

ST. ANDREW'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

FLAWED MASTERPIECE



wisdom from
ancient voices

WEEK 9



FLAWED MASTERPIECE WEEK NINE

This week, Jon Batarse is diving into Joshua 1:1-9 with an invitation to remain strong and courageous, even in times of change, because our God is faithful. He is navigating shifts in leadership, seasons, and changes within each of us as individuals! God is calling Joshua and us to remember his presence, faithfulness, and what he has already done in the midst of change. Joshua is mentioned intentionally by the author as the "New Moses," showing the importance of trusting in God as Moses had done in bringing God's people out of slavery. Now, this was a trial to the faith of Joshua, whether he would give orders to prepare for passing the river when there was no visible way of getting over it! He would have to lead Israel out of trusting in God's faithfulness!

- What stands out to you most about Joshua?
- How can you see his trust in the story?
- Why is he the one to take Israel into the Promised Land?



Take a moment to read this passage together as a group, keeping God's faithfulness at the forefront of your mind.

"Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

COMMENTARY ON THE PASSAGE



That he encourage himself herein with the promise and presence of God, and make these his stay (v. 6): Be strong and of a good courage. And again (v. 7), as if this was the one thing needful: Only be strong and very courageous. And he concludes with this (v. 9): Be strong and of a good courage; be not afraid, neither be thou dismayed. Joshua had long since signalized his valour, in the war with Amalek, and in his dissent from the report of the evil spies; and yet God sees fit thus to inculcate this precept upon him. Those that have grace have need to be called upon again and again to exercise grace and to improve in it. Joshua was humble and low in his own eyes, not distrustful of God, and his power, and promise, but diffident of himself, and of his own wisdom, and strength, and sufficiency for the work, especially coming after so great a man as Moses; and therefore God repeats this so often, "Be strong and of a good courage; let not the sense of thy own infirmities dishearten thee; God is all-sufficient. Have not I commanded thee?"



DISCUSS WITH YOUR GROUP

- How can you participate in encouraging those along side and bring hope in the transition to remain faithful to his faithfulness?
- What would need to change in this season for it to be the best season yet?
- What is God calling you to do that is requiring you to be faithful to his faithfulness?
- Share a story of time in your past when you were given assurance of where God was taking you?

"No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and courageous"

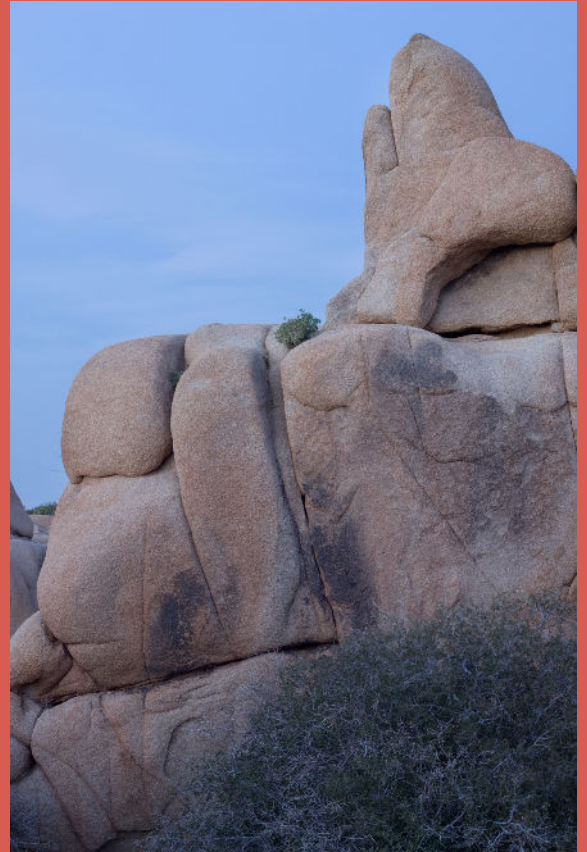
- Joshua 1:5



FINAL THOUGHTS

Take a final few minutes to apply this passage to your lives:

- What do you see is the application for our lives as it relates to giving?
- How might God be inviting you to reconsider how you give?
- What does/would extravagant giving look like in your life?



**Here are some online commentaries
you can consider:**

Free:

biblegateway.com/resources/commentaries/
blueletterbible.org/study.cfm

Paid:

accordancebible.com
logos.com