

THE BOOK OF

# Joshua

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES FOR SMALL GROUPS

RELATIONAL BIBLE STUDY SERIES

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CREATED BY STEVE CASE

# Courage To You

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## OPENING QUESTION

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When were you an assistant to someone? When did someone assist you?

## READ Joshua 1:1–18.

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### 1. What difference did it make that Moses had died?

- A. Not much.
- B. A lot.
- C. The Israelites lost their leader.
- D. There's always another person who can lead.
- E. The last people from the older generation were gone (*Num 14:31-33*).
- F. Joshua lacked the experience to lead the Israelites.
- G. Joshua had been groomed to replace Moses.
- H. The Israelites still weren't in Canaan—the Promised Land.
- I. God was the leader, so the human leader didn't matter.
- J. Other.

### 2. What did God promise to Joshua?

- A. Easy times.
- B. Difficult times.
- C. Courage.
- D. The Promised Land of Canaan.
- E. Lots of fighting.
- F. Victory.
- G. God would sustain Joshua.
- H. Everything God had promised to Moses.
- I. Other.

### 3. How can a person be “strong and courageous”?

- A. It's an attitude some people just have.
- B. It's an attitude that you can develop.
- C. It's a gift from God.
- D. It's a command from God.
- E. Obedience to what God has revealed.
- F. Study and meditate on Scripture.
- G. The assurance of God's presence.
- H. Other.

**4. “Courageous” or “very courageous” (vs 7)—what makes the difference?**

- A. Not much.
- B. A lot.
- C. Obedience to ALL the laws Moses gave.
- D. “Courageous” is human; “very courageous” is divine.
- E. It’s just saying the same thing.
- F. Increase—more and more.
- G. Followers need to be courageous; leaders—very courageous.
- H. Other.

**5. What are good ways to study and meditate on the law?**

- A. Study is okay, but meditation isn’t.
- B. Focus on the books of Moses—the law.
- C. Discipline yourself to do daily devotions.
- D. Learn Hebrew.
- E. Get a Bible commentary or a good Study Bible.
- F. Do this with a group.
- G. Meditate on Scripture.
- H. Learn how to meditate on Scripture.
- I. Other.

**6. Why did Joshua call the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh?**

- A. They were slackers.
- B. They settled east of the Jordan and didn’t need to cross it.
- C. Moses had already given them land east of the Jordan (*Num 32*).
- D. It was time to subdue the nations west of the Jordan.
- E. These tribes had promised to help.
- F. Only warriors from those tribes went.
- G. The entire families from those tribes went.
- H. Other.

**7. What is courage?**

**8. Why did Joshua need courage? Why do you need courage?**

# Check It Out

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## OPENING QUESTION

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When have you asked someone to get more information for you?

## READ Joshua 2:1—24.

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### 1. Why did Joshua send two spies to the area around Jericho?

- A. God told Joshua to do it.
- B. It's just good, common sense.
- C. Joshua wanted "intel" about what lay on the other side of the Jordan.
- D. As the new leader, he didn't want to mess up.
- E. Joshua had been one of 12 spies sent previously (*Numbers 13:8*).
- F. To pick a good spot to cross the Jordan River.
- G. This would build the faith of the Israelites.
- H. This would lead the Israelites to trust themselves rather than God.
- I. Other.

### 2. Why did the two spies spend their first night with a prostitute?

- A. They felt safe with her.
- B. She was the only one who welcomed them to Jericho.
- C. God led them to her.
- D. God led her to them.
- E. Their sexual drive got the best of them.
- F. She feared their God.
- G. Prostitutes are "in the know."
- H. This has always troubled me.
- I. Other.

### 3. Why did Rahab lie about the spies?

- A. Prostitutes are liars.
- B. Rahab was a liar.
- C. When pressured, most people lie.
- D. She hadn't been converted yet.
- E. She didn't lie; she shared alternate facts.
- F. God told her to lie.
- G. The king and his men believed everything she said.
- H. This has always troubled me.
- I. Other.

**4. What terrorized Rahab?**

- A. Nothing.
- B. The king and his men.
- C. The spies.
- D. The Israelites.
- E. The God of the Israelites.
- F. The Israelites' liberation from Egypt.
- G. The Israelites' crossing of the Red Sea.
- H. The Israelites' military victories over strong kings and kingdoms.
- I. Other.

**5. Why did the spies agree to spare Rahab and all in her house?**

- A. She asked.
- B. They owed her one.
- C. The spies came to save people, not destroy them.
- D. There are always some people who are good.
- E. Joshua had given the spies the authority to do this.
- F. They had developed a personal relationship with her—friends now.
- G. They had no choice based on the circumstances..
- H. Other.

**6. What did the spies report to Joshua?**

- A. There are giants in the land.
- B. Those living in the land think we are giants.
- C. You'll want to get to know Rahab.
- D. We barely escaped with our lives.
- E. God is giving us this land.
- F. We made a promise to spare Rahab.
- G. We should stay here and not cross the Jordan River.
- H. Other.

**7. What makes you think God is supreme of the heavens above and the earth below (vs 11)?  
What makes you doubt this?**

**8. When do you need a boost to your confidence that God is great?**

# Get Over It

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## OPENING QUESTION

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What do you do when you need a miracle?

### READ Joshua 3:1–17.

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**1. What would you think if you had finally come to the Jordan River?**

- A. I can't believe we're finally here.
- B. I'm afraid something will stop us again.
- C. Can Joshua really get us to Canaan?
- D. Can Yahweh really get us to Canaan?
- E. What about the giants in the land?
- F. I wish \_\_\_\_\_ was still with us.
- G. I'm sick and tired of eating manna.
- H. This is a perpetual journey of faith.
- I. Other.

**2. Who do you follow—you don't have priests or the Ark of the Covenant?**

- A. God gives me impressions.
- B. My family.
- C. My church.
- D. My pastor.
- E. The internet.
- F. Social media.
- G. The Bible.
- H. I do the best I can.
- I. Other.

**3. What do you do to “purify yourself”?**

- A. Regular bathing.
- B. It's more about the inside than the outside.
- C. The outside is important, too.
- D. Take a periodic personal inventory.
- E. Repent.
- F. Do a spiritual retreat with cleansing.
- G. Purposefully simplify my life.
- H. I hardly ever think about this.
- I. Other.

**4. What are your thoughts if you were one of the priests carrying the ark?**

- A. This is NOT what I signed up for.
- B. This IS what I signed up for.
- C. What if nothing happens when we step into the Jordan River?
- D. Will the people follow us?
- E. What will we face on the other side of the river?
- F. I wish Moses were still here.
- G. I wish Aaron were still here.
- H. Other.

**5. Why did the water stop flowing down the Jordan River?**

- A. God made it stop.
- B. Joshua obeyed God's instructions.
- C. The people followed Joshua's instructions.
- D. The priests carrying the Ark of the Covenant stepped into the river.
- E. God wanted this generation to have their own "Red Sea" experience.
- F. A landslide stopped the flow upriver—perfect timing by the priests.
- G. It was a sudden drought or some other natural disaster.
- H. The story is just a myth.
- I. Other.

**6. How do you know when to step forward and when to stop?**

- A. You never know for sure.
- B. You'll know once it's over.
- C. A person needs a clear connection with God.
- D. Just do what you're told to do.
- E. Have a Spirit-led leader you can follow.
- F. Be a Spirit-led leader others can follow.
- G. This is what the life of faith is all about.
- H. Other.

**7. What's a supernatural event you can identify in your life—your Jordan River or Red Sea story?**

**8. Where do you need to "step into the Jordan River" now?**

# Making Memories

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## OPENING QUESTION

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What's a memorable story from your childhood?

## READ Joshua 4:1–24.

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### 1. How did Joshua choose the 12 men to carry the rocks out of the river?

- A. He just picked 12 guys who happened to be near him.
- B. The 12 men had to represent the 12 tribes of Israel.
- C. Each was the leader of their tribe.
- D. They were the strongest men.
- E. They were the most faithful men.
- F. They were the most influential men.
- G. Each tribe picked its man.
- H. God appointed them for Joshua.
- I. Other.

### 2. Why did Joshua have a stone monument erected?

- A. It served as a reminder of God's miraculous intervention.
- B. The miracle was temporary; the memorial was permanent.
- C. God told him to do it.
- D. Joshua came up with this idea on his own.
- E. The number 12 symbolizes God's kingdom—the Promised Land.
- F. It marked a permanent home; they were no longer nomads.
- G. It made a good object lesson for worship that evening.
- H. To have a tangible memorial for future generations not yet born.
- I. Other.

### 3. Why build a second memorial of stones in the river?

- A. This made it a double witness (*Deut 19:15; John 8:17*).
- B. To mark the spot where the Ark of the Covenant had been.
- C. It would be harder to tamper with this one than the one on dry land.
- D. Joshua didn't worry about people worshiping stones instead of God.
- E. It seems redundant to me.
- F. God told Joshua to do it.
- G. The priests told the 12 men to do it.
- H. This indicated how deep the river had been when they crossed.
- I. Other.

**4. Why did the priests stay in the middle of the river?**

- A. They symbolized God's presence and power.
- B. The Ark of the Covenant symbolized God's presence and power.
- C. God was with his people before, during, and after the river crossing.
- D. God told them to stay there until everyone had crossed the river.
- E. The priests needed a rest.
- F. This guaranteed the river would stay dry for the people to cross.
- G. The ark got them to Canaan; the stones would now replace it.
- H. Other.

**5. Why did the armed warriors arrive on the other side of the Jordan first?**

- A. The priests went first, but stopped in the middle of the river.
- B. These were the fastest people crossing.
- C. It was only warriors; their families had settled east of the Jordan.
- D. They didn't have all of their earthly goods to slow them down.
- E. They made good on their promise to Moses (*Numbers 32*).
- F. It's good to have warriors lead the way into enemy territory.
- G. This demonstrated they didn't trust God would protect them.
- H. Other.

**6. How do you pass on God's miracles to the next generation?**

- A. You can't; each generation has to experience God afresh.
- B. Make memorials.
- C. Tell stories.
- D. Tell Bible stories.
- E. Tell of the miracles of your church's pioneers.
- F. Testify of God's miracles in your life.
- G. Join the next generation in taking great risks for God.
- H. Other.

**7. What memorial markers do you have? How do you relate to them?**

**8. Why don't we see more miracles today? Why don't we create more memorials these days?**

# Here We Go

## OPENING QUESTION

What's it like for you to move to a new place?

**READ Joshua 5:1–15.**

**1. Why did the kings on the west side of the Jordan get so afraid?**

- A. Climate change.
- B. The Israelites were now on their side of the river.
- C. The Israelites had miraculously left Egyptian slavery.
- D. The Israelites had miraculously crossed the Red Sea.
- E. The Israelites had miraculously crossed the Jordan River.
- F. The Israelites had defeated other Amorites (*Num 21:25-26*).
- G. The Canaanites were divided—fight the Israelites or join them?
- H. God did it to them (*Exodus 23:27*).
- I. Other.

**2. Why did the Israelite males need to be circumcised?**

- A. It served as an outward sign of God's covenant (*Gen 17:10-14*).
- B. The Israelites hadn't done it since their rebellion at Kadesh (*Num 14*).
- C. This illustrated that God was renewing the covenant with them.
- D. To increase the Israelite birthrate.
- E. God called them to start observing the Passover again (*Ex 12:48-49*).
- F. Build up their pain threshold.
- G. Have an observable indicator between Israelites and Canaanites.
- H. Soften their hearts toward God (*Psalms 95:8-11*).
- I. Other.

**3. Compare leaving Egypt with entering Canaan. Mark which ones apply.**

LEAVING  
EGYPT

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- A. God's direction
- B. Miraculous events
- C. The people's obedience
- D. Celebrating the Passover
- E. Circumcision
- F. The generation of people
- G. The sanctuary
- H. God's instructions for life

ENTERING  
CANAAN

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**4. Why did the manna stop?**

- A. The people were tired of it.
- B. God was tired of it.
- C. There was no longer any need for it.
- D. God wanted to use his miracle powers for other things.
- E. The people weren't in the desert any longer.
- F. The angels didn't want to keep delivering it.
- G. The Israelites had entered the land "flowing with milk and honey."
- H. Other.

**5. What happened when Joshua faced a sword-wielding man by Jericho?**

- A. Nothing.
- B. They had to establish if they were "friend or foe."
- C. It became a wrestling match, like with Jacob (*Genesis 32:22-32*).
- D. It served as a repeat of Yahweh appearing to Moses (*Exodus 3*).
- E. This started the war for the land of Canaan.
- F. The two made a pact to work together.
- G. Joshua worshiped.
- H. Other.

**6. What BEST prepares you for what lies ahead in your life?**

- A. A face-to-face encounter with God.
- B. An easy life.
- C. A difficult life.
- D. An active communication pattern with God.
- E. Remembering what God has done in the past.
- F. A community of believers.
- G. Renewal with commitment.
- H. Other.

**7. What are old miracles God used to do (manna) that don't happen now? What are new miracles God does that he didn't do in the past?**

**8. When have you been on holy ground? What was your response?**

# Battle Strategies

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Would you rather be in a battle or just watch from a distance?

## READ Joshua 6:1—27.

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### 1. What battle strategy would you suggest to the people of Jericho?

- A. Prepare for a long siege.
- B. Surrender.
- C. Shoot arrows at the priests who were blowing the trumpets.
- D. March around the Israelite camp once a day.
- E. Recruit other people in Canaan to help you.
- F. Stop relying on, and worshiping, your Canaanite gods.
- G. Start worshiping Yahweh—Israel's God.
- H. Use Rahab as a hostage.
- I. Other.

### 2. What do you think of the Israelite's battle strategy?

- A. Combative.
- B. Committed.
- C. Confounding.
- D. Ceremonial.
- E. Childlike.
- F. Choreographed.
- G. Crazy.
- H. Consistent.
- I. Other.

### 3. What role did the priests play?

- A. Not much of anything.
- B. Central to the whole thing.
- C. Lots of noise.
- D. They made Yahweh the focal point.
- E. A demonstration of faith that God would provide.
- F. Role models for following Joshua's instructions.
- G. Mainly a distraction.
- H. They were "blowing it" all the time.
- I. Other.

**4. Why did the walls of Jericho fall down?**

- A. The loud shout of the Israelites.
- B. There was an earthquake at just the right time.
- C. The Israelites obeyed God with all their heart, soul, and might.
- D. Poorly constructed walls couldn't hold all those watching on the walls.
- E. God knocked down the walls.
- F. It has something to do with all the 7's in this chapter.
- G. Nobody knows for sure.
- H. Other.

**5. Why did God have the Israelites completely destroy everyone?**

- A. God's cup of wrath had been filled by those in Jericho.
- B. There comes a time when probation closes (*Genesis 15:16*).
- C. A similar thing happened to the Israelites—slavery and captivity.
- D. It was like a sacrificial offering to Yahweh—foreign to us today.
- E. This is not the God I know and love.
- F. This is the God I know and love.
- G. It's okay to annihilate people if you think God wants you to do it.
- H. This has always bothered me.
- I. Other.

**6. Why did God save Rahab and her family?**

- A. She helped the Israelite spies.
- B. She chose the God of the Israelites to be her God.
- C. Rahab was the only righteous person in Jericho.
- D. The spies had made a promise.
- E. God always seeks to save.
- F. Rahab was a woman of faith (*Hebrews 11:31; James 2:25*).
- G. She had to be in the lineage of the Messiah (*Matthew 1:5*).
- H. Other.

**7. Based on the battle of Jericho, what is God's part and what is your part in the way you live your life?**

**8. What's a battle God wants you to engage in with him? Is there a battle you aren't willing to fight?**

# One Bad Apple

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Where have you seen “one bad apple spoils the whole bunch”?

## READ Joshua 7:1—26.

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### 1. What made the Israelites unfaithful (*vs 1*)?

- A. One bad apple spoils the whole bunch.
- B. Disobeying the instructions for the Battle of Jericho.
- C. Stealing items that belonged to Yahweh.
- D. It wasn't the Israelites; it was just one Israelite.
- E. Rebellion needs to be nipped in the bud (*Acts 5:1-11*).
- F. These Israelites were just like their parents.
- G. They had a sinful human nature.
- H. Satan was behind this.
- I. Other.

### 2. Why did the Israelites get defeated by the people of Ai?

- A. They should have marched around the city like they did at Jericho.
- B. There's no mention of God in this battle plan.
- C. The Israelites were full of pride after their victory at Jericho.
- D. The spies did a poor job of spying.
- E. The Israelites needed more soldiers for this battle.
- F. One man's secret disobedience hurt all the Israelites.
- G. The Israelites had broken their covenant with Yahweh.
- H. The soldiers at Ai were incredible fighters.
- I. Other.

### 3. What happened because of the Israelites' defeat at Ai?

- A. Humiliation that led to humility.
- B. They wanted to go back across the Jordan River to the desert.
- C. They wanted to return to Egypt.
- D. The other nations of Canaan attacked the Israelites.
- E. The Israelites turned to God.
- F. Prayers of repentance.
- G. A call for God to act.
- H. A better battle plan.
- I. Other.

**4. Why did God make such a big deal out of this?**

- A. Disobedience is a big deal—more than we might think.
- B. They were setting patterns as they started to occupy Canaan.
- C. Left unchecked, it would spread.
- D. God didn't need to make it such a public spectacle.
- E. It's good to consecrate yourself on a regular basis.
- F. This emphasized their battles were spiritual, not only physical.
- G. It was so selfish of Achan to do this.
- H. Other.

**5. How would you have responded if you were an Israelite (not Achan)?**

- A. Why did you do this, Achan?
- B. I'm glad it wasn't me.
- C. I'm so confused.
- D. Maybe Joshua shouldn't be our leader.
- E. Why is this such a big deal?
- F. Nothing gets by Yahweh.
- G. I want to kill Achan.
- H. Other.

**6. Was eliminating Achan and his family a good thing?**

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. It depends on whether or not it's your family.
- D. It stops others from suffering because of Achan.
- E. His family shouldn't have suffered.
- F. His family should have turned him in.
- G. Compare the results before and after.
- H. Other.

**7. Why does God demonstrate harsh judgment at one moment and then show long-suffering mercy at another moment?**

**8. What is holding you back right now? What's holding back your family? What's holding back your church?**

# Do It Again, But Differently

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## OPENING QUESTION

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What's something you always do the same?

## READ Joshua 8:1—35.

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### 1. What made the second attack on Ai different from the first one?

- A. Nothing.
- B. Everything.
- C. More Israelite soldiers.
- D. A clever strategy.
- E. Getting direction from God.
- F. Overconfidence by the people and their leaders in Ai.
- G. Taking the ark of the covenant into the battle.
- H. Keeping the spoils, unlike with Jericho's destruction.
- I. Other.

### 2. What do you think of the strategy the Israelites used?

- A. Smart.
- B. Deceptive.
- C. Effective.
- D. God-directed.
- E. It played into the overconfidence of the underdogs from Ai.
- F. God wants our full participation with him.
- G. More comprehensive: soldiers in front, to the side, and behind.
- H. God has thousands of options at his disposal.
- I. Other.

### 3. Why did God call for the total annihilation of the people of Ai?

- A. God didn't.
- B. God did.
- C. All who wanted to join the Israelites could.
- D. The Israelites didn't want any survivors to take revenge later.
- E. This was only for Old Testament times.
- F. The Canaanites' time of probation had come to an end.
- G. *Genesis 15:16; Leviticus 18:24-25; and Deut. 20:16-18* explain this.
- H. It annihilates Christ's message of love, acceptance, and forgiveness.
- I. Other.

**4. What do the results from the conquest of Ai demonstrate?**

- A. Don't mess with God.
- B. Don't mess with God's people.
- C. God's people sometimes go on the offensive.
- D. Everyone faces a close of probation sometime.
- E. Symbolically, 12,000 is a kingdom army (*Josh 8:25; Rev 7:4-8*).
- F. Victory leads to covenant renewal.
- G. You never know who will win a battle until it's been fought.
- H. Other.

**5. Why did Joshua lead the people in a covenant renewal ceremony?**

- A. It just seemed like a good idea at the time.
- B. Moses had told them to do this in Canaan (*Deut 11:29-32; 27:2-8*).
- C. This would mark a place for anyone to read the covenant (*Deut 27:8*).
- D. God told Joshua to do this.
- E. Altars with loose rocks won't support an idol like Canaanite altars did.
- F. This was to take place every seven years (*Deut 31:9-13*).
- G. This could be foundational for their ongoing conquest of Canaan.
- H. Other.

**6. Who participated in the covenant renewal in *Joshua 8:30-35*?**

- A. All Israelites who had come out of Egyptian slavery.
- B. All Israelites who had crossed the Jordan River.
- C. Only the men.
- D. Only the adults.
- E. Only Israelites.
- F. Anyone who wanted to be there.
- G. All who chose to have Yahweh as their God.
- H. Other.

**7. To what extent are you involved in a battle now? Is that battle supernatural or human?**

**8. What covenant(s) have you made with God? When have you renewed the covenant(s) you've made?**

# Deception

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## OPENING QUESTION

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How can you tell when someone is lying to you?

## READ Joshua 9:1—27.

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**1. As a Canaanite, how would you respond to the Israelite invasion?**

- A. Form an alliance with other Canaanites to defeat the Israelites.
- B. Go into attack mode.
- C. Go into surrender mode.
- D. Deceive the Israelites into making a peace treaty.
- E. Question my way of life and consider a change.
- F. Find out what made the Israelites fall in the past.
- G. Join the Israelites.
- H. Move to another country far, far away.
- I. Other.

**2. If you were from Gibeon, how would you deceive the Israelites?**

- A. Act like you came from far away, but you wanted a peace treaty.
- B. Treat them like royalty—tell them how wonderful they are.
- C. Seduce the men with Gibeonite women—like the Moabites had done.
- D. Gather your best liars and have them come up with a plan.
- E. Gather your best actors and have them come up with a plan.
- F. Make them feel overconfident, then attack.
- G. Get the leader(s) to believe you and the others will follow.
- H. Tell them you're not from the area of Canaan, so it's not a big deal.
- I. Other.

**3. What would it take for you to believe the Gibeonites (and their story)?**

- A. I'd never believe them.
- B. Their story sounds pretty convincing to me.
- C. The moldy bread and the cracked wineskins.
- D. The worn-out clothing and holey shoes.
- E. I'd pray about it first.
- F. If no warning came from God, I'd believe the Gibeonites.
- G. God would have to send a confirmation.
- H. If the rest of the Israelites believed it, I would, too.
- I. Other.

**4. Why didn't the Israelite leaders consult God about the Gibeonites' offer?**

- A. Nobody happened to think about it.
- B. They had never faced something like this previously.
- C. God is always with you; you don't need to ask him about everything.
- D. The Israelites thought they could handle this one on their own.
- E. Moses hadn't included directions for this in the laws he wrote.
- F. It seemed so obvious; who needs to ask God?
- G. The Israelites were feeling overconfident after Jericho and Ai.
- H. Other.

**5. Why keep an oath when the Gibeonites lied about it?**

- A. Oaths are more important than telling the truth.
- B. Oaths depend on the one making the oath, not the others.
- C. There were no attorneys available to wiggle out of it.
- D. I'd just break the oath because it was based on a lie.
- E. Superstitious people fear supernatural results for vow-breaking.
- F. This was the bitter pill God's people had to swallow.
- G. Be a good example even when others aren't a good example.
- H. Other.

**6. What are the consequences for lying?**

- A. It can destroy your life.
- B. It can save your life.
- C. Promotion(s).
- D. Trust becomes difficult or maybe even impossible.
- E. You will never know what is true or real.
- F. It can lead to slavery.
- G. Shallow relationships since they lack trust.
- H. Other.

**7. On a scale of 1 (low) to 10 (high), how trusting are you? How gullible are you? What's the difference?**

**8. When are you most likely to:**

- Lie
- Make a vow
- Consult with God

# Overwhelming

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## OPENING QUESTION

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When have you seen (or been part of) something in which one side was completely overwhelmed by the other side?

## READ Joshua 10:1—27.

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### 1. What would you do if you were threatened to an extreme extent?

- A. Run.
- B. Fight back.
- C. Get others to help me fight back.
- D. Strategize to fight a side battle rather than the strongest power.
- E. It depends on whether that power had been successful previously.
- F. I'd turn to prayer.
- G. I would offer myself as a slave for the rest of my life.
- H. I'd be paralyzed and not know what to do.
- I. Other.

### 2. Should the Israelites have rescued the Gibeonites?

- A. The Gibeonites had deceived the Israelites, so their treaty was flimsy.
- B. A treaty is a treaty; honor it to the death.
- C. The Gibeonites had no other hope.
- D. The Gibeonites were new followers of Yahweh; this tested their faith.
- E. Only after their bread turned moldy (see *Joshua 9:5, 12, 14*).
- F. This provoked battles that would have ensued later.
- G. God told them to go rescue them.
- H. Joshua didn't want to lose face.
- I. Other.

### 3. Why did God give Joshua the assurance of victory in advance?

- A. God was always telling Joshua to have courage (*1:6, 9, 18; 10:25*).
- B. After the hiccup at Ai, Joshua needed to be sure he was on track.
- C. Joshua wasn't sure if God wanted the Israelites to go.
- D. Joshua wasn't sure if the Israelites could beat the five-king coalition.
- E. To remind Joshua that God was the key to victory.
- F. To rev up the army.
- G. To let the Israelite army know God was present and active.
- H. Other.

**4. Why were the Israelites able to defeat the five-king coalition?**

- A. God had to make good on his promise.
- B. God empowered them to fight.
- C. God threw the 5-king coalition into a panic and retreat.
- D. The Israelites did their part, relying on God to do his part.
- E. The five kings were actually quite weak.
- F. The hailstorm “act of God” did them in.
- G. They got lucky.
- H. There was no longer “sin in the camp” like after Jericho (7:10-13).
- I. Other.

**5. What’s the meaning of “the sun standing still over Gibeon”?**

- A. It’s poetry.
- B. The sun stopped for more daylight to complete the victory.
- C. Sometimes it takes longer than you expect to achieve your goals.
- D. Controlling the sun from the earth is unprecedented.
- E. God gave a human a request from the literal heavens.
- F. God has power over earth and sky.
- G. The sun was considering doing its own “big bang.”
- H. There’s no end to God’s power.
- I. Other.

**6. What’s the crazy stuff about with the five kings and the cave?**

- A. Caves are usually good places to hide.
- B. The kings had deserted their armies.
- C. Joshua wanted to defeat the kings and their soldiers.
- D. Feet on necks = common victory protocol (*Ps. 8:6; 110:1; 1 Kgs 5:3*).
- E. That’s what males do to manage testosterone surges.
- F. It shows domination, which empowers victorious soldiers.
- G. Overkill, yet also within the limits of propriety at that time (*Dt. 21:23*).
- H. Other.

**7. Who would come to your aid, no matter what? Who would you aid, no matter what?**

**8. What’s an example of something so unusual that it hasn’t happened at any other time in your life?**

# From War to Peace

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## OPENING QUESTION

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When have you squabbled or fought for a long time? What ended it?

## READ Joshua 11:1–12:24.

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### 1. What role did King Jabin of Hazor play with the other kings in the area?

- A. He issued a call to arms to join forces against God's people.
- B. He was just one among the many kings.
- C. He functioned as the main leader of these kings.
- D. He sounds scared.
- E. He sounds confident.
- F. He sounds strategic.
- G. He sounds powerful.
- H. This sounds like a repeat of *Joshua 10:1-3*.
- I. Other.

### 2. Who seems likely to win this battle?

- A. The larger army.
- B. The army with the better military.
- C. It depends on the gods more than on the people.
- D. The one like sand on the seashore (compare *vs 4* with *Gen 22:17*).
- E. Yahweh always wins.
- F. Yahweh's people always win.
- G. It's a toss-up—it could go either way.
- H. Yahweh called the outcome before it happened (*vs 6*).
- I. Other.

### 3. Why cripple the enemies' horses and burn their chariots (*vs 6*)?

- A. God told them to do this.
- B. That's a mistranslation.
- C. Horses and chariots were used only for war/battle.
- D. The Israelites were peaceful, not warlike.
- E. *Psalms 20:7-8*.
- F. To not be tempted to fight beyond the borders God gave them.
- G. The Israelites didn't know how to take care of horses.
- H. To keep their trust in Yahweh rather than in their military.
- I. Other.

**4. Why did God annihilate all the people who lived in the Promised Land?**

- A. This remains a real problem for me.
- B. This is the God of the Old Testament, not the God of the NT.
- C. This is the God of the conquest of Canaan (*Deuteronomy 20:10-18*).
- D. Survivors come back to attack (*Ex 14:5-14; 17:8-14; Deut 25:17-19*).
- E. Any who continue to rebel against God lose everything (*Isaiah 43:28*).
- F. The Promised Land can't house God's people AND rebellion.
- G. God creates order out of chaos, just like at Creation (*Genesis 1*).
- H. This same thing will happen after the millennium (*Revelation 20*).
- I. Other.

**5. Why didn't God just keep part of the Promised Land for non-Israelites?**

- A. The pagans would draw God's people away from God.
- B. God should have; we always need to have a mission field.
- C. It always returns to war, like what happens in Israel now.
- D. Righteousness and unrighteousness don't mix well (*2 Cor 6:14*).
- E. The time had come to choose: for or against God (*Gen 15:16*).
- F. God spared Rahab and her family; everyone can choose God.
- G. God desires peace, not war (*vs 23*).
- H. Other.

**6. What does *Joshua 12* reveal?**

- A. God wins.
- B. God's people win.
- C. God's people have a place to live.
- D. God provides a place for his people to live.
- E. Before peace, there might be a lot of war.
- F. Some people don't learn—they keep fighting against God.
- G. God can tear down, and build up.
- H. Other.

**7. Where are battles happening in your life now?**

**8. Will you have peace before Jesus makes all things new? If so, How? and When?**

# Getting A Home

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## OPENING QUESTION

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What has been your favorite house—the place where you’ve lived?

## READ Joshua 13:1—15:63.

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### 1. Why didn’t Joshua finish the job of conquering Canaan (vs 1)?

- A. He was lazy and fearful.
- B. He was old and tired.
- C. The Israelites quit fighting.
- D. He conquered the large, main cities.
- E. The tribes couldn’t wait any longer to find a home.
- F. The Canaanites proved to be too strong.
- G. He did conquer all of Canaan (*Joshua 11:23*).
- H. There weren’t enough Israelites yet to fill all of Canaan.
- I. Other.

### 2. If God drove out the Canaanites, what role did the Israelites play?

- A. Nothing.
- B. They had to trust God.
- C. The Israelites did their best and God did the rest.
- D. God wants to do things WITH us, not only FOR us.
- E. The Israelites got to be in the middle of God’s actions.
- F. Ongoing trust.
- G. Increasing trust.
- H. The Israelites followed up the hornets (*Ex 23:28; Deut 7:16-20*).
- I. Other.

### 3. Why did Caleb get such special treatment?

- A. Caleb and Joshua were buddies since their days in Egypt.
- B. Caleb had extraordinary faith.
- C. Caleb had extraordinary courage.
- D. Caleb was tall enough to take on the giants.
- E. God told Joshua to give the hill country to Caleb.
- F. Ever since spying out the land, Caleb had his sights on the giants.
- G. Moses has promised this land to Caleb (*Numbers 14:6-38*).
- H. Caleb would finish off the job of conquering the remaining giants.
- I. Other.

**4. Why didn't the tribe of Levi get any land (Joshua 13:14)?**

- A. They were lovers, not fighters.
- B. God was their inheritance.
- C. God did give them land.
- D. They didn't have to work the land.
- E. They had cities scattered over all the areas where tribes settled.
- F. They could only be on holy ground.
- G. They had to trust God would provide through tithes and offerings.
- H. They needed to stay near the sanctuary.
- I. Other.

**5. Why were the land boundary descriptions so important?**

- A. Somebody has to draw the lines.
- B. Fences make good neighbors.
- C. The boundaries got set first; then lots were drawn for the tribes.
- D. People cheat (*Proverbs 22:28*).
- E. This always turns out to be unfair.
- F. The 2 ½ tribes already had the east bank of the Jordan.
- G. Joshua enacted what God and Moses had predetermined (*14:1-5*).
- H. Other.

**6. Why didn't the individual tribes drive out the remaining Canaanites?**

- A. Once they had their land, their focus changed from war to farming.
- B. Individual tribes lacked the faith, courage, and leadership to finish.
- C. It was easier to let the Canaanites remain as a minority group.
- D. The Israelites continued to lack faith.
- E. The Canaanites were too strong.
- F. Those few Canaanites wouldn't affect the Israelites in the future.
- G. Intermarriage happened; you don't always want to kill your relatives.
- H. Other.

**7. What "territory" has God given you?**

**8. What are "unconquered parts" in your life?**

# Moving In

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## OPENING QUESTION

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In your childhood house, how did the child(ren) get assigned their room(s)?

### READ Joshua 16:1—19:51.

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**1. Why did Manasseh and Ephraim's allotment come right after Judah's?**

- A. The order doesn't matter.
- B. The order does matter.
- C. They got treated the same as the other tribes—by casting lots.
- D. Judah was the line of the Messiah.
- E. Joseph received a double portion—two tribes instead of one.
- F. Jacob treated Joseph as his firstborn (*Genesis 48*).
- G. Ephraim, the second-born, got allotted land before Manasseh.
- H. Half of Manasseh was on the other side of the Jordan River.
- I. Other.

**2. What stands out about the daughters of Zelophehad (17:3-6)?**

- A. Such an unusual name—Zelophehad.
- B. Their unusual names—Malah, Noah, Hogueh, Milcah, and Tirzah.
- C. No brothers.
- D. They never got married.
- E. No inheritance in a patriarchal society.
- F. Consistent with *Numbers 27:1-11; 36:1-12*.
- G. Women have to stand up for themselves.
- H. They increased the land allotment for Manasseh.
- I. Other.

**3. What was Manasseh and Ephraim's point of contention about the land?**

- A. There was no contention.
- B. Ephraim received more than Manasseh.
- C. Half of Manasseh was on the east side of the Jordan River.
- D. There were too many Israelites to fit in the land.
- E. They failed to drive out the Canaanites.
- F. They were unlucky when it came to casting lots.
- G. The Canaanites had iron chariots (cf. with *Josh 11:6*).
- H. There was plenty of land, but they had to clear it.
- I. Other.

**4. Why did the Israelites set up the Tabernacle at Shiloh (18:1)?**

- A. God told them to set up the Tabernacle there.
- B. Geographically, this was the center of the Promised Land.
- C. Spiritually, this was the hub of Israel.
- D. It had to go somewhere.
- E. “Shiloh” means “place of rest.”
- F. God’s house needed to be set up before allotting the land.
- G. It had to be near the tribe of Levi.
- H. Other.

**5. What happened with allotting the land to the remaining tribes?**

- A. It turned out to be a real mess.
- B. The nomadic Israelites didn’t want to settle in towns.
- C. The Israelites stopped driving out the pagan Canaanites.
- D. The exact thing Moses had prescribed (*Num 34:13-29*).
- E. They cast lots for it.
- F. Allocations the way God wanted (*18:10; Prov 16:33*).
- G. Simeon had to live in part of Judah.
- H. The territory and cities had to be spelled out in detail.
- I. Other.

**6. What did Joshua get?**

- A. The prime real estate in all of Israel.
- B. Whatever he wanted.
- C. Whatever God picked for him.
- D. Whatever was left.
- E. Timnath-Serah (“the leftover part”).
- F. The land allotment started with Caleb and ended with Joshua.
- G. A place close to Shiloh, near the Tabernacle.
- H. Other.

**7. Why did God have his people conquer the land instead of just annihilating it like he did with the Flood or using hornets to clear out the people?**

**8. How does the place where you live impact your connection with God?**

# Taking Care of Everyone

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## OPENING QUESTION

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Who was your caregiver when you were a child? Who is it now?

## READ Joshua 20:1—21:45.

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### 1. Why would you need a city of refuge?

- A. I can't think of a need for that.
- B. I've killed a lot of people.
- C. I've hurt a lot of people.
- D. People are out to get me (and I'm NOT paranoid!).
- E. So many people are so vengeful.
- F. Life is tough.
- G. I don't trust people these days.
- H. I don't trust law enforcement these days.
- I. Other.

### 2. Where would you like your city of refuge to be?

- A. My city.
- B. My house.
- C. Snuggled by the fireplace when it's cold outside.
- D. Close, but not too close.
- E. I don't want to be near a bunch of murderers.
- F. As far away as possible.
- G. That was for the Israelites in Canaan.
- H. The Israelites today don't follow this practice.
- I. Other.

### 3. What was the purpose of "cities of refuge"?

- A. Mercy.
- B. Justice.
- C. A place for the guilty to get some grace.
- D. Accidents happen.
- E. Find ways to live together as a community.
- F. Determine who's guilty and who's innocent.
- G. Stop people from taking the law into their own hands.
- H. Everyone deserves a place to be safe.
- I. Other.

**4. What does the distribution of the Levite towns indicate to you?**

- A. It's good to have a priest nearby, but not a whole tribe of them.
- B. They got spread out like leaven in dough; like salt in food.
- C. The priests had to be close to the sanctuary.
- D. Lots were cast for their towns, just like the land for the tribes.
- E. Priests had to depend on the Israelites paying tithes and offerings.
- F. They received land for animals but not for crops.
- G. The towns for the Levites matched the cities of refuge.
- H. The Levites could purchase land from people in other tribes.
- I. Other.

**5. Does all of this seem fair to you?**

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. I don't know.
- D. It all seems so random.
- E. The Promised Land was God's gift; it wasn't a matter of fairness.
- F. The Israelites had to do their part.
- G. It's complicated to be fair with so many people.
- H. It required a theocracy—God had to be in charge of the country.
- I. Other.

**6. Did all of the “all’s” in *Joshua 21:43-45* come true?**

- A. Yes.
- B. No.
- C. Eventually.
- D. Most of them.
- E. They were true at that moment.
- F. What about 15:63; 16:10; 17:11-13; and 19:47?
- G. The point is that God was the source of Israel's land.
- H. The point is that God is faithful, but his promises are conditional.
- I. Other.

**7. Where do you go when you need refuge?**

**8. When have you found God to be faithful? When have you questioned God's faithfulness?**

# Apart Or Together?

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## OPENING QUESTION

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When has part of your family been separated from the rest of your family?

## READ Joshua 22:1–34.

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### 1. What had the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh done?

- A. Nothing special.
- B. Fought harder than the other tribes.
- C. Joined the other tribes in driving out the Canaanites.
- D. Sent their men into battle while the women and children stayed home.
- E. Settled east of the Jordan River instead of entering Canaan.
- F. Set up their own system of worship.
- G. Fulfilled their vows to Moses (*Numbers 32*).
- H. Defeated Og of Bashan and Sihon of the Amorites (*Num 32:33*).
- I. Other.

### 2. Why did Joshua send these two-and-a-half tribes home?

- A. They finished their commitment to conquer the land of Canaan.
- B. Their repeated disobedience.
- C. God told Joshua to send them home.
- D. They had fulfilled their vows.
- E. There wasn't enough room in Canaan for them.
- F. This was part of the blessing Joshua gave them.
- G. Enemies had invaded their land east of the Jordan River.
- H. Their wives and children needed the men back home.
- I. Other.

### 3. What instructions did Joshua give these two-and-a-half tribes?

- A. Go home.
- B. You are blessed.
- C. Share your wealth with others.
- D. Obey all the commands God gave us as the Children of Israel.
- E. Return here when it's time to celebrate the annual feasts.
- F. Be nice.
- G. Call us if you need anything.
- H. Share the spoils of war with those back home.
- I. Other.

**4. Why did the 2 ½ tribes create their own altar west of the Jordan River?**

- A. They wanted to worship God.
- B. They wanted a memorial.
- C. Nobody knows.
- D. They thought God wanted them to do this.
- E. They came up with this plan on their own.
- F. This action got terribly misunderstood.
- G. It was a great idea.
- H. Other.

**5. How did the tribes west of the Jordan River respond to the new altar?**

- A. They became furious.
- B. They armed themselves for war against their relatives.
- C. They feared God's wrath for this return to pagan worship.
- D. They sent their leader, Joshua, to check out the situation.
- E. They sent a delegation of representatives to inquire.
- F. They cut themselves off from the tribes west of the Jordan.
- G. This led to the divided kingdom—east and west.
- H. Other.

**6. What happened by sending a delegation to inquire about the new altar?**

- A. It led to greater understanding.
- B. It led to a split.
- C. It led to a standoff.
- D. It healed the split.
- E. More prayers.
- F. More feasting.
- G. Recommitment.
- H. Other.

**7. When has someone misjudged you and jumped to conclusions about you? When have you misjudged someone and jumped to conclusions about them?**

**8. Have you found that confronting people usually helps or hinders your relationship with them?**

# Final Words

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## OPENING QUESTION

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What is a good final message to give? What's a good one to receive?

## READ Joshua 23:1–16.

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### 1. What was Joshua's final message to the leaders of Israel?

- A. You've done a good job. Keep it up.
- B. You haven't obeyed God.
- C. God has given you victory on every side.
- D. You have more work to do.
- E. You can trust God's promises.
- F. God's promises are conditional.
- G. Don't worship the Canaanite gods.
- H. Be strong and courageous.
- I. Other.

### 2. What had God done for the Israelites?

- A. Miraculous entry into Canaan by crossing the Jordan River.
- B. Miraculous victory over Jericho.
- C. Miraculous victory at Ai.
- D. No Israelite had died in battle.
- E. All the Canaanites were gone.
- F. Abundant crops.
- G. Set up a system to live as a nation.
- H. Provided peace treaties with other nations.
- I. Other.

### 3. What were the two most important commandments at this time?

- A. No other God but Yahweh.
- B. Honor your father and mother.
- C. Don't kill.
- D. Remember the Sabbath, and keep it holy.
- E. Don't move a boundary stone.
- F. Observe the annual feasts and festivals.
- G. No idols.
- H. Don't commit adultery.
- I. Other.

**4. Why didn't God want his people to associate with the Canaanites?**

- A. God didn't like the Canaanites.
- B. The Canaanites didn't like Yahweh.
- C. The Israelites did a poor job evangelizing others.
- D. The Canaanites did a great job evangelizing others.
- E. Probation had closed for the Canaanites.
- F. God is a jealous God.
- G. The Canaanites refused to worship Yahweh.
- H. Other.

**5. What determines whether or not you receive God's blessings?**

- A. Obedience.
- B. Luck.
- C. Grace.
- D. It all seems so random.
- E. It depends on how you interpret things.
- F. The trend in your life matters more than one specific thing.
- G. God's blessings are spiritual now, not material.
- H. Other.

**6. Which of the following promises from God have been true for you?**

- A. I will never leave you or forsake you (*Deut 31:6*).
- B. Love and obey God, and you will live (*Deut 30:16*).
- C. Blessings for obedience (*Leviticus 26:1-13*).
- D. I will rescue you from oppression (*Exod 6:6-7*).
- E. You are my special people (*Exod 19:6*).
- F. The Lord will give you land, and lots of it (*Josh 23:4-5*).
- G. God fights for you (*Josh 23:3, 10*).
- H. Other.

**7. Worshiping other gods was the big distraction for God's people in Canaan. What is the big distraction for God's people today? How much does it distract you from God?**

**8. Where is God's land now? Who are God's people now?**

# Looking Backward and Forward Today

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## OPENING QUESTION

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How far back can you trace your family—your ancestors?

## READ Joshua 24:1–33.

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### 1. Why did Joshua summon all the Israelites to Shechem?

- A. He just felt like doing it.
- B. God told him to do it.
- C. It was campmeeting time.
- D. Joshua sensed his life was coming to an end.
- E. It was time to renew the covenant.
- F. They did this every year (*Deuteronomy 27; Joshua 8:30–35*).
- G. Joshua thought the Israelites were sliding into idolatry.
- H. Joshua wanted to appoint a successor.
- I. Other.

### 2. What was the significance of Shechem?

- A. Abram's first altar in the Promised Land (*Gen 12:4–7*).
- B. Jacob's first home when he returned to Canaan (*Gen 33:17–20*).
- C. Rape and bloodshed between Israelites and Canaanites (*Gen 34*).
- D. Renewal of the covenant and burying idols (*Gen 35:1–4*).
- E. The place Joseph searched for his brothers (*Gen 37:12–13*).
- F. The place Joseph and Joshua were buried (*Josh 24:29–32*).
- G. The space between Mount Gerazim and Mount Ebal.
- H. The place of covenant renewal with Yahweh (*Josh 24*).
- I. Other.

### 3. Why did Joshua's speech go all the way back to Abraham and Terah?

- A. This marked the call of God's people.
- B. This is the format for making a covenant.
- C. Joshua spoke as a prophet by giving a historical overview.
- D. Most of the Israelites didn't know their own history.
- E. God's promise for Abraham's descendants was now fulfilled.
- F. Joshua was having a senior moment.
- G. Joshua wanted the people to look back in time.
- H. Joshua wanted the people to look forward in time.
- I. Other.

**4. Which historical events did Joshua include in his sermon, and why?**

- A. The call of Abraham.
- B. Abraham's test to sacrifice Isaac.
- C. Joseph being sold as a slave in Egypt.
- D. Years of Israelite slavery in Egypt.
- E. How Moses was miraculously saved as a baby.
- F. The amazing deliverance from Egyptian slavery.
- G. Wilderness wanderings and daily manna.
- H. Mount Sinai and the building of the sanctuary.
- I. Other.

**5. Why are foreign gods such a problem (vs 14-15)?**

- A. Humans will worship anything and anyone.
- B. When everyone is doing it, it's hard not to do it.
- C. The Israelites' ancestors worshiped foreign gods.
- D. The Israelites' descendants after Joshua worshiped foreign gods.
- E. The Israelites in Joshua's day worshiped foreign gods.
- F. God is a jealous God—no other Gods but him.
- G. That's a problem for primitive people, not for civilized people.
- H. Other.

**6. How often do you need to renew your covenant with God?**

- A. Once is all that's needed.
- B. Every seven years.
- C. Every year.
- D. Every Sabbath.
- E. Every day.
- F. It varies from person to person.
- G. Whenever you feel like it.
- H. At milestone markers in your life.
- I. Other.

**7. Looking backward and forward, what's your story with God?**

**8. When was the last time you renewed your covenant with God?**

