

# JOSHUA



## STRONG & COURAGEOUS

PART 1 - APRIL 2024



wentzville  
CHRISTIAN CHURCH

PARTICIPANT GUIDE

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

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Plans to march around the city that needed to be conquered seemed a little out of whack. Are we an army or a marching band? God instructed his people and His plans do not fail!

# LETTER FROM KEITH

“Be strong and courageous...”

- God to Joshua

Joshua is someone you’ve probably heard of but don’t know much about. He can sometimes be overshadowed in the Old Testament by men like Abraham, Moses, and David. However, Joshua should stand out as a man that has an impeccable reputation and character.

Joshua happens to be one of my favorite persons in the Bible. There are several reasons:

- He was Moses’ assistant.
- He would go into the Tent of Meeting (where God would meet with Moses) and STAY, even after Moses left!
- He was brave and came back from spying on the Land of Canaan with faith in God knowing they could win any battle.
- Nothing negative is ever written about him.
- He shares his name with Jesus (or Jeshua).
- He takes over leadership of God’s people, taking them into the promised land.

We are going to spend the next 8 weeks watching Joshua lead the Israelites with great strength, courage, and boldness. Joshua obviously has big shoes to fill and, even though he has been Moses’ right-hand-man for several decades, there may have been some hesitation. Maybe it was self-doubt, or concern that the people wouldn’t follow him, but whatever it was, God’s words were apparently worth repeating, “Be strong and courageous!” And what would be the source of Joshua’s strength and courage? God would be with him.

God is also with us and we, just like Joshua, need to be strong and courageous in this life. We need to be bold and willing to move forward in our faith, move forward in our mission, taking bold steps to be the church this community desperately needs!

Let’s face it, there are times when fear gets the best of us. When we find ourselves shrinking away from a conversation in which we really should stand firm and be bold, God is with us! The Holy Spirit is with us and we don’t have to be afraid! My prayer is that we will take some cues from Joshua in our own lives and be bold in our walk with Jesus.

For God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

2 Timothy 1:7 ESV

Blessings,

Keith

# APRIL 7 | WEEK 1 | STRONG & COURAGEOUS [JOSHUA 1:1-11]

## CONNECT QUESTION

1. What is something that you have no problem doing that others are afraid to do?
2. Define the words strong and courageous. How are these words similar and how are they different?

## COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. We're starting a brand new sermon series covering the book and character of Joshua. Let's read through the text that Keith covered on Sunday. Read Joshua 1:1-11. God reiterates to Joshua that he needs to be strong and courageous. Looking through the eleven verses, what could potentially be causing fear for Joshua?
2. Joshua is preparing to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land. Today, we are going to go back in time looking at a moment when the Israelites were scoping out the Promised Land. We're going to study a moment when God's people were not strong and courageous. Turn to Numbers 13 and read verses 1-3. Who is leading this expedition into Canaan? What evidence in the text displays their authority?
3. Read Numbers 13:26-33. What is causing fear within ten of the spies? Who are these ten spies completely ignoring in their report back to Moses?
4. The Israelites were overestimating the strength of the giants and underestimating the strength of their God. As God's people today, do we face that same temptation with our giants? What are some signs that a believer may be falling into this trap?

5. **How do we cultivate a strong and courageous attitude? Read Numbers 14:5-9 for an answer. What are some signs that a believer has a strong and courageous spirit?**
6. **We can be strong and courageous when facing giants because we know God is with us. Let's go back and reread Joshua 1:1-11. What do we learn about God in these verses and how does that knowledge help us become strong and courageous?**

## CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. **What are some giants that you are currently facing? What would change about your situation if you grew in strength and courage?**
2. **The Lord sent a group of spies to scope out the land. Community is important when facing hardships. With the giants shared from the last question, how can your group practically encourage and support one another with their giants?**
3. **What are some practical ways that you can remind yourself of the Lord's proximity when facing life's problems?**

## PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

*[Spend some time praying with your Life Group. When asking for requests, try to keep the focus on personal praises/requests that relate to people in the group.]*

### **Team Expansion: Tim & Amy Maxson**

The Maxsons work at Fellowship Dubai church in the Middle East and are making disciples of migrant workers. The Maxson family has five children. [teamexpansion.org](http://teamexpansion.org)

# APRIL 14 | WEEK 2 | BOLD CHOICES - RAHAB & SPIES [JOSHUA 2]

## CONNECT QUESTION

1. Have you ever experienced a “fork-in-the-road” life moment? What choices were you facing and what path did you take?
2. If you could go back in time and give yourself one do-over, where would you use it?

## COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Today we are going to be studying someone facing a fork-in-the-road life moment. This life group material will focus on Rahab and the choice that was before her. Read Joshua 2:1-3. What is the decision that Rahab is facing? What two choices are before her?
2. Put yourself in Rahab’s shoes. What reasons could she come up with to walk down either side of this fork in the road? What were the strengths and dangers facing either choice?
3. Rahab is not the only one caught between two parties vying for allegiance. We face that same fork in the road! Every day, the enemy presents choices meant to pull your allegiance away from the Lord. Kyle Idleman in his book *Gods at War* presents three temples that are vying for your allegiance. Read through these three temples as a group. What temple has the most pull in your faith journey?
  - a. The Temple of Pleasure
    - i. The god of Food
    - ii. The god of Sex
    - iii. The god of Entertainment
  - b. The Temple of Power
    - i. The god of Success
    - ii. The god of Money
    - iii. The god of Achievement
  - c. The Temple of Love
    - i. The god of Romance
    - ii. The god of Family (“When a family member has control of our attitudes and our emotions, it may be an indication that God is being replaced.” -Kyle Idleman)
    - iii. The god of Me (“Have you ever found yourself taking the slightest suggestion, the blindest criticism, as a personal attack? What makes people this way? Well, when you’re god, you must be perfect, and no one else could possibly be in a position to criticize you.”)

4. Ultimately, Rahab chose to pledge allegiance to her heavenly Father. Her decision was motivated by recognizing God's power and what God can provide. Read Joshua 2:8-13. Where do you see Rahab's recognition of power and provision within the text?
5. How can a recognition of God's power and provision help us when facing fork-in-the-road life moments? How can God's power and provision help you with the temple you shared in question three?
6. In Matthew 1, we learn that Rahab, the Canaanite prostitute, was a part of Jesus' lineage. What does her inclusion teach us about God and His character?

## CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. What have been some spiritual fork-in-the-road moments you've experienced in your faith journey? If you feel like you made the wrong choice in those moments, what could you have done that would have helped?
2. God desires your allegiance. What are some decisions you are facing this week and how can you give God lordship over them?
3. Rahab was a Canaanite and a prostitute. She came from a community and culture that was largely unreached by the love of God and His people. Are there communities and cultures we as a church can be building relationships with sharing the love of God? What would that bridge-building look like?

## PRAY FOR ONE ANOTHER & THE MISSION OF THE WEEK

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### Strong Tower Ranch

Strong Tower Ranch is a Christ-centered refuge offering hope and equipping the next generation. STR is a ministry partner where we will be having a Serve Saturday on April 20. There are many service opportunities at Strong Tower Ranch where you can use your God-given gifts and talents. For more information, visit [wentzvillecc.org/serveday](http://wentzvillecc.org/serveday).

# APRIL 21 | WEEK 3 | BOLD STEPS - CROSSING THE JORDAN [JOS 3&4]

## CONNECT QUESTION

1. What's the earliest memory you can remember from your life? Where were you and what were you doing?
2. Why is the practice of remembering important? What do you gain from remembering? What do you lose if you don't actively remember?

## COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Setting the scene, after forty years in the wilderness, the Israelites are about to enter God's promised land. But before they do, God has a private conversation with Israel's leader. Read Joshua 3:7. How does this verse apply to this idea of remembering? How would remembering Moses help Joshua as he's about to lead God's people?
2. Read Joshua 3:8-13. What is God going to do with this threatening mile-wide raging river? How can remembering this act help Israel as they face threatening nations around them (Vs. 10) in the future?
3. Read Joshua 4:1-7. Under this idea of remembering, what sticks out to you from these seven verses?
4. Verses 6-7 reveal God's desire that we pass on our faith to future generations. Let's now jump ahead in Israel's future to Judges 2:10. Can someone read that verse? What happened to Israel's faith after entering the promised land?



5. Do you see that same dynamic of forgetting happening with future generations today? If yes, what can we do as a church to help mitigate this?
6. Read 2 Timothy 2:1-9. As Christians, who are we called to remember? How can remembering help Paul's situation in verse nine?

## APPLICATION ACTIVITY

*Today we are going to close the group in a different way. Similar to the Israelites, we want you to create a memorial to God's faithfulness. The hope is that this memorial will help you remember what God did in the past as you look forward into the future.*

1. Pass out the stones to each member of your group. On one side of the stone, have each member write a time when they saw God move in their life in a mighty way. You want to keep these moments short (3-5 words) that way they fit on the stone. For example: providing a house, healing cancer, new job, etc. Share what you wrote with the group.
2. On the other side of the stone, have each member write Psalm 77:11. You don't need to write out the whole verse; you just need to write the book, chapter, and verse location. After everyone has written, read the verse as a group.
3. Encourage your group to put their stone in a visible place that gets eyeball attention throughout the day. The purpose of the stone is to remind you that God is present and moving especially in seasons where it feels like He isn't.

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### CMF International: Eric & Cait Pitts - Kenya

Eric & Cait serve with the Kenya Church Catalyst Team among the Turkana in northern Kenya. Eric's focus is on developing church leaders and pastors as well as working with a group of local disciple makers to begin a Disciple Making Movement that spreads throughout Kenya and beyond. Cait's focus is on community Health Evangelism, maining with girls and women throughout Turkana. You can find more information at [cmfi.org/ecpitts](http://cmfi.org/ecpitts).

# APRIL 28 | WEEK 4 | BOLD PLANS - JERICO [JOSHUA 5 & 6]

## CONNECT QUESTION

1. What are some ways the world defines and applies the word faith? For example, how would a sports fan use the word faith? How would a skydiver apply the word? What about someone who is going in for major surgery?
2. If you had to define the word faith, what would you say?

## COMMUNITY DISCUSSION

1. Today we are going to discuss the word faith through the story of Joshua and the battle of Jericho. Before we get into the story, let's try and define the word faith. You've heard the phrase blind faith before. How would you define blind faith and how does Romans 10:17 prove that our faith isn't blind?
2. Faith isn't just something that happens in our head either. Faith requires a response. Read 2 Corinthians 5:7. Where do you see action language in this verse and how does it relate to faith?
3. But faith isn't easy. Hebrews 11:1 says, "Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see." The last part of this verse teaches us that faith often requires following God into the unknown. Trusting in Him even when you don't have all of the answers or you don't know what's going to happen next. Share with the group a time when in faith, God asked you to take a step into the unknown.
4. The story of Jericho is full of faith moments! The Israelites have just crossed the Jordan and now they are at Jericho's doorstep. Joshua 5:1 says that the kings in the land have hearts that are melting in fear. This is the perfect opportunity for Israel to strike. But God instead asks them to take a step in faith. Read Joshua 5:1-10.

How does the circumcision moment require faith from the Israelites? What was the potential scary unknown? Where do you see recognition and response from the Israelites in these nine verses?

5. Read Joshua 6:1-19. Again, how does this moment require faith from the Israelites? What was the potential scary unknown? Where do you see recognition and response in these nineteen verses?
6. Joshua 6:20 says, “When the trumpets sounded, the army shouted, and at the sound of the trumpet, when the men gave a loud shout, the wall collapsed; so everyone charged straight in, and they took the city.” The Israelites took a step of faith and God rewarded them. Can you think of other moments in the Bible when faith was rewarded?

## CHANGE QUESTIONS

1. How does putting your faith in Christ fit in our definition of faith? If there’s someone here who hasn’t put your faith in Jesus, what’s holding you back?
2. Are there moments in your life right now that require faith in God? Share those moments with your group. Encourage each other through the scary unknowns!
3. Is there someone you know who is in a challenging season? In your group, brainstorm ways that you can encourage the faith of others.

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### High Hill Christian Camp

High Hill Christian Camp and Retreat Center’s goal is to offer a fun, Christian atmosphere in a modern camp setting surrounded by God’s wilderness — all designed so that children will leave with a closer relationship with Jesus. [highhillcamp.org](http://highhillcamp.org) Make sure to register camp! Info for which camps WCC is attending can be found at [wentzvillecc.org/events](http://wentzvillecc.org/events).

UPCOMING

EVENTS



**VICTORY**  
**NIGHT OF WORSHIP**  
APRIL 21  
6:30 - 8PM

The poster features the word "VICTORY" in large, white-outlined letters. Inside the letters are black and white photos of people worshipping. To the right, "NIGHT OF WORSHIP" is written in a glowing orange font. Below "VICTORY", the date and time are listed in orange.



*Refresh & RESTORE*



*Women of Wentzville*  
May 3 | 6:30-9:30pm  
[wentzvillecc.org/women](http://wentzvillecc.org/women)

- Worship & Message
- Connect with others
- Enjoy Food & Fellowship
- Engage in God's Word
- Allow God to...

*Refresh & Restore your soul*

The poster has a light blue background with a repeating watermark of the text "The Lord is my shepherd...". It features a landscape photo of a green field under a cloudy sky. The text is in a mix of white and blue fonts, with some in italics.



**FAMILY**  
*dedication*



May 5  
all services



sign up online  
[wentzvillecc.org/kidz](http://wentzvillecc.org/kidz)

The poster has a dark blue top section with the word "FAMILY" in white and "dedication" in a white script font. Below this is a photo of a family eating at a table. The bottom right has an orange section with "May 5 all services" in white script and "sign up online wentzvillecc.org/kidz" in white. A photo of a family is also shown in the bottom right corner.