



# HOME GROUP GUIDE

September 1, 2019

We Can Do It — Joshua 15–17

**About this guide:** This guide is provided to assist your Home Group in discussion and application of the most recent sermon. This guide provides direction for application-based discussion within a small group as well as discussion material. **Please know that the guide is not designed with the intent that every question be answered systematically.** Feel free to pick and choose the questions that fit your group and structure your time together using the guide to maximize your group's benefit.

Notice organization of the guide: Looking Back, Looking Up and Looking Forward. “Looking Back” is the time for the group to consider how the last week or two has gone, to share about struggles and victories. Consider choosing one or two items from this section to answer.

“Looking Up and Looking Forward” is a time to discuss the sermon and how the group might further apply the truth of God's Word, making specific plans individually and as a group to walk by faith in the week to come. This is also a time to encourage each other, minister to each other and pray for each other. Try to choose a couple elements from this section.

The guide also contains a family discipleship section with a few ideas on how to intentionally engage in following the Lord as a family.

## Looking Back:

- Share how you have been doing since you last met:
  - What biblical truths have been shaping your life and heart over the last week or so?
  - What has dominated your prayer life this week?
  - What was a “win” in your life this last week (something that happened that resulted in thankfulness, a moment of spiritual growth or victory, an answered prayer, etc.)?
  - What was the biggest challenge in your life this last week? Is there anything that you need to share with your Home Group in the form of confession?
- With whom were you able to begin to build a gospel bridge of conversation since the last time we met? With whom were you able to share the gospel message?
- How can the group help you this next week?

## Looking Up and Looking Forward (specific, realistic, measurable, personal): Read Joshua 15–17.

Recap: As the Promised Land continues to be divided among the Israelite tribes, we see the next three territories given to Judah, Ephraim and Manasseh. However, we begin to hear complaining amongst the tribes and failure to complete the task that God commanded.

1. Review Joshua 14:13–14. We see in Joshua 15:13–19 the answer to another of God's promises in the life of Caleb. We also see a request from Caleb's daughter for blessing and a blessing is given.
  - For those in our groups with children, what does this teach about a child's desire for a blessing? What is the best blessing you can give your kids? Discuss how your interactions with your kids are helping to build what they value and where they find security. How can your encouragement, blessing and leadership help your kids move more toward the Lord?

- We also see a group of daughters receive an inheritance in Joshua 17:3–4. What does this teach about God’s design for sons and daughters and how He values every person?
2. In these three chapters, we see a dangerous progression in the attitude of God’s people toward God’s commands. Read Joshua 15:63, then Joshua 16:10 and then Joshua 17:12–13.
- What do you notice about the changing attitude toward the commands of God? How is this attitude reflected in our own treatment of sin and/or temptation? How do we avoid a “could not, would not, don’t even want to” cycle of striving with our sin?
  - Notice in Joshua 16:10 that the Israelites allow the Canaanites to become forced laborers. Is it acceptable to change the commands of God to better fit our circumstances? In what ways do we try and mold God’s commandments into more palatable or more socially acceptable variations? Can you think of any examples in your own life?
  - Do we have a subdued enemy in our life who is tempting us to change or soften God’s commands? Read James 4:7. What is the prescribed method of defeating our subdued enemy? Share any areas in your life that you need to submit to God.
3. Joshua responds by calling the tribes of Joseph back to the task originally given to them by God. Review Joshua 17:17–18 and Joshua 1:9.
- What is the basis of our victory over a defeated enemy? How does our perspective change when we view our strife with sin from a position of victory in Jesus Christ?
  - Striving with sin can be wearisome, as striving with the Canaanites was for the tribes of Joseph. How do we use our Home Groups to encourage one another as we struggle to live victoriously? Why do believers sometimes give up striving against their sin? Use your Home Group time to offer words of encouragement to each group member and remind each other of the victory we have in Christ.
  - Ultimately, we look forward to a day when there will be no more sin and we will have rest in heaven with the Lord. Can you imagine a life without sin and struggle? What will it be like to serve the Lord unhindered by the curse of sin? Give thanks to God for the promise of eternal life and the final victory over sin!

#### **Don’t forget:**

1. Pray for one another. Share one specific prayer request you need your group to pray each day until you meet again.
2. Pray for each of our campuses: the Georgetown Campus — Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and the Liberty Hill Campus at 11:00 a.m.
3. Pray for the next campus pastor at the Liberty Hill Campus.
4. Pray that we would live in the power of God to accomplish His purposes, free from the shackles of sin that have been removed by the resurrection of Jesus Christ.
5. Pray for the discipleship courses that start this Wednesday night and that the Lord would use these courses to help people grow more in their relationship with Jesus and in their willingness to share the gospel with others.

#### **Family Discipleship** (Deuteronomy 6:5–7):

**When you wake:** Read John 3:1 every morning and try to memorize it together. Remind your kids they are loved by their heavenly Father and He has an inheritance for them that is better than anything the world can offer.

**Before you sleep:** Every night this week, share with your kids something you are praying for them about and how the Lord loves them. Point them to the love of the Father as being more valuable than any other love they can have.

**When you sit down:** Get out a paper towel, a paper plate and a dropper with food coloring (or you can use water). Bring your family together and tell them you're going to do a family experiment.

Put the paper towel on the paper plate and then set up to drop one drop of food coloring onto the paper towel. Before you drop it, ask the kids what they think will happen. Then drop one drop and watch it as it spreads out on the paper towel.

Ask the kids how big the drop was that you dropped. Then ask them how much it spread. The spread will be much bigger than the drop. Do this a few more times and let the kids drop some and watch how much it spreads across the paper towel.

Tell your kids the story of how God's people let a drop of sin into their lives and they did not obey the Lord in one area that seemed small. Then the sin spread out in their lives and they started disobeying the Lord in other areas. Eventually the Israelites would stop listening to the Lord at all.

Remind your kids that a little sin will spread. There is a progression to our sin if we do not confess and repent before it spreads. Set an example and share a sin you struggle with and ask if anybody else would like to share something they're struggling with. Then pray for each other and confess and repent together asking the Lord to help you not allow sin to spread in your lives.

**Along the way:** Every time something difficult happens this week, remind your family that the Lord has already won the victory and even though we walk in difficulty now, we know our victory is secure. Then encourage one another to keep walking in the Lord.