Sept 06, 2026

Oaks Early Risers Bible Class

The Oaks Baptist Church
Grand Prairie, Texas

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Lesson Leaders:

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FOOD FOR THOUGHT

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK:
God is the one who renews our faith. He will be with us. And His presence calls us to courage

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:
God, I'm often so afraid. And when I am, I'm tempted to rely on my own wits or courage, and that's never enough. Be with me. Give me Your courage

SCRIPTURE FOR THE WEEK:
And David said to his son Solomon, "Be strong and of good courage, and do it; do not fear nor be dismayed, for the Lord God, my God, will be with you. He will not leave you nor forsake you, until you have finished all the work for the service of the house of the Lord
(1 Chron 28:20 NKJV)

(from "Our Daily Bread", May 26, 2019)

Series: Generations: From Canaan to Jerusalem

UNIT 1: Nomadic Tribes to Settled People

NEXT WEEK

Israel Remembers God's Deeds (Josh4:14-24)

Joshua Leads Courageously
Josh 1:1-11

Lesson Background and Introduction

The Israelites had been in Egypt for 430 years (Exodus 12:40-41). During this time, the descendants of Jacob became enslaved at the hands of the Egyptians. However, God redeemed his people and provided a way for them to leave captivity. Those who left Egypt did not go directly to the land that God promised to their ancestors. Instead, they stopped at Mount Sinai, where they received the law from God and constructed the tabernacle as the center of their worship (Exodus 19-27). But rather than obey God, the Israelites tested and disobeyed him (Numbers 14:22). In the second year after leaving Egypt, the Israelites departed from Sinai and moved toward the southern edge of Canaan (Numbers 10:11-12). Moses sent twelve spies into the land (13:17), and after forty days, they returned (13:25). Ten spies demonstrated a lack of trust in God to lead them into Canaan. Only two spies, Joshua and Caleb, recommended entering the land (14:6-9). They trusted that God would be faithful to his promise that the people would possess it. As a result of the lack of faith from the ten spies, God imposed punishment. First, the people had to spend forty years in the wilderness (Numbers 14:34). Second, out of the generation who left Egypt, only the two faithful spies, Joshua and Caleb, lived to enter Canaan (1:46; 2:32; 14:30). This meant that Moses would not be a part of the generation allowed to enter the land (14:22-23; 20:12). Therefore, God and Moses established Joshua as Moses' successor to lead the people into Canaan (27:15-23; Deuteronomy 3:28; 31:7; 34:9). As the book of Joshua begins, nearly forty years have passed since the Israelites left Egypt. At this point, they were camped in the plains of Moab at the edge of Canaan, across the Jordan River from Jericho (Numbers 22:1; 33:48-50; 36:13). Their presence in the area threatened local leaders (22:2-3). However, rather than obey the Lord and maintain holiness, some Israelites committed immoral acts and idolatry with the people of the land—an act that had deadly consequences (Numbers 25). By the time Moses died, hundreds of years had passed since God first made promises to Abraham concerning the land. The people found themselves at a crucial juncture. They had yet to settle the land. Under the leadership of the newly commissioned Joshua, they needed to follow the Lord's commands to possess the land that had been promised to them.

(*Adapted from the NIV Standard Lesson Commentary*)

NOTES AND CROSS-REFERENCES

Commission Through a Promise (Josh 1:1-6)

Promise of a renewed purpose (1-2)

Renewed purpose to fear God and keep His commandments (Eccl 12:13)

Renewed purpose to act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with God (Mic 6:8)

Renewed purpose to not lose heart, because God is renewing us daily (2 Cor 4:16)

Renewed purpose to not lose heart and grow weary in opposing sin (Heb 12:3-4)

Renewed purpose to not become weary of doing good (Gal 6:9)

Renewed purpose in seeking the kingdom of God (Matt 6:31-34)

Promise of success (3-5)

Success obtained through pleasing God (Rom 14:16-18)

Success obtained through living a life worthy of the Lord (Col 1:10)

Success obtained through working for the Lord (Col 3:23-24)

Success obtained through being a faithful servant and sharing in God's blessings (Matt 25:21)

Success obtained through trusting in God (Prov 28:25)

Success obtained through having many godly advisers (Prov 15:22)

Success obtained through committing ourselves to God (Prov 16:3)

Success obtained through abiding in God (John 15:7)

Promise of leadership (6)

Leadership that is entrusted with God's work (Titus 1:7)

Leadership that is blameless so as to encourage godliness (1 Thess 2:10-12)

Leadership that is faithful because of being given a trust (1 Cor 4:2)

Leadership that has integrity (Titus 2:7-8)

Leaders that give an account for those over whom they have authority (Heb 13:17)

Leaders that are given much, but from whom much will be required (Luke 12:48)

Leaders that have been given a trust and must be proven faithful (1 Cor 4:2)

Commission of Obedience (Josh 1:7-11)

Obedience that leads to success (7-8)

Success based on obedience that is consistent with God's will (Isa 58:6-9)

Success based on obedience that delights God (1 Sam 15:22)

Success based on obedience that is from humble, praying, repentant people of God (2 Chron 7:14)

Success based on obedience that is bold and steadfast (Dan 3:16-18)

Success based on obedience because God is faithful (Deut 7:9)

Success based on obedience because God promised that obedience prolongs life (Prov 3:1-2)

Success based on obedience because obedience is pleasing to God (Prov 16:7)

Success based on obedience that make believers His people (Jer 7:23)

Success based on obedience because God does not allow obedience to be in vain (1 Corinthians 15:58)

Obedience that leads to God's Presence (9)

God's presence that brings rest (Exodus 33:14)

God's presence that shows that God is pleased with us and separates us from the world (Ex 33:15)

God's presence that brings joy (Ps 16:11)

God's presence that is a hiding place of refuge (Ps 31:20)

God's presence that is a light of guidance (Ps 89:15)

God's presence that responds to a godly fear of God (Nah 1:5)

God's presence that is glorious and those who are in it should be without fault (Jude 1:24)

Obedience through the leader's authority (10-11)

Leader's authority because trouble occurs without authority (Judges 21:25)

Leader's authority because all authority is established by God (Rom 13:1)

Leader's authority through his willingness to be a servant (Luke 22:25-26)

Leader's authority to be an example, not a lord (1 Peter 5:1-3)

Leader's authority because God gave man authority because man is in God's image (Gen 1:26)

Leader's authority because God gave man authority so that man could have food and work (Gen 9:2-3)