

# Homeward journey

Reading: Acts 14 v 21-28

Tuesday 2 February

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The first missionary journey is drawing to a close. Here's Luke's summary of their trip home.

## Preparing churches

Read v 21-23

Having preached the gospel in Derbe, Paul and Barnabas go home through the three cities we've been reading about—each of which they were opposed in!

- Why do you think they go back to these cities?
- In what ways do they prepare the Christians there for life ahead?

This shows us the need for 'follow up' of new Christians! Paul and Barnabas choose to head back into dangerous territory so they can encourage and strengthen the disciples there. Presumably they did that by various kinds of teaching, but a key part of the message is teaching about the suffering Christians will go through.

The suffering they mention isn't part of the qualification of entering the kingdom. Rather, in a rebellious world it is the path we must walk if we are faithful to Jesus.

They also appoint elders in each church—those who will have oversight and teaching responsibility for the church. The church needs leaders and, although all these Christians would be young, they choose those they think are best suited.

(To reflect more on choosing leaders, see **1 Timothy 3 v 1-7**.)

They leave by committing these young churches to God—trusting His care and protection for them.

- apply
- Are there any young Christians or church situations you know of who you could encourage and pray for?
  - How can you let them know you are praying for them?

## Arrival home

Read v 24-28

This is the simple description of travelling home to Antioch and reporting what has happened but consider the particular phrases Luke uses:

- 'where they had been committed to the grace of God for the work they had now completed' (v 26)
  - 'they reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith' (v 27)
- What do these phrases tell us about how they viewed what they had done?

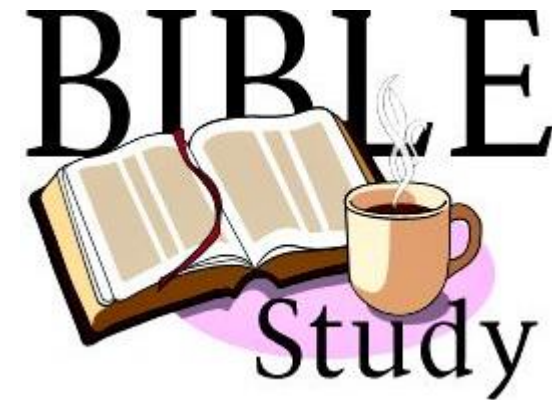
pray thru'

Pray for a similar view of Christian ministry for yourself, your church and any you know of in mission situations.

# Joshua – The man and the message

STUDY 5

Reading: Joshua 1:6-9



*Be strong and courageous*

Home Fellowship Group Bible Study Questions  
Tuesday 16th/Wednesday 17th September 2014

## Read: Joshua 1:1-5

- 1) As Joshua prepares to take up the mantle of leadership, identify the challenges and the assurances before him in the opening five verses of this chapter.

## Read: Joshua 1:6-9

- 2) Three times in these verses God tells Joshua to be 'strong and courageous'. *What does this suggest about Joshua and about the importance of this command?*
- 3) God's promises to Joshua did not mean that he and the Israelites had no responsibilities. *Identify the key responsibilities on their part from verses 6-7.*

- 4) In verse 8 God promises success in Joshua's endeavours providing he follows God's word. *What three parts of Joshua are identified as needing to be preoccupied with God's word; and what do they mean?*

- 5) Verses 7-8 emphasise the place and the importance of God's word in the life of both the individual and God's people collectively. *What practical application can we take from these verses that might help us to reap the benefits promised to Joshua?*

- 6) Verse 9 reinforces what God has said to Joshua. *What can we learn from today's study that will help us not to be dismayed when we face challenges in our lives?*

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### The Law of God

*The definition of The Law of God developed over time. To begin with it was used to describe the Ten Commandments. Later the term was extended to take in the first five books of the Bible (The book of the Law); or Pentateuch. It is this definition that we find in the passage we are studying. By the time Jesus makes reference to it in Matthew 5:18, the Law of God is being used to describe the whole of the Old Testament.*

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### APPLICATION

*What material are you using to help you understand the Bible in your 'quiet times'? Could you be progressing onto Bible Reading Notes that will take you deeper into the word? Included with these study notes is an example of the 'Explore' Bible notes produced by The Good Book Company; which if you are not using at the moment you might like to consider.*

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