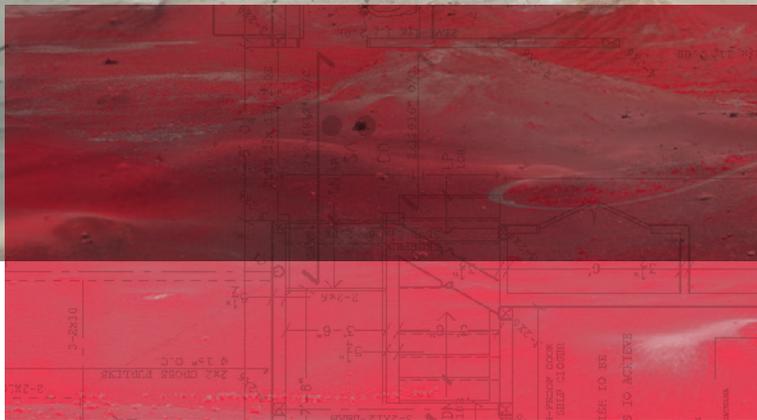




# COURAGE



Prayer Guide  
**WEEK 1**

# God's Extraordinary Plan

Week 1  
Day 1

Prayer Guide

The time has come! These four words were sweet to the ears of Joshua and the Israelites. How long had it been since God had announced his plan to give them this land? Hundreds of years before, God had made the promise to Abraham their ancestor. Four hundred years later, God freed the Hebrews from slavery in Egypt in order to bring them to the Promised Land. Because of their own cowardice and lack of faith in God's plan and promises, God punished Israel with forty more years of wandering, but nothing could thwart his plan. No, after literally hundreds of years, God said it was the right time for Israel to march into the Promised Land.

The Apostle Paul wrote we are God's masterpiece—a wonderful work he has been creating since before the world began. Why? Because he has good things for us to do.

God loves us so much that he used the blood of Jesus to give us a new life. He did this because he promised and because he has a plan for us too. Now is the right time for God's church. Today is a good day to do the good things God planned for us long ago.

**After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites.**

**JOSHUA 1:1-2**

**For we are God's handiwork, created in Christ Jesus to do good works, which God prepared in advance for us to do.**

**EPHESIANS 2:10**

Take a moment to think about your life—even your family history if you know it—and try to discern how God has worked to bring you to this day. Then ask him what good things he wants you to do. Spend some time afterwards listening for what he puts on your heart, then do it. The time has come!

**PRAYER TIME**

# Believing All of God's Promises

Week 1  
Day 2

Prayer Guide

Our experiences tell us that everyone breaks promises. Even honest and good people with the best intentions can fail to keep their promises because they were ill informed or powerless or misguided. It's no wonder people may not trust God's promises.

Joshua had been Moses' assistant for forty years. He was a witness when Moses told the Hebrew slaves God had promised to deliver them. He witnessed Death passing over the Hebrew children because that was what God promised. He witnessed the miraculous escape from Pharaoh's army when the Red Sea parted. He drank the water God promised and ate the bread God provided. What God had promised Moses had come true. He believed God's promises because he had witnessed God's faithfulness.

God knows we need help learning to trust him and his promises. That is why Jesus came. He came to show us the Father so we could learn to believe in his promises. After seeing Jesus and becoming his follower, the Apostle Paul stated confidently, "For all of God's promises have been fulfilled in Christ." If we believe Jesus died for us, if we believe our sins are forgiven because of Jesus, then we can trust God's promises—all of them.

**I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses...No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.**

**JOSHUA 1:3,5**

**For no matter how many promises God has made, they are "Yes" in Christ. And so through him the "Amen" is spoken by us to the glory of God.**

**2 CORINTHIANS 1:20**

Think about what promises God has made for his church. Which ones are harder for you to believe? Spend time praying the prayer of the father in Mark 9:24 who said, "I do believe, but help me overcome my unbelief."

**PRAYER TIME**

# Following God's Leaders

Week 1  
Day 3

Prayer Guide

As the new, God-chosen leader for the Hebrews, Moses had faced tough challenges to his leadership. At the Red Sea, the Israelites railed against Moses. In the wilderness, the people rebelled because they had no water, no bread, and no meat. Even Moses' brother and sister became jealous of his position and challenged him. Over and over again, the Hebrews complained about their leaders, sometimes to the point of rebellion, and it always angered God.

Joshua had good reason to fear the Hebrews would not follow him after Moses died. God, however, had tamed the rebellious hearts of the Israelites by forcing them to follow Moses for forty years in the wilderness. That's how important it was to learn to follow God's chosen leaders.

The Apostle Paul told the Corinthian church it was God who appointed their leaders. Church leaders have an extraordinary responsibility for the well-being of each soul in their care, and God holds them accountable.

Complaining about spiritual leaders is more serious than yelling at umpires. If God chose them, then about whom am I really complaining? And do I dare rebel

**Then they answered Joshua, "Whatever you have commanded us we will do, and wherever you send us we will go. Just as we fully obeyed Moses, so we will obey you. Only may the Lord your God be with you as he was with Moses. Whoever rebels against your word and does not obey it, whatever you may command them, will be put to death. Only be strong and courageous!"**

**JOSHUA 1:16-18**

**Have confidence in your leaders and submit to their authority, because they keep watch over you as those who must give an account. Do this so that their work will be a joy, not a burden, for that would be of no benefit to you.**

**HEBREWS 13:17**

Pray for as many leaders as you can recall, thanking God for them and asking him to bless them with wisdom and the gift of leading. Then ask him to give the church the gift of following.

**PRAYER TIME**

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# Be Strong!

Week 1  
Day 4

Prayer Guide

To be strong is not a suggestion, but a divine command. We as the Body of Christ must exercise rigorously in order to be strong.

How do we respond to God's command to be strong—especially as a growing church? What exercises should we do? God gave Joshua instructions that promise to strengthen us as well.

First, he told Joshua, believe my promises and believe that you are chosen. If we doubt that we are God's choice to do his will, we cannot be strong. If we doubt that God will do what he promises, we will be weak.

Second, God told Joshua to obey his instructions. Don't think we know better. Don't take shortcuts. Don't leave out steps because they are hard. Just stay with God's plan if we want to grow strong.

Finally, God told Joshua not to be afraid of failure. If we start doubting that we will ever be strong, what will happen? We will become discouraged and quit. Maybe we never even try.

**Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go...Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.**

**JOSHUA 1:6, 7, 9**

**But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.**

**ISAIAH 40:31**

Pray for his church, especially for strength to accomplish great things. Use the instructions given to Joshua. Ask God to remove our doubts, to guide us to obedience, and to guard our hearts from fear, especially fear of failure.

**PRAYER TIME**

