



June 20.....Promised Presence
June 27..... Promised Provision
July 04 Promised Protection
July 11 Promised Pathway
July 18 Promised Power
July 25 Promised People





Pastor's Introduction

It was a new day in the history of the people of Israel. They had come this way once before but doubt and fear turned them back. They are at the edge of the Promised Land. When they arrived there the first time, they had just escaped slavery in Egypt, delivered by the Lord through their leader, Moses. Spies entered the land and reported that it was everything that the Lord had said, but there were obstacles and enemies before them. Only Joshua and Caleb urged the people to push forward. As a result, they have wandered in the wilderness for 40 years until that generation was gone. Now they stand at the edge of the Promised Land a second time. Moses is gone, and Joshua is the new leader.

We are beginning a new 6-week series called "Promised," in which we will examine the first four chapters of the book of Joshua. In these passages, the Hebrew people finally cross the Jordan River into the Promised Land. As they go, we learn about what it means to trust in the Lord's promises. My prayer for our congregation is that we would trust in the promises of God and walk faithfully after Him in our lives. Because just as the people of Israel were looking to the Promised Land, the church is looking to the Promised Land of heaven. May we walk by faith, believing God's promise.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John T. Green". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Ed. TG



Participant Guide for June 20, 2021

Promised Presence

Joshua 1:1-9

Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. Have you ever been thrust into a leadership position where your predecessor was “kind of a big deal?” What was that like? What are some of the challenges that come along with being the successor to a great leader?
2. Joshua was taking over for Moses. Can you imagine what it was like to be in his position? What are some of the feelings that you suspect Joshua was experiencing? What do you think it was like to be in Joshua’s leadership position at this critical point in Israel’s history?
3. What are the key phrases that the Lord says to Joshua? What promises does the Lord make to Joshua? What phrase is repeated more than once? Why would the Lord keep repeating this phrase to Joshua, and what does it mean?
4. The Lord promises his presence to Joshua. Who are some of the people in your life that have always been present for you? Is there a specific time you can share where a person was there for you when you needed someone the most? What was it about their presence that made a difference in your life?
5. How is the presence of the Lord different from the presence of other people? Which presence feels more real to you? What does your answer say about your relationship with God?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ What are you doing in your daily walk to be mindful/aware of the presence of God? This week, make time to just sit in his presence and let Him comfort you.

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Participant Guide for June 27, 2021

Promised Provision

Joshua 1:10-18

Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. If you're making preparations for something big, like an event or a party, what are some of the essential items that will make your planning list? It is likely food is going to end up on everyone's list. What is it about food that makes it an essential item when planning to take on something important?
2. Where did the Israelite's food come from up to this point in their wilderness journey? How did God provide above and beyond their daily provisions? How does God provide above and beyond in your life today?
3. Joshua commands his officers to get provisions ready, but oddly missing from his command is a battle plan. Why is God not providing military instructions for Joshua at this time? God says that they will take possession of the land that he is giving as an inheritance. What does this imply about their chances for victory in the land? What are the conditions for victory?
4. Read Ephesians 1:11-14: According to Paul, what is the inheritance of those who are in Christ? How does the Israelite inheritance of the promised land relate to the Christian's inheritance of Christ?
5. Verse 18 repeats a common phrase from verses 6-9. This time, who is saying to "Above all, be strong and courageous?" Why do you think the people repeat this phrase back to Joshua? Did the Israelite people feel the need to encourage Joshua the same way he encouraged them? Why was it important for them to encourage Joshua?
6. In what ways does our church help encourage our leaders and pastors? Why is it important for us to be a source of encouragement? What are some ways to help encourage and support our leaders and pastors that we are not yet doing?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ Are you living off of your provision or God's provisions? What would it look like for you to live off of God's provision?



Participant Guide for July 4, 2021

Promised Protection

Joshua 2

Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. The story of Rahab presents an interesting ethical dilemma. Did Rahab sin by lying to the king of Jericho? Did she even lie at all? Depending on your answer, does this mean that there are times where sin is allowable?
2. In chapter 2, Joshua sends out spies to Canaan, echoing Numbers 13–14. What are some of the differences between this mission and the mission in Numbers 13–14? What is the significance of the ending of both stories?
3. If Joshua knew that the Lord had already handed the land over to the Israelite people, why did he send the spies?
4. God used the encounter with Rahab to bring about her and her family's salvation. Does the text seem to indicate that Rahab had come to saving faith in God? Why or why not? (Hebrews 11:31 and James 2:25 may help in this discussion.)
5. In what ways was Rahab an example of someone who the Israelite people would not have expected to receive God's salvation? Why would this story have been so shocking to the Israelite people hearing it years later?
6. Describe how this story shares parallels with the Gospel.
7. How is this story an example of God's faithful protection of his children? How has God demonstrated this protection in your life?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ Rahab is known for her demonstrable faith in God. How are you demonstrating your faith in God?

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Participant Guide for July 11, 2021

Promised Pathway

Joshua 3:1-6

Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. As the people of God arrived at the Jordan River, what do you think was going through their minds? Joshua told the people, “When you see the ark of the covenant of the LORD your God carried by the Levitical priests, you are to break camp and follow it.” How do you think the Israelites reacted? Do you think they were having conversations about how they would get across?
2. In what ways can it be hard to trust God when you feel like you’re at a dead-end? Has God ever appeared in a time of uncertainty in your life to show you the way?
3. What is so special about the ark of the covenant? What did it hold? Why did the Israelites have to keep such a great distance from the ark? How did the ark represent God’s presence among the people?
4. Consecrate is not a word that we hear in everyday speech. What does this word mean? What does holiness look like? By what process does God make us holy? Why did they need to consecrate themselves before crossing the Jordan?
5. Do you see God doing wonders in your life? What are some examples? Likewise, do you see God doing wonders in our church? What wondrous things have you seen from God lately?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ Following the Lord when you don’t know where you are going is not easy. This week, pray for God to open your heart to trust and follow his way.

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Participant Guide for July 18, 2021

Promised Power

Josh 3:7-17

Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. This story depicts God displaying his power over nature. What are some other biblical examples of God demonstrating His power over nature? What are some of the commonalities between these stories?
2. God miraculously intervened on behalf of Israel to deliver them on two separate occasions, the Red Sea and now at the Jordan River. What did we learn about the story of Moses parting the Red Sea back in Joshua chapter 2? What do you imagine was the reaction of the other nations when they heard about the power of the Lord?
3. For what purpose did God part the Jordan? What significance did this event have for Joshua?
4. At what point did the water begin to part? How did the Israelites respond in obedience? How does this contrast with how they have responded in the past?
5. Clearly, stories of the Lord were circulating through the land. How do you act as a witness of the Lord's power? Tell about how you have recently shared with someone else what the Lord is doing in your life.
6. In Joshua 3:10, Joshua describes God as "the living God." How does this contrast with other gods of the land? How is Jesus the ultimate fulfillment of the true living God saving his people?

Respond

- **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**
- ◆ Are there times when God is demonstrating his power in your life, and you're missing it? This week, pray for God to make you aware of his power in your daily life.

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Participant Guide for July 25, 2021

Promised People

Joshua 4

Highlight

Which verse(s) spoke to you this week?

Explain

Sermon and discussion notes:



Apply

1. Have you ever set up a memorial that demonstrates God's faithfulness? If so, tell the group about it. If not, what would be your "memorial stone event?"
2. What is the significance of the memorial stones? Why was it important for the Israelite people to set up reminders of God's faithfulness?
3. How is Joshua 4:14 a fulfillment of Joshua 3:7?
4. Read verse 24: What was the purpose of God's miracle at the Jordan? How does that purpose tie into Rahab's story in chapter 2? What does the verse mean when it says to "fear God?" Who should fear God, and what does fearing God look like for the church today?
5. What does it mean for the church to be God's promised people? How does the modern church function as God's promised people?

Respond

→ **Challenge - What are you going to do in response to the truth communicated today?**

- ◆ Is your life a testimony of the promises of God? How are you living like one who is a child of the promise?

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