



## SDG Discussion Guide

### Joshua 1

June 2, 2019

#### For Starters:

What employer-employee, teacher-pupil or coach-player relationship has most influenced you? In what ways?

What instructions did your parent or instructor usually repeat a few times as you went off on your own?

What's an experience you had where you felt particularly strong in your resolve, or courageous?

Why do you think?

Guideline: The following is meant to provide an approach for further interaction with the respective sermon text and surrounding passage. Feel free to forward to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find this write up in print on that Sunday.

First, as you can, read aloud the selected passage in your group. If you have time, read it aloud a second time - from a different Bible translation.

Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together and prayed, what points and questions arise? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these points and questions. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions you may use to guide your interaction with the text.

1. What has just happened "off-stage" as this scene opens? What does this mean for Joshua?
2. What promises are given to him (vv 3-5, 9)? Which ones ask Joshua to look back and remember what God has done in the past? Which ones ask him to look ahead and believe God for future blessing?
3. Which commands accompany the promises? Which would seem most terrifying to one who had to fill Moses' shoes? What is necessary for success and prosperity? What do you think God means here by "success"?
4. Hence, what does Joshua tell his officers (vv 10-11)? What exceptions to that general command does he give to the tribes who already possess their land (vv 12-15)?
5. In turn, what do they promise?
6. From their reassuring reply and from the Lord's promises, what do you infer Joshua must be feeling?
7. Which command given to Joshua (vv. 5-9) would be toughest for you to obey?
8. Which of his promises would be most helpful to you, if you were left "on your own"? Why?
9. What challenge lies before you now? How will you "succeed" at it? What do you fear might hinder you? Who can you rally to help you?

Pray for one another. Again, not holding back, pray that you may have the depth of insight of God and that your love may abound for Him and one another. Pray God's strength and courage for the trial you are in now, or toward the one you eventually will meet. Pray that God may help you realize, both as an individual and as a group, his command to us always: "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

\*These questions were adapted from The Serendipity Bible for Groups (Zondervan, 1998).