

GROUP LEADERS NOTES – STUDY 6

Question 1

Challenges

- Preparing to move some two million people; plus animals and provisions, in just three days would have been some undertaking. It was important that they did not have excess baggage.
- They were under new leadership with the uncertainty that such a change brings.
- The potential dangers ahead would make staying where they were more attractive; at least slightly less dangerous.
- There was the ‘small matter of a river’ to cross (bearing in mind that 3:15 tells us that the river was at its highest) at that time of year.

Assurances

- The promise of God; that He was giving them the land.
- God has already gone ahead of them. They are to take possession of the promise already received.

Question 2

- a) When God calls us to serve Him we must, like Joshua, take Him at His word (v11).
- b) The Children of Israel were relatively comfortable and safe where they were. We must be prepared to step out of that comfort zone and trust for what lies ahead; God’s perfect purposes and promises.
- c) We need to travel light! Accumulating things here on earth can hold us back; both literally and metaphorically (see **Heb 12:1**).

- d) We must never lose sight of the fact that God is working out His purposes in our lives. We are to be prepared to follow wherever that leads.

Question 3

- a) Obedience to the Lord is paramount. Failure to fight with the fellow Israelites would mean they were sinning against God (see **Num 32:23**).
- b) Joshua reminds them of their responsibilities to the other tribes; even though they had already taken possession of the land provided for them. That is about being part of the community of God's people and our responsibilities to help them. We must think beyond our own issues and ministries.
- c) Keeping our word is an important part of the integrity of our faith.
- d) Notice the assurance Joshua gives in verse 15 that God will keep His side of the agreement.

Question 4

- a) The rest promised is not a rest of inactivity. It would include sweat and tears.
- b) In complete dependence on God they would find him totally adequate for every situation.
- c) It is rest in the sufficiency of God rather than striving in our own strength (see what Jesus said on this matter to His disciples in **Matt 11:28**).

Question 5

- a) The response "*all that you have...wherever you send...*" is their acknowledgement that God is indeed speaking through Joshua.
- b) Moses had been the leader for 40 years; Joshua was only his assistant. Now as the people prepare to enter the Promised Land this is a declaration that Joshua is indeed God's chosen man to carry on from Moses. They will therefore obey.
- c) What is particularly interesting is that their record in obeying Moses was far from exemplary; yet here they commit themselves to full obedience. This is a fresh start.
- d) Verse 17 acts as a confirmation of Joshua's commission on behalf of the people: "*Only may the Lord your God be with you, as He was with Moses*" (v17). This is confirmed when at the end of the chapter they echo the same words that God gave Joshua back in 6, 7, and 9.
- e) If we wind forward to **Josh 22:1-4** we find that they carried out their obligations to the end.

Question 6

- Joshua did not hesitate (compare v2 and v11)
- Joshua took God at His word (compare v3 and v10)
- Joshua based his leadership on God's word (compare v7 and v13)
- Joshua had no hesitation in believing that God would be faithful to His promises (compare v2 and v15a).