

## 287.1: Courage (OT Gospel Doctrine Lesson 18, Updated)

### "Be Strong and of a Good Courage"

The Book of Joshua is clear, simple, and disturbing at the same time. Disturbing because what is clear and simple involves the miraculous utter destruction of the nations surrounding Israel. The righteous are righteous, the evil are evil, and God personally comes in and kills all the bad guys. I personally don't think it lines up with life very well at all.

#### Productive Sunday School

1. Reading review
2. How does Joshua line up with our life experiences?
3. Remembering our lives (and teaching others) (talk about gift of hospice, spending time with people who have experienced so much, whose lives have spanned the better part of a century, oldest hospice patient just died, she marched in the Armistice parade after World War 1!)
4. Choosing and clinging to God
5. God's promises of companionship and support
6. Conclusion

#### Reading:

[Joshua 1](#): "Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. [6](#)Be strong and courageous" ("whoever doesn't listen to you should be put to death")

[2](#) Rahab, prostitute with a testimony. Fun detail that she lived in the city wall.

[3](#) "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will be among you" Priests with the ark passed through on dry ground (echo of crossing of Reed sea)

[4](#) Twelve stone memorial, instructions for when kids ask about it "Let your children know" what things mean, what you experienced

[5](#) Circumcision of all those who grew up in the wilderness, first Passover, manna stops because people are in the promised land. Angel of Lord ("Commander of Lord's army") tells Joshua to remove his sandals because he is on holy ground (more echoes of Moses)

[6](#) The story we all know: march around the city seven times, blew trumpets, walls fell down, city conquered

[23](#) Themes: cling to God, not to foreign nations.

[24](#) Joshua reviews blessings and challenges (Makes me think of "life review" in hospice, journaling also powerful, write down our life stories) "Choose ye this day whom you will serve" (we need to decide what our priorities are in life, where we want to focus, what lines up and will lead us to our best selves, best outcomes.

## 287.2: Courage (OT Gospel Doctrine Lesson 18, Sunday School)

### "Be Strong and of a Good Courage"

Most of us know the story of Joshua from childhood. The walls came tumbling down, remember? Upon closer examination however, the book of Joshua is very much a mixed bag, offering both inspiration and difficulty. This portion covers:

- What it means to "be strong and of good courage". What can help us be strong and courageous?
- How does scripture study contribute to strength and courage?
- How the class has felt God's encouragement in their lives
- The opportunities we have to renew our covenants
- How we can responsively and constructively deal with the Joshua story

## 287.3: Courage (OT Gospel Doctrine Lesson 18, Study Notes)

### "Be Strong and of a Good Courage"

Most of us know the story of Joshua from childhood. The walls came tumbling down, remember? Upon closer examination however, the book of Joshua is very much a mixed bag, offering both inspiration and difficulty. This portion covers:

- Joshua and history, focusing on the archaeological excavation of Jericho
- How we can confront narratives where God commands genocide
- The question of miracles