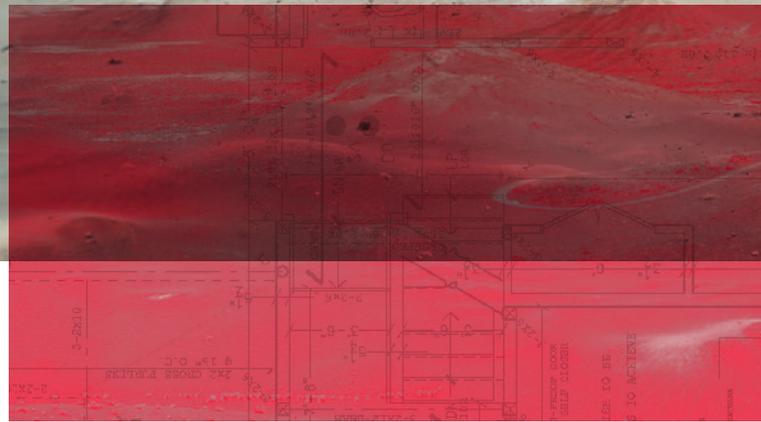




# COURAGE



Prayer Guide  
**WEEK 5**

# A Choice and a Response

Week 5  
Day 1

Prayer Guide

God is not just the God of the victorious, but also of the defeated. The Amorite and Canaanite kings heard the same stories Rahab heard. They probably did not see the Israelites cross the Jordan miraculously, but they got the reports. They had every opportunity to turn to God and believe, just as Rahab did.

But instead of faith making them bold, they chose to believe the reports and lose heart. Instead of a courageous response like Rahab, they were paralyzed with fear. Their defeat became inevitable because of their response to witnessing God's power.

Witnessing the power of God always demands a choice and a response. The victorious trust God's power and act; the defeated are fearful and do nothing.

**Now when all the Amorite kings west of the Jordan and all the Canaanite kings along the coast heard how the Lord had dried up the Jordan before the Israelites until they had crossed over, their hearts melted in fear and they no longer had the courage to face the Israelites.**

**JOSHUA 5:1**

Have you seen the power of God? What do you believe he can do for his people? Does this leave you eager to act or afraid? Spend time talking to God about your response.

**PRAYER TIME**

# Rolling Away the Shame

Week 5  
Day 2

Prayer Guide

After 400 years in Egypt and another forty wandering in the wilderness, Israel had finally crossed the river into the land of God's promise. They knew the stories of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. They knew how their ancestors moved to Egypt, thinking it was their salvation, only to become Pharaoh's slaves. You don't quickly forget the de-humanization, the demeaning remarks, the daily danger, and the inhumane workload.

Our God and theirs is the God of rebirth. When they crossed the Jordan, they became a new people with a renewed relationship to the God of their fathers. The shame of Egyptian slavery was no more.

Although the Apostle Paul had done horrible things to the first Christians, he wasn't crippled by the shame of his past. He told the Philippian Christians, "No, dear brothers and sisters, I have not achieved it [perfection], but I focus on this one thing: Forgetting the past and looking forward to what lies ahead, I press on to reach the end of the race and receive the heavenly prize for which God, through Christ Jesus, is calling us" (Philippians 3:13-14).

**Then the Lord said to Joshua, "Today I have rolled away the shame of your slavery in Egypt."**

**JOSHUA 5:9 NLT**

**As Scripture says, "Anyone who believes in him will never be put to shame."**

**ROMANS 10:11**

Shame holds us back from enjoying the abundant blessings God has promised his people. What causes shame in your life? Pray for God to release you from it.

**PRAYER TIME**

# No More Manna

Week 5  
Day 3

Prayer Guide

For forty years, manna had been their bread. Manna had been the answer to their prayers for food in the desert. Every morning except Sabbath, it was there, just like the sun coming up—all they needed every day.

On the fifteenth day of the first month, the children of Israel woke up, went out to get their manna—and it was not there. Was God not there anymore either? Had they been abandoned?

No, God was still going to provide, just differently. It was time for them to eat the food of the Promised Land, the land flowing with milk and honey. But that meant working the fields, watering the fields, harvesting the grain, threshing it, and baking their own bread. Israel would not be spoon-fed any longer; no, it was time to grow up.

The writer of Hebrews says Christians should also mature, moving to solid food for those who through training have the skill to recognize the difference between right and wrong. Maturing is the result of work, not just age. Skillfully living the Christian life is the result of training.

God expects us to grow up and work hard. No more

**On the evening of the fourteenth day of the month, while camped at Gilgal on the plains of Jericho, the Israelites celebrated the Passover. The day after the Passover, that very day, they ate some of the produce of the land: unleavened bread and roasted grain. The manna stopped the day after they ate this food from the land; there was no longer any manna for the Israelites, but that year they ate the produce of Canaan.**

JOSHUA 5:10-12

**In fact, though by this time you ought to be teachers, you need someone to teach you the elementary truths of God's word all over again. You need milk, not solid food! Anyone who lives on milk, being still an infant, is not acquainted with the teaching about righteousness. But solid food is for the mature, who by constant use have trained themselves to distinguish good from evil.**

HEBREWS 5:12-14

In what ways might God's people prefer "milk" over "solid food"? Pray that we will delight in the training and work it takes to mature.

PRAYER TIME

# Spiritual Warfare

Week 5  
Day 4

Prayer Guide

Why did God send his angelic general to Joshua right before the battle of Jericho? Should Joshua be afraid? No, the Lord God had instructions for Joshua about how to take Jericho, but first God needed to remind Joshua of a couple of very important things. Before the battle began, God wanted to remind Joshua whose battle it was and what it would take to win.

Who had defeated Pharaoh as Israel fled from Egypt? Who had defeated the Amalekites when they attacked Israel in the wilderness? Who had given Israel victory over King Sihon and King Og even before they crossed the Jordan? This is spiritual warfare, so it was foremost God's battle—and he would win!

God also wanted to encourage Joshua. Leaders are often alone at the top, but Joshua was not leading Israel's army alone. God was providing heavenly support troops. Perhaps Joshua realized as Elisha would say later in a similar situation when Israel faced an overwhelming force, "Don't be afraid! For there are more on our side than on theirs" (2Kings 6:16).

Even when faced with overwhelming forces, God's people are never alone. Our God is the God of Heaven's Armies.

**Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, "Are you for us or for our enemies?"**

**"Neither," he replied, "but as commander of the army of the Lord I have now come."**

JOSHUA 5:13-14 A

**The horse is made ready for the day of battle, but the victory rests with the Lord.**

PROVERBS 21:31

Who or what would God have to send for you not to be afraid, but to believe God is leading his people to victory?

PRAYER TIME

