

VISION DAY

Sunday X 9.18.16

COMMUNITY GROUP GUIDE

INTRODUCTION

As we officially celebrate our year as Mercy Church, we have the opportunity to savor all that God accomplished and look forward to all that He will do. In order to help us gain perspective, we look toward Joshua's story for great hope and encouragement. Joshua became the next leader of Israel after the death of Moses. Moses was perhaps the greatest leader of Israel and left Joshua with big shoes to fill. Joshua 1 shows us God's interaction with Joshua, as he prepares Joshua to lead the people of Israel. God gives Joshua both incredible promises and commands for fulfilling His purposes. God provides immense strength and courage to Joshua and helps prepare Him for the tasks to come.

As we study Joshua's commissioning, we are reminded that God often calls us to uncomfortable obedience. He gives us many promises, but also gives many commands that stretch our faith. In the midst of our lives, God provides the strength and encouragement necessary to fulfill His purposes. While Joshua was a solid leader for Israel in many respects, He was not the ultimate leader that they truly needed. Joshua's story points us to the need for a greater leader, who provides ultimate strength and courage in the midst of life's difficult moments. As we learn about our mission and purpose, we see that Christ leads us in moments of uncomfortable obedience. He has already accomplished everything necessary for us to remain obedient in God's purposes. God's purposes often involve great leaps of faith. We can trust that God will accomplish great things, in our church, our city and our world, when we rest in His promises and follow obediently.

BIBLE STUDY

Scripture: Joshua 1:1-9

Getting Started

1. When was a time when you felt overwhelmed or unqualified?
2. How do you respond when you feel unqualified to fulfill a purpose?

Discussion

3. What are the promises given to Joshua?
4. How do the promises of God give strength to Joshua?
5. What are the commands God gives to Joshua (1:6-9)?
6. How are God's promises and commands connected?

Application

7. How are the promises given to Joshua connected to the promises we have in Christ?

8. In what ways have you experienced the fulfillment of God's promises?

9. How does the presence of God give us strength to accomplish His purposes?

10. How does Joshua 1:9 remind us of the Great Commission (Matthew 28:18-20)?

11. What is God calling you to do as an act of uncomfortable obedience?

PRAYER

Prayer is an essential component of your life as a follower of Christ, and an integral part of any healthy church body. Divide up into groups of 2-3 people and use the following points to guide you through a time of prayer together.

1. Pray for strength in obedience to God's purposes
2. Pray for an increased vision of God's work in Charlotte
3. Pray that the Mercy family will grow deep with the Lord and be engaged with His promises and commandments in Charlotte and around the world