## Winter Study

## Into the Land of Rest: A Study of the Book of Joshua January 22 – May 13

The book of Joshua is full of action. God acts powerfully for His people, fulfilling His promises to them, defeating their enemies and leading them safely into the place He set apart for them – the Promised Land overflowing with every possible resource and blessing they could ever need. Joshua acts courageously, assuming command of God's people, diligently obeying God's commands and boldly administering all of God's plans for His people in the Promised Land. The people act in concert with God's commands and Joshua's instructions, pledging allegiance to Joshua as their leader and God as their King.

And yet, the book of Joshua is also full of rest. That sounds paradoxical, to be sure. How can a single book of the Bible be action-packed and full of rest all at the same time?

This study will uncover the answer to that question. It will focus on the purpose behind God's promise to the People of Israel as He took them out of the desert and into a land flowing with milk and honey. God's people, Israel, would find rest as they resolved to trust in His sovereignty, power, faithfulness, goodness and love. They would find rest as they feared His holiness and responded to His warnings about the dire consequences of sin. And they would find rest as they remained His faithful servants out of thankfulness and love for all He had done for them.

The book of Joshua applies to us as well. We have become part of God's covenant people by faith in the death and resurrection of Jesus, and God wants us to enter and live abundantly in the place of rest that He has given. As believers, the book of Joshua will spur us to action while teaching us to rest in the sufficiency of Christ upon this earth and to live with joy and anticipation of our promised future rest in heaven. This study will challenge us to walk by faith, trusting and obeying Jesus Christ in our daily lives and seeing how God fulfills His promises to those who fear Him.

## Summer Study

## Transformed: Ordinary People Changed Forever by an Extraordinary God May 20 – June 24

The Bible is full of stories of how ordinary people have been transformed by an extraordinary God. As people from all ages and stages of life have experienced His goodness, come to know and trust His character, and encountered the abundance of His love, they have been changed forever. Even though their stories may pale in significance next to those like Abraham's, David's, Esther's, and Mary's, their lives confirm that God is just as gracious, generous, kind and loving to all who come to Him by faith. In His eyes, no one's life is too ordinary, too insignificant or too small to testify to His glory.

We will study how God impacted the lives of some lesser-known men and women in Scripture - how He saw and knew just what they needed to deal with the struggles they faced and the contexts in which they lived. While some of their stories may consist of only a few verses, they have been included in Scripture for a very specific reason. The manner in which God transformed their lives is recorded to teach, encourage, and instruct us as we live through good times and bad. Their lives will, therefore, teach us that God can continue to transform our lives - that He can change us forever - when we come to Him by faith, even if we feel isolated, alone and overwhelmed by the changes that COVID-19 has brought into our dayto-day routines.

This study will take place via YouTube with optional group discussions through Zoom or other social media. New videos are available every Wednesday morning. Group discussions take place at a time agreed upon by group members.