

Weekly Message Study Guide

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Date _____ Speaker _____

A Thriving Relationship | Week 3 | January 24

Joshua 1:1-10; Deut 31: 7-12; James 1:25; Romans 12:2

These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.

CONTEXT | As we study the story of Joshua, the Jewish nation is moving from SURVIVING in the desert to an invitation to THRIVING in the promised land. The constant in their experience was that God was with them. How is your relationship with God in these days? Have you missed an invitation from Him, an invitation to enter a thriving 2021?

- How do you feel about the idea of an invitation from God?
- How do you feel about God being with you? Do you think God notices your feelings? Do you feel being acknowledged by God?
- Do you imagine God desiring you specifically, to thrive?

The Lord Went Before Them | Read Exodus 13:21. As Moses led the nation of Israel through the desert God made his presence clear to the people. There was no doubt God was with them.

- What does this image bring up in you? doubt? fear? disbelief?
- If God's presence with us were this real, this physical, what would it change? How do you think it would change you? Talk about It with the group.

Trust Me and Remember | Read Joshua 1:7-8. God's word to Joshua is very clear and directive. He sets the guide they are to use to seek a new and thriving prosperity.

- What strikes you as you read these commands?
- Does this strike you as narrow or limited advice?
- What does it say to us in 2021?

Metaphorically..... | The Jewish nation had been following the Ark of the Covenant containing the Law, the tablets of the Ten Commandments. That was symbolically and practically all they knew about God. We have more Information today in 2021--and we have the Holy Spirit.

- In this context, what is God saying to you and to me in Joshua 1:7-8?
- What is your playbook for 2021? What are you paying attention to?

Assurance | In Joshua 1:5,9 God gives Joshua the ultimate relationship encouragement, "I will NEVER leave you...wherever you go."

- Who do you have in your life that is close to this kind of promise? Would anyone say this of you?



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- Where are you reliant on God's presence with you to give you assurance?
- Talk about an experience where you felt God was with you.

Let Us Remember | Read Joshua 4:4-8 & 20-24. Joshua set up memorial stones to commemorate the crossing of the Jordan.

- Where is your Gilgal? Do you have an event in your life that you have memorialized?
- Talk about it. Who is the memorial to? What was the event?

I Will Be With You Always | Read Matt 28:20. God has made good on his Joshua promise to us. He has given us a "with life" in 2021 if we choose to accept it.

- How do you respond to bridging between Joshua's story and your 2021 situation?
- What is our human tendency when our dependence and need is pointed out?
- How would you describe a thriving relationship based on these scriptures?

An Invitation | Where are you in 2021?

- Are you wondering how God is with us? Do you know God is with you, loves you and will never forsake you?
- Are you looking for a loving, supportive, community to be with you as you pursue the battle in a new way this year?
- Are you unsure of what steps to take next? You are ready for something new but you aren't sure where to start contact Pastor Eric Haskins (ehaskins@ChristChurch.us) or any other pastor to ask your questions, learn more, get support and get started.

Practice of the Week | Pick up a rock--at least as big as your fist - a physical one or simply draw one on a piece of paper. Each day think of something that has reminded you of God's goodness and provision for you and/or your family over the course of 2020. Do this alone as a prayerful reflection or at dinner with the family or in the morning over coffee--make it fun remembering. At the end of the week get a permanent sharpie and the rock. Write some of those ways God provided on it that you want to celebrate and remember as we enter into 2021. Place it somewhere you will be reminded of God's goodness often.