

Question 6

Encourage the group to highlight the attributes and characteristics of God that are revealed through what God says to Joshua in this passage:
e.g.

- Sovereignty
- Faithfulness to His promises
- Protection Promised
- When God calls He leads
- We can look back at what God has done among His people in the past.

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 4

Question 1

- a) It was the end of an era. The great leader was no longer there but the work of God must continue.
- b) Although Moses had been disobedient at times, and because of that was not allowed to enter the Promised Land; nevertheless he was a man unmatched in his generation: **Deut 34:10-12**.
- c) This is the moment that Joshua's training had been pointing to. Those experiences we have looked at in the introductory studies; and other occasions we did not look at, culminate in this moment.

Question 2

- Moses the proven leader of forty years was dead.
- Joshua was just about to take up a position he needed time to settle in to.
- The River Jordan was in flood season and therefore a crossing at this point would be treacherous (see **3:15**).
- The logistics were almost impossible. It is suggested that there may have been nearly 3 million people; plus belongings and livestock, etc.
- You are not going to just walk into a land occupied by others and expect them to simply surrender. Were they ready to fight when their morale would be at its lowest following the death of their leader?

Question 3

- a) Before the book of Joshua begins there are 78 occasions where reference is made to God giving the land to the Israelites. Verse 2 of our chapter contains the first of 22 references in the book of Joshua; giving a total of 100 times!
- b) We must remember that the land was not to be won but to be received; even though the people would be called upon to fight.
- c) The only appropriate response to something being given is to receive it. This required faith (v3). They were to place the soles of their feet on the land.
- d) Faith is not theory but active trust.
- e) They were to rest in; and act on, the promises of God made to Moses forty years earlier.

Question 4

- a) This is about God's faithfulness to His covenant.
- b) We can go as far back to Genesis 15:18 to how God identifies to Abraham the extent of the boundaries of the Promised Land. This is reinforced at different stages in the wilderness journey in passages such as Exodus 23:31, Numbers 34:3-12 and Deuteronomy 11:24.
- c) In **Deut 11:24** Moses reminds the people of what God had said at Mount Sinai 40 years earlier when he had given them the Ten Commandments. What God reminds Joshua of in verse 4 mirrors that description.

- d) As Joshua stood there looking across the Jordan he could get some sense of the enormity of this land that God would give them. It is a reminder of the Lord's words to Abraham in **Gen 13:14-17**.
- e) The Hittites mentioned here in verse 4 were the dominant tribe of Canaan. Their superior power and the extent of their influence show that nothing would get in the way of God fulfilling His promises.

Question 5

- a) There were enemies in the land as Joshua knew full well from his venture into Canaan with the other spies back in Numbers 13-14. In fact there were seven different nations that held the land of Canaan at that time.
- b) Joshua would be given exactly the same resources that Moses had. He was not a second choice!
- c) God promised to be with Joshua at the outset of his mission in the same way He had promised Moses in **Ex 3:12**. If Joshua felt inadequate now; he was in good company!
- d) Despite these promises Joshua was nevertheless required to acknowledge his utter dependence on God. This is seen in the promise of verse 5 "*I will not leave you or forsake you*".