



God's Grand Story, Pt. 3: Promised land

Moses has brought the Israelites to the edge of the land of promise and passes the baton of leadership to Joshua. They set out to inherit what God had promised to Abraham, but it would require them to obey God and trust in his protection and power. After they defeated the enemies of God, they settled into the land. At the end of his life Joshua challenged the people to continue to follow God and walk in his ways. After Joshua and the elders who served with him died, the nation was thrown into a 350 year period where they would stray from God and experience God's judgment on them to bring them to repentance.

Bottom Line: Faith in God includes obedience to him.

Discussion Questions:

1. Describe a time where you had been waiting for something significant (perhaps a life event) and when it finally arrived you were nervous or even fearful.
2. **Read Joshua 1:1-9.** Nearly 685 years before this time, God promised to Abraham that his descendants would inherit this land (Genesis 12:1-3). The day has come for God to fulfill his oath. What fears do you think Joshua had? Why?
3. When it comes to following Jesus Christ, what fears do you have? From where do those fears come? (see also 2 Timothy 1:7; John 14:27; 1 John 17-19)
4. **Read Judges 2:7-23.** Again and again, the Israelites experienced a cycle of struggle through out the 350 year history in Judges. They would fall into sin, God would place them into servitude to other nations, they would cry out to God for help, God would send a deliverer to rescue them, they would experience a time of peace, and then they would fall back into sin again.
 - ~How does this cycle play out in your own life?
 - ~What are the dangers of this pattern?
 - ~What benefits and blessings are we missing when we relate to God in this way?
5. ~What was the most challenging idea/thought to you from the message?
~What was the most helpful/encouraging thought or idea from the message this week?
How did it help you?
~How can the group encourage you this week?
6. On your own: Some people object to the manner in which God gave the promised land to the Israelites (through war and the destruction of the inhabitants of the land). For context, review and reflect on the following passages: Genesis 15:12-16; Leviticus 18; Deuteronomy 9:1-5, 12:29-32, 18:9-14; Psalm 106; Judges 2:7-23, 3:1-11.

For resources that will help you better understand God's Grand Story, please visit this link:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PaziqJT1TQlpNQTL14EH2UUvzca0vM0OAdPs2DketA/edit?usp=sharing>

*If time doesn't allow for you to discuss all of these questions, use only the ones you feel would be most helpful for your group.