

Get Ready Small Group Guide

Warm-up Question: (Choose one, make up your own, or skip this part all together, depending upon the nature of your group.)

1. Generally speaking, do you get ready to leave quickly or slowly?
2. Do you like to rewatch movies you have already seen or reread books you have already read? Explain.

Read the following passage: Joshua 1:10-18.

The Israelites were oppressed by the Egyptians for generations. Their deliverance out of Egypt under the leadership of Moses was a truly miraculous event and subsequently became the defining act of salvation for the people of Israel before the coming of Christ. The journey to the promised land, however, did not go as planned. The people rebelled. An entire generation died in the wilderness. The book of Joshua tells the story of a new generation embracing the promises of God and entering into the land God prepared for them. Their experiences can help us take steps to embrace the purposes God has for us in our own generation.

Questions for Discussion (Choose several that are relevant for your group):

1. When the Israelites were driven out of Egypt by Pharaoh, they had virtually no time to prepare. (See Exodus 12:39.) Crossing the Jordan and entering the promised land would be different, however. Joshua told the officers of the people: “Go through the camp and tell the people, ‘Get your provisions ready.’” What are some ways we can prepare ourselves for the things God wants to do in and through our lives?
2. Developing a private life of devotion is one important way we can prepare ourselves for the purposes God has for us. Do you have a consistent devotional life? If so, what does it look like?
3. Do you have any relationships in which you are truly vulnerable? Why are vulnerable relationships so important for us? How do they prepare us for a successful future?
4. The Scriptures often refer to God’s people as a corporate body (e.g. “the Israelites” or “the church of God in Corinth”). Would you say that you have a sense of corporate identity and corporate purpose as a follower of Jesus? Explain.
5. Joshua reminded the Reubenites, Gadites, and the half-tribe of Manasseh that they were to help the other tribes take possession of the land God was giving to them. What might it look like to fight alongside our brothers and sisters “until the Lord

gives them rest” (Joshua 1:15)?

6. Moses’s father-in-law instructed him to “appoint [leaders] over thousands, hundreds, fifties and tens” (Exodus 18:21). Getting a large group of people to move together around a unified purpose requires leaders at many levels. Based on the first chapter of Joshua, what are some characteristics leaders among God’s people should have? Do you think any follower of Jesus can develop these characteristics? Explain. Are there leadership roles that you aspire to?

Pray