



**ICNU DEVOTIONALS**  
**PART 1: JOSHUA**

**DAY 1**

**SCRIPTURE: 1 CHRONICLES 22:11-13**

“Now, my son, the Lord be with you, and may you have success and build the house of the Lord your God, as he said you would. May the Lord give you discretion and understanding when he puts you in command over Israel, so that you may keep the law of the Lord your God. Then you will have success if you are careful to observe the decrees and laws that the Lord gave Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged.”

**OBSERVATION**

David was in the process of building the temple, a permanent building where the presence of the Lord would dwell. Prior to the building of the temple, the tabernacle (the place where the God of Israel revealed Himself to and dwelled among His people) at that time was in essence a portable sanctuary that could be set up and taken down with a great degree of physical labor. After experiencing God demonstrate tremendous grace and mercy, (1 Chronicles 21:1-30) David purchased a plot of land and there decided to build the permanent dwelling place of God. David then accumulates a wealth of resources that will be required to build the temple. Though David would die before the completion of the temple, he acquired all the necessary resources so that his son Solomon (who was very young but eventually would be king) would be able to complete the temple after David was gone.

**APPLICATION**

David knew the heavy burden of ruling a kingdom. He also knew what it took to be successful and to rule effectively. Beyond power or wisdom, the key was to rely on God for wisdom and direction. David wanted to leave a legacy for his son even though it would be many years before Solomon would rule. In your life it may be difficult to see potential in those around you. The key to seeing greatness in others is learn to see them as God does.

Can you identify a person in your life whom you are called to speak potential into? What keeps you from speaking life into the potential God has planned for them? How can you make encouraging others a larger part of your life?

**PRAYER**

Father, help me to see further than only what my eyes can see. Help me to have a great big vision for my life and the lives of those around me. Lord, even if I don't see it or feel it, help me invest and speak potential into the lives of those around me. Father, help me to trust that You are actively working to build a solid foundation in the people who finish many of the things I have started.

## **DAY 2**

### **SCRIPTURE: JOSHUA 1:1-3**

“After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ aide: ‘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. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses.’”

### **OBSERVATION**

This was an incredibly sorrowful and tense moment for the Israelites. Moses, their leader who had freed them from slavery under the Egyptians and led them through the wilderness wanderings, had died. His successor was Joshua who had functioned as his assistant during his time of leadership. Joshua then leads them as they enter the promised land for the very first time. As the chapter progresses, Joshua tells the people to be courageous because the Lord is with them.

### **APPLICATION**

Joshua was constantly telling the people to be courageous because he knew they had every right to be freaking out. They had seen God perform huge miracles but now they were expected to function as an army and conquer several nations so they could claim their promised land. They had a brand new leader and they were in hostile enemy territory. Joshua knew he needed everyone to be on the same page for their mission to be completed. Joshua spoke potential and hope over the people even though they were completely terrified.

Are there people in your life who benefit from you encouraging and speaking truth over their life? What is keeping you from doing this? Think back to a time where someone came alongside you and encouraged and challenged you. How can you live a life where everywhere you go, you are speaking truth and life into everyone you interact with?

### **PRAYER**

In the times when I struggle to see where You are leading, Lord, give me faith.  
In the times when I doubt the promises You gave me will ever come true, give me faith.  
And when You come through (like You always do) give me a heart of praise that can’t stop singing of Your faithfulness.

## **DAY 3**

### **SCRIPTURE: PSALM 127:1-5**

“Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain. In vain you rise early and stay up late, toiling for food to eat— for he grants sleep to[a] those he loves. Children are a heritage from the Lord, offspring a reward from him. Like arrows in the hands of a warrior are children born in one’s youth. Blessed is the man whose quiver is full of them. They will not be put to shame when they contend with their opponents in court.”

### **OBSERVATION**

Potentially written by either King David or his son Solomon, both know the tremendous effort that goes into enormous building projects. David initiated the construction of the temple and Solomon completed it. The details and intricacies were astounding but it was completed exactly as God had instructed. Though a physical building was the point of their endeavor David also had the privilege of building a legacy through His children. Arrows shot from a bow have the ability to go further and faster than an archer could ever go if they simply walked the arrow to their desired destination.

### **APPLICATION**

As parents (or mentors), it is our job to make sure the young people in our lives are able to fly as efficiently and powerfully as possible. We help establish the practices and habits that will make them or break them as they grow into adulthood. An effective arrow may start as an unimpressive stick of wood but over time with much care and skill, it can be honed into a streamlined and highly effective and useful tool.

Think about the “House” God has called you to build, whether it is your own children, students, or younger people in your area of employment or interest. How can you intentionally encourage and develop them? Looking back on your own life, were you developed by others? Whether you had a good developmental experience or bad, how can you use your own experiences to disciple and develop others?

### **PRAYER**

Father, thank You for the opportunity to invest in the lives of the people around me. Help me to see potential in those You've called me to walk alongside.

## **DAY 4**

### **SCRIPTURE: JOSHUA 24:15**

“But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”

### **OBSERVATION**

Joshua had gathered all the tribes at Shechem when he made this statement. Shechem is also the place where Jacob (as in the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob) told the Israelites to stop worshipping foreign gods and dispose of their idols. Israel had a terrible habit of turning from the one true God and worshipping local false gods. Joshua was present on the mountain when Moses received the ten commandments only to return and find that the Israelites had grown impatient and crafted a golden calf to worship instead. Joshua, now an old man, stands before the Israelites and demands they make up their mind once and for all. Worship the false gods you acquired from the enemies you conquered or worship the one true God who let you out of Egypt, through the Red Sea, and into the Promised Land. The people agree to give up their idols and Joshua sets up a stone of remembrance as a reminder of their vow they had made to only worship God.

### **APPLICATION**

There comes a time in everyone’s life when they will have to stand up for what they believe. Joshua knew what he was doing was extremely unpopular but he refused to waiver in his devotion to God. He had experienced too much of God’s faithfulness to ignore what was going on. Joshua makes a stand with his family and in that, demonstrated significant spiritual leadership. By challenging the Israelites to make their choice, Joshua was calling out Israel’s potential. Though they had walked away, he was showing rare strength and courage to lead people who had seriously lost their way.

Have you ever had to stand up for your beliefs in a hostile environment? As a leader, how is God calling you to challenge those around you to live and work at a higher standard?

### **PRAYER**

Father, help me be firmly planted in You and the life I am called to live. Give me grace and wisdom to lead those around me with strength and courage. Jesus I pray that I would be found faithful worshipping you regardless of what the environment around me is worshipping.

## **DAY 5**

### **SCRIPTURE: JOSHUA 21:43-45**

So the Lord gave Israel all the land he had sworn to give their ancestors, and they took possession of it and settled there. The Lord gave them rest on every side, just as he had sworn to their ancestors. Not one of their enemies withstood them; the Lord gave all their enemies into their hands. Not one of all the Lord's good promises to Israel failed; every one was fulfilled.

### **OBSERVATION**

This passage documents the fulfillment of a promise made a long time ago. Each of the tribes of Israel were promised an allotment of lands and cities where they could settle and raise their families. Israel and all of its tribes had functioned as an invading army and finally after 7 years were able to put down their swords and begin to live as citizens in the land God had promised them. If you remember it was only Joshua and Caleb (out of 12 spies) who brought back a positive report that the promised land could be conquered. So for Joshua this moment would be a powerful proof of God's power and faithfulness.

### **APPLICATION**

Waiting 7 years for a promise to be fulfilled would be excruciating. To make things even more difficult, Joshua also had to convince an entire army that the promise was worth fighting for. Seven years of fighting, countless battles and skirmishes, living in and out of a tent, all the while under constant threat of attack would have tested their belief that God could do what he said he would do. Joshua kept the faith and encouraged others to not give up on the promise God had given them.

How can you keep your dreams and hopes alive even if the waiting is becoming unbearable? What dreams and hopes has God spoken over you but you are still waiting for them to become a reality? What habit can you put in your life that will keep your hope at the front of your mind to remind you that God doesn't break His promises?

### **PRAYER**

God, I pray that You would develop the trait of long-suffering (having or showing patience in spite of troubles, especially those caused by other people). God, help my inclination towards despair and frustration to pale in comparison to my hope and trust in You. Father, help me to inspire others to hold onto the promises You have given them.