

## Lesson 2

### Topic: The Character of Joshua

Joshua chose time and again to trust in the Lord and rely on the Lord for direction, courage to take the promised land, and courage to do what is pleasing to the Lord.

Joshua was born in Egypt as a slave and was 40 years old when Moses sent him into Kadesh-Barnea to spy out the land. After wandering in the wilderness for 40 years as an assistant to Moses, Joshua is commissioned by God to succeed Moses as the leader of the people that will subdue and take possession of the promised land. Joshua died at the age of 110 and was buried at Timnath-Serah in the hill country of Ephraim.

**Read the following stories and complete the table about Joshua's character:**

Passage	Joshua's Circumstance: Task or Challenge Faced	Lesson Learned or Character Traits Displayed
Ex. 17:8-16	Moses asked Joshua to choose men and go fight against Amalek while Moses held his hands up. Joshua overwhelmed Amalek and his people with the sword.	
Ex. 24:9-13		
Ex. 32:15-20	Joshua was allowed to go up on Mt. Sinai with Moses to receive the commandments from God. Joshua came down from the mountain with Moses and heard and saw the people worshipping the golden calf. Joshua then saw Moses burn with anger because of the sin of the people.	
Ex. 33:7-11		
Ex. 34:7-9		
Num. 11:24-30	Elders appointed to aid Moses to lead the people. Some of the Spirit of the Lord rested on the elders and they prophesied. Joshua asked Moses to stop them. Moses responded to Joshua to not be jealous for his sake and showed his approval of the prophesying for the Lord.	
Num. 13:1-20; 14:1-10		
Deut. 31:1-8, 23		
Josh. 1:1-18	The Lord spoke to Joshua, commissioning him to lead the people to take possession of the land, promising that He will be with him, and urging him to	

	be strong and courageous, but warning him to carefully follow the law. Joshua assumes command and then prepares the people to cross the Jordan to begin taking possession. The people say they will obey Joshua just as they obeyed Moses.	
Josh. 8:3-9		
Josh. 9:1-21	Joshua was deceived by the Gibeonites and entered into a covenant of peace with them without asking counsel of the Lord. He learned he was deceived but did not break the covenant because Israel swore to the Gibeonites by the Lord.	
Josh. 10:4-13		
Josh. 24:14-31	Joshua reminds the people what the Lord has done for them in the past and commands the people to fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and faithfulness. He states that they all have a choice of who to serve but as for his house, they will serve the Lord. The people claim they will serve the Lord and Joshua makes a covenant with them and records it in the Book of the Law of God.	

### **Thought Questions**

1. According to Numbers 13:16, what was Joshua's name from birth? What do his two names mean, and why do you think Moses changed Joshua's name?
2. List some occasions in the book of Joshua when Joshua imitates Moses. What do you think Joshua learned from Moses?
3. Read Hebrews 11:30. Whose faith do you think the writer refers to: Joshua's or the Israelites' generally?
4. What should we learn about personal godliness and the character of godly leaders from Joshua's life and work?