribution of the land to the different tribes of Israel. Our focus for this week will be on Caleb and the incredible lessons we can learn from his life.

- Begin your time this week by reading through Numbers 13 and 14. As you read, mark the following key words:  
*Lord* (and any pronouns), *Caleb*, *geographical locations*, *people groups* that inhabited the Promised Land, references to "*years*" as a time marker.
- According to this passage, what areas of the Promised Land were spied out during their 40-day mission?
- What people groups did they encounter? How are they described?
- Describe the two differing reports and plans that were presented to the children of Israel. Who gave the differing accounts?
- What was the response of the people?
- What was God's response?
- On a separate sheet of paper, begin a list including what you observe about Caleb. We will add to this list throughout this week's study. Be sure to include God's description of Caleb from Numbers 14:24.
- What character trait that you have observed regarding Caleb is the most significant to you and why?

**Day 2 (Numbers 32:8-12 and Deuteronomy 1:21-40)**

**Pray first!**

Today we will look at two more passages that tell us about Caleb and his life prior to Joshua 14. Read through the passages above and mark the same key words as you did on Day 1.

- According to Numbers 14:24 and then reiterated in Numbers 32:12 and Deuteronomy 1:36, what does God say about Caleb?
- According to your reading and studying yesterday and today, what did Caleb do that showed God his wholehearted devotion?
- Caleb's wholehearted devotion to God puts him at odds with the majority report and consensus. What do you think he was risking in taking this stand?
- There are consequences to our actions. What were the consequences to Caleb's life, both positive and negative?
- Let's take a few minutes and think about the experience of the spies and those who listened to their reports. Do you think that all twelve men saw and experienced the same thing during those 40 days in the Promised Land? Why do you think their reports and proposals to the people were so different?
- If you had been one of the children of Israel, listening to the spies, what would your response have been and why? What would have made it difficult to stand with Caleb and Joshua? Be as honest as you can!
- Now let's apply these truths to our own lives. Are there circumstances in your life that are causing you fear or disappointment?
- What do you need to believe about God during this difficult time?
- How might this require you to stand alone against the "majority opinion"?
- How do you believe God will respond to your actions?

### **Day 3 – (Joshua 14, Joshua 15:13-19)**

#### **Pray first!**

Today we will read our main passage from Joshua. As you read through Joshua 14, note the break in thought that occurs in verse five.

- What is the main topic of verses one through five?
- Verse six tells us that the tribe of Judah, which was Caleb's tribe, now came to Joshua to request their inheritance. According to the text, what did Caleb request of Joshua?
- Read through Joshua 14 and Joshua 15:13-19 marking the following key words or phrases:  
*God* (and any pronouns), any words that indicate *God's speaking*, *Caleb*, *followed wholeheartedly*, *geographical* locations, *people groups* that inhabited the Promised Land, references to "*years*" as a time marker.
- Compare the geographical locations and people groups mentioned as Caleb spied out the Promised Land and those mentioned as he took possession of his Promised Land. What do you observe about God's promise to him?
- Once you have completed your marking of the text, add any insights that you have seen about God to your list on ***God's Character and His Ways***. If this is your first week, you may at some point want to go back and list what you see about the LORD from the previous chapters of Joshua, but for now begin your lists with your insights from chapter fourteen and fifteen. Also add any additional insights regarding Caleb to the list you began on Day 1.
- Considering Caleb's stated age and the experiences of his life, what impresses you about his request of Joshua?
- On what basis did Caleb claim the hill country for himself?
- How did Caleb plan to take his rightful inheritance?
- What connection do you see between his dependence on God now and his dependence on God in Numbers 13 and 14?

### **Day 4 – (Joshua 14)**

#### **Pray first!**

Today I want you to read through Joshua 14:6-15 again and review your list on Caleb. What are the main character traits that you see about Caleb that you believe God would be pleased to see in your life as well?

I expect that one of the traits you saw, and believe that God would like to see in each of us, was a wholehearted following of God. Let's take a closer look at the original meanings of the Greek words used here.

The Greek word translated “wholeheartedly” (NIV) includes the ideas of fullness, abundance, consecrated and completely. It suggests doing something with an attitude or feeling of great and earnest dedication.

The Greek word translated “follows” (NIV) includes the component of behind or afterwards.

The New Century Version translates Numbers 14:24 like this, “But my servant Caleb thinks differently and follows me completely.”

The Message states it this way, “But my servant Caleb—this is a different story. He has a different spirit; he follows me passionately.”

Take some time and reflect on whether or not God could say this of you, “My servant, (your name here), thinks differently and follows me completely and passionately.”

- If it is your desire to think differently than those around you and to follow completely and passionately after God, what are those things that will hinder you in this pursuit?
- What are those things that will facilitate and support this desire?
- What are the long-term consequences for your life if this is not your desire or pursuit?
- Before you stop for the day, record in your Bible what you see as the major theme or title of chapter fourteen.

## Day 5

### **Pray first!**

An important principle of Bible study is to allow the plain things to be the main things. This week in our study of Joshua 14 and other supporting scriptures, we have seen plainly from the life of Caleb an example of faithfulness. The last and vital component of Bible study is taking the truths God reveals to us and allowing the Holy Spirit to apply those truths to our lives.

By way of facilitating the application of God’s truth to our lives we will look at the core competency of **Faithfulness** to help us evaluate our progress of journey to becoming more Christ-like. The creed that affirms this virtue states, “*I am faithful to fulfill God’s will for my life.*” This creed presupposes three things: 1) God has a will for my life, 2) God desires me to know what His will is, and 3) diligent and consistent action is necessary on my part (faithfulness).

The four Assessment Statements that correspond to the virtue of **Faithfulness** are listed below. For each of them, note whether or not this was true in the life of Caleb and how it was evidenced. Allow God’s Holy Spirit to reveal to you if it is true in your life and how it is evidenced. If there is not evidence of its existence, allow God to convict, correct and begin to train you in this area.

1. I take unpopular stands when my faith dictates.

*Caleb:*

*Me:*

2. I discipline my thoughts based upon my faith in Jesus Christ.

*Caleb:*

*Me:*

3. I follow God even when it involves suffering.

*Caleb:*

*Me:*

4. I follow through with commitments I have made to God.

*Caleb:*

*Me:*

Proverbs 3:3, 4... *"Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man."*

### Context on Joshua 14:1-15

- ♦ Chapter 14 introduces a turning point in the narrative of Joshua. The previous chapters have outlined in detail the taking of the land from the east to west and the distribution of the land in the east. Now, we will turn to the distribution of the land in the west. Yet before the narrator tells us about this, he offers Chapter 14 as an excursus.
- ♦ Chapter 14 can be broken down into two sections. The first section (14:1-5) is an introduction, while the second section is dialogue (14:6-15)
- ♦ Carson helps us understand the half tribes spoken of in the first few verses, "Here the nine-and-a-half western tribes are in view, not the two-and-a-half eastern tribes (cf. 13:8–13). In Israel the firstborn received a double blessing (Deut. 21:15–17). Jacob, however, the father of all the tribes, made an exception. He passed over Reuben, his firstborn by Leah, his unloved wife (Gen. 29:31–32), and gave the double portion instead to Joseph, the firstborn of his beloved Rachel. He did this by elevating Joseph's two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim, to full tribal status along with his own sons Reuben and Simeon (Gen. 48:1–9).<sup>1</sup>
- ♦ The second section of this chapter is found in verses 6-15. In this section Caleb and Joshua interact over the former's history and merit for an inheritance of the prime land of Hebron. Butler notes that repetition within Caleb's monologue reveals the major points he is trying to make:
  - "1. The age and continued strength of Caleb reflect divine blessing upon him (7a, 10, 11);
  - 2. Caleb has been obedient to Moses and to Yahweh (7b, 8b, 9b, 14);
  - 3. The land has been promised to Caleb (9, 10aB, 12aB, 12bB)."<sup>2</sup>
- ♦ Caleb says in verse 8, "I, however, followed the LORD my God wholeheartedly." It is a rare expression in the Hebrew. This phrase would have stood out as the central point in this chapter.
- ♦ The 45 years mentioned by Caleb in verse 10, seems to be a long time (40 years) in the wilderness and five years for the conquest. Thus, all the battles that we have seen in the first 13 chapters apparently took a good five years to accomplish. This is important to keep in mind for a faithful reading of Joshua. It did not take place overnight!
- ♦ In verse 13, Joshua blesses Caleb in a similar fashion to the way the patriarchs blessed their sons (Gen 27; 24:60; 32:1).
- ♦ It is important to read this chapter, Joshua 14, with reference to Deuteronomy 27 and 28. This chapter is the fulfillment in Israel's history of the Deuteronomy promises.

<sup>1</sup>Carson, D. A. (1994). *New Bible commentary: 21st century edition*. Rev. ed. of: The new Bible commentary. 3rd ed. / edited by D. Guthrie, J.A. Motyer. 1970. (4th ed.) (Jos 14:1). Leicester, England; Downers Grove, Ill., USA: Inter-Varsity Press.

<sup>2</sup>Butler, T. C. (2002). *Vol. 7: Word Biblical Commentary: Joshua*. Word Biblical Commentary (Page 170). Dallas: Word, Incorporated.