

Weekly Message Study Guide

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Date _____ Speaker _____

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE | A Thriving Mindset | Week 1 | Jan 17

Psalms 119:1 & 105; Joshua 1:1-10; Deut. 31:7-12; James 1:25; Romans 12:2

CONTEXT | The story of Israel is long and convoluted. We are examining a transition for the Jewish nation from SURVIVING to THRIVING as they prepare to enter the promised land. This week we consider the MINDSET of the nation at that time. What were they thinking and how were they thinking about it?

- How would you describe your mindset right now? What kind of words do we use to answer that question?
- Do you come up with words of emotion (sad or joyful) or words of attitude (discouraged or expectant) or maybe words of results (defeated or thriving)?
- Do you ever connect your thriving with your mindset—the way you think?

The Pathway of Life | Read Psalm 119:1 & 105. In our modern, western mindset we often look at the path of life as something we need to conquer, to handle with our individual skill, to optimize and make the most of.

- What do these verses say about our walk through life?
- Where have you needed "light for your path" recently? What resources helped you receive that light? Share with the group or reflect in your journal.

Stay on the Path | Read Joshua 1:5-6. Talk about a thriving mindset—here is the ultimate promise and guarantee. How would you be thinking about next week if you heard those words from someone you trusted to have the power to deliver.

- What strikes you about the promises given?
- How do you imagine this event unfolding?
- What downside do you sense in the story at this point?

Are You Sure? | In Numbers 13 we read of the scouting trip that led to Israel wandering in the wilderness. They had to "survive" the wilderness for a generation because they did not believe the promise God gave them for "thriving."

- How does your life demonstrate an "Are you sure?," response to God?
- Where in recent time have you looked at "staying on the path" and asked God, "Are you sure?"

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In Front of All the Nation | Read Deut. 31:1-8. Moses first speaks to all of Israel and then the same words to Joshua. God is making good on a long-given promise. All Israel has to do is follow Joshua and go over and "take it."

- How do you interpret the phrase "strong and courageous?"
- What kind of strength do the people need?
- What is your definition of courage? Talk about it. What kind of courage is required here?

Stay on the Path II | Read Joshua 1:7-8. God's message to Joshua begins with a promise but it is followed by clear instruction.

- How do you regard this instruction in your life today?
- What kind of "mindset" does this bring up for you?
- How would you place the idea of freedom in this conversation?

The Path of our Choosing | Read James 1:25 and Romans 12:2. We are encouraged on the one hand that law gives freedom and on the other that not conforming gives transformation.

- How do you respond to these instructions about law and obedience?
- What is our human tendency when we are told to obey?
- How would you describe a thriving mindset based on these scriptures?

Search and Rescue | Where are you in 2021?

- Are you at the trailhead wondering what lies ahead? Write or share what your prayer request is for the year ahead?
- Are you lost in the wilderness looking for any sign of civilization and listening for the helicopter? Write or share what your prayer request is for the year ahead?
- Are you on the path but worried because it's not very clear? Write or share what your prayer request is for the year ahead?

Practice of the Week | [Download the series prayer card](#) and choose a section from the text to meditate on this week. Turn it into a breath prayer that you can use to bring you back to God presence as you face your challenges this week. Know that God is trustworthy and fulfills his promises. You CAN be sure.