



Believe in Gordon

Part 1 Discussion Guide

Face the Issue:

This week we started a new series called “Believe In Gordon”. In his message, Jeremy asked us if we thought Gordon County’s best days are behind us. Do we really believe that something good can come out of Gordon County? If we do, what should be our mission?

While not exactly identical, our challenge in reaching Gordon County with the Good News of the Gospel is similar to the challenge faced by Joshua and the Israelites as they were entering Canaan. There was a land before them that God had said would be theirs but it needed to be conquered. While we do not want to militarily conquer Gordon County, God has told us that we are to conquer with love and service.

Like the Israelites, we face challenges to our confidence and comfort. Can we really trust what God says? How can we the 25% that are active Christ Followers hope to be difference makers for the other 75% of Gordon County?

Describe a time in your life when you were afraid of your circumstances.

What helped you get through that rough time?

When facing a challenge, how do you know when you’re acting in faith and when you’re acting foolishly?

Into the Word:

Read Joshua 1:1–5.

Joshua trembled at the thought of leading a military campaign against a powerful foe. But God reminded Joshua that as he let go of the past to battle the Canaanites, he would not fight alone. God said, “As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you.” Just as God had been with Moses, He would be with Joshua. So God will also be with us. In the darkest night, He is there. In the severest battle, He is present. In the most difficult task, He will not abandon us.

By His very nature, God will not desert his people when he gives them an order, a task, or a leading. Even if the situation seems impossible, God’s presence will be strongly apparent.

Describe how you would react if you were in Joshua’s shoes.

Do you view God as your ally or your enemy? How does it feel to know he is present and watching?

With which statement do you find yourself agreeing most:

- 1) God expects more of me than I can handle.*
- 2) I can’t wait to find out what God has planned next for me.*
- 3) I am more prepared today than I was in the past for whatever comes my way.*

4) *I am fearful of attempting things beyond my ability.*

Why did you choose the statement you did? Do you find yourself agreeing with more than one statement? What is the difference between the four positions? What is at stake in each position?

When has knowing God is present changed the way you view your circumstances?

What are the specific promises that God gave Joshua? What made these promises so incredible? Why would it have been difficult for Joshua to believe these things could happen?

Talk about at least one specific promise God has made to you in the Bible. What makes that promise so incredible? What makes it hard for you to believe that promise?

Why did Joshua have to be moving forward to see God act? How is that also true for us? What are some ways we become so paralyzed in our Christian life that we cannot move forward? How can we overcome this paralysis?

Apply The Word

Inadequate as Joshua felt, he took action. In spite of the dangers ahead, he was a faith walker. He moved forward and received the blessings that awaited him. A poem by Patrick Overton says it best:

When you walk to the edge of all the light you have
And take that step into the darkness of the unknown
You must believe that one of two things will happen:
Either there will be something solid for you to stand on
Or God will teach you how to fly.

As the story of Joshua unfolds, we discover that Joshua and the Hebrews took that step forward.

They were faith walkers. They believed in Canaan and God's promises.

Give examples of ways our church needs to take action in order to "Believe in Gordon": in ministry, stewardship, outreach, building, and so on.

List opportunities we have for personal action in our lives in order to "Believe in Gordon, such as: recommitting to spiritual growth, healing broken relationships.

Commitment to move ahead in reaching Gordon County takes time and effort. What are you willing to give up to obey God and act on the promises He has given you?

In what ways must your view of God change to find the strength and courage you need?

Pray asking God to give us the faith to step out and do what we need to do to "conquer" Gordon County for Him.