

*arise + go*

When God searches for a leader, whom does He choose?

For forty years, Joshua went about his work as Moses' servant. He served the people without complaint. He listened, learned, and quietly obeyed. Imagine how different this story would be if Joshua had hardened his heart during those hidden years.

THE EYES OF THE LORD  
*search* THE WHOLE EARTH IN  
ORDER TO STRENGTHEN THOSE  
WHOSE *hearts* ARE FULLY  
COMMITTED TO HIM

*2 chronicles 16:9*

Humility is the soil from which true leadership grows.  
The way to the top is to get low to the ground.

BECAUSE JOSHUA WAS  
*useful* IN THE WAITING  
HE WAS *useable*  
IN THE DOING.

Now, it was time!

The Book of Joshua opens on fragile ground. Moses, who had led the people from Egypt to the Jordan, was dead, and the eyes of the nation turned to his successor. Joshua's training was officially over. All the lessons he had learned in the wilderness were about to be tested.

This is where the adventure begins.

*arise + go*  
homework

## remember

The wilderness prepared Joshua for the mission ahead. He was quiet, observant, and useful. By the time God called his name, he carried a strength shaped by years of unnoticed faithfulness.



## answer the question

Name the three lessons Joshua learned in the wilderness

- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_

## homework

Joshua now stood at the helm of a nation in transition. The season of preparation was over; the call had come. Joshua stood on the edge of promise, ready to step where God said,

**“ARISE & GO”**

## decode the text

Read | Joshua 1:1-6

What major transition happened in verse one? Picture the weight of this moment for Joshua and for Israel.

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## go

Sometimes the Lord gives us everything we need—calling, equipping, open doors—and we still don't take that first step. The command doesn't stop at standing—it requires movement.

Read | Philippians 3:8–16

What did Paul consider “loss,” and how does letting go of lesser things free us to move forward in wholehearted obedience to Christ?

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Paul admits he has not “arrived,” yet he pressed on. What does this teach us about the mindset required for a life of ongoing faith and forward movement?

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“Straining forward” and “pressing on toward the goal” What does this athletic imagery reveal about how we should pursue God's calling in seasons when fear or obstacles tempt us to hold back?

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## ponder this

Why might someone hesitate to take the first step of faith—even when the Lord has clearly called and prepared them?

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the walk of faith is unknown -  
but NOT uncertain

# give + get

## decode the text

Read | Joshua 1:2-3

Consider the command. What participation was required of Joshua and the people?

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Consider the two phrases below. Identify the verb tense used in each phrase. Identify the proper noun(s) mentioned.

“I am giving to them” (vs. 2)

“I have given to you” (vs. 3)

Tense: \_\_\_\_\_

Tense: \_\_\_\_\_

Noun: \_\_\_\_\_

Noun: \_\_\_\_\_

What does the shift in tense reveal about God’s promise and Israel’s participation? In what way does this show that the Promised Land—though already given—still required participation to be possessed? Write your thoughts below.

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## wield the sword

The tension between “given” and “to be given” points us forward to our own inheritance in Christ, fully secured yet still to be lived out. Observe Ephesians 1:3 below. Highlight/label the following: How are we blessed? What is the tense of this blessing? What are we blessed with, and where are these blessings found?

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ  
who has blessed us in Christ with  
every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places

It is time we took possession of that goodly heritage the Lord has made our own, for in Christ Jesus “we have obtained an inheritance” and have the guarantee of it in our possession of the Spirit of God. We have lingered long enough in the wilderness.

Charles Spurgeon

# borders

## decode the text

Read | Joshua 1:4

What is the Lord outlining here in verse four? What area is Israel responsible for taking?

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How do boundary lines give both permission and limits to a nation advancing into the land?

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## wield the sword

Read | Psalm 16:5-11

Who holds our permission and limits? How does this exhort and encourage you in your walk with the Lord?

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The promised land spreads wide and deep before you. Everywhere you tread is yours.  
The lines of your inheritance are beautiful. Take the land, but stay within bounds.

How does Ephesians 2:10 apply?

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Read | 2 Corinthians 10:13

Notice Paul's language about influence, limits, and staying within the work the Lord assigned him. What does this verse teach about staying "in your lane" spiritually?

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God gives each of us a place to walk, serve, and flourish—  
but not everywhere is ours to claim.

## strength + courage

### decode the text

Read | Joshua 1:5-6

List the promises and encouragements God gives. If the Lord repeatedly speaks courage, what does that imply Joshua was feeling?

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Between verses 5–9, the Lord gives Joshua one exhortation three times.

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Joshua had heard something similar not long before. Read Deuteronomy 20:1–4 and jot down anything Joshua may have remembered as God spoke to him now.

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## wield the sword

The repeated encouragement for strength and courage leaves us to assume Joshua was feeling weak and fearful. Can we blame him? Crossing the Jordan is no small feat. And to be accountable and responsible to safely forge this new ground full of unknowns and enemies with three million souls would make anyone nervous. Consider the following, and journal your thoughts.

1 John 5:4-5

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1 Corinthians 15:55-57

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He disarmed the rulers and authorities and put them  
to open shame, by triumphing over them in Him.  
Colossians 2:15

## stepping forward



Joshua stood at the edge of the Promised Land—called by God, equipped for the task, and poised to step forward. The ground before him pulsed with promise, but it also came with boundaries. Everything God allotted to him was already guaranteed, yet it still required his obedience. He couldn't take more than God had given, and he couldn't shrink back from what God had assigned. Every step mattered. Every act of faith moved the people closer to the inheritance God had prepared.

Rise—God has ground for you to claim. Stay within His boundaries—they are your safety and your strategy. And know this: strength and courage are already planted in the soil of your next step.

God never calls without going first.  
And He never sends without going with you.

When the Lord calls us to step out in faith, we move forward knowing this: the victory of the cross has already cleared the way. Jesus goes ahead of us, and He stays beside us—our shield, our fortress, our Deliverer.

Yes, the land is filled with battles. Giants stand tall, enemies wait in the shadows, and spiritual warfare is real and relentless. But not one stronghold has the upper hand. Not one enemy holds the advantage.

Because of Calvary, every foe is already defeated.

Arise. Go. Step forward in the strength of the One who has already conquered the land ahead of you.