



TAKING NEW GROUND
following the example of *Joshua*

21 DAYS OF PRAYER
2026

TAKING NEW GROUND

A 21 DAY DEVOTIONAL

Before the people of God stepped into the Promised Land, God gave them a simple yet profound invitation: “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the Lord will do amazing things among you.” (Joshua 3:5) That same invitation meets us today. As we begin a new year, we are choosing as a church to slow down, seek God, and prepare our hearts for the “amazing things” He still desires to do in and through His people.

This 21-day journey is more than a devotional. It is an opportunity for our whole church family to walk in unity, to listen for God’s voice, and to take steps of faith both personally and together. Joshua reminds us that God leads His people forward when we are willing to trust Him, obey Him, and surrender whatever holds us back. Our prayer is that these 21 days create a sacred space for renewal, courage, and fresh obedience as we take new ground in our homes, relationships, work, and community.

We want to express our gratitude to the many contributors who prayerfully wrote, edited, and shaped these reflections. Their voices reflect the heart of our church: a variety of stories, shared faith, and a common desire to see God move.

As you read, pray, and reflect, we hope you experience God’s presence in a deeper way. And as one church we will stand ready for whatever amazing things He has ahead.

JOSHUA 1:1-9

JANUARY 11, 2026

WALK IN OBEDIENCE

Reflection:

It's a new year! A year of possibilities, opportunities, and potential. What will you do with the year in front of you? Will you spend it recovering from last year, catching your breath, and hoping this year is better? Or will you look forward with anticipation for all that lies ahead? Do you have new goals, new ambitions, and a desire to take new ground?

In Joshua 1, a new leader stands on the edge of a new season. Moses, the incredible leader of the Israelites for over 40 years, has died. His successor, a man named Joshua, has been called by God to lead the nation into the Promised Land. God's message to Joshua is simple yet profound, "Be strong and courageous."

Strength. Courage. These virtues were not about Joshua's personality or skill. They were about trust and obedience. Joshua's confidence wasn't rooted in self. Instead, it was rooted in confidence in God's presence and His Word. God promised Joshua that wherever he stepped, God would give him the land; that no one would be able to stand against Joshua, and that God would never fail or abandon him. Those promises became the backbone of Joshua's courage and strength.

And the same is true for us. Whatever this year holds, with all of its new opportunities, unexpected trials, and moments that will test your resolve, God's presence is your foundation. You don't have to muster up courage on your own. His Word is your guide. His Presence is your strength. His Promises are your assurance.

So as you step into this new year, ask yourself, "Where is God inviting me to trust Him more deeply?" and "Where do I need more of His strength and courage today?"

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, as I step into this new year, help me to trust You more deeply. Show me where you are calling me to be strong and courageous, and remind me that Your Presence goes with me wherever I go.

~ Roni Bundy

HOLD TIGHT TO THE WORD

Reflection:

Shortly after my wife and I got married I decided I needed a hobby. Though I knew nothing about it and had no one to mentor me through those early days, I decided that my hobby would be woodworking. I bought all the tools I thought I would need, including a circular saw. I got into it enough that at one point I realized the blade on my saw was getting dull and I needed to change the blade.

Once that was done, I got back to work on the latest project. But, there was a problem. No matter how hard I tried, using every trick I had learned, I could not cut a straight line with my saw! After wasting board after board, frustration began to set in and I was about to give up on my saw. Maybe it was time to find a new hobby. Then I realized the last thing I did was change the blade. When I examined it, I saw in big letters, 'Rotate in this direction.' I realized that I had installed the blade incorrectly. Once flipped, the saw cut perfectly. If I had only followed the instructions to begin with, I could have avoided the frustration and heartache!

When God called Joshua to follow in the footsteps of Moses, God told Joshua very plainly that his success going forward would depend on him learning and following God's instructions. He was told not to turn to the right or to the left with the result being success wherever he would go. Joshua did just that. The period in history in which the Hebrew people followed Joshua into the promised land would prove to be the most successful period in their entire existence! Why? Because he and the Hebrew people followed the instructions the Lord had given them, not turning to the right or the left. As we read the book of Joshua, we will discover that things went bad only once in the entire time Joshua was in charge, and that came about because a man named Achan DID NOT follow the instructions of the Lord.

You know, that is no different today.

We start this year reading God's Word so we can discover His instructions. Let's make it a daily habit to read, letting the Spirit guide us, and walking in His ways. When we do, God will lead us on the right path and show us true success. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight."

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, thank you for the Bible, Your living Word! I pray in this brand-new year that You will help us to find time daily to read, and then, with the Holy Spirit's guidance, to apply Your instructions to my life.

~ Doug Sherwood

JOSHUA 1:10-11

JANUARY 13, 2026

ALIGN WITH GOD'S MISSION

Reflection:

I was sitting in the lobby of our hotel at 6:00 AM a couple days before Thanksgiving, reading Joshua 1:10-11 and asking God how this applies to living on mission. When the thought popped into my head, evangelism is spiritual warfare.

In Matthew 28:19, Jesus tells His disciples to go and make disciples. In Ephesians 6:15, Paul tells us to be ready by putting on the shoes of the gospel of peace. And elsewhere in Scripture we are told to snatch people from the flames, that we are in battle with principalities and powers and that the feet of those who bring good news are beautiful.

Jesus did not tell His disciples to hunker down and protect themselves, but to launch the world's most epic offensive.

We are to be an advancing church. A prepared church. A church that desires to take the good news of peace to a world that is conflicted, unsettled and hurting.

But how do we do that? In Ephesians 6:19-20 (MEV) Paul says, "Pray for me, that the power to speak may be given to me, that I may open my mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel, for which I am an ambassador in chains, that I may speak boldly as I ought to speak."

Prayer Prompt:

I invite you to pray daily this week and ask Jesus for His eyes, His heart and His ears to advance the gospel of peace and proclaim boldly the goodness of God. And when you do, He will answer that prayer because He desires you to join Him in rescuing people and bringing hope, peace and love to those around you.

~ John Mann

JOSHUA 1:16-18

JANUARY 14, 2026

REMEMBER WHO LEADS

Reflection:

We've all been there: the day when we learned that there will be a change in leadership; a new boss at our workplace, a new pastor at our church, a new life group leader, a new president, or a new principal at our school. The change typically brings about a myriad of emotions and, perhaps, even a crisis of belief. Can the new leader be trusted? Should I submit to this new authority?

In the beginning of the chapter, the Lord anoints Joshua as his chosen to lead the Israelites into the long awaited promised land. He prepares Joshua's heart for the journey ahead: be strong and very courageous, follow Moses' commands without turning from the path, meditate on the word, and don't be afraid, for the Lord will be with you wherever you go. Likewise, Joshua prepares the people for the journey.

The Israelites respond in unified obedience, "Everything you have commanded us we will do, and everywhere you send us we will go." Their confidence in Joshua is so great that they collectively declare, "Anyone who rebels against your order and does not obey your words in all that you command him, will be put to death."

Why do the Israelites place their complete trust and confidence in Joshua? When Moses laid hands on Joshua (Deut. 34:9), it was unmistakably clear to the Israelites that God was anointing Joshua as their new leader. Without a doubt, they knew Joshua could be trusted because they had experienced the faithfulness and power of the LORD through his previously-anointed leader, Moses.

Through his sovereignty, the Lord places people in leadership positions to orchestrate his divine will. His directive for our response is clear in 1 Peter 2:13-14: "For the Lord's sake, submit to all human authority—whether the king as head of state, or the officials he has appointed." His command leaves no room for questioning their authority; God simply says to submit.

Reflecting on my own life, how do I respond when I face a change in leadership? Like the Israelites do I confidently declare, "everything you have commanded me I will do and where you send me I will go?" What needs to change in my heart and in my life so that I can come under the leaders that God has placed in my life? How can my act of submission also be an offering of worship?

Prayer Prompt:

Father, thank you for anointing leaders to carry out your will. Help me to remember that it is you who leads through your people. Help me to submit to them out of my love and obedience for you; knowing that you will receive the honor and glory from my submission. Amen.

~ Jodi Fish

JOSHUA 2:8-24

JANUARY 15, 2026

SEE WHERE HE IS MOVING

Reflection:

When the two Israelite spies stepped into Jericho, they probably didn't expect to find the clearest spiritual insight in the home of a Canaanite prostitute. But Rahab, an outsider by every earthly measure, had already discerned what God was doing even before the spies arrived.

She tells them, "I know the Lord has given you this land... for the Lord your God is God in heaven above and on the earth below." (Josh. 2:9,11).

This wasn't a casual confession. It was a theological earthquake in a city overflowing with idols and false gods. Without prophets, priests, or teachers... Rahab somehow knew Yahweh was the God over all gods. No one had explained this to her. No one disciplined her. Which means something stunning: God revealed Himself to her. Somewhere in her story, the fear of the Lord became the revelation of the Lord.

This is who our God is—the One who pursues hearts others have written off, who plants seeds of truth in places we least expect, and who draws people to Himself long before anyone arrives to explain Him. Rahab saw God's movement because God made Himself known to her. And when she recognized what He was doing, she aligned herself with His purposes—courageously, decisively, and at great personal risk.

This is the heart-preparation that marks a true believer: not a perfect background, a polished story, or a lifetime of right decisions—but a life that responds to God when He moves. Rahab didn't have the résumé of someone "destined" to be used by God. Yet she had eyes to see, faith to believe, and courage to act. And because she aligned herself with what God was doing, she not only saved her own life and the lives of her family—she became part of the lineage of Jesus Himself. A redeemed life, woven into the redemptive story.

As you prepare your heart this week, take Rahab's posture. Look for where God is stirring, opening doors, softening hearts, shifting atmospheres—and then step toward it with trust. He still delights in taking unexpected people from unexpected places and weaving them into His purposes. And consider this question: where do you sense God moving around you right now—however small, subtle, or surprising it may seem? Identify one area where you can align your heart, your obedience, or your courage with what God is already doing.

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, give me Rahab's eyes to see where You are moving. Give me boldness to declare who You are and courage to step into alignment with Your purposes. Prepare my heart to recognize Your leading and to respond with bold faith. Use my life, like Rahab's, to participate in the redemption You are unfolding around me. Amen.

~ Jennifer Mann

CONSECRATE YOURSELVES

Reflection:

Have you heard the expression, “If at first you don’t succeed, try, try again”? I heard it numerous times throughout my life and took it as encouragement to not give up and to keep pressing on toward my goal. But what if that saying actually pushes us toward relying on our own strength instead of God’s direction?

Throughout the Old Testament, we see God’s people falling into the trap of trying over and over to do things their own way. God gave His Word, His leadership, and His presence, yet instead of walking in obedience, the Israelites chose to do things their own way and failed repeatedly. In today’s reading, God calls His people to step aside from their own efforts and trust His plan. He called them to obey Him because He wanted to do something amazing among them.

Imagine standing on the embankment of the river, seeing the water, at higher levels than they’ve seen before. Can you feel the fear and doubts as the Israelites faced the obstacle before them with no safe road to travel on? God called them to travel to the other side of the river, but how were they to accomplish that? God clearly gives them directions to travel:

First, God told them to wait until they saw the ark moving. If we move ahead of His timing, we often miss what He is doing and have to retrace our steps. The principle is clear... be still and trust God’s leading. Next, they were to stay behind the ark and follow its path. Crowding the ark would have caused them to miss where God was leading. We, too, need to keep our eyes on Jesus and follow His timing and direction. Finally, they were to sanctify themselves. The challenge was not only physical but spiritual. They were to set aside fear and distraction, examine their hearts, and focus fully on God.

As you reflect today, consider where God might be asking you to pause and wait for His direction. Where do you sense Him calling you to follow more closely, trusting His timing and guidance as you navigate life’s challenges? What would it look like to consecrate yourself and prepare your heart for what He wants to do next?

God is faithful to lead you, and He delights in doing amazing things among His people when we trust Him to make the way.

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, help me pause and sense Your leading before I act. Teach me to follow Your presence with trust and patience. Remove distractions that pull my heart away from You. Prepare me to step forward when You call.

JOSHUA 1-3

JANUARY 17, 2026

LIVE IT OUT

Reflection:

This week has invited us to trust God's presence, hold tightly to His Word, align with His leading, submit to His ways, and prepare our hearts to follow Him.

Today we have an opportunity to put into practice what we have learned.

This week's challenge:

Choose one area of your life where obedience has felt unclear, delayed, or intimidating and take a faithful, concrete step towards obedience in the next 48 hours.

Not a perfect step. Not a dramatic step. Just a real, intentional act of obedience to the leading of God in your life.

To help you, consider these questions:

- Where has God been nudging you? (A conversation, a habit, a priority?)
- Where do you sense God working around you?
- What fear or distraction needs to be set aside so you can follow Him?

Write down the step of obedience God is calling you to take. Pray over it. Then move forward in obedience to take that step.

Often, small obedience opens the door to seeing God move in big ways.

Prayer Prompt:

Father, thank You for walking with me through this week. Show me the step of obedience You're inviting me to take, and give me the courage to follow You with a willing heart. Lead me in Your Word, steady me in Your presence, and help me join You in the work You're already doing around me. Amen.

~ Roni Bundy

JOSHUA 3:14-17

JANUARY 18, 2026

STEP IN FIRST

Reflection:

The generation standing on the banks of the Jordan River had heard the stories their whole lives—stories of a sea that split in two, walls of water rising to the right and left, dry ground appearing where there should have been none. But most of them had never seen it. They were children when they left Egypt or had been born in the wilderness, and the Red Sea miracle belonged more to their parents' memories than their own.

Here they stood again at the edge of impossible. But this time, it was different. The Jordan wasn't a calm shoreline waiting for a dramatic moment. Scripture says it was at flood stage—a raging, swollen river overflowing its banks. Standing before it was not just intimidating...it was dangerous. And yet the command from God was clear: the priests carrying the ark were to step into the water first. Not after it parted. Not when it looked safe. Not when they could see dry ground forming. **First.**

This required obedience grounded by trust. Even though this generation didn't personally experience the Red Sea crossing, they knew the faithfulness of Yahweh. They had heard Moses declare, "The Lord your God goes with you; He will never leave you nor forsake you" (Deut. 31:6). They had seen manna appear every morning, water spring from rocks, and the Lord lead them by cloud and fire. These memories fueled their trust.

Interestingly, the Lord wasn't going to repeat Himself in the same way. Because He was about to do something new in the midst of this new generation.

This is often how He leads us. The past gives us confidence, because God does not change—but His movements are rarely identical. He invites us to step forward in faith not because the path is clear, but because He is. Sometimes He places the miracle on the far side of our obedience.

Some of us are standing at the edge of something that feels swollen and stormy—something that requires more courage than we feel we have. And yet, the invitation of Joshua 3 remains: step in first. Trust His voice. Move when He speaks. Let your feet touch the water before you see Him make a way. He has been faithful behind you. He will be faithful before you. And He will be faithful as you step.

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, give me the courage to place my foot in the water before I see the way open. Help me trust Your leading even when it looks different from the past. Teach me to move in obedience—one faithful step at a time.

~ Jennifer Mann

REMEMBER WHAT GOD HAS DONE

Reflection:

When the Holy Spirit dwells in the heart of a believer, the miraculous should become an extraordinary, yet regular part of our everyday lives. The Lord desires to use our lives to carry out his divine will on earth. When we allow him, he miraculously transforms our hearts and our lives to spread the Gospel and build up his kingdom.

The Lord miraculously parted the Jordan River so that the entire Israelite nation crossed on dry ground. This miracle served dual purposes: to exalt Joshua as God's anointed leader and to confirm the Lord was with them. After crossing the Jordan, the Lord commanded that one representation from each of the twelve tribes of Israel take a stone from the riverbed where the ark of the covenant of the Lord was standing. The twelve men were to carry the stones to the place where they would later spend the night. These stones were to serve as a memorial to the Israelites. When future generations would see the twelve stones, the Israelites could attest to the power and faithfulness of the Lord.

What spiritual memorials or spiritual markers has God placed in your life? In their book *Experiencing God*, Henry and Richard Blackaby define a spiritual marker as: "a time of transition, decision, or direction when I clearly know God has guided me." Take a moment to meditate on the miraculous ways that God has transformed your heart and your life since you first declared him Lord. Ask him to reveal times when he moved in significant and miraculous ways to transform your faith. Make a list of all of the ways that he reveals. In your intimate time with the Lord, begin to chronicle these times into a spiritual marker journal. Try to clearly recall every detail of each event, praising the Lord for his great faithfulness.

Over time, especially when faced with a transition or decision, reread your spiritual marker journal to remember what the Lord has done in your life. As the Holy Spirit prompts, share your spiritual markers with others; bringing praise, honor, and glory to the Lord.

Prayer Prompt:

Father, thank you for your faithfulness and presence. As I remember all you have done in my life, I stand in awe of you. Please use my life, especially the spiritual makers that you have placed in my life, to bring honor and glory to your name. Amen.

~ Jodi Fish

JOSHUA 5:1-9

JANUARY 20, 2026

WALK IN OBEDIENCE

Reflection:

Why did God command Israel to incapacitate their entire fighting force before the first battle? Verses 4-7 explain that the forty years of wandering had created an incomplete people. The generation born in the wilderness had not received the sign of the covenant.

The tragic truth was that the generation that was supposed to take the land was consumed in the wilderness "because they did not obey the voice of the LORD". This lack of obedience included the neglect of circumcision, which was an important part of the covenant God made with Abraham and affirmed by the law given at Mount Sinai. Before the new generation could claim the covenant promise of the land, they first had to be marked by the covenant sign.

This teaches us a vital lesson for taking new ground: Blessings and battles always go together. God required them to accept His Lordship and observe His commands and ordinances before He would give them the victory. The land was promised, but the condition for taking possession was faithful obedience. The new generation had to demonstrate a complete willingness to trust God's provision over their own tactics. Their act of being circumcised in vulnerable enemy territory showed that their confidence was not rooted in the strength of their fighting men, but in the power and protection of God alone.

Our movement of faith must begin with a complete, unconditional obedience to the basics of our commitment to Him. Just as circumcision was a "cutting away of the flesh" and a reminder to put no trust in the flesh, we must deal with the covenant issues in our lives before we rush out to conquer our enemies. We cannot expect God's blessings and victory when we have neglected the foundational steps of covenant relationship with Him. We must deal with the "uncircumcised" areas of our life, the areas of rebellion or neglect, before seeking to conquer as we follow Jesus our Messiah.

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, help me to examine my heart for any areas of disobedience or neglect, especially those foundational commands You have given me. I recognize that You require unconditional obedience before victory. Show me where I need to be spiritually "circumcised"; where I need to cut away reliance on my own strength and instead fully trust in the completeness of my covenant with You through Christ. Help me to remember that true strength and courage are found in Your presence and Your promises, not in my own preparation.

~ Mike Oxford

JOSHUA 5:10-12

JANUARY 21, 2026

RENEW YOUR COMMITMENT

Reflection:

After wandering the wilderness for forty years the Israelites have finally arrived to the Promised Land, a land flowing with Milk and Honey. During their journey God sustained His people with Manna. Every day, except the Sabbath, God would cover the ground with this bread from Heaven. It was a constant reminder for Israel that God was still with them, that He would always provide for them.

After crossing the Jordan River and arriving in Canaan the people would celebrate one more Passover festival at Gikal, with God's miraculous bread; then they would eat foods from the land they conquered. The moment the Israelites ate from the land God would stop sending manna to the earth; their daily miracle was no longer needed.

God's provision often comes in unexpected ways, and His timing is perfect. Now that the Israelites could feed themselves they no longer needed God to provide in that way. From now on, He would provide through the ground. God meets our needs where we're at, His provision fits our current situation and will change as our circumstances change.

God reveals different aspects of Himself and His provision as we enter new seasons of our lives. Just as the Israelites suddenly lost their miracle of manna as they conquered the Promised Land, we can see a provision from God suddenly stop. Don't see this as a bad thing, rather look for the new way God will reveal Himself and provide.

Take some time to reflect over the ways God has provided during your life and think on how He is working during this season.

Prayer Prompt:

Heavenly Father, thank you for all the ways you provide in my life. As I enter a new season, help open my eyes to see how you are providing and to be grateful for my daily bread.

~ Amanda Summers

WORSHIP BEFORE THE BATTLE

Reflection:

Have you ever been guilty of deciding you were going to do something, laid out the time and place, and all the details, and then asked God to bless it? I have. I wanted God's blessing! I wanted God to say, 'Go ahead, I will watch over you, and provide for you . . . I've got your back!' Because, after all, God promises to do that, correct? But the truth is I just put this God who is all-powerful, all-knowing, and all-present in this neat little box to fit my agenda, in the hope He will come through in my time of need, blessing my plan, my efforts, my timing, my . . . you get the idea.

The real blessing comes when we realize that the God we serve, who created the universe and everything in it, has a plan far bigger than anything we could imagine. Yet, He wants to include us in that plan, in His plan! And if we are not careful, we can read the three verses of our text today and completely miss this!

First, this warrior shows up wielding a sword, ready to go to battle, and Joshua asks him if he is on the Hebrews' side or on the side of their enemies.

What I love about this passage is the warrior's response: "No!" What Joshua was asking was not a yes or no question. 'Are you for us or against us?' "No!"

What was going on in this passage was not about Joshua's plan, or even the enemy's plan. This was about God's plan. This warrior represented God, and it was God's plan! Joshua's success would come down to learning what God's plan was and stepping into God's plan, God's agenda, God's timing.

As we read on, we read how the Hebrew people were instructed to cross the Jordan, set up camp around the fortified city of Jericho, and then for seven days march around the city doing nothing but marching, keeping absolutely silent. Then on the seventh day, at the Lord's command they were to shout . . . and these 12-foot-thick walls (thick enough that family homes were built into the walls) fell down. Not a single sword was drawn because it was God's plan, God's agenda, God's timing . . . God's battle, and God's victory! And God gave them the city!

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, as we prepare our hearts in worship, we recognize you as the all-powerful, all-knowing, all-present God that You are, and we are so humbled and thankful that You would include us in Your plans! Teach us Lord, to slow down, and to wait on You. Give us eyes that would see and ears that would hear so that we can learn Your ways. Help us to boldly step in the direction You want us to go when You want us to go! In Christ, our Lord and Savior. AMEN!

TRUST GOD'S STRATEGY

Reflection:

God's instructions for Jericho were startlingly precise: six days of one circuit, followed by seven circuits on the seventh day. The number seven is used repeatedly, emphasizing completeness and perfection. God did not just give a general command for movement; He gave a meticulously detailed blueprint.

This plan demanded unquestioning obedience. The Israelites couldn't decide that three days was enough, or that four laps on the seventh day would suffice. Their faith had to perfectly match God's prescribed strategy. This was spiritually stretching because it required them to trust God even when it didn't make sense, even when one might say, "What is the good of it all?".

When the walls finally fell, it would be the clear work of the Lord, but only after Israel had completed its measure of obedient movement. When taking new ground, are we committed to the entire measure of God's word, or are we trying to shortcut the process? God often works by this pattern: He chooses to wait for the active participation of His people before He decisively acts.

As you think about your own life, consider the places where God has asked you to take steady, specific steps even when the purpose isn't clear. Obedience often feels repetitive or slow, yet it shapes our faith long before we ever see results. Ask yourself: Where has God asked me to keep walking—even when I feel like nothing is happening? And then consider: What step has He already made clear that I've been tempted to shorten, skip, or modify? These questions help us stay in step with His timing, trusting that His power often comes after our faithful movement.

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, You are the God of perfect strategy and timing. Forgive me for the times I have tried to shortcut Your process, questioned Your precise instructions, or only wanted to obey the steps that made sense to my human logic. Grant me the radical faith of the Israelites marching around Jericho. I commit to completing the full measure of the movement You have commanded in my life, even when it feels confusing, repetitive, or unproductive. Help me to remember that my active obedience is the preparation for Your decisive action, so that when victory comes, it is clear that You alone have done the work. Amen.

~ Mike Oxford

JOSHUA 4-6

JANUARY 24, 2026

LIVE IT OUT

Reflection:

If there's been a thread running through this week, it's this: Worship is remembering, trusting, and responding to who God is. We have seen evidence of the ways God has been faithful. We have traced His provisions through past battles, and we have considered what it means to worship in the middle of the struggle, not just at the finish line.

And now, as this week closes, the invitation is simple: Let worship shape your next step. Not just a moment. Not just a song. But a posture, a turning of your heart toward God because He has already proven Himself trustworthy.

This week's challenge:

Choose one intentional way to worship God this week — not just emotionally, but practically.

Here are a few prompts to help you discern it:

- What part of God's character came alive for you as you remembered His faithfulness?
- Where have you seen His provision in ways you hadn't noticed before?
- What battle are you standing in right now where worship could become an act of trust rather than a response to victory?

Then choose one concrete expression of worship you will practice in the next 48 hours:

- Set aside ten quiet minutes to thank God for specific ways He has been present in your life.
- Sing (or listen to) a worship song that declares what you most need to believe about God right now — and let it become a prayer.
- Write out a short "memorial stone" note: a simple sentence naming one way God has shown up. Put it somewhere you'll see it.
- Tell someone a story of God's faithfulness from your life — not to impress them, but to remind your own heart who He is.
- Kneel, lift your hands, or adopt a posture of humility — allowing your body to lead your heart into worship.

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, help me lift my heart to You in worship today — not just with words, but with my actions, my thoughts, and my focus. Teach me to praise You in the moment, trusting that You are at work even when I can't see the full picture.

~ Roni Bundy

JOSHUA 7:10-13

JANUARY 25, 2026

ROOT OUT SIN

Reflection:

Stepping into the promises of God requires more than bold moments—it requires a continual posture of surrender, honesty, and holiness. Joshua 7 brings us face-to-face with one of the most sobering truths in Scripture: hidden sin always bears visible consequences.

Israel had just witnessed God collapse the walls of Jericho with nothing but obedience, endurance, and praise. Victory was fresh. Momentum was strong. But underneath the surface, rot was already spreading. Achan had taken what God declared off-limits and buried it in the ground beneath his tent. No one saw it. No one knew. But God did. And the sin of one man led to the defeat of an entire nation and the deaths of innocent warriors (vv. 4–5). Your sin never stays hidden.

What is kept in darkness will always (eventually) be brought into the light. Not because God delights in exposure, but because He is too holy and too loving to allow what destroys us to remain buried. When God tells Joshua, “Israel has sinned... I will not be with you anymore unless you destroy whatever among you is devoted to destruction” (vv. 11–12), He is reminding us that holiness is serious business. We live in a day of grace, yes; but grace was never meant to be a permission slip to stay tangled in sin. Paul addresses this head-on: “But don’t use your freedom to satisfy your sinful nature. Instead, use your freedom to serve one another in love.” (Galatians 5:13) And again: “For the wages of sin is death...” (Romans 6:23)

Sin always moves toward death - death of intimacy with God, death of peace, death of relationships, death of calling, and sometimes (as with Achan) literal death. It spreads. It infects. It impacts innocent bystanders. Achan’s entire household suffered because he refused to bring his sin into the light.

This passage calls us to stop treating our compromises as harmless. To stop assuming small sins stay small. To stop believing we can bury things beneath the “tent floor” of our lives without consequence.

God’s command to Joshua is the same command He speaks to us: “Go, consecrate the people... there are devoted things among you.”

In other words: Root it out. Bring it into the open. Deal with it before it deals with you.

Not because God is harsh, but because He is holy—and because He longs for us to walk in freedom, purity, and unbroken fellowship with Him.

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, reveal anything in me that grieves Your heart or hinders Your presence. Give me courage to bring hidden things into the light, wisdom to repent fully, and strength to walk in holiness with You each day.

~ Jennifer Mann

JOSHUA 8:1-2

JANUARY 26, 2026

LEARN FROM SETBACKS

Reflection:

Forward movement in the kingdom is not shaped by one triumphant moment but by a continual willingness to seek God, realign our hearts, and keep walking. And nowhere is that more clearly seen than in Israel's return to the city of Ai.

The first attempt had ended in painful defeat. Hidden sin had corrupted the camp, and the consequences were devastating. Lives were lost. Confidence was shaken. Thankfully, Joshua did not stay in discouragement and he did not blame God which, if we're being honest, we often have a tendency to do. Instead, he immediately sought the Lord, asking the hard question: Why did we fail?

Because Joshua was willing to confront the root issue, to purify the camp, and to realign himself and the nation under God's holiness, a new story could be written. And this is where we often meet God in our own setbacks—not at the moment of failure, but in the quiet space afterward when we choose what we do next. We can stay wounded, defensive, or frustrated... or we can do what Joshua did: come before the Lord with an open heart.

Setbacks have a way of exposing what success never will. They reveal places of compromise, places where self-reliance has crept in, or places where we've rushed ahead without asking God for His direction. Yet even in those moments, God is not eager to shame us—He is eager to restore us. When we bring our questions, our confusion, and even our disappointment to Him, He meets us with clarity, mercy, and the next step forward.

The Lord tells Joshua, "Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged... I have delivered into your hands the king of Ai." This time, God didn't just send them back—He sent them with a strategy. A plan for victory. And even more, He allowed the Israelites to keep the plunder and livestock for themselves. What had previously been off-limits in Jericho was now freely given in Ai.

The Lord withheld nothing good from them—but only after they walked in obedience. Obedience may not always be easy, but it is always worth it. Repentance may feel humbling, but it clears the path for blessing. Setbacks may sting, but they become teachers when we bring them before the Lord.

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, help me to learn from the places where I've stumbled. Reveal anything in me that needs to be brought into alignment with You. Teach me to walk in daily obedience, trusting that Your way leads to victory and blessing. Give me courage to seek You, humility to repent, and perseverance to follow You—again and again.

~ Jennifer Mann

JOSHUA 8:30-35

JANUARY 27, 2026

STAY IN THE WORD

Reflection:

In this singular event, we see Israel confirming its identity as a "people of the Book", ordering their lives after God's word. This focus on God's revealed word was the foundation for Israel's future security and blessing. Joshua did not just write the law privately; he wrote a copy of the law on plastered stones "in the presence of the people of Israel". The location was ideal, as the hills created a natural amphitheater effect, allowing the whole nation to hear the reading of the law.

This assembly included the "sojourner as well as native born" and "the strangers who were living among them". This demonstrates that the covenant God made was not a closed system. Those who were born as Gentiles were included among the covenant people because they had come under the law and covenant of the God of Israel. This inclusion confirms that God's plan has always been a "missionary religion" open to outsiders who choose to live with Israel and worship her God.

This grand, public reading established that the blessings and curses were not just promises, but governing principles for everyone in the nation, citizens and converts alike. The action Israel was called to take was rooted in this knowledge of God's commands. For us, staying in the whole Word daily is the key to daily victory, ensuring we understand the path to both blessing and perseverance.

As you reflect on this scene, in your own rhythms and routines, consider how God's Word is forming you—and where it may be inviting you deeper. Ask yourself: *How is God calling me to center my life more fully on His Word today?* And look around your own "community amphitheater": *Who around me might God be inviting into His story through my faithfulness to His Word?* These questions help us enter the same posture of openness and obedience that marked Israel that day.

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, You have included the stranger and the native born into Your people. Show me today how to make Your Word the foundation of my identity and actions. Help me remember that knowledge of the Scriptures is not enough; it demands action. Give me the courage to persevere in faith and live fully surrendered to the law written on my heart, knowing that my happiness and success are found when my interest and duty go hand in hand with Your ordinances.

~ Mike Oxford

JOSHUA 10:12-14

JANUARY 28, 2026

PRAY BIG PRAYERS

Reflection:

Have you ever said, "I don't want to bother God with my stuff, He has bigger things to deal with?" Have you ever thought, "Asking God for help is selfish, I need to be asking God to help others." Or, "My motives are probably not right, so I am not even going to ask".

Joshua asked God to let the sun stand still so Israel could defeat it's enemies. That is an audacious prayer. What keeps you from praying not just audacious prayers but more times than not, just simply praying for things that way heavy on your heart and mind?

Joshua 10:12-14 teaches us a couple things:

First, it demonstrates that God desires us to pray bold prayers. It might seem out of bounds to me, but God is eagerly waiting for His sons and daughters to ask. Psalm 37:4 says, "Delight yourself in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart."

And Philippians 4:19 says, "And my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus."

Secondly, the passage reminds us that God fights for His people. The miracle wasn't about spectacle; it was about God defending His covenant people. The same God who stood with Joshua stands with you today. You may not see the sun stand still, but God is working in ways just as powerful on your behalf.

What's weighing on your heart and mind? What mountain do you need moved? Pray the prayer below and then boldly ask the Father for whatever is on your heart.

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, give me the courage to pray boldly and trust deeply. Help me remember that You are not limited by what I see or understand. Fight for me today as You fought for Joshua, and let Your purposes shine through my life. Amen.

~ John Mann

JOSHUA 11:23

JANUARY 29, 2026

A PROMISED FULFILLED

Reflection:

Our granddaughter sat before us holding out her hand, pinky stretched out further than her other fingers and she asked, “Do you pinky promise?” I admit, I have no idea why a pinky promise is more binding than a regular promise but nonetheless, I took my pinky, wrapped it around hers and made that promise.

God had made a promise to Moses and even though Moses did not see that promise fulfilled, Joshua did. He took the promised land into his hands and found out that His Father's promise was more than they could have hoped for or imagined. He discovered it was a

- Place of rest from the wanderings of wilderness life (Deut 6:10-11)
 - a place they would no longer have to erect and tear down
 - a place where what they needed to survive was provided
- Land of Plenty – a place where they lacked nothing (Deut 8:8-9)
- Land of Living Water flowing from brooks, fountains and springs – a place to be refreshed and be cleaned (Deut 8:7)
- A Land of Promised Victory – a place where the LORD went before them (Deut 11:25)

Our Father in Heaven loves and provides for His children equally and He has provided the same fulfillment of these promises to us as well:

- Jesus gives us rest for our soul (Matthew 11:28)
- Our Father freely gave us all things when He did not spare His Son (Rom 8:32)
- Jesus is the Living Water inviting us to drink, be refreshed and be cleansed (John 7:37-39)
- Jesus gifted us the Holy Spirit and provides continual victory upon salvation as we are taught, admonished and empowered as we abide in Him. (1 Cor 15:57)

God stands before you with his promised hand outstretched.

Will you take His hand and accept the promise before you?

It is better than a pinky promise, I assure you!!!

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, thank You for the promises You have given and fulfilled in Your Son, Jesus. Help me to take Your hand and trust Your provision, Your rest, and Your victory, knowing Your faithfulness is far greater than any promise I could make. Teach me to live in the joy and confidence of Your abundant love.

~ Don Meeks

CULTIVATE GRATITUDE

Reflection:

Bumper to bumper traffic, trips to the DMV, medical test results, the final bell before summer vacation, the birth of a baby, a proposal, a pending job offer. Waiting is hard, but it is part of our earthly life. Could it be that God orchestrates times of waiting into our lives to accomplish his divine will?

Forty years. Fourteen thousand six hundred days of waiting to receive the gift of the promised land from the Lord. Although the waiting period was not an easy task for the Israelites, their period of waiting was not without purpose. During this time, they learned to trust in the LORD and how to properly worship him alone. The Israelites learned obedience by submitting to the leadership of the LORD's anointed. Perhaps one of their most profound lessons is one that we sometimes overlook; learning to live in community. For forty years, the Israelites wandered the wilderness together. During this time, they had to learn to work together, worship together, and even train for battle together. During this precious time of waiting, the presence of the LORD was with them.

The Lord's timing is always perfect and he is always faithful to fulfill his promises. The Israelites received all the land that the LORD had promised to their ancestors and they took possession of it. Additionally, the LORD granted peace and rest to the Israelites as none of their enemies could stand against them. Their time of waiting had come to a close! They were now living in the promise that their ancestors were only envisioning.

Just as he was faithful to the Israelites, God is faithful in the lives of believers today. How has the Lord used your times of waiting to teach faith, trust, humility, obedience, submission, or living in community? In what ways are you now living in the Lord's promises? How could you share your "waiting room" testimonies to build up the Kingdom?

Prayer Prompt:

Father, Thank you for allowing me to spend time in the waiting room with you. Thank you for using that time to achieve your will in my life and make me look more like your Son, Jesus. Thank you for always being faithful to fulfill your promises. Thank you for your peace that brings rest to my soul.

Help me to discern future waiting periods as opportunities to continue to grow with you until I am perfect in your eyes. Help me to live in communion with others; especially with those who are not easy to love. Allow my surrendered life to bring honor and glory to your name. Amen.

~ Jodi Fish

JOSHUA 7,8,10,11,21

JANUARY 31, 2026

LIVE IT OUT

Reflection:

We've walked together through hidden sin, setbacks, God's Word, bold prayers, community, and gratitude. This is the final day of this devotional series—a moment to pause, reflect, and lean fully into what God has been calling you toward. Today isn't just about looking back; it's about stepping forward.

This week's challenge:

Identify one area of your life where sin, fear, distraction, or hesitation has kept you from taking new ground. Then take one concrete, faithful action toward freedom and growth. This could be:

- Confessing a hidden struggle to God and asking Him for help.
- Seeking accountability with a trusted friend or mentor.
- Removing a habit, object, or influence that keeps you from obedience.
- Writing out a plan to pursue a new spiritual discipline or act of faith.

Questions to guide you:

- What has been holding me back from fully trusting and obeying God?
- Where do I sense God inviting me to take new ground in faith?
- Who could walk alongside me in this step?
- How can I replace what hinders me with worship, obedience, or trust in God?

Today is your last opportunity in this devotional journey to act on what you've been learning. Let this step be your declaration: you are ready to move forward, fully surrendered, fully alive in Christ, and fully open to the new ground God is inviting you to claim.

Prayer Prompt:

Lord, thank You for walking with me through this journey. Today, I choose to step fully into the new ground You've been calling me toward. Reveal what needs to be surrendered, give me courage to act in obedience, and fill me with Your Spirit to move forward boldly. Help me not just to remember what You've taught me, but to live it out—trusting, worshiping, and walking in faith every step of the way. Amen.

~ Roni Bundy

WITH GRATITUDE

This devotional was created through the prayerful work of many people in our church family. We are grateful for each contributor who invested time, creativity, and spiritual insight to help guide us through this 21-day journey.

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