



Why We Don't Possess What God Promised

JOSHUA 16:1–17:18



CONTENTS

WELCOME:

Fixing Our Focus 1

WORSHIP:

Adoring Our God 1

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word 2

STUDY GUIDE • JOSHUA: TAKE HOLD OF WHAT GOD HAS GIVEN

Why We Don't Possess What God Promised

JOSHUA 16:1–17:18

WELCOME:

Fixing
Our Focus

Suggested icebreaker:

Let each GG member share the oldest promise that they still honor or want to continue to honor to this day. Additionally, as each member shares with the group, invite them to share certain moments that made honoring their promise difficult.

WORSHIP:

Adoring
Our God

Suggested song:

- [Be It Unto Me](#)

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

LESSON AIM

1. GG members will recall God's faithfulness and be encouraged to remain expectant of how He keeps His promises in their lives.
2. GG members will desire to yield in total submission to God, wholly obeying Him in order to truly enjoy His good and perfect will.

INTRODUCTION

This week's passage is situated within the greater section of Joshua that recorded the allotment of the Promised Land to the tribes of Israel, particularly the territory west of the Jordan. Previously, in chapter 15, the boundaries and cities given to Judah were described, including the land in the extreme south, in the lowland, in the hill country, and in the wilderness. This also affirmed Caleb's particular portion of Hebron, which was mentioned earlier in chapter 14. Chapter 16 now tells the story of how the people of Joseph, namely Manasseh and Ephraim, received their land.

The people of Joseph received their inheritance, beginning with the tribe of Ephraim (vv. 16:1-10)

The people of Joseph, namely those from the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, have the borders of their land to the west of the Jordan set. Specifically, Joshua recounts first the borders and towns given to the people of Ephraim.

1. How were the boundaries of the entire land of the people of Joseph described? For the people of Ephraim specifically?
2. Recall what God's promise of blessing to Ephraim and Manasseh was. (cf. Genesis 48:3-6) Discuss with the group how you think this affected the allotment of land among the tribes of Israel.
3. What did the people of Ephraim fail to do, according to verse 10?

Application

The Israelites' failure to completely drive out the Canaanites is noted throughout Scripture. It is meant to bring readers to an understanding of the consequences of not wholly obeying God. As members of the Church, we may be tempted at times to use our ministries and other good works to compensate for an area of our lives we aren't devoting to God in complete obedience. What are the areas of your life that you know you are still not wholly obeying God in? Take this time to be accountable to one another in the group.

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

The tribe of Manasseh received their inheritance, including the daughters of Zelophehad (vv. 17:1-13)

The next inheritance was allotted to the people of Manasseh, who lived west of Jordan. Within these allotments came the fulfillment of God's promise to the daughters of Zelophehad.

1. How were the allotments made for the people of Manasseh? Where was the land given to Machir specifically? (cf. Joshua 13:29-31) How were the boundaries of the land of Manasseh described?
2. What was the request of the daughters of Zelophehad? What had God promised them before during the time of Moses? (cf. Numbers 27:1-11)
3. Similar to the people of Ephraim, what did the people of Manasseh fail to do according to verses 12-13?

Application

In this section, we saw how God forgets none of His promises. These stories are also meant to point us to the greatest act of promise-keeping from God in sending us Jesus Christ for our salvation. As you introspect, has your wonder for God's promises eroded over time? Have you been waiting for God to answer your long-standing prayers? Ask God to restore in you the patience and excitement found in His promise-keeping.

The people of Joseph sought more land (vv. 17:14-18)

After the territory of the people of Joseph was initially settled, they came to Joshua seeking to gain more land. In Joshua's response to the people, their perception of the Canaanites still remaining in the land is described.

1. What was the specific complaint the people of Joseph brought forth to Joshua? What was their reasoning for this complaint?
2. What does Joshua's response to the people of Joseph reveal about the state of the land at that time?
3. Based on how they were described, how did the people of Joseph perceive the Canaanites? Subsequently, what did Joshua exhort them to do?

WORD & WALK:

Understanding & Applying the Word

Application

While the land of the people of Joseph had already been promised, God desired their participation to truly inherit it. Similarly, as believers today, while entrance to the Kingdom of God has already been promised to those in Christ, God desires our obedience in order to enjoy our rewards in heaven. What are some of the opportunities to demonstrate your obedience to Christ today that you are presently reluctant to take? Pray for one another to be submissive to the Lord's will this week.

PRAYER ITEM

Dear God, there is no one who is faithful like You are faithful. You are not bound by time, and time after time, You prove Your perfect wisdom. Renew in me this excitement and anticipation to trust that You keep all Your promises. I pray that as You mold me to be more like You, I may also become more faithful in obeying You. Use my submission to Your will to bring others to discover the faithfulness of Jesus Christ, that all who call upon Him will be saved. This I ask in Jesus' name. Amen. ■



Your feedback is important to us.

If you used this study guide in leading your growth group, please rate it at <https://bit.ly/GCFSGFeedback>. Thank you!



Greenhills Christian Fellowship

Know Christ and Make Him Known

Ruby cor. Garnet Roads, Ortigas Center, Pasig City, 1605

☎ (02) 8632 1357 📍 Greenhills Christian Fellowship 📺 GCF Main