

"Being Strong and Courageous"

Text: Joshua 1:1-6

Message Synopsis: Life is a series of change points. When going through change, we need to focus on the character of God. As Moses passes the leadership baton to Joshua, his desire is that the entire nation understand the greatness of God. This is spelled out in Deuteronomy 32-33; Joshua 1:1-6

Reflection and Discussion Questions

- Reflect back on a time you experienced change in your home, vocation or business.
- During this time, what did you discover about God? Do you see any parallels from Moses council to Joshua and the nation as they get ready to possess the land that had been promised to them?
- What is the significance of God as the "Rock" in contrast to the "rock" which other nations worshiped? (See Deut. 32:4 and 31...)
- How do feel about being the "pupil" or the "apple" of God's eye? (Deut. 32:10)
- Have you ever been pushed out of your comfortable nest? (Deut. 32:11-12)
- Why does God stir us from time to time to abandon the status quo and attempt new things for Him?
- Why is it that after God blesses the nation of Israel that they rebel and eventually "scorn" the one who has done so much for them? (Deut. 32:15-25)
- What are some "idols of our heart" that cause us to miss the best God has for us?
- What do the "arms of God" symbolize? (Deut. 33:27)
- What does it mean to be "strong and courageous?" (Joshua 1:6-9)

Living it out...Why are we as Christ-followers called to be "strong and courageous?"

- *There is an inheritance to claim (Joshua 1:6).* What is God calling you to claim?
- *There is always the temptation to turn aside (Joshua 1:7).* What are your greatest temptations to turn from?
- *There is the human tendency to fear the unknown (Joshua 1:9).* What are the fears God has empowered you to overcome?

Praying for our Church

- Pray for our new Lead Pastor Joel Dorman as he and his family relocate to Merced.
- Pray for the upcoming outreach concerts here at FBC in the coming days.

Praying for our Community

- Pray for the churches and pastors in Merced that preach the Gospel.
- Pray for Merced College and UC Merced as new students will be coming.
- Pray that God would empower us to reach out to our neighbors.

Praying for our World: *Somalia*

The Somali Church was driven underground in 1991 when the dictatorial regime of Mohamed Siyad Barre fell in a popular uprising. Most of the several hundred Somali believers went underground or fled the anarchy, taking refuge abroad. There are possibly about 4,000 Somali Christians in Somalia and twice that in the diaspora. Some meet in secret, but others follow Jesus in isolation. Pray for protection as well as discipleship and fellowship opportunities. Even as targeted persecution of believers escalates, so does the boldness of the church. But increasing numbers of believers are paying for their faith with their very lives. Pray for perseverance for Christians in this most difficult situation. Pray for Somali Christian families to be raised up – the great majority of Christians are men.

Additional Resources

- Read the book – "The Art of Neighboring."

[LIFE GROUP LIFE LINE]

July 23, 2017

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- Visit www.bible.org
- [Operation World online: praying for the world](#)