



# God's Encouragements for Moving Forward

**JOSHUA 1:1–9**



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## **WELCOME:** Fixing Our Focus

### **Suggested icebreaker:**

Members of the Growth Group to share their experience of how they were encouraged and assured of God's strength, as they take on the role of leadership in school, at work, or in church.

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## **WORSHIP:** Adoring Our God

### **Suggested songs:**

- [Onward Christian Soldiers](#)
- [Stand Up, Stand Up for Jesus](#)

# **WORD & WALK:**

## Understanding & Applying the Word

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### **LESSON AIM**

1. GG members will learn to accept the realities of life, though they may sometimes be unnerving or disheartening, and to move on with what they have to do in life.
2. GG members will learn to trust God's promises for deliverance, comfort, and strength, especially as they respond in obedience to God's calling to serve Him.
3. GG members will be able to discern and be guided in righteous living by God's Holy character and by His Word.

### **INTRODUCTION**

The responsibility of a leader can be a challenging yet sometimes daunting and onerous task. What if you know or have read of how leaders who start out well then falter, fail, and don't end well? What if the people that you are supposed to lead do not wish to follow you or share your vision? And all those years that you have worked diligently, received training, and mentored seemed to have been wasted.

Regardless of where God called you to lead, you can always trust His divine presence to be your strength and to guide you in fulfilling his purpose.

### **Moving forward amidst the perception of uncertainty and dread (vv. 1–5)**

It must have been difficult for Joshua to fill, what seemed to him, the large shoes of Moses. Here was the person, or so most people thought, who performed great signs both in Egypt and in the wilderness (it was really God who did them). Now, he is succeeding Moses. Let's take a look at the assurances God gave Joshua.

1. As Joshua could be still in a state of denial that Moses had passed, what did God say and command Joshua to do? (Joshua 1:1–2)
2. Describe the extent of the land that God had promised Joshua that he would be led to conquer. (Joshua 1:3–4)
3. Knowing that there were people living in the land who would surely protect their land from the Israelites, what did God say to Joshua to assure him with regard to the people in the land? (Joshua 1:5)
4. What was God's promise to Joshua as he got ready to lead the people into the promised land? (Joshua 1:5)

# WORD & WALK:

## Understanding & Applying the Word

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### Calling to mind what you were called to do (vv. 6–9)

After giving Joshua his assurances, God commanded Joshua to do what he was called to do. God instructed him on what he needed to do to be successful and reminded him that success comes from God, not from himself.

1. Possibly still unsure of his role as the new leader and the fear of failure, what was God's command to Joshua? (Joshua 1:6)
2. What did God remind Joshua of the reason for his leadership? (Joshua 1:6)
3. More than to conquer his fear and be strong and courageous, what else did God command Joshua? How should he and the people be guided in the way to live? (Joshua 1:6–8)
4. What final assurance did God give Joshua for him to obey God and take the courage to lead the people into the promised land? (Joshua 1:9)

### Application

We all know that leaders often emerge when a situation calls for it, but it is still contingent on a person's knowledge, skills, abilities, and experiences. In every way, like Joshua, when we are called to lead, more often than not, we are fearful and can be very anxious about our ability and competency for such an enormous task.

On the other hand, we all have experienced God's faithfulness in helping us overcome our fears and how He has strengthened us in the past. When we are called to lead, we can be confident that God will equip us and that His Spirit will enable us to accomplish His purposes and plans. Thus, we can trust Him in all and every situation and stay steadfast as we totally depend on God and His promise.

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### PRAYER

Our gracious Lord and Father in Heaven, it is all by your grace when we are given the privilege to serve you. We know we can do nothing without you. When at any time you will call us to lead, strengthen us by your Spirit's power so that we can be used to accomplish your purposes and plans for the glory of your name. In Jesus' name, we pray, amen. ■



#### Your feedback is important to us.

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**Know Christ and Make Him Known**

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