

SERMON BASED CURRICULUM

**Date & Sermon Series:**

April 9/10, 2016; Script

Speaker:

Pastor Joshua Symonette

Scripture Focus: Joshua 1:1-9

Note To Leaders:

This weekend we discussed how there is no great opportunity without giant opposition. But we can be "strong and courageous" because God is with us wherever we go! These questions provide a framework to prompt or foster discussion in your small group. Don't feel you have to use all or any of these questions and you don't have to make it to the end! Use the questions that best fit your group and let discussion flow.

Icebreaker Suggestions: What are some giants and obstacles you have faced going after your life goals/dreams?

Sermon Series Questions:

1. What thoughts are still resonating with you from the sermon?
2. What was most encouraging or challenging about this weekend's message?
3. In what ways did the command of "being strong and courageous" speak to you?

Specific Questions:

1. God promises us a land flowing with milk and honey, but that certainly doesn't eliminate the giants and obstacles we may encounter within this life. The promise we have is that God is always with us despite the giants. Do you think the promise of God's faithfulness makes it easier to endure the circumstances? Is it easier for you to focus on the land flowing with milk and honey or the giant that is right before you?

2. Pastor Joshua said, "Don't edit yourself out of what you've been promised in the script." In other words, don't sell yourself short if you know God has "prosperous and successful" plans for you. In what ways do you think God wants you to live a prosperous and successful life?

3. How should the script of your life match the promises that are written about you in Scripture?

4. Pastor Joshua reminded us that God already knows the only thing that will cause us to

deviate from the script is fear, which is why he regularly reminds us that he is always with us! How does fear play a role in your life? Does it ever prevent you from doing the things you know God has called you to do?

5. “There is no great opportunity without giant opposition.” Joshua and Caleb had to intentionally focus on the great promises that God had outlined for them. They had to believe in order to influence their outcome. We always have a choice to focus on the great things or the giants, but you have to make the conscientious choice to choose one. At what point are you more likely to focus on the giants in your life? Are there times when it is easy to focus on God? Are there times when it is the most difficult to see him beyond the shadow of the giant?

6. Do you believe that Joshua and Caleb operated out of the same script and the same promises that God has for you? If not, what can you do in order to take a step closer to believing all that God has in store for you just like he did for Joshua and Caleb?

7. Pastor Joshua talked about wearing a suit, dressing up, in order to remind himself where he was going and who he wanted to become. He wore the vision. What outfit do you have on? What do you wear to match the goals, dreams, and visions you have? Have you ever thought about "wearing the suit"?

Challenge:

Pastor Joshua shared the story of Kayla, who suffered from MS as a cross-country runner. But, she never let it prevent her from reaching for the great. She had a coach who would push her to the next level, catch her at the finish line, and teach her how to discipline herself. We all need coaches. God is our Eternal coach, who is always ready to catch us. Is there someone in your life who can serve as an earthly coach? Maybe it's a friend or a coworker- a spouse or a mentor. Find a coach who is willing to help you cross the finish line and who will be a good representation of our Heavenly Coach. Spend some time this week praying about who can serve as a coach for you in your life.

Read, Pray, Act:

Memorize the promises found in **Joshua 1: 8-9** this week:

“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”