

# Weekly Message Study Guide

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Date \_\_\_\_\_ Speaker \_\_\_\_\_

## **WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE | A Vision for a Thriving Life | Week 1 | Jan 10**

Joshua 1:1-10; Deuteronomy 34:1-5 & 7-12

*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 |** The story of Israel is long and convoluted. Bound in slavery, miraculous rescue, wandering in the wilderness, idol worship and commandments received directly from God. They were described as “headstrong” and “stiff-necked.” These coming weeks we will be examining a transition for the Jewish nation from SURVIVING to THRIVING.

- This past year, have you been surviving or have you been thriving? Maybe a little of both?
- What can you name that has been in the way of your thriving? What helped that aspect of your life to thrive?

**Moses sees the Promise |** Read Deuteronomy 34:1-5. God takes Moses to see the vast expanse of a promise made to Israel generations prior.

- Are you motivated by promises? (e.g. work hard promises success, good results promise promotion, studying promises good grades)
- How long have you pursued a promise? Has it been generations?
- Are you waiting for God to fulfill a promise? Talk about it with the group.

**A Mighty Prophet |** Read Deuteronomy 34:7-12. Moses had been God’s appointed leader of Israel but was now at the end of his time.

- What strikes you about the description of Moses?
- How would you describe Moses’ relationship with God?
- What was Moses final act of leadership?

**Cross the River |** Read Joshua 1:1-2. What is the situation here? Moses’ assistant is asked to lead a nation out of “survival mode” into a new land where the nation can thrive. They are “being given” this land.

- How have you experienced this in your life? Have you ever been asked to “cross the river” into great uncertainty?

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- What does it mean to “be given” something? How are we like the Israelites, what have we been promised?

**Just as I Promised** | Read Joshua 1:3-5. God’s message to Joshua begins with this promise.

- What are the three parts of this promise?
- Imagine as a group: what might be the corresponding three parts for us today? Brainstorm the possibilities.
- Thinking of these, does anything surprise you?

**As I Was With Moses...** | Go back to read Deuteronomy 34:10. The implication of “being with” has special meaning. Joshua will not be alone.

- Why do you think this re-assurance is important?
- What is our human tendency when we conquer a challenge?
- What is our human need when we face an insurmountable problem?

**Strong and Courageous** | Read Joshua 1:6-9. These are instructions for Joshua. They outline how the promise is to be pursued.

- What are the two aspects of this instruction?
- Which do you think is more important?
- What strength is required here?
- What is the role of faith and trust?

**Practice of the Week | “Be Strong and courageous...”** Spend some time this week prayerfully reflecting on the two questions below. To help you answer the questions at a deeper and more practical level consider using the following resource: [Spiritual Health Assessment](#). The Spiritual Health Assessment is a great resource to share as a group.

- 1. How will you cultivate an intimate communion with God this year?
- 2. Where do you need to pursue a more intentional obedience in 2021?