

# GROWTH + GROUPS

NAVIGATE LIFE TOGETHER

Maranatha Chapel Sermon Based Study Guide  
SB 10.22.2023

THE POWER OF PRAYER – EXODUS 17:8-16

## Receiving the Message and Relating to the Study

What insights, principles or observations stood out to you from this week’s message? Discuss with your group.

Pastor Daniel says, “Joshua is one of the most fascinating characters in the Bible. Consider the arc of his story. At different stages of his life, he was a slave, a spy, an assistant to Moses, Israel’s first general, and the leader of a nation. He had a front row seat for the Exodus from Egypt as well as the conquest of Canaan. He saw the waters of the Red Sea, part and led the Israelites through the Jordan. He camped under the cloud of God’s presence by day and was warmed by the fire at night. He tasted the heavenly manna in the wilderness and drank from water that flowed from a rock. He was there when God gave the Ten Commandments to Moses and got to witness the walls of Jericho come tumbling down.” Let’s get into our lesson...

As your group time begins, use this section to introduce the topic of discussion.

1. What struck you most from the Pastor Daniel’s sermon?
2. Who is someone you admire? What qualities about that person make him or her admirable?
3. In your opinion, are leaders born or are they developed? Explain

When we read the opening pages of Joshua, we can see a man of courage and faith who was called upon to do great things for God. We like that and aspire to that . . . but the truth is, Joshua’s faith was developed incrementally through time. Strong faith isn’t instantaneous; it is developed through the process of obedience and faith in small circumstances. What are you doing today that will give you courageous faith tomorrow? Practice obedience in the smaller things of life so you can stand tall during the biggest tests that are sure to come later.

## Digging Deeper in God’s Word: Life Lessons

**HAVE A VOLUNTEER READ EXODUS 17:8-16.**

After being miraculously rescued from slavery in Egypt through many mighty wonders, Israel faced its first battle as a nation when the Amalekites attacked while the people of Israel were encamped at Rephidim. This is also where Joshua’s story begins.

1. What role did Joshua play in the battle against the Amalekites?
2. What does Joshua’s example teach us about obedience to God?
3. How or in what way did the Amalekites attack the Israelites? (Read Deut. 25:17) How is this a lot like the devil’s tactics? (1 Peter 5:8-10)
4. Pastor Daniel said that the Israelites were at a disadvantage in every way. They were slaves not soldiers. Yet, Israel had something that the enemy did not have, what was it?
5. So even though the Israelites were at a disadvantage, how did Israel overcome their circumstances? (vs. 10-11)

**Notice how Moses makes sure to tell Joshua that while he is fighting, Moses would be standing above on a hill with the staff of God in his arms. This is the same staff that Moses waved over the Red Sea as it opened to the Israelites. This would infuse Joshua with faith.**

1. Have you ever felt overwhelmed by the battle? Looking at Joshua’s and Moses’ example, how can you become an overcomer? (vs. 10-13)

## ***“PROMISES” in 2023***

2. How is prayer, our secret weapon?
3. What happened when Moses’ arms got tired? How are Moses’ arms like prayer?
4. What does this teach us about our need for others as we fight the battle?

**Moses appointed Joshua to lead Israel’s defense. He asked Joshua to choose men to accompany him and fight the men from Amalek. Joshua followed Moses’ instructions. Joshua gathered men to enter the battle. The men of Israel evidently were willing to follow Joshua into battle. Verse 13 tells us that Joshua achieved victory because of the Lord’s power and because many others supported him in his leadership role. Each person played an important role in defending Israel. From the beginning of his story, Joshua stands out as a picture of obedience. As time went on, Joshua became Moses’ aid, a position that would enable him to gain invaluable leadership experience and insight into leading God’s people.**

5. Does intercessory prayer make a difference? Why is it important that we intercede for others?

### **Read Ephesians 6:18-19**

1. What if you knew that your prayers would make a difference in the outcome of the battle? How would that change the way you pray?
2. Moses’ hands became tired and weary. Why is it important that you have others who know what’s going on in your life and pray with you through these things?

### **Applying God’s Word**

**What did you learn from this study and how does this personally speak to you? Discuss with your group.**

**Charles Spurgeon is one of the most famous preachers of the 19th century. Thousands of people flocked to the Metropolitan Tabernacle in London, England, to hear his messages weekly. His sermons were so popular that the local newspapers would type them out and include them in the papers. Can you imagine opening your daily newspaper and having a sermon in there? One Sunday, a group of young aspiring ministers came to get a tour of his massive church. After showing them around, Spurgeon offered to show them the ‘boiler room.’ The guests politely declined but Spurgeon was insistent. He led them down to the basement where they found hundreds of people in prayer. ‘This,’ Spurgeon said with a smile, ‘This is my boiler room.’ The boiler room is the power source of a factory. Spurgeon understood that the source of his powerful sermons was the prayers of God’s people. I’m so thankful for the many people who pray before and during our services. I can feel them lifting my arms in the battle!**

1. What if you knew you could change the trajectory of your family’s history or the outcome of some spiritual battle your kids were going through? How would that change the way you pray?
2. Reflect on God’s faithfulness to you. In what ways have you discovered that God is worthy of your trust and obedience?

**PRAYER: Close in prayer, asking God for the faith to be obedient to Him in the small things of life and to trust Him with the big things.**

**“And pray in the Spirit on all occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the Lord’s people. Pray also for me, that whenever I speak, words may be given me so that I will fearlessly make known the mystery of the gospel.” {Ephesians 6:18-19}**

## ***“PROMISES” in 2023***