

Sermon audio is available online – be sure to listen to the message before engaging in this talksheet.
The sermon outline is available at the end of this talksheet.

OPEN WITH PRAYER

ICE BREAKERS...

- Share a time from your past when you lacked the courage or strength to move forward. How did you cope with the situation? Did you ever do it? Did you miss blessings because of not moving ahead?
- What advice would you give someone who knows God wants him/her to step out in faith, but he/she lacks the courage or strength to do so?

THE WORD OF GOD / DISCUSSION POINTS...

God calls us to POSSESS the blessings He PROVIDES (Joshua 1:1-5)



Read Joshua 1:1-5

- ? Put yourself in Joshua's sandals... what would be your biggest reservation about filling in for Moses?
- ? What is the promise God gives to Joshua and is there a similar promise for Christians today?

The book of Ephesians talks about a number of spiritual blessings that we have received in Christ. Some (like our salvation) are unconditional. Others (like our fellowship with one another) are conditioned upon us taking possession of those blessings.



Read Ephesians 1:17-18; Ephesians 3:14-19

- ? What does Paul pray for us, as Christians, in this passage?



Read Joshua 1:6-9

- ? What is the repeated theme in this passage?
- ? Why do you think God emphasized this SO much to Joshua?

God calls us to exercise STRENGTH and COURAGE (Joshua 1:6-18)

Strength defined: *The power to face a task with all its accompanying hardships and to follow through.*

Courage defined: *Mental and moral power to dive in where risks and uncertainty exist.*



Read Ephesians 4:22-24

- ? According to this passage, what is the key to taking hold of our spiritual blessings?

 **Read Ephesians 4:1-3; Ephesians 4:25-32; Ephesians 5:1-5; Ephesians 5:17-21**

Paul gives quite a list of things to “put off” (stop doing) and “put on” (start doing) in the passages above. List them all out and then choose the one you *most* need to work on in life.

Do you need strength, courage or both to accomplish this change in your life?

 **Read Ephesians 6:10-18**

According to this passage, we are strong when we put on the full armor of God. What piece of the armor do you need to incorporate into your life more often to see spiritual victory?

Joshua found his strength and courage in...

God’s PROMISES (Joshua 1:6) God’s POWER (Joshua 1:6-7) & God’s PRESENCE (Joshua 1:9)

→ Name one specific promise God has given believers in the New Testament that brings you strength and courage.

 **Read Hebrews 13:5-6**

How does the promise of God’s presence lead to confidence in this passage?

 **Read James 1:6-8**

According to this passage, what is the promise God gives us in the area of having victory over the spiritual attacks of the devil?

What are the conditions we have to meet to enjoy the above promise (i.e. how can we possess the blessing God provides)?

CLOSE IN PRAYER...

GREAT SMALL GROUP IDEA:

Rent or purchase the movie *The End of the Spear* (the amazing story of Jim and Elisabeth Elliot and their companions) and watch it together as a small group.

'No Guts, No Glory'

Joshua 1

God calls us to POSSESS the blessings He PROVIDES (Joshua 1:1-5)

"After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them..." (Joshua 1:1-2)

"I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to the Euphrates – all the Hittite country – to the Great Sea on the west. No one will be able to stand up against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you." (Joshua 1:3-5)

"Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ." (Ephesians 1:3)

"Finally, be strong in the Lord and in His mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes..." (Ephesians 6:10)

God calls us to exercise STRENGTH and COURAGE (Joshua 1:6-18)

Strength defined: *The power to face a task with all its accompanying hardships and to follow through.*

Courage defined: *Mental and moral power to dive in where risks and uncertainty exist.*

Joshua found his strength and courage in...

God's PROMISES

"Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their forefathers to give them." (Joshua 1:6)

God's POWER

"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you. Do not let this Book of the Law depart from your mouth; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful." (Joshua 1:7-8)

"For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart." (Hebrews 4:12)

God's PRESENCE

"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

"I am with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20)

Recommended Resource: For more information on the amazing story of Jim and Elisabeth Elliot, watch the movie: [The End of the Spear](#)