



Please do not send this newsletter back to Crossroads.

“Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.”

– **Joshua 24:15 (NIV)**

While many Christians are more familiar with the New Testament than the Old Testament, one well-known Old Testament verse is Joshua 24:15:

*“But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. **But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.**”*

In life, there are many things we can choose to serve: money, power, fame, our own desires, or achieving a goal. Every day, God asks us the same question that Joshua asked the Israelites: “Who will you serve today?”

A New Season

“There is a time for everything, and a season for every activity under the heavens” (Ecclesiastes 3:1).

As the weather starts to warm up and activity at your facility increases, especially outdoors, pray about how you can share your faith with others. Consider sharing a Spread the Word card with someone who would benefit from studying God’s Word through Crossroads with encouragement from mentors.

A Message from Crossroads’ President, Joe Pryor

I recently had a conversation with a neighbor who was expressing concern about the state of our country and the world. After listening to her thoughts, I reassured her that, regardless of what’s happening in the world, God is ultimately in control and has the final say.

Many times in our lives, we may feel as though God is not present with us. When we witness the world around us moving in unrighteous ways and those nearby engaging in sinful practices, we may wonder, “Where is God?” The assurance of God’s presence is a promised truth from His holy Word. Isaiah 41:10 reassures us, saying, “So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” So, find assurance and comfort in the fact that even when we don’t see Him around us, He is there.

Joshua Is a “Type” of Jesus

If you have been a student of the Bible for a while, you may have heard the term “type.” In the Bible, a type is a prophetic symbol representing something else. For example, the Old Testament prophet Elijah is often referred to as a type of the New Testament prophet John the Baptist, who was said to have come in the power and spirit of Elijah. In Jesus’ day, the Jewish people were expecting Elijah to come back to earth before the Messiah would come, as we can see in this conversation between Jesus and His disciples recorded in Matthew 17:10–13:

(Continued on next page)

The disciples asked him, "Why then do the teachers of the law say that Elijah must come first?"

Jesus replied, "To be sure, Elijah comes and will restore all things. But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and they did not recognize him, but have done to him everything they wished. In the same way the Son of Man is going to suffer at their hands." Then the disciples understood that he was talking to them about John the Baptist.

Many Old Testament prophets and leaders are types, or prophetic symbols, of the coming ministry of Jesus. In addition to sharing the same name (the Hebrew name for Jesus is Yeshua, and the English spelling of Yeshua is Joshua), Joshua embodied characteristics that point to Jesus. Joshua was:

1. A leader who followed God's law
2. A deliverer who rescued sinners
3. A warrior who conquered enemies
4. A prophet who spoke the Lord's words
5. A victor who shared God's inheritance with His people
6. A servant who faithfully enacted the Lord's will

As you read through the book of Joshua with your fellow Crossroads students, notice Joshua's gifts and character, recognizing him as a prophetic type of Jesus. Pay attention to God's faithfulness to His promises.

Scripture Reading and Prayer Guide: The Book of Joshua

This guide is designed to help you in your daily journey with God. Mentors and staff are also invited to use this guide to pray alongside you. During March and April, we will read and pray through the book of Joshua. This book tells the story of Israel as they entered the promised land after the death of Moses. Joshua was appointed by God to lead His people as they conquered the land of Canaan and distributed the land among the twelve tribes of Israel. Joshua was a gifted military leader who encouraged the Israelites to serve God and follow His law.

Although some of the passages include details that may seem boring, confusing, or violent, we encourage you to remember that "all Scripture is God-breathed and is useful for teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness" (2 Timothy 3:16). Be mindful of how God might be speaking to you through His Word.

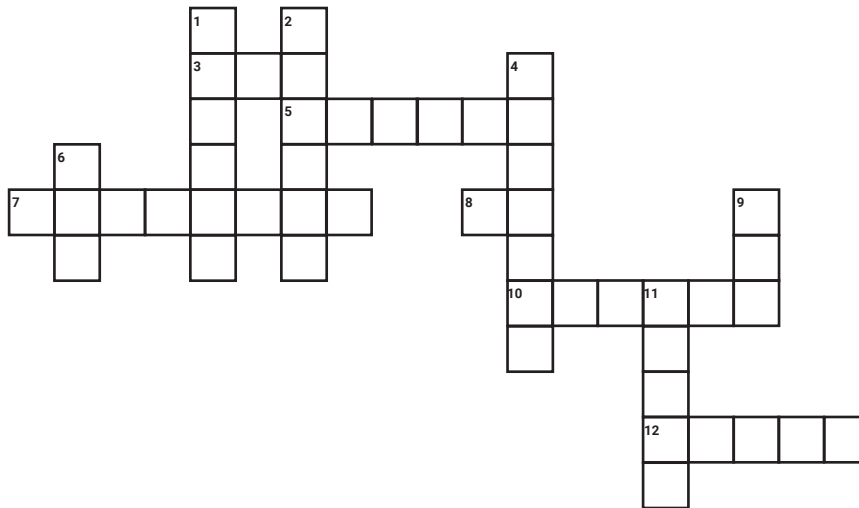
Date	Passage	Reading Topic	Prayer Focus
Mar. 1	Joshua 1:1-9	God calls Joshua to lead	For clarity about God's call in your life
Mar. 2	Joshua 1:10-15	Joshua gives his first orders	For wisdom to encourage fellow believers
Mar. 3	Joshua 1:16-18	The people pledge to obey Joshua	For a willingness to submit to authority
Mar. 4	Joshua 2:1-7	A prostitute named Rahab	For eyes to see God in surprising places
Mar. 5	Joshua 2:8-14	Rahab protects Joshua's men	For opportunities to advance the Gospel
Mar. 6	Joshua 2:15-21	Joshua's men pledge their protection	For God's protection over your family
Mar. 7	Joshua 2:22-24	Joshua's men report back	Give thanks to God for delivering you
Mar. 8	Joshua 3:1-6	A command to follow the ark	For God's guidance in your life
Mar. 9	Joshua 3:7-13	God confirms that He is with Joshua	That God will make His presence known
Mar. 10	Joshua 3:14-17	Crossing the Jordan River	For a miracle to happen in a difficult situation
Mar. 11	Joshua 4:1-7	A sign for the twelve tribes	That Jesus will help you witness to others
Mar. 12	Joshua 4:8-14	40,000 are prepared for battle	For God's help in fighting your battles
Mar. 13	Joshua 4:15-24	Israel camps on the border of Jericho	That God will do His will in your life
Mar. 14	Joshua 5:1-9	Circumcision of the uncircumcised	For a heart that is obedient to God
Mar. 15	Joshua 5:10-12	Israel celebrates the Passover	Give thanks to God for your salvation
Mar. 16	Joshua 5:13-15	Joshua is visited by an angel	For understanding about how to worship God
Mar. 17	Joshua 6:1-11	Marching around Jericho	For eyes to see God's supernatural methods

Mar. 18	Joshua 6:12–21	Jericho falls with a trumpet blast	For victory over a challenge in your life
Mar. 19	Joshua 6:22–27	Rahab’s family is saved	For God’s protection as you serve Him
Mar. 20	Joshua 7:1–9	Israel defeated at Ai	For a strong commitment to obey God today
Mar. 21	Joshua 7:10–15	Israel’s sin against God	To live with integrity and honesty
Mar. 22	Joshua 7:16–26	Achan confesses his sin	For a heart willing to repent when you sin
Mar. 23	Joshua 8:1–17	Joshua’s strategies for the battle	For wisdom to set God-honoring goals
Mar. 24	Joshua 8:18–29	Victory in Ai	For victory over a sin that has plagued you
Mar. 25	Joshua 8:30–35	Joshua renews the covenant	For faithfulness in your commitment to God
Mar. 26	Joshua 9:1–15	The plan of the Gibeonites	For protection from those who want to harm you
Mar. 27	Joshua 9:16–27	The Gibeonites are spared	For a grateful heart
Mar. 28	Joshua 10:1–15	The sun stands still	That you will use your time wisely
Mar. 29	Joshua 10:16–28	Five Amorite kings are executed	That all enemies of God will be defeated
Mar. 30	Joshua 10:29–43	Southern Canaan is conquered	For your leaders in government
Mar. 31	Joshua 11:1–15	Northern Canaan is conquered	To fully trust God
Apr. 1	Joshua 11:16–23	God hardens the hearts of His enemies	For a soft heart toward God
Apr. 2	Joshua 12:1–6	Former victories of Moses	For understanding as you study God’s Word
Apr. 3	Joshua 12:7–24	Joshua’s victories	To remember everything God has done for you
Apr. 4	Joshua 13:1–7	Land to be conquered	For the spiritual battles that lie ahead
Apr. 5	Joshua 13:8–23	Moses’s inheritance	To leave a legacy of faith for the next generation
Apr. 6	Joshua 13:24–33	More history	For wardens and staff in prisons and jails
Apr. 7	Joshua 14:1–15	Caleb’s request	Bring to God the prayer requests on your heart
Apr. 8	Joshua 15:1–19	Judah’s inheritance	For God’s blessing as you follow Him
Apr. 9	Joshua 15:20–63	Judah’s inheritance, continued	That God will show you who to help today
Apr. 10	Joshua 16:1–10	Ephraim’s inheritance	For those living in slavery around the world
Apr. 11	Joshua 17:1–13	Manasseh’s inheritance	For those you know who don’t know Jesus
Apr. 12	Joshua 17:14–18	Driving out the Canaanites	For the Body of Christ around the world
Apr. 13	Joshua 18:1–10	Joshua tells the people to take the land	That your family’s needs will be met
Apr. 14	Joshua 18:11–28	Benjamin’s inheritance	For those who have just come to faith
Apr. 15	Joshua 19:1–16	Simeon and Zebulun	For God’s encouraging grace
Apr. 16	Joshua 19:17–39	Issachar, Asher, and Naphtali	That your actions will demonstrate your faith
Apr. 17	Joshua 19:40–51	Dan and Joshua	For the restoration of any broken relationships
Apr. 18	Joshua 20:1–9	Cities of refuge	For a fair justice system, judges, and police
Apr. 19	Joshua 21:1–12	The Levites ask for an inheritance	For your pastors and teachers
Apr. 20	Joshua 21:13–33	The descendants of Aaron	For chaplains and volunteers in prisons and jails
Apr. 21	Joshua 21:34–45	God fulfills His promises	For God to complete His work in your life
Apr. 22	Joshua 22:1–9	God gives His people rest	That God will give you peaceful rest today
Apr. 23	Joshua 22:10–20	Trouble amongst God’s people	To love those with whom you disagree
Apr. 24	Joshua 22:21–29	Three tribes defend their actions	To be a witness to God’s truth
Apr. 25	Joshua 22:30–34	Peace among the tribes	For peace between political opponents
Apr. 26	Joshua 23:1–13	Joshua gives direction to leaders	For wisdom to lead others well
Apr. 27	Joshua 23:14–16	Joshua’s life nears its end	To honor God with your whole life
Apr. 28	Joshua 24:1–13	Renewing the covenant with God	Rededicate your life to God today
Apr. 29	Joshua 24:14–28	Choose whom you will serve	To serve God wholeheartedly
Apr. 30	Joshua 24:29–33	Joshua’s death	For those mourning a recent death

Crossword Puzzle: The Book of Joshua

Use the clues below to fill in the words.

- Words can go across or down.
- Letters are shared where two words cross each other.
- Scripture quotations are taken from the NIV Bible.



ACROSS

- How many spies did Joshua send out? (Joshua 2:1)
- Joshua established cities of _____ to protect those who had been accused of a crime (Joshua 20:1–2)
- Five Amorite kings hid from Israel in a cave at _____ (Joshua 10:16)
- The second victory for Israel was over the city of _____ (Joshua 8:1–2)
- Joshua agreed to give Caleb this land (Joshua 14:13)
- Joshua built this on Mount Ebal (Joshua 8:30)

DOWN

- Twelve men from the twelve tribes carried these into the Jordan River (Joshua 4:2–3)
- Israel crossed this river to enter God’s promised land (Joshua 1:14)
- The first city Israel conquered (Joshua 6:2–3)
- God told Joshua to meditate on the Book of the _____ (Joshua 1:8)
- Joshua’s father (Joshua 1:1)
- She hid Joshua’s spies (Joshua 2:1–7)

From the Operations Department

- Please don’t send *Just for Students* or the crossword puzzles back to Crossroads. They are yours to keep!
- If you move to a new facility or go home and want to continue your lessons, please let us know. To continue studying from home, please wait until you are living there to send us a note with the address.
- We will send the next *Just for Students* newsletter to you in June.
- To accommodate the growing mail policy changes in jails and prisons around the United States, Crossroads is slowly transitioning to printing our lessons in black-and-white ink instead of colored ink. You may receive a mix of both during the transition.



CROSSROADS

PO Box 900 | Grand Rapids, MI 49509-0900