

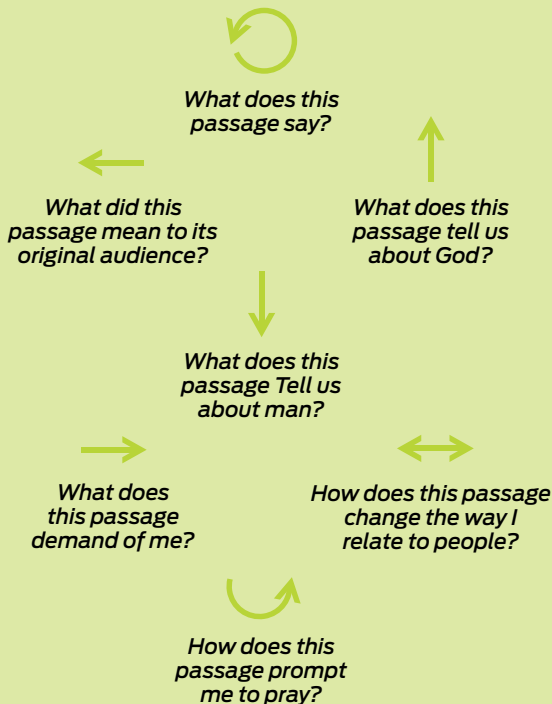
# Daily Devotions



Day 1

## Joshua 1:1-9

### The 7 Arrows of Bible Reading



Moses had led the children of Israel for four decades. He was the one constant for a people who had wandered in the wilderness as an entire generation died off. One thing they could depend on. And now, he too was gone. The Book of Joshua opens by stating his death in a rather matter-of-fact manner: Moses was dead and now God spoke to Joshua. But we cannot underestimate the impact his loss surely had on a people who stood at the border of the promised land, preparing to go to war. The people were vulnerable, and this could have been a crushing blow for them, a demoralizing loss.

But God, of course, understood. He knew Joshua would need encouragement and He knew the people would need it as well. But He also knew the people needed something else more—much more. They needed Him. Good leaders are a gift from God. Great leaders are a blessing. But no leader, no matter how good he or she might be, is a substitute for God Himself. Moses was not who the Israelites needed. Joshua was not either. Nor would it be any of the judges, Samuel, Saul, David, Solomon, any other king, or any prophet. The leader the people needed was Christ Jesus—the One who God provided to lead us out of bondage of sin and into the rest of salvation in Him.

**Have you ever lost a significant leader? What was the effect of that loss on you and others?**

# Joshua 1:10-18

As the children of Israel prepared to enter the land, don't miss God's promise of the rest they would find there (v. 13). Think about it: this was a people who had never had rest. Those who were children forty years before had left slavery in Egypt where there had been no rest. Then for the next forty years, they, and all who were born, were always on the move. Now, at the border of the promised land, they were about to go to war. But God was not just going to give them the land, He was going to give them rest.

We know from the Book of Hebrews, that rest in the promised land was a shadow of the greater rest we find in our salvation in Christ. In Christ, we are able, for the first time ever, to cast aside our labor—our innumerable attempts to be right with God—and rest in Christ instead as recipients of forgiveness and righteousness in Him. This is the rest our souls need. This is the rest the gospel gives.

**What are some ways that you need to stop working and rest in Christ?**

# Joshua 3:1-17

God was about to do a mighty work before His people. They were about to see the swollen banks of the Jordan River become dry. They were about to cross through the dry riverbed as their parents had done forty years before as they passed through the Red Sea to escape Pharaoh's army. But they had to do something first. They had to consecrate themselves. Why? Because if their minds and hearts were not ready—not open to consider the glory of God—they would miss it, even if it was right in front of their faces. Doubt it? Go back and look at what happened to their parents in the Book of Exodus. Time after time, they had seen God's mighty hand work, only to miss it because they were not in the right heart posture to receive it.

And the same can be true of us. We, too, need to consecrate ourselves day-by-day, moment-by-moment. God is at work all around us everyday, but will we see it?

**What are some ways you can consecrate yourself each day to see what God is doing and follow Him?**

# Joshua 4:1-16

When you first read Joshua 4:14, you might reflexively read it a second time. Surely you read it incorrectly the first time: God exalted Joshua? Shouldn't it be the other way? The Creator doesn't exalt His creation; creation is to exalt its Creator. The key to understanding this verse is to look ahead to Joshua 4:24. God exalted Joshua, as He had Moses, for a reason: so that He in turn would be exalted even more. What the Israelites would see Joshua do was not intended to stop there—it was to be a conduit pointing people to the One who was truly at work: God.

Do we see ourselves as Joshuas? Do we understand that God has positioned us where He has, and how He has, for a reason—to glorify God? Or are we ever tempted to steal God's glory instead? To take how He has gifted and blessed us and hoard it for ourselves? May we hold loosely to our glory and tightly to God's.

**How can you point others to God this week through how He has blessed and gifted you?**

# Joshua 4:17-24

We would be wise to understand this passage in light of Deuteronomy 6:4-9. In that passage, known as the Shema, God had commanded one generation to teach the law to the next. But here we see that it should not stop there. Each generation is also to share what God has done for them. This coupling, the words and works of God together, provides a fuller picture of who God is and helps future generations see His beauty and splendor.

While the primary context of these two passages focuses on parents, it is broader than that. All of us are called by God to disciple others and this is to be our blueprint of discipleship. We are to teach others God's Word, but we are also to testify to how God has been kind to us. We are to talk about His provision, His protection, and His power. We are to celebrate who He is and what He has done.

**What are some of the “stones of remembrance” that you can share with others to point them to who God is and what He has done?**