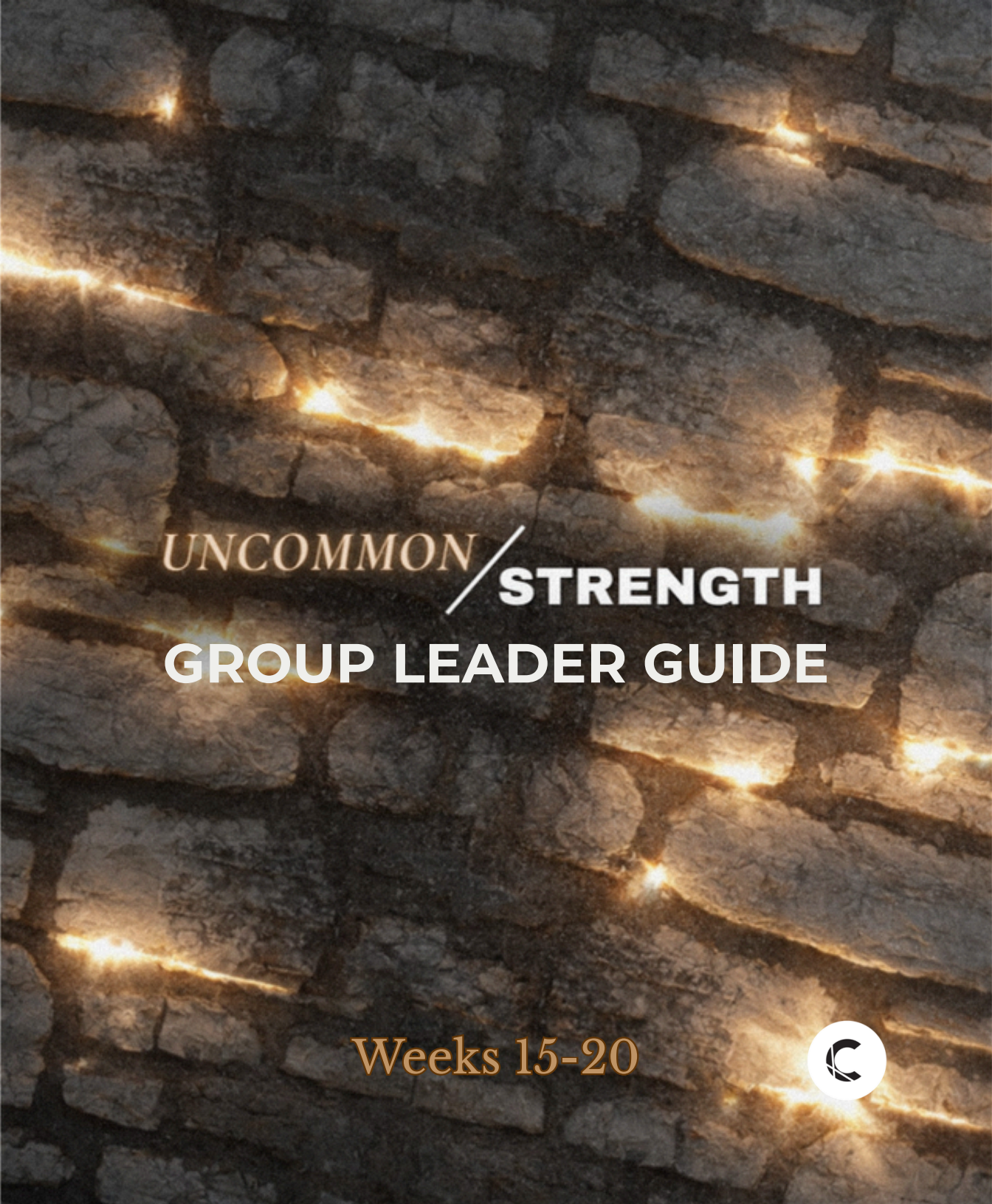
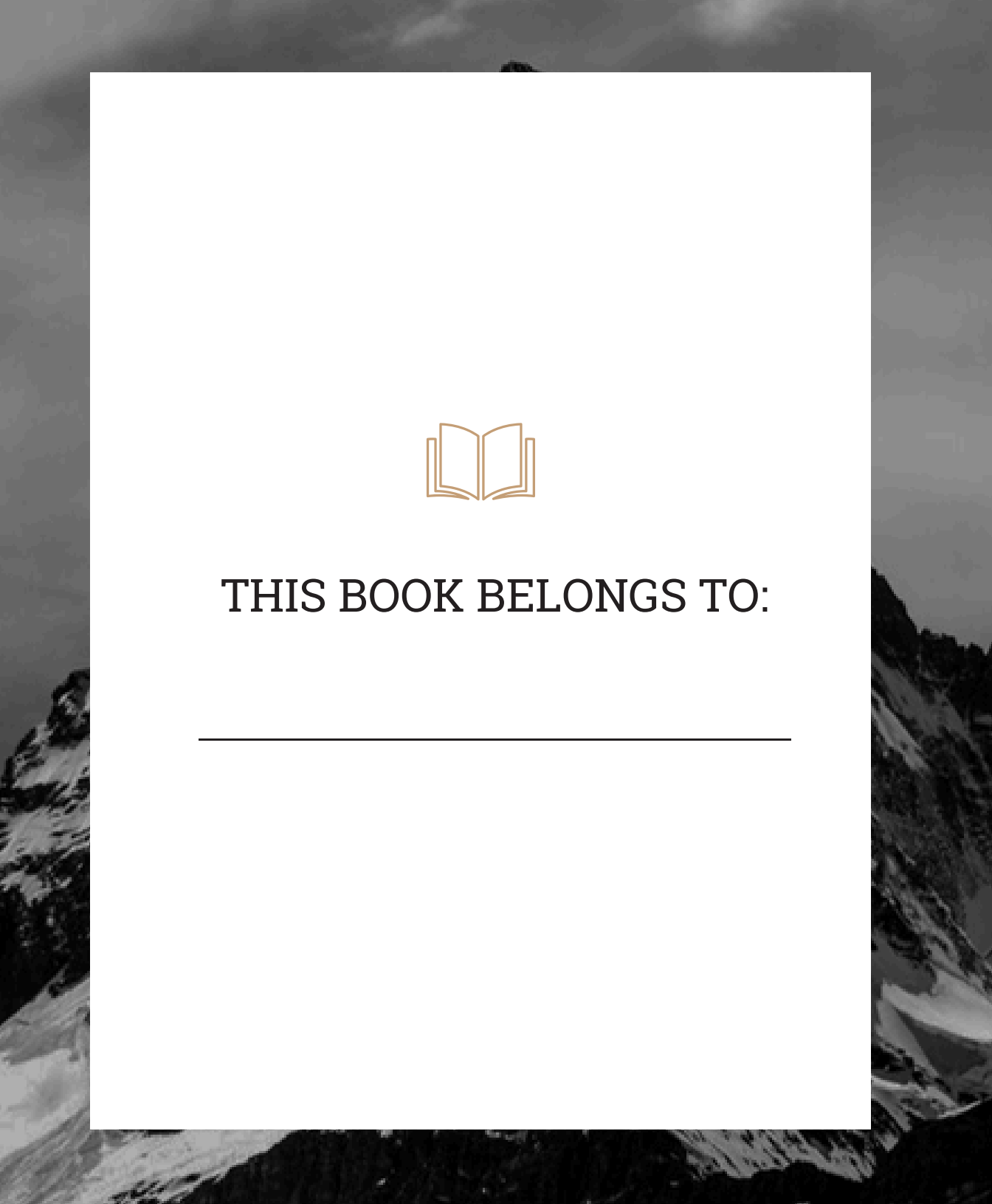
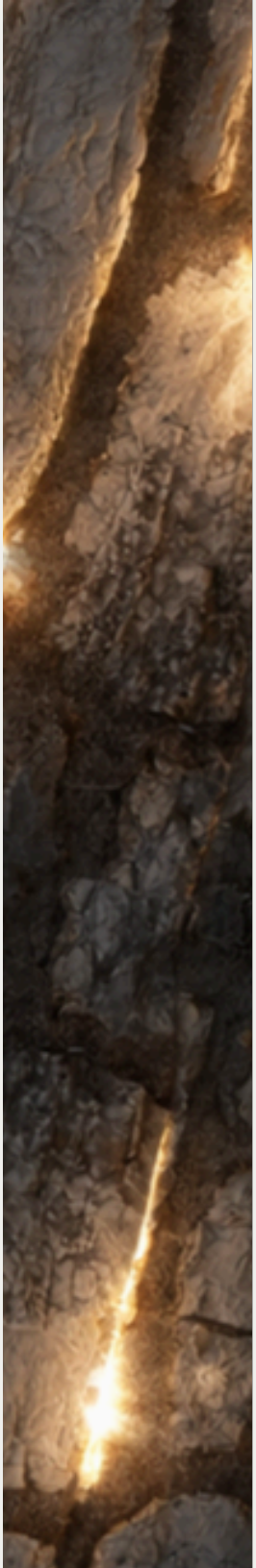

UNCOMMON/STRENGTH
GROUP LEADER GUIDE
Weeks 15-20



THIS BOOK BELONGS TO:

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GROUP *leader basics*

How to Lead Well This Semester

Thank you for saying yes to leading a group! **Your leadership matters**, and we're grateful for your heart to invest in others. This quick guide will walk you through the basics of leading well as we study the book of James together.

Your Role as a Group Leader

Your goal is to help people grow in their relationship with Jesus and with each other. You don't need to be perfect or have all the answers—just be present, caring, and willing to walk alongside others in their faith journey. Your role centers on two things:

- **Community** – Building real friendships, showing up for each other, and doing life together.
- **Discipleship** – Helping people become more like Jesus by growing in knowledge, obedience, and relationship.

This is exactly what the early church lived out in **Acts 2:42–47**:

"They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and to fellowship, to the breaking of bread and to prayer. Everyone was filled with awe at the many wonders and signs performed by the apostles. All the believers were together and had everything in common. They sold property and possessions to give to anyone who had need. Every day they continued to meet together in the temple courts. They broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts, praising God and enjoying the favor of all the people. And the Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved."

The early church modeled **community and discipleship**—meeting regularly, praying, studying God's Word, and caring for each other. That's the heart of your group too: **helping people build meaningful relationships and grow spiritually by seeking God together**. The next sections will walk you through how to lead your group toward that goal.

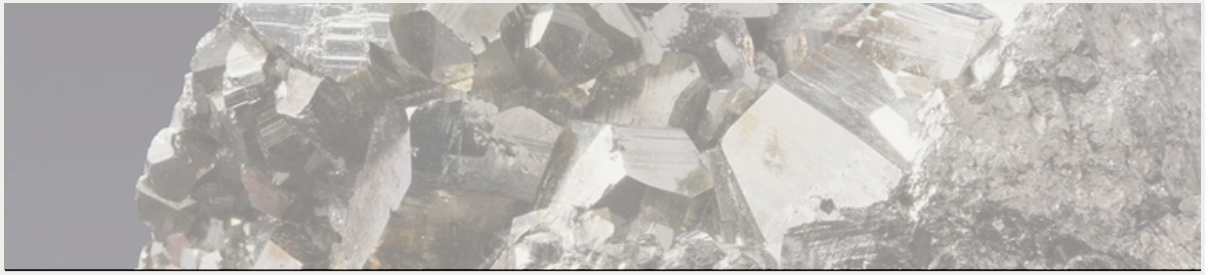
HOW TO LEAD A SUCCESSFUL GROUP

- **Pray daily** for your group. Ask God to help them grow and stay connected.
- **Check in midweek**. Send a quick text, email, or call—especially when someone shares a prayer request or big news.
- **Take attendance** using the LEAD church app to track who comes each week.
- **Create a friendly atmosphere**. Laugh, play games, and help your group feel like family.
- **Listen more than you talk**. Aim for 70% them, 30% you.
- **Set the tone.** Want openness or application? Go first. **Lead by example.**
- **Pick and train a co-leader. Don't lead alone—invest in someone who can lead too.**
- **Keep your space ready.** Make it clean, welcoming, and distraction-free.
- **Prepare with purpose.** Review the guide before each week—don't wing it.
- **Respect people's time.** Start and end discussions on time.

THE C.A.R.E. METHOD

When in doubt, use **CARE** to guide your group:

- **C** — **Connect**: Build real relationships. Learn names. Check in on life.
- **A** — **Ask**: Use open-ended questions to help people reflect and grow.
- **R** — **Relate**: Tie discussion back to **Scripture and real life**.
- **E** — **Encourage**: Speak life. **Point people to hope, truth, and next steps**.





THINGS TO AVOID WHILE LEADING

- **Talking about politics.** Political discussions can divide quickly. While there are some biblical issues that merge with the political world (i.e. marriage, abortion, etc.), focus your conversations on growing closer to Jesus, not politics.
- **Pushing too hard.** Don't pressure anyone to share more than they're ready to. Let things like confessions and deeply personal prayer requests happen naturally by building strong community.
- **Trying to be a counselor.** Offer support, but leave counseling to the professionals. Whenever a mental health need arises, inform a pastor at Crossroads who can connect the person with professional care.
- **Going off-topic.** Keep the conversation focused on what matters most. When things get off-topic, bring it back on track as quickly as possible.
- **Talking too much.** Your job is to guide, not teach. Let the group talk!
- **Letting one person take over.** If someone is oversharing, kindly redirect and get other people involved in the discussion.
- **Assuming everyone is the same as you.** There will be different personalities, backgrounds, and levels of spiritual maturity in your group. Lead with grace.

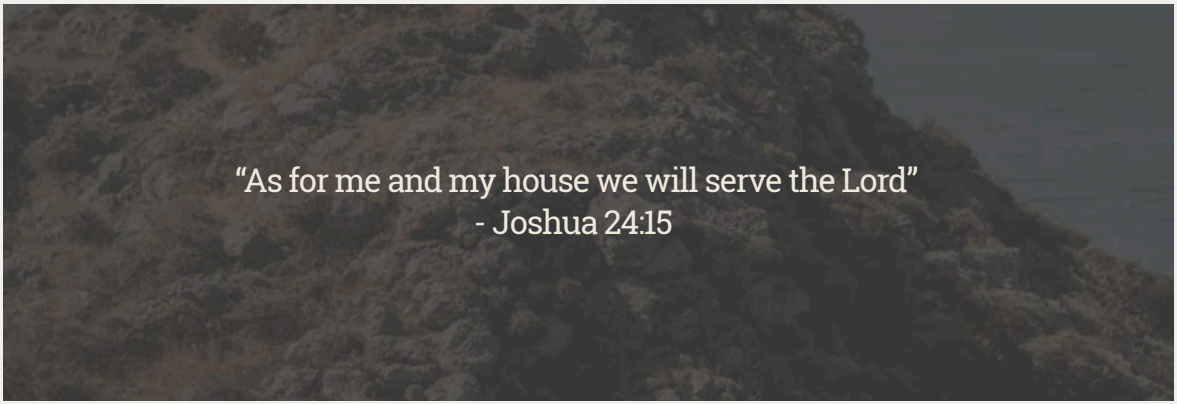
we're here to help!

Jacob Vance | 419-780-6551 | jacob.vance@crossroadswired.com

Jake Christie | 419-610-8202 | jake.christie@crossroadswired.com

Study Breakdown

WEEK 15	JOSHUA 17
WEEK 16	JOSHUA 18-19
WEEK 17	JOSHUA 20
WEEK 18	JOSHUA 21
WEEK 19	JOSHUA 22
WEEK 20	JOSHUA 23-24



WEEK 15

Passage:

Joshua 17

Chapter Breakdown:

Joshua 17 focuses on the inheritance given to the descendants of Joseph, especially Ephraim and Manasseh. After receiving their land, they complain to Joshua that one portion is not enough for such a large and blessed people. Joshua's response is essentially: If you need more room, go take responsibility for the land God has already placed in front of you. The hill country is difficult, the forests need cleared, and the Canaanites have powerful iron chariots—but Joshua refuses to let those obstacles become excuses.

This chapter reminds us that God's provision does not eliminate our responsibility. Sometimes we ask God for more while overlooking what He has already given us to steward. Faith does not mean waiting for every obstacle to disappear; it means trusting God enough to move forward despite them. The descendants of Joseph had the strength and opportunity they needed—the question was whether they were willing to do the hard work required to possess what God had given them.

Icebreaker Question:

- *When was a time you were scared of something until you tried it?*

Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking about the sermon and your personal study this week, what stood out to you most from Joshua 17? What did God challenge you with, teach you, or make you want to discuss with the group?

2. Read Joshua 17:14–15 together.

- *The descendants of Joseph focus on what they believe they are missing, while Joshua points them toward what is already available to them. Where are you most tempted to focus on what you do not have instead of recognizing what God has already entrusted to you?*

3. Read Joshua 17:16–18 together.

- *The people see forests, strong enemies, and iron chariots. Joshua sees land they are capable of possessing. What obstacle in your life has become so large in your mind that it may be keeping you from obeying God?*

4. Joshua tells them that because they are a strong and numerous people, they are capable of doing the difficult work ahead.

- *What gifts, abilities, relationships, experiences, or opportunities has God already given you that you may not be fully using for His purposes?*

5. Sometimes we ask God to change our circumstances when He may be asking us to change our response to them.

- *Is there an area of your life where you have been waiting for God to make things easier when obedience may require you to step forward while it is still difficult?*

6. Joshua essentially tells the people, "Take the hill."

- *What is one specific step of obedience you know you need to take this week? Share it with the group, and decide how someone here can follow up with you and help you actually do it.*

prayer requests/notes:

WEEK 16

Passages:

Joshua 18–19

Chapter Breakdown:

Joshua 18–19 records the final major land allotments for the remaining tribes of Israel. The land has already been given by God, but several tribes have not yet taken possession of what belongs to them. Joshua challenges them directly: How long are you going to wait? His words expose the danger of passivity. God had been faithful to provide the inheritance, but His people still had to move forward and live in it.

These chapters remind us that there is a difference between being given something and actually walking in it. God gives His people gifts, opportunities, responsibilities, and callings, but fear, comfort, or hesitation can keep us from fully stepping into them. Faith sometimes looks like refusing to delay any longer and taking the next obedient step into what God has already placed before us.

Icebreaker Question:

- *What is something you are really good at putting off until the last possible minute?*

Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking about the sermon and your personal study this week, what stood out to you most from Joshua 18–19?

2. Read Joshua 18:1–3 together.

- *What had God already done for Israel, and what were the remaining tribes still failing to do? Where do you see the difference between waiting faithfully and simply putting off obedience?*

3. Joshua asks, "How long will you put off going in to take possession of the land?"

- *If God asked you a similar question today, is there an area of your spiritual life where you already know the next step but have continued delaying it?*

4. ***Read Joshua 18:4–10 together.***

- *Joshua sends people out to carefully survey the land before making decisions. What does this show us about the relationship between trusting God and using wisdom, planning, and preparation?*

5. Every tribe received an inheritance, but they did not all receive the same thing.

- ***W****here are you most tempted to compare what God has given you with what He has given someone else? How can comparison keep us from gratitude and faithfulness?*

prayer requests/notes:

WEEK 17

Passage:

Joshua 20

Chapter Breakdown:

Joshua 20 records God's instructions for establishing cities of refuge throughout Israel. These cities were meant to protect someone who caused another person's death unintentionally, giving them a safe place while the situation was investigated. In a culture where revenge could quickly spiral, God built both justice and mercy into Israel's law.

This chapter shows that God cares deeply about truth, fairness, and protecting people from unjust punishment. He does not ignore wrongdoing, but He also refuses to let anger and vengeance decide someone's fate. The cities of refuge gave people space for their case to be heard and judged rightly. They remind us that God is both just and merciful, and that His people should reflect both of those qualities in the way they treat others.

Icebreaker Question:

- When you need to get away and clear your head, where is your favorite place to go?

Discussion Questions:

1. 1. Thinking about the sermon and your personal study this week, what stood out to you most from Joshua 20?

2. Read Joshua 20:1–6 together.

- *What protections does God put in place for the person seeking refuge? What do these instructions reveal about the kind of justice God values?*

3. Read Joshua 20:4 together.

- *Before judgment is made, the person is given an opportunity to "explain his case" to the elders. Why is listening before reaching a conclusion so important? What usually happens when we assume we already know someone's motives?*

4. This system protects the accused, but it also takes the loss experienced by the victim's family seriously.

- *What does Joshua 20 teach us about holding justice and mercy together rather than choosing one at the expense of the other?*

5. Think about the way you respond when someone disappoints, frustrates, or hurts you.

- ***A****re you more likely to listen, assume the worst, withdraw, retaliate, or pursue understanding? What would reflecting God's character look like in that relationship?*

6. A city of refuge was a place where someone could run when everything had gone wrong.

- *Are you becoming the kind of Christian that hurting, ashamed, or struggling people feel safe coming to for truth, grace, and help? What is one change you could make this week to become a safer and more gracious person for others?*

prayer requests/notes:

WEEK 18

Passage:

Joshua 21

Chapter Breakdown:

Joshua 21 records the cities given to the Levites throughout Israel, but the chapter ends with one of the clearest summaries of the entire book: God kept every promise He made. Israel had received the land, their enemies had been subdued, and God had given them rest. The story that began with promise now arrives at fulfillment.

This chapter reminds us that God's faithfulness is not partial or temporary. He does not forget what He has said, and He does not abandon His people halfway through the journey. His timing may not always match ours, and His promises may unfold over generations, but Joshua 21 looks back over the entire story and declares that not one word failed. God is trustworthy because He always remains faithful to His Word.

Icebreaker Question:

- *Who is the person you know who is the best at keeping their promises?*

Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking about the sermon and your personal study this week, what stood out to you most from Joshua 21?

2. Read Joshua 21:43–45 together.

- *What words or phrases stand out to you in this summary? Why do you think the writer emphasizes that "not one word" of God's promises failed?*

3. Many of the promises fulfilled in Joshua 21 had been made generations earlier.

- ***W****hat does that teach us about God's timing? How is biblical faithfulness different from expecting God to work according to our preferred timeline? Can you look back in earlier books of the Bible and find some of these promises kept?*

4. Where is it easiest for you to trust God because you have already seen His faithfulness? Where is trusting Him much harder right now?

- *How can remembering what He has done in the past change the way you approach that current situation?*

5. Take a moment to identify one specific example of God's faithfulness in your life that you do not want to forget.

- *Share it with the group. What practical way can you remember and return to that story the next time your faith is tested?*

prayer requests/notes:

WEEK 19

Passage:

Joshua 22

Chapter Breakdown:

Joshua 22 follows the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and half of Manasseh as they return to their land east of the Jordan. Joshua and Eleazar withdraw from the narrative so the next generation can demonstrate their ability to maintain covenant loyalty after their leaders' deaths, preparing them for this challenge as Moses's responsibilities were once passed to Joshua. Before leaving, Joshua reminds them to remain faithful to God. Soon after, the other tribes hear that they have built a large altar near the Jordan and assume they have turned away from the Lord. Israel prepares for conflict, but before attacking, they send leaders to investigate what actually happened.

The eastern tribes explain that the altar was not built for false worship, but as a witness that they still belonged to the people of God. What could have become a civil war is resolved through conversation, truth, and a shared commitment to the Lord. Joshua 22 reminds us that unity is worth protecting, but it must be protected with both courage and wisdom. God's people should take faithfulness seriously, but they should also be slow to assume the worst about one another. Sometimes preserving unity begins with simply listening before reacting.

Icebreaker Question:

- If someone gave you a piece of land to build your dream home, what is one thing you would definitely want it to have?

Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking about the sermon and your personal study this week, what stood out to you most from Joshua 22?

2. Read Joshua 22:4–5 together.

- *What does Joshua tell the eastern tribes to prioritize as they return home? Which of these commands do you find easiest to live out, and which one tends to be more difficult for you?*

3. Read Joshua 22:10–12, 21–29, and 30–34 together.

- *Why were the Israelites concerned about the altar, and what changed once they listened to the eastern tribes' explanation? What does this teach us about pursuing truth without making assumptions about someone's motives?*

4. Think about how you normally respond when conflict or disagreement happens.

- *Are you more likely to assume the worst, avoid the conversation, become defensive, vent to someone else, or genuinely listen? How could following Jesus change the way you handle conflict?*

5. Read Joshua 22:5 again.

- *Joshua tells the people to "cling to" the Lord and serve Him with all their heart and soul. What is one relationship, attitude, or unresolved conflict where obedience to that command needs to change the way you respond this week? Share a specific next step your group can encourage you to take.*

prayer requests/notes:

WEEK 20

Passage:

Joshua 23-24

Chapter Breakdown:

Joshua 23–24 records Joshua's final words to the people of Israel. Near the end of his life, Joshua gathers the nation and reminds them of everything God has done: He called Abraham, rescued Israel from Egypt, led them through the wilderness, fought their battles, and gave them the land He promised. Joshua's final message is rooted in a simple truth: God has been faithful, so His people must decide whether they will be faithful to Him. Joshua does not allow Israel to drift into comfortable, half-hearted faith. He calls them to put away false gods, fear the Lord, and serve Him sincerely. His famous declaration, "As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD," is more than a statement for a wall decoration—it is a public commitment to lifelong obedience. These final chapters remind us that following God requires intentional choices. We remember what He has done, trust who He is, and choose again and again to give Him our whole lives.

Icebreaker Question:

- What is one family tradition, value, or rule from your home growing up that you would want to carry into the next generation?

Discussion Questions:

1. Thinking about the sermon and your personal study this week, what stood out to you most from Joshua 23–24?

2. Read Joshua 23:12–13 together.

- *Joshua warns Israel that turning away from God would likely happen through relationships and influences that slowly pulled their hearts elsewhere. What are some influences that can gradually pull a Christian away from wholehearted devotion to God? How can we recognize spiritual drift before it becomes something much bigger?*

3. Read Joshua 24:1–13 together.

- *Notice how many times God describes what He has done for Israel. Why does Joshua remind the people of God's faithfulness before asking them to make a commitment? How should remembering what God has done shape our obedience?*

4. Read Joshua 24:14–15 and 19–24 together.

- *Joshua tells the people to choose whom they will serve, but he also warns them not to make that commitment casually. What does wholehearted devotion to God actually require? What are some modern "gods" that can compete for a Christian's loyalty?*

5. Joshua says, "As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

- *If someone looked at your priorities, schedule, spending, relationships, and habits, where would they clearly see that decision being lived out? Where might they see divided loyalty?*

6. As we finish Joshua, identify one change you want to carry forward rather than simply something you learned.

prayer requests/notes:

Congratulations on completing Part 3 of Joshua!

As you've walked through these chapters, you've seen again and again how courage, obedience, and trust in God shape the life of His people, especially as they settle into the land He promised them.

Thank you for your leadership throughout this study.

The time, care, and faithfulness you've invested in guiding your group, preparing each week, facilitating discussion, and pointing others back to Scripture, has made a meaningful impact. God uses that kind of steady, humble leadership in ways that often go far beyond what we can see.

As this study comes to a pause, we pray the habits you've strengthened, engaging Scripture, leading others in honest reflection, and applying God's Word, continue to shape both your personal walk with God and the lives of those you lead.

May what you've seen in Joshua deepen your trust in God's faithfulness and encourage you as you continue to lead with wisdom, consistency, and grace in the seasons ahead.

Part 3 of Joshua is coming, and we pray God continues to use you as a steady, encouraging presence as you lead others through the rest of this journey.


Crossroads Church