

Choosing
Victory
Overcoming
Defeat

KAY ARTHUR



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HOW TO GET STARTED...



Reading directions is sometimes difficult and hardly ever enjoyable! Most often you just want to get started. Only if all else fails will you read the instructions. I understand, but please don't approach this study that way. These brief instructions are a vital part of getting started on the right foot! These few pages will help you immensely.

FIRST

As you study Joshua, Judges, and Ruth, you will need four things in addition to this book:

1. A Bible that you are willing to mark in. The marking is essential. An ideal Bible for this purpose is *The New Inductive Study Bible (NISB)*. The *NISB* is in a single-column text format with larger, easy-to-read type, which is ideal for marking. The margins around the text are wide for note-taking.

The *NISB* also has instructions for studying each book of the Bible, but it does not contain any commentary on the text, nor is it compiled from any theological stance. Its purpose is to teach you how to discern truth for yourself through the inductive method of study. (The various charts and maps that you will find in this study guide are taken from the *NISB*.)

Whatever Bible you use, just know you will need to mark in it, which brings me to the second item you will need . . .

2. A fine-point, four-color ballpoint pen or various colored fine-point pens that you can use to write in your Bible.

3. Colored pencils or an eight-color Pentel pencil (available at most office supply stores).

4. A composition book or notebook for working on your assignments and recording your insights.


SECOND

1. As you study Joshua, Judges, and Ruth, you will be given specific instructions for each day's study.

Remember, anytime you get into the Word of God, you enter into more intensive warfare with the devil (our enemy). Why? Every piece of the Christian's armor is related to the Word of God. And our one and only offensive weapon is the sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God. The enemy wants you to have a dull sword. Don't cooperate! You don't have to!

2. As you read each chapter, train yourself to ask the "5 W's and an H": who, what, when, where, why, and how. Asking questions like these helps you see exactly what the Word of God is saying. When you interrogate the text with the 5 W's and an H, ask questions like this:

- a. **What** is the chapter about?
- b. **Who** are the main characters?
- c. **When** does this event or teaching take place?
- d. **Where** does this happen?
- e. **Why** is this being done or said?
- f. **How** did it happen?

3. The “when” of events or teachings is very important and should be marked in an easily recognizable way in your Bible. I do this by putting a clock like this:  in the margin of my Bible beside the verse where the time phrase occurs. You may want to draw the clock over the time-related word or phrase, or you may want to underline or color the references to time in a specific color.

Remember, time may be expressed in several different ways: by mentioning an actual year, month, day, or by mentioning an event such as a feast, a year of a person’s reign, etc. Time can also be indicated by words such as *then, when, afterwards, at this time*, etc.

4. You will be given certain key words throughout the books of Joshua, Judges, and Ruth. Marking key words is the purpose of the colored pencils and the colored pen. If you develop the habit of marking your Bible in this way, you will find it will make a significant difference in the effectiveness of your study and in how much you remember.

A **key word** is an important word that is used by the author repeatedly in order to convey his message to his reader. Certain key words will show up throughout the book; others will be concentrated in specific chapters or segments of the book. When you mark a key word, you should also mark the key word’s synonyms (words that mean the same thing in the context) or pronouns (*he, his, she, her, it, we, they, us, our, you, them, their*) in the same way. I will give you suggestions for ways to mark key words in your daily assignments.

Marking words for easy identification can be done by colors or symbols or a combination of colors and symbols. However, colors are easier to distinguish than symbols. If I use symbols, I keep them very simple. For example, I color

repent yellow but put a red diagram like this over it **repent**. The symbol conveys the meaning of the word—a change of mind. When marking key words, do it in a way that is easy for you to remember.

When I mark the members of the Godhead (which I do not always mark), I color each word yellow. But I use a purple pen and mark the Father with a triangle like this **God**, symbolizing the Trinity. I mark the Son this way **Jesus**, and the Holy Spirit like this: **Spirit**.

You should devise a color-coding system for marking key words throughout your Bible so that when you look at the pages of your Bible, you can see instantly where specific key words are used.

When you start marking key words, it is easy to forget how you are marking them. You may wish to use the bottom portion of the perforated card in the back of this book to write the key words on. Mark the words the way you plan to mark them in your Bible and then use the card as a bookmark. You may want to make one bookmark for words you are marking throughout your Bible, and a different one for any specific book of the Bible you are studying.

When you are instructed to mark a key word, the word is the New American Standard translation of the word. However, if the King James Version (KJV), the New King James Version (NKJV), or the New International Version (NIV) translates the word differently, the word used in those translations is given to you in a footnote.

5. Because locations are important in a historical or biographical book of the Bible, you will also find it helpful to mark these in a distinguishable way. I simply underline every reference to location in green (grass and trees are green!) using my four-colored ballpoint pen. Maps have

been included in this study so you can look up locations in order to put yourself into context geographically.

6. When you finish studying a chapter, record the main theme of that chapter on the AT A GLANCE chart under the appropriate chapter number. The chart is provided for you at the end of each book in this study. (If you have an *NISB*, you will want to record the chapter themes on the AT A GLANCE chart at the end of each book in your Bible (then you will have a permanent record of your studies right at your fingertips).

7. If you are doing this study within the framework of a class and you find the lessons too heavy, simply do what you can. To do a little is better than to do nothing. Don't be an all-or-nothing person when it comes to Bible study.

8. Always begin your studies with prayer. As you do your part to handle the Word of God accurately, you must remember that the Bible is a divinely inspired book. The words you are reading are truth—given to you by God that you might know Him and His ways.

For to us God revealed them through the Spirit; for the Spirit searches all things, even the depths of God. For who among men knows the thoughts of a man except the spirit of the man which is in him? Even so the thoughts of God no one knows except the Spirit of God (1 Corinthians 2:10,11).

Therefore, ask God to reveal His truth to you, to lead you, and guide you into all truth. He will, if you will ask.

THIRD

This study is designed to put you into the Word of God on a *daily* basis. Since man does not live by bread alone but by every word that comes out of the mouth of God, we each need a daily helping.

The assignments for each week cover seven days; however, the seventh day is different from the other days. On the seventh day, the focus is on a major truth covered in that week's study.

You will find a verse or two to memorize and **STORE IN YOUR HEART**. Then there is a passage to **READ AND DISCUSS**. This will be extremely profitable for those who are using this material in a class setting. It will cause the class to focus their attention on a critical portion of Scripture. To aid the individual and the class, there's a set of **QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY**. This is followed with a **THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK** which will help you understand how to walk in the light of what you learned.

When you discuss the week's lesson, be sure to support your answers and insights from the Bible itself. Then you will be handling the Word of God in a way that will find His approval. Always examine your insights by carefully observing the text to see what it *says*. Then, before you decide what a Scripture or passage *means*, make sure you interpret it in the light of its context.

Scripture will never contradict Scripture. If it ever seems to, you can be certain that somewhere something is being taken out of context. If you come to a passage that is difficult to deal with, reserve your interpretations for a time when you can study the passage in greater depth.

Books in The New Inductive Study Series are survey courses. If you want to do a more in-depth study of a particular book of the Bible, we suggest you do a Precept Upon Precept Bible Study Course on that book. You may obtain more information on these studies by contacting Precept Ministries at 800-763-8280, visiting our website at www.precept.org, or filling out and mailing the response card in the back of this book.

JOSHUA, JUDGES, AND RUTH



How absolutely awesome it is, my friend, to know that you and I can actually choose victory. The children of the world, who are by nature sons of disobedience, do not have that option—unless of course they repent and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ.

But because we are the children of God, victory is always ours for the obedience of faith. And that is what Joshua, Judges, and Ruth is all about—choosing victory and not defeat by hearing and obeying the Word of God. Victory is faith’s guarantee. No matter what comes your way, no matter what you face, you can be more than a conqueror through Him who loves you!

Choosing Victory, Overcoming Defeat is a study that will take you back to the Old Testament, which was “written for our instruction, so that through perseverance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope” (Romans 15:4). And hope you will have, if you will give yourself to this study and do it as unto the Lord!

As you interact with the Word of God day in and day out over these next weeks, you are going to find yourself face to face with history—and with the God of history. It has been said that history is “His Story.” How true! It is the account of God’s dealing with and ordering the affairs of man. However, it is also the account

of what happens when man chooses to believe and obey God and what happens when he doesn't. How does God respond in the face of man's disobedience? Is there a way for man to turn around? And what if he doesn't? Does it only affect him? Can the disobedience of one man affect a family, a society, a nation?

As you study, gathering the holy manna by which man is sustained, you will find the answers to these questions and more. And you will discover for yourself how to choose victory rather than defeat!

*J*OSHUA

HOW CAN YOU BE STRONG AND COURAGEOUS?





DAY ONE

As you know from reading “How to Get Started,” it is helpful to make a bookmark for any book of the Bible you are studying so that you can write down and remember all the key words you plan to mark in that book.

Remember that not all key words appear throughout the entire book. Some are specific to a particular chapter or section. In the book of Joshua, you will mark some words throughout the book, but with each section of the book you will add some words to your bookmark that are specific to that section. You will be given the key words for each section as you work so you can add them to your bookmark!


The book of Joshua can be divided into four sections: chapters 1–5, 6–12, 13–21, and 22–24. The first section can be called “Preparing to Enter the Land.” As we begin our study on this book, list the following key words on your bookmark and begin to mark them as they appear: *God*, *Lord*, *Joshua*, *land*,¹ *strong*,² *courageous*,³ *firm*, *command*⁴ (*commanded*⁵), *covenant*, *possess*⁶ (*possession*⁷), *ark of the Lord* (*ark of the covenant*), and *Israel*.⁸ Remember to mark

any pronouns or synonyms that refer to each of these words. Don't forget to underline in a special color every geographical reference. If you can't locate a city or region, it is because the exact location is unknown. As you come to any location references, look them up on the map on page 20.

Watch for what you can learn about the Lord as you work through the book too! Noting how the Lord is described and what you learn about Him throughout the book of Joshua and as you study other books of the Bible will teach you much about your God! If you begin a list on what you learn about Him, be sure to leave adequate room to allow you to add to it throughout your study. To know Him is to love and trust Him. Daniel 11:32b says that the people who “know their God shall be strong, and do exploits” (KJV).

Now read Joshua 1 and mark any of the key words listed on your bookmark. As you read, carefully observe who is speaking, to whom they are speaking, and what is being said. Always interrogate the text with the 5 W's and an H: who, what, when, where, why, and how. Asking these questions will give you much insight, and you will find that you can handle the Word of God with greater integrity because those questions make you stay close to what the text of Scripture says and helps keep you from interpreting the text incorrectly.

When you finish reading and marking Joshua 1, list in your notebook God's commands and promises to Joshua. You should leave several pages open so that you can add what you learn about Joshua as you continue to study! Record the theme of this first chapter on the JOSHUA AT A GLANCE chart (page 44).



DAY TWO

It will be profitable for you to stop at this point and do a little background reading on Joshua. You will come to appreciate how Joshua came to the position he has in Joshua 1.

Read Exodus 17:8-13; 24:12,13; 32:17. (Note that Joshua was not in the camp with the people who sinned; he was at the mountain waiting for Moses to come down.) Read Numbers 13:1-16,25-14:10,26-38; Deuteronomy 32:44; 34:1-12. Watch for every reference to Joshua, and mark these if you like. You may want to note these verses from Exodus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy which shed more light on Joshua as cross-references in the margin of your Bible beside Joshua 1:1. Cross-referencing helps when you can't remember the location of a passage that sheds light on or correlates with the one you are studying. Cross-referencing is also very helpful when you do not have your study notes with you because your notes are right in your Bible! So, to help you later, write these cross-references in the margin of your Bible close to the appropriate text in Joshua.

Add to the list on Joshua you began yesterday in your notebook the basic facts you learn about him from these cross-references. Think about the kind of man that God chose to replace Moses. Could God have chosen you?



DAY THREE

Read Joshua 2. Once again mark any of the key words you see. However, since Rahab becomes a major character in this chapter, also mark in a special way every reference

to *Rahab* and any pronouns that refer to her. Also mark the word *heard* in this chapter and then observe what was heard, by whom, and the effect it brought. (You don't need to add either reference to your bookmark.)

In your notebook, list all you learn from this chapter about Rahab and also add to your list on Joshua.

Record the theme of chapter 2 on your JOSHUA AT A GLANCE chart (page 44).

DAY FOUR

Read Joshua 3 and 4. Again mark the key words. Be sure you mark geographical locations in this chapter. Remember, all of these events take place around the Jordan River. When you go to the map on page 20 to locate these areas, find the Jordan River on your map and go from there.

Carefully observe what God does in these chapters and why He does it. Marking every reference to *Joshua* (and any pronouns referring to him) and listing what you learn in your notebook will help you see what God does!

Be sure not to miss how the Lord is described in this chapter! Add any insights to the list you began. If you haven't started it, be sure to begin one today.

If you have room in the margin of your Bible, next to Joshua 4:19, you might want to write the date and what happens on that date. There's a Jewish calendar on page 21. Note the Babylonian name for the first month and write it, along with the day, in the margin of your Bible next to 4:19.

List in your notebook any new insights on Joshua that you glean from these chapters. Also record the theme of Joshua 3 and 4 on the JOSHUA AT A GLANCE chart (page 44).

 DAY FIVE

Read Joshua 5 and mark any key words listed on your bookmark. Also mark the word *circumcised*⁹ (*circumcise*, *circumcising*¹⁰). I mark it this way **circumcised**. (Sometimes it helps to know how someone else marks a word since there are just so many colors and symbols you can use, so I share them to be helpful!)

It would be good to note in the margin of your Bible what happens in verses 10, 11, and 12 of chapter 5. Also mark when these things take place.

Give special attention to Joshua 5:13-15.

 DAY SIX

Today you will begin a new section in Joshua. This second section can be called “The Conquest of the Land” and encompasses Joshua 6–12. Continue to mark the same key words, if they appear, that you marked in the first section, but now add these key words to your bookmark: *fear*,¹¹ *fight*¹² (*fought*¹³), and *captured*.¹⁴ Mark key words as they appear in the text, and remember to mark any pronouns or synonyms which refer to these words.


Read Joshua 6. When you mark the key words, also look for the phrase *under the ban*¹⁵ and mark it in a distinctive way. (I just underline it several times in black.) You’ll also want to mark every reference to *Rahab* as well as any pronouns or synonyms which refer to her. Mark these as you did in Joshua 2.

In this chapter observe where the ark of the covenant (ark of the Lord) is placed in the Israelites’ lineup as they march around Jericho. Watch and mark time phrases in a

*Joshua:
Occupying
the Promised
Land*



The Jewish Calendar			
Babylonian names (B) for the months are still used today for the Jewish calendar. Canaanite names (C) were used prior to the Babylonian captivity in 586 B.C. Four are mentioned in the Old Testament. Adar-Sheni is an intercalary month used every two to three years or seven times in 19 years.			
1st month	2nd month	3rd month	4th month
Nisan (B) Abib (C) March–April	Iyyar (B) Ziv (C) April–May	Sivan (B) May–June	Tammuz (B) June–July
<i>7th month</i>	<i>8th month</i>	<i>9th month</i>	<i>10th month</i>
5th month	6th month	7th month	8th month
Ab (B) July–August	Elul (B) August–September	Tishri (B) Ethanim (C) September–October	Marcheshvan (B) Bul (C) October–November
<i>11th month</i>	<i>12th month</i>	<i>1st month</i>	<i>2nd month</i>
9th month	10th month	11th month	12th month
Chislew (B) November–December	Tebeth (B) December–January	Shebat (B) January–February	Adar (B) February–March
<i>3rd month</i>	<i>4th month</i>	<i>5th month</i>	<i>6th month</i>
<i>Sacred calendar appears in black · Civil calendar appears in gray</i>			

distinctive way. You may want to put a clock like this:  over the phrase and/or in the margin.

When you finish marking every reference to Rahab and observing what you learn from the text about her, read Matthew 1:5¹⁶ and rejoice in the awesome grace of God.

Note the curse that is put on anyone who would try to rebuild Jericho. Although there is a modern city called Jericho, the ancient city was never rebuilt.

Make sure you have recorded the themes of chapters 5 and 6 on the JOSHUA AT A GLANCE chart (page 44).

Don't forget to add any new insights on Joshua and Rahab to your lists.

DAY SEVEN



Store in your heart: Joshua 1:7,8 (or 1:7-9).

Read and discuss: Joshua 1:1-9; 2:8-14; 6:6-16.

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR INDIVIDUAL STUDY

- ☞ What are God's commandments and promises for Joshua and the people?
 - a. What is Joshua told to do in respect to the Word of God?
 - b. What do you think it means to be "strong and courageous"?
 - c. What did you learn about Joshua from your study this week? What about Joshua caused God to put him in the position of being a leader of Israel? Was he a proven or unproven man?
 - d. At this point, what do you learn about Joshua that you can apply to your own life?
- ☞ How does God validate Joshua's leadership before the people? In what way does this action show that as God was with Moses, He was also with Joshua?
- ☞ What are the children of Israel told to do before they crossed over the Jordan and before they go against Jericho?
- ☞ What events take place at Gilgal? What is the significance of these events?
- ☞ What do you learn from Rahab about the reputation of the Israelites?
 - a. How do you think this attitude affected the inhabitants of Jericho when they saw the Israelites marching around Jericho?

- b. What kind of a reputation does Rahab have? Yet, what does God do with Rahab and why?
- ☞ What do you think the children of Israel learned about God from the battle of Jericho? What did you learn about God from Joshua 1–6?

THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

When God says something, He stands by His Word to perform it. The promises of God are “yea” and “Amen” (2 Corinthians 1:20 KJV). In Genesis 15, God told Abram (Abraham) that his descendants, the Israelites, would be strangers in Egypt, enslaved and oppressed for 400 years. He further told him that in the fourth generation they would return to the land God had promised to him and his descendants forever. However, because the iniquity of the Amorites (the people who lived in Canaan) was not yet complete (Genesis 15:1-16), this promise would not be fulfilled for 400 years! Now the 400 years were complete, and God was about to fulfill His Word.

You and I can always trust God! What God says will come to pass, but only in His time and in His way. Your responsibility is to know His Word! You are not to simply hear it and then “let it depart out of your mouth.” Rather, you are to meditate on it day and night, and do all that He commands you. What God commands, at times, may not be the way you would accomplish something. After all, who would attack a city by marching around it six times, expecting the walls to come down after the seventh time around by blowing trumpets and shouting?

Your place is not to question God, nor doubt Him—but to obey Him. When you obey the Word of God, no

matter how things look or seem, you are being strong and courageous.

You become strong and courageous when you meditate on God's Word. Knowing the Word will help you to not turn to the right or to the left. Instead, you will walk in God's straight and narrow path, and then you will have success and prosper in God's way. We will possess what God has ordained for us. Who could want anything more!