

# #My Jubilee Bible

## Reflection/Discussion Guide: Deuteronomy 24-Joshua 11; Psalm 57-63

This guide is broken into three parts:

1. A brief overview of the Scriptures you are reading this week
2. Personal devotion
3. Community group discussion and application

Feel free to answer the questions for personal devotion at your own pace. They are designed to help consider a section of Scripture: How God is revealing himself?, What God is doing?, Who are we in relation to God?, and What are we to do in light of this truth?

### Overview of Joshua

For a brief, but great overview of the book of Joshua, please go to <http://www.jubileestl.org/my-jubilee-bible/>

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## Personal Devotion

Reading the Scriptures devotionally is such a soul expanding, life enriching way to experience God through His word. There are several challenges that we can face as we read. The biggest one is to approach God and His Word as a critic, or a judge. This approach fills the gaps in our understanding with suspicion rather than trust.

Our goal is not to criticize God and His word, it is to look into the words of life and let them examine us. Our aim is to know God, love Him and respond with obedient faith.

With that in mind we want to approach God and His word with humility, desire and discipline.

## Humility

There are four prayers in the Scriptures that can be easily remembered and incredibly helpful when approaching God to hear Him through His word. It's a simple acronym: I.O.U.'S.

"Incline my heart to your testimonies, and not to selfish gain!"—Psalm 119:36 ESB

"Open my eyes, that I may behold wonderful things from Your law."—  
Psalm 119:18 ESB

"Unite my heart to fear your name."—Psalm 86:11 ESB

"Sustain me with a willing spirit."—Psalm 51:12 NASB

## Desire and Discipline

*"Like newborn infants, long for the pure spiritual milk, that by it you may grow up into salvation— if indeed you have tasted that the Lord is good.—1 Peter 2:2-3*

Desire (longing) needs to lead to diligence (you have tasted) so that we may be satisfied that God really is good. Following are some questions and a format to help us grow in both desire and discipline.

As you read with humble desire and discipline, let these questions help lay some tracks for the train of your thoughts to run on. Start with who God is and what he's doing, then work through who you are and how you can respond.

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## Who is God?

- How is he revealing about himself in the text I'm reading?
- What characteristics do I observe?

## What is He doing?

- What are God's actions in the text I am reading?
- How do His actions match his revealed character?

## Who am I?

- How do I fit into God's story?
- How do I relate to the people in the text I am reading?
- How do I relate to the circumstances they are in?

## What do I do?

- How do I respond to God as He reveals Himself in the text I'm reading?
- How do I respond to what God is doing in the text I'm reading?
- How actions or attitudes do I need to change?

The following grid may help you keep track of your observations and applications.

1. Who is God?	3. Who I am?
2. What is God doing?	4. What do I need to do?

It's often helpful to have a way to record your observations and applications as you read. You can get a simple journal or notebook to write your thoughts down, or use the Bible App notes to keep a record of what you sense God is saying to you.

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## CG Discussion Guide

Icebreaker: Give a brief description of BLESS and then ask: Who did you BLESS this week?

**Read** Joshua 1:1-9

- In verse 1-2 God speaks to Joshua
  - How does the fact that God speaks help you to know and understand Him better?
  - What are some ways that you have heard God?
  - How can you relate to Joshua's situation?
- In verse 5 God promises to be with Joshua.
  - What does God promise Joshua?
  - How are these promises helpful in your current circumstances?
- In verses 6-7 God gives Joshua some commands.
  - What are some things God commands?
  - What reasons does God give for His commands?
  - What do these commands tell us about the desire God has for his people?
- In verses 8-9 tells Joshua, "*This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it...*" The sense of the phrase is that you should keep the word of God ready on your tongue. Don't forget it, keep thinking about it and speaking it so that you will do what it says.
  - How do you keep God's word fresh in your mind?
  - What challenges or distractions cause you to lose focus on God's word?
  - Why does God command that we should not be frightened?
  - What situations are you currently facing that make you feel afraid, or anxious or even cowardly?
  - How would it help you to keep verses 8 and 9 ready on your tongue?
  - How would it help us as a church if we reminded about this, daily?

**Pray**

- Pray for people who are currently facing frightening situations.
- Pray for one another to be strong, bold and courageous.
- Pray for one another to know and experience God's presence through the week.

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Notes: