



# COURAGEOUS CROSSINGS

## LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSHUA READING PLAN

### Courageous Crossings: Lessons from the Life of Joshua Sermon Series Reading Plan

Courageous Crossings is a 6-week journey through the book of Joshua, inviting us to trust God through seasons of transition, testing, and new beginnings. As we follow Joshua and the people of Israel, we'll discover that courage is not the absence of fear—it's obedience in the face of it. This daily reading plan pairs with the sermon series, offering Scripture, reflections, and questions to help you hear God's voice, remember His promises, and respond in faith—even in the land between.



## WEEK 1

### LESSONS FROM THE LIFE OF JOSHUA

#### **Week 1: The Land Between**

**Theme:** God shapes His people in seasons of uncertainty—not to punish them, but to prepare them. The wilderness isn't wasted. It's in the land between—after deliverance but before fulfillment—that God does some of His most important work. When life feels uncertain, delayed, or disoriented, it's easy to assume something has gone wrong. But in Scripture, we see a different pattern: God often uses in-between seasons to refine identity, deepen trust, and reframe vision. The wilderness wasn't Israel's destination—but it was their formation ground. God didn't lead them there to crush them, but to prepare them for the weight of the promise ahead. In your own in-between moments, what if God isn't absent—but present, shaping you into someone who can carry what He's about to give?

## Day 1: The Gap Between Promise and Possession

**Read:** Joshua 1:1–9

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses' aide: 2 "Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give to them—to the Israelites. 3 I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. 4 Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. 5 No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. 6 Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them.

7 "Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. 8 Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. 9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."

**Reflection:** Joshua stands on the edge of transition. Moses is gone. The wilderness is behind. The promise lies ahead. And yet, God doesn't rush him into action—He reminds him of His presence, His promises, and His commands. Joshua is not stepping into new ground alone; he is stepping forward with God's Word in his mouth and God's presence at his side.

**Key Thought:** The "land between" isn't wasted. It's God's workshop.

**Question:** Where do you need courage right now to obey what God has already made clear?



## Day 2: God Led You Here on Purpose

**Read:** Deuteronomy 8:1–5

Be careful to follow every command I am giving you today, so that you may live and increase and may enter and possess the land the Lord promised on oath to your ancestors.<sup>2</sup> Remember how the Lord your God led you all the way in the wilderness these forty years, to humble and test you in order to know what was in your heart, whether or not you would keep his commands. <sup>3</sup> He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your ancestors had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord. <sup>4</sup> Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years. <sup>5</sup> Know then in your heart that as a man disciplines his son, so the Lord your God disciplines you.

**Reflection:** This passage reframes the wilderness years. What seemed like a setback was actually a setup—for humility, dependency, and maturity. God let them hunger, not to harm them, but to teach them that His Word was more vital than bread. God’s goal wasn’t to get them to the land quickly—it was to shape them into people who could steward His blessing when they arrived.

**Key Thought:** The wilderness isn’t just a delay—it’s divine development.

**Question:** What lesson or habit might God be trying to establish in your “in between” season?



## Day 3: When Complaint Replaces Vision

**Read:** Numbers 11:1–6

Now the people complained about their hardships in the hearing of the Lord, and when he heard them his anger was aroused. Then fire from the Lord burned among them and consumed some of the outskirts of the camp. <sup>2</sup> When the people cried out to Moses, he prayed to the Lord and the fire died down. <sup>3</sup> So that place was called Taberah,<sup>[a]</sup> because fire from the Lord had burned among them.

### Quail From the Lord

<sup>4</sup> The rabble with them began to crave other food, and again the Israelites started wailing and said, “If only we had meat to eat! <sup>5</sup> We remember the fish we ate in Egypt at no cost—also the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions and garlic. <sup>6</sup> But now we have lost our appetite; we never see anything but this manna!”

**Reflection:** The Israelites remembered Egypt with nostalgia, not accuracy. Hardship in the present distorted their memory of the past. Rather than trusting God to provide, they let craving become complaining—and it spread like wildfire. God hears our pain, but complaint that refuses to trust becomes rebellion. The land between reveals whether we worship God—or just comfort.

**Key Thought:** Behind every complaint, there’s a dormant vision for something better.

**Question:** Are there places in your life where discontent is drowning out what God has promised?



## Day 4: Today, If You Hear His Voice

**Read:** Hebrews 3:7–19

<sup>7</sup> So, as the Holy Spirit says:

“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion, during the time of testing in the wilderness, where your ancestors tested and tried me, though for forty years they saw what I did.

<sup>1</sup> That is why I was angry with that generation; I said, ‘Their hearts are always going astray, and they have not known my ways.’

<sup>11</sup> So I declared on oath in my anger, ‘They shall never enter my rest.’

<sup>12</sup> See to it, brothers and sisters, that none of you has a sinful, unbelieving heart that turns away from the living God. <sup>13</sup> But encourage one another daily, as long as it is called “Today,” so that none of you may be hardened by sin’s deceitfulness. <sup>14</sup> We have come to share in Christ, if indeed we hold our original conviction firmly to the very end. <sup>15</sup> As has just been said:

“Today, if you hear his voice, do not harden your hearts as you did in the rebellion.”

<sup>16</sup> Who were they who heard and rebelled? Were they not all those Moses led out of Egypt? <sup>17</sup> And with whom was he angry for forty years? Was it not with those who sinned, whose bodies perished in the wilderness? <sup>18</sup> And to whom did God swear that they would never enter his rest if not to those who disobeyed? <sup>19</sup> So we see that they were not able to enter, because of their unbelief.

**Reflection:** The New Testament frames the wilderness generation as a warning and an invitation. What kept them out of the promise wasn’t just rebellion—it was unbelief. Every day is a chance to soften your heart, hear God’s voice, and respond with trust. The land between is dangerous when we harden—but sacred when we listen.

**Key Thought:** You can’t inherit God’s promises with a hardened heart.

**Question:** What would “softening your heart” look like today?



## Day 5: Day 5: Remember How He Led You

**Read:** Deuteronomy 1:26–36

But you were unwilling to go up; you rebelled against the command of the Lord your God.<sup>27</sup> You grumbled in your tents and said, “The Lord hates us; so he brought us out of Egypt to deliver us into the hands of the Amorites to destroy us. <sup>28</sup> Where can we go? Our brothers have made our hearts melt in fear. They say, ‘The people are stronger and taller than we are; the cities are large, with walls up to the sky. We even saw the Anakites there.’”

<sup>29</sup> Then I said to you, “Do not be terrified; do not be afraid of them. <sup>30</sup> The Lord your God, who is going before you, will fight for you, as he did for you in Egypt, before your very eyes,<sup>31</sup> and in the wilderness. There you saw how the Lord your God carried you, as a father carries his son, all the way you went until you reached this place.”

<sup>32</sup> In spite of this, you did not trust in the Lord your God, <sup>33</sup> who went ahead of you on your journey, in fire by night and in a cloud by day, to search out places for you to camp and to show you the way you should go.

<sup>3</sup> When the Lord heard what you said, he was angry and solemnly swore: <sup>35</sup> “No one from this evil generation shall see the good land I swore to give your ancestors, <sup>36</sup> except Caleb son of Jephunneh. He will see it, and I will give him and his descendants the land he set his feet on, because he followed the Lord wholeheartedly.”

**Reflection:** Even after miracles, the people refused to trust. Fear overshadowed memory. But Caleb—and later Joshua—held onto what God had said. They saw giants, too. But they chose to believe God was bigger. God honors those who remember and rely on His faithfulness—especially in the land between.

**Key Thought:** Key Thought: Remembering what God has done builds faith for what He will do.

**Question:** What are three ways God has led or provided for you in past seasons?



## Day 6: Faith in the Middle of the Mess

**Read:** Numbers 14:1–10

That night all the members of the community raised their voices and wept aloud. <sup>2</sup>All the Israelites grumbled against Moses and Aaron, and the whole assembly said to them, “If only we had died in Egypt! Or in this wilderness! <sup>3</sup>Why is the Lord bringing us to this land only to let us fall by the sword? Our wives and children will be taken as plunder. Wouldn’t it be better for us to go back to Egypt?” <sup>4</sup>And they said to each other, “We should choose a leader and go back to Egypt.”

<sup>5</sup>Then Moses and Aaron fell facedown in front of the whole Israelite assembly gathered there. <sup>6</sup>Joshua son of Nun and Caleb son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had explored the land, tore their clothes <sup>7</sup>and said to the entire Israelite assembly, “The land we passed through and explored is exceedingly good. <sup>8</sup>If the Lord is pleased with us, he will lead us into that land, a land flowing with milk and honey, and will give it to us. <sup>9</sup>Only do not rebel against the Lord. And do not be afraid of the people of the land, because we will devour them. Their protection is gone, but the Lord is with us. Do not be afraid of them.”

<sup>10</sup>But the whole assembly talked about stoning them. Then the glory of the Lord appeared at the tent of meeting to all the Israelites.

**Reflection:** The people wept, rebelled, and talked of turning back. But Joshua and Caleb tore their clothes and spoke faith in the face of fear. The land between had crushed the crowd—but it refined the faithful. Sometimes, faith looks like being the minority voice that still believes God is able.

**Key Thought:** Faith is often lonely before it’s victorious.

**Question:** Where do you need to speak faith even if you feel outnumbered?



## Day 7: What Is God Doing In You?

**Read:** : James 1:2–4

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters,<sup>[a]</sup> whenever you face trials of many kinds,<sup>3</sup> because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. <sup>4</sup> Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.

**Reflection:** Trials test more than your patience—they test your character. But when you persevere, something deeper is happening: maturity, endurance, and wholeness. The land between is God’s classroom, and the goal is not just to get through it—but to come out transformed on the other side.

**Key Thought:** God doesn’t waste wilderness—He uses it to build something in us that comfort never could.

**Question:** How is God shaping who you’re becoming through what you’re walking through?

