

STUDY ON Life of Joshua: Inherit the land (Jos 6-7)

Journey Together 2025 Weekly Sermon Series

Warming Up: Could you share a childhood memory about a positive or negative experience about obedience? 'Obedience' in both Hebrew and Greek means 'listen attentively to', 'listen to'.		Aims & Objectives of today's session: Through studying Joshua chapters 6–7, we will reflect more deeply on the idea of obedience and how it relates to our personal experiences and struggles.
Read Joshua 6 1. 6:1-14 Where is God's command? How do Joshua and the Israelites respond? 2. Look closer to the verbs in this section. What do you observe? 3. 6:15-21 What happens on the seventh day? 4. What is the specific way of dealing with 'devoted things for destruction' in Jericho? Any exceptional cases? 5. How do the Israelites respond to God's word? Any pattern in the story? 6. What message the author is trying to present to his readers in chapter? 7. Read Hebrews 11:30-31. What is the interpretation of the battle in Jericho and Rahab's preservation? 8. How do you understand faith and obedience? What do you learn about them from this chapter?	Read Joshua 7 1. 7:1-8. What happens in the battle with Ai? What does Joshua pray to God? 2. In the response from God, what does he firstly address about the failure of the fight? What does he require Joshua to do? 3. What does Joshua do the following day? 4. How does Achan react to the search? In his defense, what is his heart focusing instead? What makes him disobey? How does he understand God's word? 5. What is the ending of Achan and the devoted things? How do you feel about the result? 6. Achan's disobedience reveals his deeper unfaithfulness to the word of God. How does it help you understand the meaning of obedience? 7. What is the purpose of obedience? Read Exodus 19:5-6.	Context of the passage: 'Inherit the land' is a major biblical theme developed all throughout the Bible. It not only means to inherit a physical land, but also represents the covenantal faithfulness of God to his people. The Israelites believed that God's presence dwells with them in the promised land. In Joshua 6 and 7, Joshua led the people of Israel to enter the promised land and fight for the first two significant battles. Obedience to God is key to stay in the promised land, in the covenantal commitment to God. It's not a "one and done" type of deal. It's the context for ongoing obedience to God and faithfulness to God, family, and neighbor. If they don't obey, they forfeit the land. This is where the land serves as a gauge of covenantal faithfulness, revealing the spiritual state of the nation.
Reflection 1. What usually causes you to disobey God's teachings, and why? 2. How do you respond when you find yourself struggling to obey him, and why?		Ending with prayer Our heavenly Father, Thank you for giving us the desire to obey your word, for ultimately, obedience is for our good. Though we sometimes fail and struggle, help us fix our eyes on Jesus — the perfect example of obedience and steadfast loyalty to the Father. By imitating the life of Jesus, teach us to obey you willingly and to walk with you in faith. Amen.