

# Sermon Study Guide



## #10: Responding to Challenges in Life

Series: *Courage in the Crucible*

April 18, 2021 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

*In this study on the book of Joshua, we learn how we can stand courageous when trials, difficult situations, opposition, and inevitable changes surround us.*

### Reflect

- What is your first instinct when encountering a challenge in your life
- How does God accomplish His work through people?
- Can one person do God's work alone?

### Read and Discuss

#### Scripture

Joshua 10:28–19:51

#### Discussion Questions

1. What is the challenge that was presented to Joshua and the tribes of Israel in chapter 13:1-8?
2. In chapters 13-19, we find four reactions of the people to the challenge given to them:
  - a. **Facing challenges head-on because of a trust in the Almighty God (v. 14:6-15).** Who was Caleb? How did his trust in God reflect in his life? In your personal life, how do you face challenges? Does your response reflect your trust in God or are you only focused on the challenges? What happens when you do either one?
  - b. **Desiring another way because of a diminished view of God (v. 17:14-18).** What was the difference between Caleb and the sons (tribes) of Joseph in responding to their challenges? Describe a Christian's attitude and reaction to challenges when his faith and view of God has diminished? On the other hand, how do problems and challenges in life make great faith?
  - c. **Lacking self-initiative because of a lack of responsibility (v. 18:1-3).** Why did 7 out of the 12 tribes not receive their land allocation? How would you describe a person who does not take initiative or take personal responsibility in facing challenges in his own life? What would be your advice to that kind of person?
  - d. **Facing challenges without fanfare because trials can be overcome with God's help (v. 19:49-51).** What piece of land did Joshua choose? What does Joshua's action tell you about the kind of person he was? Do you believe you can overcome trials and challenges you face (or are currently facing) because of God's help? How does that belief reflect in your life?

### Respond

**In Walk:** Discouragement is a tool the Enemy uses on some of us today. Life is full of discouraging circumstances that even those who are blessed, successful, and spiritually mature can and do experience it. How you respond to these challenges is indicative of your beliefs about God. As a follower of Christ, how do you respond to these challenges? Do you do it with a diminished view of God or with trust in the almighty God?

**In Prayer:** Heavenly Father, if I focus on the challenges that I face each day, I know that I would be discouraged and disappointed. But thank You that You are real and that You are there to help me. Thank You that with Your help I can face challenges head-on. Lord, please help me to be like Caleb and Joshua who trusted You with all their hearts and brought glory to Your Name. I pray these in Jesus' name. Amen.