

## Sample programme for taster session

1. Welcome
2. Introduce yourself and the team (you will need 1 discussion group leader for every 8 guests)
3. Open in prayer
4. Explain the CBSI 5-way approach to Bible Study (individual study, group discussion, talk, commentary – all in a caring environment)
5. Introduce the Joshua passage and read it out loud explaining that this would not normally happen as it is part of the individual study at home.
6. Hand out the questions (again – normally done at home)
7. Give 15 minutes or so for people to work on the questions individually – reassure them no one is going to check their spellings or even look at it but them.
8. Form a group or groups (maximum 8 people per group) to share their answers.
9. Give a sample talk underlining the importance of studying (meditating on) God's word.
10. Hand out the commentary for them to read at home.
11. Discuss level of interest, possible venue, time, etc.
12. Pass round a contact sheet.
13. Close in prayer



## **Commentary on Joshua 1,7-9**

God appealed to Joshua to „be strong and courageous“, a phrase repeated three times in this chapter (1,6.7.9). When God repeats something, He is placing special emphasis on it for our benefit. The word strong comes from the Hebrew word *chazaq*, „tough“. The word courageous is from the Hebrew word *amats*, „being sharp and confident“. God was saying, „Joshua, be tough, alert, and confident!“ Joshua was reminded to follow explicitly the written Law God gave through Moses (1,7-8). He was told not to be discouraged or to fear any situation, for God would be with him wherever he went (1,9).

The „Book of Law“ is the inspired writing of Moses known today as the Pentateuch – the first five books in the Old Testament. In verse 8, God told Joshua to read and reflect on this book constantly, urging him to do „everything written in it“. The related promise was encouraging: „Then you will be prosperous and successful.“ The word prosper is from the Hebrew word *tsalach*, to pass through. There is the sense of moving on and accomplishing what one intended to do. What a challenge!

Obedience to God's word was linked with accomplishment and achievement.

### **Taster session wrap up talk**

Prosperity Gospel. Is that what God is saying here? If I study the Bible and go to CBSI and obey God, I will get rich and be famous?

The clue is in the commands God gives to Joshua. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Be strong and courageous. If a child comes to you and is really excited about something – a new DS or X box or birthday coming up – you don't say „Don't be afraid!“ No! It's something we say to a child on his first day at school or when a parent dies. In the same way, God would not waste his breath encouraging Joshua and reassuring him if everything was going to be really easy.

In the NT Jesus promises his followers that they will suffer even as he does. So what is God saying to us here? He seems to have a different definition of prosperity and success than having a posh car and a big house.

Finding out what that looks like and learning to hear God and obey Him is a life long process and we need all the help we can get. I am not saying CBSI is the only way to do this, but it is one way and it is a way that will be available here in (your town). It helps you to be disciplined in searching the Scriptures for yourself and in the end it is about getting closer to God and learning what success and prosperity looks like with Him.

## Questions

6) From verse 7:

a. What are God's commands?

b. What does God promise Joshua if he obeys these commands?

7) Read verse 8 with Psalm 1. What does it mean to you?

8) From verse 9, what instructions does God repeat to Joshua?

Personal thought: God has given the people of all generations the same promises and assurances (see Psalm 91). Ask God to teach you to apply these promises to your own life.



## **Introduction to Joshua**

Moses was dead. Moses who had led the people out of slavery in Egypt, who had led the people for 40 years in the wilderness and who had received the law from YHWH himself and shared it with the people and shown them how to obey it. How do you follow a leader like that? Well, someone had to and that someone was Joshua. At the beginning of the book of Joshua we find God himself speaking to Joshua and commissioning him to lead the Hebrews into the promised land. He promises to give them the land from the Negev to Lebanon, from the Euphrates to the Med.

### **Joshua 1,7-9**

*7 Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Do not deviate from them, turning either to the right or to the left. Then you will be successful in everything you do. 8 Study this Book of Instruction continually. Meditate on it day and night so you will be sure to obey everything written in it. Only then will you prosper and succeed in all you do. 9 This is my command – be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.“*

### **Psalm 1**

- 1 *Oh, the joys of those who do not follow the advice of the wicked, or stand around with sinners, or join in with mockers.*
- 2 *But they delight in the law of the LORD, meditating on it day and night.*
- 3 *They are like trees planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season. Their leaves never wither, and they prosper in all they do.*
- 4 *But not the wicked!*  
*They are like worthless chaff, scattered by the wind.*
- 5 *They will be condemned at the time of judgement. Sinners will have no place among the godly.*
- 6 *For the LORD watches over the path of the godly, but the path of the wicked leads to destruction.*