Grow Group Resources

- Sermon Summary: Commission & Courage

- Joshua 1 marks a major transition for God's people. After Moses' death, Joshua is commissioned to lead Israel across the Jordan River and into the Promised Land. God had made promises to His people generations earlier, and now Joshua would lead them in taking hold of what God had promised.

- **Why Read Joshua?**

  - The book of Joshua is part of the unified story of Scripture, reminding us that God is faithful to His promises. It also points forward to Jesus. Joshua and Jesus share the same name in their respective languages, and Joshua's leadership in bringing God's people into the Promised Land foreshadows the greater work of Christ, through whom we receive what God has promised.

  - The Old Testament also provides examples for us today. As 1 Corinthians 10:6 explains, the experiences of God's people serve as examples for us. While biblical figures accomplished great things, they also experienced failure. Ultimately, Jesus is the hero of Scripture whom we look to and follow.

- **Commission: His & Ours**

  - Like Joshua, Christians have been given a mission. We are called to participate in the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19–20), making disciples of all nations and teaching them to obey Jesus. God has also prepared good works for each of us to walk in (Ephesians 2:10).

  - Following God's mission requires action. We cannot remain passive; we must take steps of faith, even when those steps feel risky or uncomfortable.

  - Three times in Joshua 1, God commands Joshua to be strong and courageous. The people also encourage him to be courageous. The repeated command reveals how daunting the task ahead must have seemed.

  - Our mission can feel similarly intimidating. Sharing our faith, talking to someone about Jesus, repenting of sin, or beginning something God has placed on our hearts can bring fears of failure, embarrassment, or uncertainty.

  - Faith often requires risk. Courage is not simply about being brave for its own sake; it is connected to the mission God has given us. As we follow Him, we will encounter challenges that require us to trust Him and take action.

  - When following God becomes difficult, we may be tempted to retreat, compromise, or avoid the next step. Instead, we are called to remain steady, resolute, and bold as we walk in obedience to Him.

- **Courage: Standing Strong**

  - The foundation of Joshua's courage was not his natural ability, leadership skills, or strategies. It was God's promise: "I will not leave you or forsake you" (Joshua 1:5, ESV).

  - God's presence is the source of our courage. He does not promise that following Him will always be easy, but He promises that we will never walk alone. This same assurance appears in the Great Commission, where Jesus promises to be with His followers always (Matthew 28:20).

  - When life becomes frightening or following Jesus feels difficult, we may wonder where God is. Yet He has not abandoned us. His presence gives us the confidence to continue walking in faith, even when we cannot see how things will turn out.

  - Joshua is also commanded to meditate on God's Word day and night and carefully obey what it teaches (Joshua 1:7–8). Staying rooted in Scripture helps us remember God's promises, understand His direction, and faithfully respond to His calling. When we become afraid, we should not neglect God's Word but draw closer to it.

- **Who Does This Speak To?**

  - Joshua 1 reminds us that God calls His people to join Him in His mission, that following Him requires courage, and that His presence is the foundation of that courage.

  - Whatever stage of life we are in, God still calls us to take steps of faith. Perhaps He is prompting us to speak with someone, repent of something, begin a new endeavour, or serve in a new way. Children, teenagers, adults, and senior saints alike can continue to participate in God's kingdom. We are never too young or too old to follow His leading.

  - For those who have not yet trusted Jesus, the invitation is to turn to Him as Lord and Saviour, receive His forgiveness, and begin walking with Him.

- Discussion Questions:

1. Open up your time together with a word of **prayer.**
2. **Read Joshua 1** out loud together.
   A. What stands out to you in this story as you view it through the lens of neighbouring?
   B. What questions arise as you hear the text?
3. **Facing Fear:** The pastor shared the story of jumping off a cliff to connect with students.
   A. Can you think of a time when you were afraid to take a step but did it anyway?
   B. What made it difficult, and what helped you move forward?
4. **Joining God's Mission:** Joshua was called to lead God's people into the Promised Land, while Christians are called to make disciples of all nations (Matthew 28:19–20).
   A. What does participating in God's mission look like in your everyday life, and what can make it challenging?
5. **Faith Requires Action:** The sermon emphasized that faith often involves risk and taking steps of obedience.
   A. Is there an area of your life where you sense God may be calling you to take a step of faith?
   B. What might be holding you back?
6. **The Source of Courage:** In Joshua 1:5–9, God repeatedly commands Joshua to be courageous and promises to be with him.
   A. How does knowing that God is with you change the way you face fear, uncertainty, or difficult circumstances?
7. **Rooted in God's Word:** Joshua 1:8 instructs Joshua to meditate on God's Word day and night and carefully obey it.
   A. How does spending time in Scripture help us recognize God's direction and find courage to follow Him?
   B. What practical habits could help you become more rooted in His Word?
8. **Your Next Step:** The pastor reminded the congregation that God has prepared good works for each of us to walk in (Ephesians 2:10), regardless of our age or stage of life.
   A. What is one practical step you could take this week to follow Jesus more courageously, serve someone, or participate in God's mission?
9. **Close your time in prayer,** as you lift the needs present in the group to the Lord who hears and cares.