



J O S H U A

FAITH IN THE GOD OF PROMISE

RECAP

What are some of the big things you've seen God do in the first 10 chapters of Joshua? What are the key themes you've seen so far? (examples: God's faithfulness, Joshua's obedience, etc.)

We know the story of Joshua is centered around leading the people to the promised land. This journey required God to use Joshua and the Israelites to conquer certain land and people groups. It's easy to skip over this part of the story, but it's worth discussing such a difficult topic.

INTRO

Everyone has been affected by death in some way.

- What is it about death (of a friend, loved one, or stranger) that is so difficult to work through? (*Remind them where death comes from: it is a result of sin, not part of God's original design*)
- Do you believe that God delights in death? *Discuss, then read Ezekiel 18:32.*

THEN

Read Joshua 6:20-21

- How do you feel when you read verse 21? In this story, God's plan involves a lot of death. Does this change the way you perceive God? Why or why not?

Quickly glance through Joshua 10:29-43

- What common themes/language do you see in these verses?
- Do you think this was part of God's plan? Explain
- What characteristics of God do we see in stories like this?
- Does this seem like a different God than the one we read about in the New Testament? Give specific examples.
- If God is the same through the Old Testament, New Testament, and today, how do we explain the apparent differences we see?
- Why do you think Jesus came as a humble servant as opposed to a conquering military commander? Why is that important?

God is both loving and just. He HAS to be both. Jesus is the living example of grace and truth combined. Give some examples of how God shows His love and how He shows truth and justice throughout the Bible.

NOW

- If someone were to ask you how you could serve a God that destroys entire nations and groups of people (like we see happen in Joshua), what would you say?
- If someone asks you how Jesus in His loving kindness is the same God as the God of the Old Testament, how would you respond?
- Read **Romans 11:33-36** together. It's okay if you don't understand everything going on in your life! How does this passage give us assurance?
- Take some time to share things about God/your life that you just don't understand. Spend time praying for one another, that each of you would be able to trust God through tough and unexplainable circumstances.