



The Promise of His Presence | Shawn Johnson | 5.23.21
Weekly Study

S T A R T

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

If you could be a professional athlete in any sport, which sport would you choose and why?

S H A R E

Welcome back to Group! This week, Shawn gave a message called The Promise of His Presence. Before we dive into the sermon, take some time to check in with your Group by answering these questions.

Rate your week on a scale of 1 to 10. Why did you pick that number?

What was the highlight of your week?

What is one thing you feel like God is showing you in your walk with him lately?

G R O W

Read Joshua 1:5-9

Which verse stuck out to you from this passage?

What do you know about the context of this passage?

Why do you think God told Joshua to be strong and courageous so many times?

The passage you just read is in the middle of a long story about the Israelites journey out of Egypt and into the promised land. When Moses passed away, it was time for his protégé Joshua to pick up the torch and run with it. I love studying this story because it becomes very clear what Joshua is struggling with. In Joshua 1, God tells Joshua to “be strong and courageous” four different times! What type of person needs to be reminded to be strong and courageous over and over again?

The answer is someone who feels afraid. It’s very comforting to know that the men and women in the Bible often felt worried. God doesn’t reprimand him for his fear; he reminds him that he can do this even though he is afraid!

Franklin Roosevelt once said, “Courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the assessment that something else is more important than fear.” Being strong and courageous doesn’t mean we will never feel scared. It means we continue to press in toward what God is calling us to do even when we feel anxious.

As Shawn reminded us this week, the reason we can be strong and courageous is because God promises his presence will go with us!

What is one thing you are currently anxious or nervous about? What does it look like to be strong and courageous?

What is one tangible way your Group can help you face your fears this week?

M O V E

Read Joshua 3:5-13

What stuck out to you about this passage? Why?

What can we learn from the Israelites journey?

In the passage you just read, we got some significant insight into Joshua's success. He refused to move forward until God went before him. He let God go first!

If we truly want to walk in confidence, we have to remember that God promises that his presence will go with us. Jesus later reminded his disciples of the same thing. In Matthew 28:18-20, he is giving them their final commission to take the Gospel to all the world. Let's read it together:

Then Jesus came to them and said, "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely, I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

How did Jesus spend his final few moments with his disciples? By reminding them that he is going with them to the very end of the age. This is one of the most beautiful parts of God. He doesn't just give us a mission and send us off; he gives us a commission and then promises to go with us!

But it's not always easy to remember that, so this week, Shawn gave us a list of things in Scripture that God promises to do. Take some time to talk about each promise and read the verse that goes along with it.

<i>GOD'S WITH US</i>	<i>(Joshua 1:9)</i>
<i>GOD'S PROTECTING US</i>	<i>(1 Thessalonians 3:3)</i>
<i>GOD'S PROVIDING FOR US</i>	<i>(Luke 12:22-31)</i>
<i>GODS FIGHTING FOR US</i>	<i>(Deut. 3:22)</i>
<i>GOD WILL NEVER LEAVE US</i>	<i>(Joshua 1:5)</i>

Which of those promises sticks out to you the most? Why?

Which of those promises do you need to apply to your life today?

How can you apply that one promise to your life this week? How can your Group come alongside you and help you remember that promise when you need it?

P R A Y

We need prayer now more than ever. Spend some time-sharing prayer requests. If you are in a coed group, consider breaking off into two separate groups (or calls if you are an online group) to share more freely.

T O G O

Joshua told the people, "Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you."

- Joshua 3:5