

Week 4// Life in the Land

Joshua and Judges

Intro//

This week we explore Joshua and Judges, books containing both classic Sunday School stories like the battle of Jericho; alongside well-known characters like Gideon, Samson, Deborah and Delilah. It is a section of scripture that starts on a high, when the people of God finally enter and settle into the promised land. But before long, things go from bad to worse as the warning signs in Joshua are followed by Judges, which describes in grim detail the decline of the community into religious and moral chaos. As we enter part 4 of God's story, we are asked to hold in tension the fulfilment of God's promises alongside the failure of his people to faithfully follow Him.

For the fourth video in full, [please click here.](#)

Discussion Questions//

1. Joshua begins with God promising to win victory for his people and by the end of the book this has come to pass. When have you seen God bring breakthrough/victory in your own story?
 - a. Where in this story did you particularly sense/know God at work?
2. One of the challenges God's people face as they enter the promised land is the lure of the vast number of other *gods* worshipped by the world around them. *What would you identify as some of the potential idols that we're in danger of absorbing as Christians/the Church today?*
3. In Judges, God's order is often restored by individual leaders. Where have you seen examples of inspirational spiritual leadership?
 - a. Either in the book of Judges/ the whole Bible?
 - b. Either in the Church or elsewhere in society?
4. Before now, God's people have hardly been perfect. However, Judges probably contains some of the most flawed leaders and difficult stories in the whole Bible.
 - a. *If we're meant to be shaped by God's story, what are we to do with/how are we to learn from a book like Judges?*
5. James identifies forgetfulness as one of the reasons the people fail to follow God. *What are some of the ways that we can get into the habit of remembering the work of God in our lives?*

Reading Plan//

1	Joshua 1	Joshua
2	Joshua 3-4	Crossing Jordan
3	Joshua 5.13-6.27	Jericho
4	Judges 2.6-3.6	Disobedience
5	Judges 4-5	Deborah
6	Judges 19-21	Apostasy & Civil War
7	1Sam 1-3	Samuel