

Joshua Part 1
Be Strong and Courageous: Learning to Trust in God's Classroom (Joshua 1:7-9)
Sermon Notes for October 11, 2026

SERMON CONTENT

1. The Kind of Person God Uses

Over and over again in Scripture, God uses people who have humbly learned that they can't do it on their own, people who have learned to trust Him and to lean on Him.

- Casey at the Bat: Casey had talent, but he trusted himself. When the moment came, his swagger wasn't enough.
- God isn't looking for the most polished or confident person. He uses people who have learned to trust Him.
- Joshua's name: Hoshea ("he saves") became Yehoshua, "Yahweh is Salvation," the Hebrew form of the name Jesus.
- Joshua's confidence rested on the One who rescues, not on his own strength.
- Key question: How does someone become strong and courageous in a way that doesn't crumble under pressure?

2. Joshua in God's Classroom

Lesson One- When I have no way out, God makes a way.

Lesson Two- Obedience is my part, but the outcome is God's.

Joshua had been faithful in the waiting while everyone else had been unfaithful in the wondering.

Red Sea: God makes a way. Rephidim: God wins the victory. Sinai: God is worth waiting for. Three lessons, one conclusion: God is dependable, even in impossible situations.

- Each test was a deposit. Every time God showed up, Joshua's trust grew, giving him something to draw from next time.
- Conclusion: God is dependable, even in impossible situations.

3. Taking a Step of Faith

We all want the map before we start walking. We want to see the outcome so we can decide whether it's worth the risk.

- God's classroom isn't just ancient history. He still runs it today.
- Trust grows in the walking, with each provision building a track record with God.
- The classroom is not a punishment. It is preparation for what comes next.

Where am I being asked to take a step without seeing the outcome?

4. Be Strong and Courageous

That's how courage is built. It's not manufactured. It's forged, one test at a time, in the classroom of uncertainty and trust.

- Moses has died. Joshua stands at the Jordan with a nation looking to him and a land full of walled cities ahead.
- God's promise: "As I was with Moses, so I will be with you." (*notes continued on back*)

- God does not say, "Mustering some bravery." That is the Casey approach.
- The courage comes from the presence: "Be strong and courageous... for the Lord your God will be with you."
- Joshua could believe it because he had a lifetime of evidence: the Red Sea, the hilltop, the waiting.

5. This Week's Challenge

Prayer at home: Lord, You are the God who makes a way. I place this situation in Your hands today. I can't see how it ends, but I trust You with the next step. Make me strong and courageous, because You are with me. In the mighty and faithful name of Jesus I pray, Amen.

- Pick ONE uncertain situation that weighs on you most right now.
- Pray over it every day this week: in the morning, on your commute, or before you fall asleep.
- Watch for small provisions, open doors, and unexpected peace. These are your deposits.
- Closing blessing: Go in His strength and in His peace, in the name of Jesus, the Lord who saves.

My situation this week: _____

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: *For personal reflection or group discussion*

1. Casey trusted himself and struck out. In what areas of life are you tempted to rely on your own confidence or strength?
2. Joshua's name means "Yahweh is Salvation." How does knowing who God is shape the way you face uncertainty?
3. Which lesson from God's classroom speaks to you most right now: the Red Sea (God makes a way), Rephidim (obedience is mine, the outcome is God's), or Sinai (God is worth waiting for)? Why?
4. When has God provided for a step of faith in your life? How did that experience prepare you for the next test?
5. Why do you think we want the map before we start walking? What makes it hard to take a step without seeing the outcome?
6. God's call to be strong and courageous is rooted in His presence, not our feelings. How does that change the way you hear that command?
7. What one uncertain situation will you bring to God daily this week? How can this group support you in that?

KEY TAKEAWAYS: *Main points to remember and apply*

1. God uses people who trust Him, not people who trust themselves.
2. Each test in God's classroom is a deposit that builds trust for the next one.
3. God is dependable, even in impossible situations.
4. Obedience is my part; the outcome is God's.
5. When God calls you to a step, He goes before you and provides for the step, even if He doesn't show you the outcome.
6. Courage isn't manufactured. It comes from God's presence and is forged one test at a time.
7. Be strong and courageous, not because of who you are, but because of who is with you.

• Provisions and answers I noticed this week: _____