



Morningside Church

Sermon Discussion Guide

Title: A Conqueror for Christ

Date: January 4, 2026

Scripture Text: Joshua 1:1-9

Notes:

As a new year begins it is often an opportunity for new beginnings, which may include starting to eat healthier, or getting more organized, or being more consistent reading the Bible. Many times, we may find ourselves in a rut, going through the motions without experiencing the abundant life God has for us ([John 10:10](#)). Looking back at the book of Exodus, Israel finds themselves in bondage in Egypt. God provides a deliverer in Moses. God's plans are to introduce them to His law, then to the land (Promised Land, i.e. Canaan). They leave Egypt, God provides His law at Mt. Sinai, then brings them to the threshold of the Promised Land. Unfortunately, because of their disobedience, they were not allowed to enter but wandered in the wilderness for 40 years. During that time God faithfully provided for them with manna, but this was not His original plan. He wanted them to not just survive on manna but thrive on 'milk and honey' in the Promised Land. Similarly, when we are in a rut, we are merely surviving on manna as we wander the wilderness. Just going through the motions. But when we take God's living word and apply it daily, we can thrive in the abundant life He desires for us.

I. Overcome Obstacles ([Josh. 1:1-2](#))

The book of Joshua begins with God's proclamation that Moses was dead. He had led the Israelites for more than 40 years. God spoke to him, and He delivered God's messages to the people. He had prepared Joshua to be his successor, and now was the time. Joshua had some big shoes to fill. It would be Joshua's job to lead God's people into the Promised Land, subdue it, and settle it.

- The book of Joshua is a book of new beginnings for Joshua. He transitions from being Moses right-hand man to being the head honcho.
 - What would be going through your mind if you were Joshua?
- We see that the transition from Moses to Joshua demonstrates how the work of God is bigger than one man.
 - What are examples of a church depending too much on a man and not on God?
 - How can you be open to learning from others without losing your focus on God?
- Joshua had to overcome any insecurities he had about stepping into Moses' role as Israel's leader.
 - When was a time God called you to take a step of faith and follow His instructions?
 - What were insecurities you faced that you needed to overcome?
 - How was your relationship with God affected as you obediently followed Him?



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II. Ponder God's Promises (Josh. 1:2b-6)

God instructs Joshua to cross the Jordan and conquer the land. It would not be by Joshua's abilities that Israel would conquer the land, it would be by God's direction and power as He promised. God promises His presence with Joshua as he faithfully obeys God's commands.

- Why would it be important to Joshua for God to tell him in [vs. 5](#) "I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you."?
- As you start the new year, why is it important to remember that God also promises to never leave you, nor forsake you ([Heb. 13:5](#))?
- Describe what it looks like to "be strong and courageous" ([vs. 6](#)).
- Why is it key to focus on God's promises and not just your priorities?
- What are examples of God's promises that bring you comfort and encouragement?
- How can pondering these promises help as you start a new year?

III. Obey God's Orders (Josh. 1:7-9)

Again, God tells Joshua to 'be strong and courageous'! But God adds the caveat that for Joshua to be strong and courageous is to "do according to all the law". To do so included meditating on God's word and practicing God's word ([vs. 8](#)). It is in that context that God will make Joshua's way prosperous and for him to have success.

- To do (live) according to God's word, we need to know it. How do you regularly spend time in God's word to better know it?
 - How well do you know God's word?
 - What can you do to know His word better?
- After reading His word, we take it to the next step and meditate on it. Too often we are too rushed to slow down and consider God's word, what He is teaching us and how we need to apply it. We need to take time to deeply consider what we read and how God is speaking to us through His word.
 - How well do you meditate on God's word on a regular basis?
 - Is this an area you could improve on?
 - What are ways you can be more intentional in your meditation on God's word?
- Next, we should consider how we put what God is teaching us into action. It is by actively practicing what God is teaching us that we experience Him first-hand.
 - What is an example of how you're applying the truths of God's word each day?
 - How has the practice of God's word helped you know Him better?
 - How has He demonstrated His faithfulness as you've stepped out on faith and applied His word?