



We Swim for Jesus!

“Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be terrified; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9

Bible Verse for Week #3 **Life Application notes**

1. Joshua was taking over the leadership of Israel after Moses died and God was giving him instruction and encouragement. Leading more than 2 million people into a new land and conquering it would be a great challenge, even for a man of Joshua’s abilities. Every new job is a challenge. Just as God was with Joshua, He is with us as we face our new challenges. God promised never to abandon or fail to help us, regardless of how we feel. What challenges do you face today? Ask God for guidance and help to conquer your problems.
2. God appointed Joshua to be Israel’s new leader. He had to follow Moses, the man who had delivered the nation from Egypt, had spoken with God, and had delivered the Ten Commandments. Leadership offers tremendous challenges, especially when those you lead have high expectations. It can be lonely, difficult, and frightening. But Joshua was well prepared, and he had God’s promise to be with him. Where are you the leader? Ask God to give you strength, courage, and guidance as you lead. And lead in such a way that you will lead people to Him.
3. God commanded Joshua to be bold and strong. We may wonder how a person can decide to be bold when feeling afraid, or decide to be strong when feeling weak. But there are times when we must act, regardless of our feelings. This is especially true when it comes to obeying God. Joshua had to take charge and lead the Israelites, trusting that God would be with him. What has God told you to do? Don’t wait to feel like it – do it!
4. Fears come in all shapes and sizes. People fear the unknown, the future, opposition, pain, failure, and even the dark. Certainly Joshua could have been filled with fear, considering his new responsibilities and the enemies facing him in Canaan. But God calmed Joshua’s fear with these powerful words: “The Lord your God is with you wherever you go.” What fears gnaw at your heart and mind? Talk to God about them and then face them, knowing that He is with you.

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“Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. John 13:34

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5. What does it mean to be strong and to have courage? It means acting in faith, trusting that God will help you through. It means doing what you know is right, even though you may act alone. It means being determined to live God's way. Where do you need a dose of Joshua's courage today?
6. God promised to be with Joshua wherever he would go. During the next few years, he would be at the great walls of Jericho, on the plains at Ai, in many other battles, and in the Promised Land. Regardless of geography or situation, God would be with him. God also promises to be with us - in every battle, struggle, victory, defeat, sorrow, and celebration. * See Romans 8:38-39 for more on God's presence with us.)

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