

Joshua 5

FIRST DAY: Introduction

Our God is a generously blessing God! He has a storehouse of goodness He wants to pour out on us. *No good thing will He withhold from those who walk uprightly* (Psalm 84:11). Yet, we often don't receive these blessings because we are not in the place physically and/or spiritually for God to bless us. However, because God is committed to blessing us, He will work in our lives by different measures to purify and move us to the place where He can bless us.

God was ready to give the children of Israel the Promised Land. However, the children of Israel were not yet in a place to receive the Promised Land. They needed to first be purified so they could begin to move in and possess the promises of God.

In Joshua 5, we will study Israel's spiritual preparation so that we might allow God to prepare us to inherit the promises He has stored up for us.

Ask the Lord to work in your heart a willingness to let Him purify and place you where He desires.

SECOND DAY: Read Joshua 5:1

1. The Israelites had safely crossed the Jordan. Identify the kings who lived on the west side of the Jordan. Joshua 5:1a

a. What had they *heard*? Joshua 5:1b

b. What was their response? Joshua 5:1c

(1) Compare this with Rahab's response in Joshua 2:9–11.

2. Note how God was preparing the way before Israel. Joshua 5:1d

a. Link this with God's promise in Isaiah 52:12. What do you see?

(1) Share a time God prepared the way before you.

THIRD DAY: Read Joshua 5:2–9

1. What did the LORD instruct Joshua to do *at that time*?
Joshua 5:2
 - a. Note Joshua's response. Joshua 5:3
 - b. Link this event with Genesis 17:7–11. Record your insights.
2. Use Joshua 5:4–6 to explain the *reason* for this circumcision.
 - a. Identify the sin issue of the first generation of Israelites who *came out of Egypt*. Joshua 5:6
 - (1) What warning do you receive from this?
 - b. David Guzik says, *Circumcision was always a powerful act of consecration to God. In it, an Israelite said, "I'm not like the other nations. I listen to God and do what He says I should do." It was stepping out in faithful obedience and identifying yourself as one of the LORD's people. It was renouncing the flesh and the world. It was dying to self and living to God.* How does this explain God's command to the second generation of Israelites?

(1) Colossians 2:11 NLT reads, *When you came to Christ, you were “circumcised,” but not by a physical procedure. Christ performed a spiritual circumcision—the cutting away of your sinful nature.* How does this principle apply to us today?

(2) Why do you think this was a significant act prior to the conquest of Canaan?

3. Briefly summarize the events of Joshua 5:7–8.

4. Use Joshua 5:9 to identify what was *rolled away* from Israel that day.

a. Why do you think this was necessary?

b. What has God *rolled away* from your life?

FOURTH DAY: Read Joshua 5:10–12

1. Recall that the Israelites crossed the Jordan on the *tenth day of the first month* (Joshua 4:19). According to Exodus 12:3, this was the same day forty years earlier that Moses instituted the Passover. With this in mind, comment on what the children of Israel did. Joshua 5:10

a. According to Exodus 12:25–27, why was this feast important to observe?

b. Why do you think commemorating the *Passover* at this particular time was significant?

(1) Why is it important for us to continually acknowledge that Jesus is our Passover? See 1 Corinthians 5:7.

2. What did the Israelites do *the day after the Passover*? Joshua 5:11

a. How does this foreshadow the Israelites taking possession of the land?

3. According to Joshua 5:12a, when did the *manna* cease?
 - a. Use Deuteronomy 8:3 to briefly explain the purpose for the *manna*.
 - b. What did the Israelites eat instead? Joshua 5:12b
 - (1) In what way does this speak to you concerning:
 - (a) God's preparation
 - (b) God's timing
 - (c) God's provision
 - c. What do you think the cessation of the *manna* signified? See also Exodus 16:35.

4. What is your takeaway from today's study?

FIFTH DAY: Read Joshua 5:13–15

1. Describe the *Man* Joshua encountered as he prepared for the daunting conquest of Canaan. Joshua 5:13a

2. What did Joshua ask the *Man*? Joshua 5:13b

a. It has been said *God doesn't take sides; He takes over.* How does His "No" answer support this truth?

3. From Joshua 5:14, remark on the *Man's*:

a. Identity

b. Purpose

4. Use Joshua 5:14b to comment on Joshua's:

a. Posture

b. Actions

c. Question

(1) What does this response indicate about Joshua?

(2) How is Joshua an example for you?

5. What did the *Man* direct Joshua to do? Joshua 5:15

a. Compare this with Exodus 3:4–6. What do you see?

(1) Why do you think this encounter was necessary for Joshua's preparation?

6. From your study today, what stands out to you most concerning:

a. Joshua

b. The *Commander of the army of the LORD*

7. Share a way God has prepared you for victory.

SIXTH DAY: Review

1. Joshua 5 records various steps that the Israelites made before beginning their conquest of the land of Canaan. Share any insights you received about the following:

a. Preparation (verses 2–9)

b. Passover (verse 10)

c. Provision (verses 11–12)

d. Presentation of the *Commander of the LORD's army* (verses 13–15)

(1) How does this speak to you concerning the Lord's work in your life?

2. Share a way you were inspired to take possession of God's promises.