

Faith Promise Discussion Questions
6.04.17

Leader Prep Section

Take time before your small group meeting to prepare by reading through the questions and scripture passage so that you can select 4-5 questions that are best suited to your group.

Try to work through at least one question from each of the sections - Hook, Book, Look, Took in order to move from observation to application.

When possible spend time in prayer for each member of your group.

Hook - Ice breaker type questions to help make the transition into the study time.

1. Share a story of an experience when you found yourself in transition moving away from all that you knew.
2. What sort of challenges do you think Joshua faced when he stepped into leadership immediately after Moses?

Background

The book of Joshua opens after the death of Moses and at the close of the 40 years of wandering in the desert. The people of Israel were about to cross the Jordan River and head (finally) into the land their parents and grandparents had been promised when they left Egypt. To say they were facing the unknown is putting it lightly. What they did know was who was going with and before them into the land. It is this fact that God reminds Joshua and calls for him to draw courage from the reality that he will not be alone as he leads the people into the land.

Read Joshua 1:1-11

Questions

Book - These questions are designed to get you into the text itself.

1. What directions does God give to Joshua as he steps into leadership after Moses' death?
2. How many times does God tell Joshua to be strong and courageous in verses 1-11?
3. What does God give as the reasons Joshua can be strong and courageous? Look at verses 5, 8, and 9.

Look - These questions will take you on a deeper look at what the passage means for us today.

1. Put yourself in Joshua's spot. He has been working with Moses for his entire adult life and now Moses is dead and Joshua is the new leader. How would you feel?
2. In what areas of your life is God calling you to be strong and courageous?
3. What past experiences can you look to that give you courage in times of uncertainty? Think of times when God has been faithful and protected you.

Took - These questions are focused on applying the big idea from the text to our lives.

1. In what ways can we each turn to the One who knows the path forward in this time of transition?
2. What does it look like for Hillcrest to follow Joshua's lead in this time of transition?

3. In what ways has God protected Hillcrest the way that he protected Israel? How can that serve as motivation for us to go beyond our walls to take the message of Jesus to those who need it most?

Closing

Bringing in a new lead pastor will make some excited and others will be someone on the scale of unsure to scared. Be sure to encourage honest conversations and help them work through their concerns, and encourage them to talk with the pastoral staff and council. Finally, take time to pray for Hillcrest and for the Lindbeck family as they make this transition.

Reminder: When we enter a new situation we do not always know what will be next or even how we are going to get through it. However, we do know **Who** will be with us and give us the courage, strength and wisdom to thrive.