

Happy New Year!
Take Hold of the Promised Land
Sunday, January 1st, 2023

Joshua 1: 1-11 NIV

After the death of Moses the servant of the LORD, the LORD said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: ²"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—to the Israelites. ³I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. ⁴Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. ⁵No one will be able to stand 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. ⁶Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

⁷"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. ⁸Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; 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. ⁹Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

¹⁰So Joshua ordered the officers of the people: ¹¹"Go through the camp and tell the people, 'Get your provisions ready. Three days from now you will cross the Jordan here to go in and take possession of the land the LORD your God is giving you for your own.'"

- 1. Ready Yourselves in His Word.** We can't receive the promises we don't know about or understand. His Word reveals each one.
- 2. Battles Before Rest.** We all go through battles in life. Do you prepare for them with God? Do you trust He will bring you to rest?
- 3. Enter by Faith.** Those without faith, did not enter the promised land. How is your faith in God? Where can it be strengthened?

Conclusion: Let us remember, God has already given us a land flowing with milk and honey; every spiritual blessing is ours in Christ Jesus. It is up to us to follow in faithful obedience where Jesus leads us, so we might take hold of the promised land. Let us purpose to do this together, in 2023.

LIFE GROUP LESSON
Take Hold of the Promised Land
Week of January 1- January 7, 2023

Ice Breaker: What does the Promised Land mean for you today?

Read Joshua 1: 1-11

1. What was the first command given to Joshua? (v.2)
2. What was the promise that came with this command? (v.2)
3. What do you think God meant by "get ready", for what?
4. How does God expand on His promise? (vs.3-4)
5. Was this land vacant? What do we read in v.4?
6. What would be required to take hold of this land?
7. If God was giving His people this land, why would they need to go into battle to receive it? What was God doing and teaching?
8. What is another promise and encouragement God gave? (vs.5-6)
9. What does God repeat to Joshua? How many times?
10. What did God know about what lie ahead for Joshua and his people?
11. What council did God give to ensure their success? (vs. 7-8)
12. How would keeping God's Word near to him, help him in battle?
13. How does His Word help us in our battles?
14. Going into battle can be unsettling. What did God say to Joshua? (v.9)
15. What was required of Joshua after hearing all of this?
16. What was Joshua's response? What did he tell his people? (vs. 10-11)
17. Read Joshua 1:8 and Hebrews 4:12. How important is it to read God's Word daily? How will it prepare us for life's battles?
18. Read Psalm 119:130. What happens the more we read His Word?
19. Read Deuteronomy 20: 2-4. Are we to fight alone? Are we to fear the enemy's attacks? How does faith help us have victory?
20. Read Matthew 9:29. How does our faith relate to our ability to take hold of the promised land and enter into His rest?

Point to ponder: The promised land is already ours. We must by faith, learn to appropriate the promises God has freely given to us.