

JOSHUA

JOSHUA

REMEMBER THE ROCK



6 INTERACTIVE BIBLE STUDIES FOR
SMALL GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS



INTERACTIVE BIBLE STUDIES

JOSHUA

JOSHUA

REMEMBER THE ROCK

6 INTERACTIVE BIBLE STUDIES FOR
SMALL GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS

PHIL CAMPBELL

 matthiasmedia

Remember the Rock

© Matthias Media 2015

Matthias Media

(St Matthias Press Ltd ACN 067 558 365)

Email: info@matthiasmedia.com.au

Internet: www.matthiasmedia.com.au

Please visit our website for current postal and telephone contact information.

Matthias Media (USA)

Email: sales@matthiasmedia.com

Internet: www.matthiasmedia.com

Please visit our website for current postal and telephone contact information.

Scripture quotations are from The Holy Bible, English Standard Version® (ESV®), copyright © 2001 by Crossway, a publishing ministry of Good News Publishers. Used by permission. All rights reserved.

ISBN 978 1 922206 67 1

All rights reserved. Except as may be permitted by the Copyright Act, no part of this publication may be reproduced in any form or by any means without prior permission from the publisher.

Cover design and typesetting by Lankshear Design.

» CONTENTS

How to make the most of these studies	5
STUDY 1: Remember the Lord	
<i>[Joshua 1-4]</i>	9
STUDY 2: Fear the Lord	
<i>[Joshua 5-7]</i>	17
STUDY 3: Devoted to the Lord	
<i>[Joshua 8]</i>	25
STUDY 4: King of kings	
<i>[Joshua 9-11]</i>	33
STUDY 5: The land of promise	
<i>[Joshua 12-21]</i>	41
STUDY 6: His promise stands forever	
<i>[Joshua 22-24]</i>	47

» HOW TO MAKE THE MOST OF THESE STUDIES

1. What is an Interactive Bible Study?

Interactive Bible Studies are a bit like a guided tour of a famous city. They take you through a particular part of the Bible, helping you to know where to start, pointing out things along the way, suggesting avenues for further exploration, and making sure that you know how to get home. Like any good tour, the real purpose is to allow you to go exploring for yourself—to dive in, have a good look around, and discover for yourself the riches that God's word has in store.

In other words, these studies aim to provide stimulation and input and point you in the right direction, while leaving you to do plenty of the exploration and discovery yourself.

We hope that these studies will stimulate lots of 'interaction'—interaction with the Bible, with the things we've written, with your own current thoughts and attitudes, with other people as you discuss them, and with God as you talk to him about it all.

2. The format

The studies contain five main components:

- sections of text that introduce, inform, summarize and challenge
- numbered questions that help you examine the passage and think through its meaning
- sidebars that provide extra bits of background or optional extra study ideas, especially regarding other relevant parts of the Bible
- ‘Implications’ sections that help you think about what the passage means for you and your life today
- suggestions for thanksgiving and prayer as you close.

3. How to use these studies on your own

- Before you begin, pray that God would open your eyes to what he is saying in the Bible, and give you the spiritual strength to do something about it.
- Work through the study, reading the text, answering the questions about the Bible passage, and exploring the sidebars as you have time.
- Resist the temptation to skip over the ‘Implications’ and ‘Give thanks and pray’ sections at the end. It is important that we not only hear and understand God’s word, but also respond to it. These closing sections help us do that.
- Take what opportunities you can to talk to others about what you’ve learnt.

4. How to use these studies in a small group

- Much of the above applies to group study as well. The studies are suitable for structured Bible study or cell groups, as well as for more informal pairs and triplets. Get together with a friend or friends and work through them at your own pace; use them as the basis for regular Bible study with your spouse. You don’t need the formal structure of a ‘group’ to gain maximum benefit.

- For small groups, it is *very useful* if group members can work through the study themselves *before* the group meets. The group discussion can take place comfortably in an hour (depending on how sidetracked you get!) if all the members have done some work in advance.
- The role of the group leader is to direct the course of the discussion and to try to draw the threads together at the end. This will mean a little extra preparation—underlining the sections of text to emphasize and read out loud, working out which questions are worth concentrating on, and being sure of the main thrust of the study. Leaders will also probably want to work out approximately how long they'd like to spend on each part.
- If your group members usually don't work through the study in advance, it's extra important that the leader prepares which parts to concentrate on, and which parts to glide past more quickly. In particular, the leader will need to select which of the 'Implications' to focus on.
- We haven't included an 'answer guide' to the questions in the studies. This is a deliberate move. We want to give you a guided tour of the Bible, not a lecture. There is more than enough in the text we have written and the questions we have asked to point you in what we think is the right direction. The rest is up to you.

5. Bible translation

Previous studies in our Interactive Bible Study series have assumed that most readers would be using the New International Version of the Bible. However, since the release of the English Standard Version in 2001, many have switched to the ESV for study purposes. For this reason, we have decided to quote from and refer to the ESV text, which we recommend.

» STUDY 1

REMEMBER THE LORD

[JOSHUA 1-4]

A new leader for a new generation

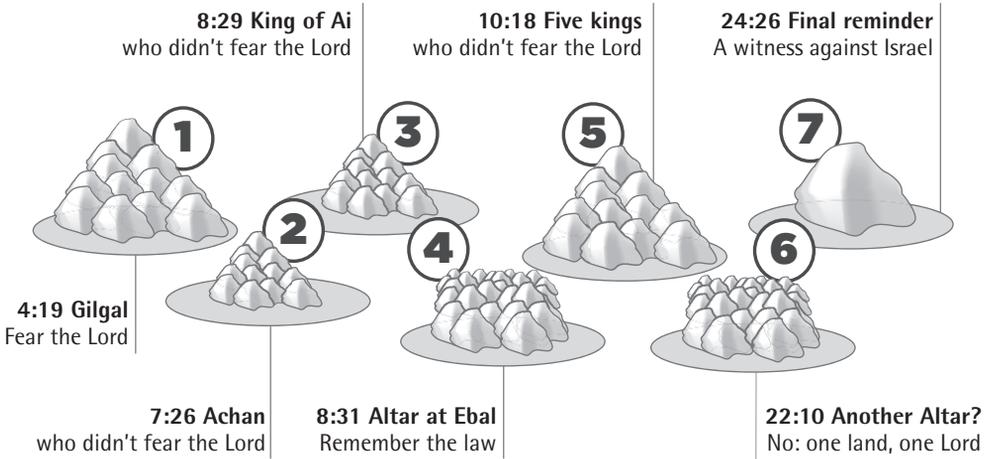
THE BOOK OF JOSHUA TELLS THE riveting story of the end of Israel's long and troubled journey from slavery in Egypt to claim the land God has promised to give them—the land God first promised to their ancestor Abraham.

It's a tale of adventure, with spies, armies, action and adventure aplenty, where God is the undisputed hero and Joshua (whose name means 'God saves') is his right-hand man. It's also a story that raises big questions about the future. Will Israel remain faithful to God and enjoy his blessing in the land forever? Or will another 'Joshua' be needed one day?

Leading a nation like Israel is a

daunting task for Joshua. God will keep his covenant promises to his people, but they will need constant reminders to remember the Lord and keep their covenant promises to him. The narrative is punctuated by the creation of seven very visible reminders—rock piles, altars and monuments—that represent key events as Israel takes possession of the Promised Land. In the future, these 'rocks of remembrance' will act as prompts to remind them of God's great power to do them good if they remain faithful, or to bring disaster on them if they break the covenant and worship other gods. During these studies, we'll focus on these monuments and consider their significance.

Joshua's Rockpiles to Remember



AS WE BEGIN THIS BOOK, WE PARACHUTE right into the middle of a momentous series of events in Israel's history. The action comes thick and fast, so if you work hard at remembering

who's who, it will be easier to keep up! (In your own time, it's worth reading through Deuteronomy 31 to discover more about the events that precede Joshua.)

Read Joshua 1.

1. What do we learn about Moses and Joshua from verse 1?

2. What does God promise Joshua, and what does he require of him (vv. 1-9)?

-
3. What has God promised to Israel, and what response does he expect (vv. 10-18)? Note the special instructions for the tribes of **Reuben, Gad and Manasseh**.

Reuben, Gad and Manasseh

Throughout Joshua, you'll notice that the Israelite tribes of Reuben and Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh, get special mention. Back in Numbers 32, these tribes almost derailed Israel's progress into the Promised Land, asking Moses to give them land on the *east* side of the Jordan River and not to make them cross over with the rest of Israel.

Moses was incensed by their request, fearing it would discourage their brothers from going in to take the land west of the Jordan, and bring about a repeat of their fathers' rebellion against God (Numbers 13-14).

The crisis was averted when Moses agreed to give Reuben, Gad and Manasseh the land they wanted once they had promised to cross the Jordan and fight alongside their brothers, until every tribe had gained possession of their inheritance.

The request of these trans-Jordan tribes (as they became known) causes an undercurrent of tension at the beginning of Joshua: will they cross over and help clear the land, as they promised?

First look at the land

THE LAST TIME SPIES WERE sent to preview the Promised Land the results were disastrous (Numbers 13-14). Out of 12 spies, only Joshua and Caleb remained undaunted by the 'giant' inhabitants of the land. The other ten spies chose to overlook the obvious bounty of the land and instead spread fear and despair among the Israelites. As a result, they didn't put their trust in God and he condemned them to 40 years in the wilderness, until that generation died out. Only Joshua and Caleb were left.

Remembering this and the warning in Deuteronomy 31:16, the events in Joshua 2:1-2 appear to mark the beginning of another monumental failure—not only do Joshua's two bumbling spies immediately visit a prostitute, but their undercover mission is quickly detected and reported to the king of Jericho! However, there's more going on here than meets the eye.

Read Joshua 3.

7. Remembering what God promised in Joshua 1:5-9, what does he now promise Joshua (v. 7)?

8. What's the role of the priests as Israel crosses over the Jordan, and what do their actions demonstrate (vv. 2-17)? Make a note of how Joshua describes God (v. 13).

9. Why should these events encourage Israel?

Lest we forget

JUST AS THEY DID AT THE RED SEA (Exod 14:15-31), the Israelites cross a major waterway on dry land. The people of Jericho have every reason to fear what lies ahead for they are about to confront an unstoppable force—not Israel, but

Yahweh (his proper Hebrew name), the God of Israel. But before he gives further evidence of his great power, God commands his people to carry 12 stones from the centre of the riverbed—one for each tribe—as a sign and memorial.

4:19 Gilgal
Fear the Lord



Read Joshua 4.

10. What does God accomplish (vv. 10-14)?

11. What does the stone commemorate (vv. 6-7, 20-24)?

The Lord of all the earth

ALREADY THERE ARE SOME CLEAR patterns emerging in these early chapters of Joshua. God himself is the hero of the story. He's not just the God of Israel, or a god to be compared with the gods of the surrounding nations: he is Lord of all. Rahab recognizes him as "God in the heavens above and on the earth beneath" (Josh 2:11), and the stone memorial is an enduring reminder of this for Israel.

Because God rules over all the nations in all the earth and over the mighty floodwaters, it's clear that salvation and victory come from him alone. Although God appoints Joshua as Israel's leader, it's also clear that neither

tactical brilliance nor physical strength are the primary mark of his leadership; rather, it is 'God-with-ness'. Just as God was *with* Moses, now he is *with* Joshua. In the words of the trans-Jordan tribes:

"Just as we obeyed Moses in all things, so we will obey you. Only may the LORD your God be with you, as he was with Moses!" (Josh 1:17)

If all goes well, we can expect every knee in every nation to bow before this God-anointed, 'God-with' leader as he leads Israel into the Promised Land. They will either kneel before his advance, like wise Rahab, or they will be steamrolled by the coming kingdom.

» Implications

- The ultimate 'God-with' leader came much later, in the person of the Lord Jesus. Read Philippians 2:1-10 together.
 - In what way is Jesus 'God-with'?

-
- How wide is his dominion?

- How does your daily life reflect obedience to Jesus and his rule?

» Give thanks and pray

- Thank God for what he has accomplished through Jesus, the rightful king over all the earth.
- Pray that you would be:
 - wise, submitting to his rule (like Rahab)
 - courageous, promoting his kingdom (like Joshua).