



# Not One Word Failed

JOSHUA 13–21



# CONTENTS

## WELCOME:

Fixing Our Focus ..... 1

## WORSHIP:

Adoring Our God ..... 1

## WORD:

Understanding Word ..... 2

## **WELCOME:** Fixing Our Focus

### **Suggested icebreaker:**

Ask each GG member to imagine they are about to inherit a large piece of land that has been promised to their family for generations. What emotions and thoughts would they experience as they prepare to receive it? How would they approach the responsibility of managing and living in this new land?

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## **WORSHIP:** Adoring Our God

### **Suggested song:**

- [Great is Thy Faithfulness](#)

# WORD: Understanding the Word

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## LESSON AIM

1. GG members will understand God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promises.
2. GG members will explore the significance of the cities of refuge and Levitical cities.
3. GG members will reflect on the role of obedience and cooperation in the fulfillment of God's promises.
4. GG members will deepen their appreciation of God's unchanging nature and trustworthiness.

## INTRODUCTION

In Joshua 13–21, God's faithfulness in fulfilling His promises to Israel is vividly demonstrated through the detailed distribution of the Promised Land among the tribes. Despite Joshua's advanced age and the presence of unconquered territories, God commands the division of the land, emphasizing His assurance of victory and inheritance. The allotment of land to the tribes, the establishment of cities of refuge, and the provision for the Levites all reflect God's meticulous care for His people, ensuring justice, mercy, and spiritual leadership. The narrative culminates in the affirmation that every promise God made to Israel was fulfilled, providing them with rest, peace, and possession of the land, reinforcing the reliability and sovereignty of God.

## God's command to distribute the remaining land (13:1–7)

Joshua was now well advanced in age, yet there remained large swaths of land that had yet to be conquered. Therefore, God commanded him to distribute the land among the remaining tribes, promising that He would drive out the inhabitants of the land before them.

1. What areas of land are yet to be possessed by the nation?
2. What might be the significance of these regions that are yet to be conquered?
3. What was God's command to Joshua regarding this?
4. How does God's promise to drive out the inhabitants of the land relate to his command?

## Application

In what ways might your life or calling parallel Israel's unfinished task of possessing the land? How can you trust in God's promises to provide and protect when facing challenges in your spiritual journey?

## WORD: Understanding the Word

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### **Distribution of land among the tribes of Israel (13:8–19)**

Since two and a half tribes have received their inheritance east of the Jordan River, God commanded that the rest of the last west of the Jordan River be distributed among the nine and a half tribes by lot.

1. What process was used to divide the land among the tribes west of the Jordan River?
2. How does this process reflect the sovereignty and guidance of God in the decision making process?
3. How did they handle special cases like those of Caleb and the daughters of Zelophehad?
4. What theological or spiritual lessons can be drawn from these special cases?

### **Application**

Notice that in the distribution of the land, all the leaders of Israel (Joshua, Eleazar, and the tribal heads) had parts to play. What does this teach you about working together in the body of Christ? How can you, like Caleb, be bold and faithful in claiming the promises of God even amid difficult circumstances?

### **Establishment of cities of refuge and the Levitical cities (20–21:42)**

The Levites were not apportioned any inheritance because God is their inheritance. However, God still provided cities for them to dwell in. He also provided places of refuge for those who accidentally or unintentionally killed another person.

1. What was the purpose behind the cities of refuge?
2. What was the criteria for someone to flee to a city of refuge, and what was the process for their protection?
3. What does the establishment of the cities of refuge reveal about God's character?
4. How does the provision of Levitical cities within the inheritance of the other tribes reflect God's plan for spiritual leadership and worship in Israel?

### **Application**

In what ways can the concept of the cities of refuge inform your understanding of finding safety and forgiveness in Christ? How can the principles behind the Levitical cities guide you in supporting and caring for those in spiritual leadership today?

# WORD: Understanding the Word

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## The fulfillment of God’s promises to Israel (21:43–45)

God was faithful in fulfilling His promises to Israel. He gave them the Promised Land as He promised their fathers. Their enemies He gave into their hands.

1. How does this passage describe the rest and peace that God gave Israel?
2. What affirmation did Joshua record regarding God’s promises?
3. Why is it significant that “not a word failed” of all the good things God had promised to Israel?
4. What does the fulfillment of God’s promises teach us about His faithfulness?

## Application

What are some of God’s promises that you are clinging to today? How can you remind yourself and others of God’s reliability when facing doubt or uncertainty in His promises?

## PRAYER ITEM

Father, we thank You for Your unwavering faithfulness, as seen in the lives of the Israelites and in our own lives today. As we reflect on the inheritance You provided for Your people, remind us of the promises You have given us and help us to trust in Your timing and provision. May we walk in obedience and faith, knowing that You are always with us, guiding and sustaining us. Strengthen our hearts to live out the truths we have learned, and let Your faithfulness be our foundation as we continue to serve You. In Jesus’ name, we pray. Amen. ■



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