

LEADERSHIP PREPARATION

BIBLE STUDY



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ISBN 1-884794-01-7

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Revised 2007

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Printed in U.S.A.
Eden Publishing
PO Box 150909
Lakewood, CO 80215-0909

PHASE 1 - Preparation for Leadership Bible Study



JOSHUA - LEADER IN TRAINING

When faced with the prospect of leadership, most of us react one of two ways:

- 1) “Not me, Lord! I don’t know how to lead.”
- 2) “I can handle this easily. I have natural ability to lead.”

Neither one is the proper way to respond to the call of God. Looking at your natural ability either positively or negatively is going to get you into trouble. With your focus on yourselves and your ability, or lack thereof, you are going to miss what GOD can do in the situation. If He has called you into leadership, He wants to develop you to your complete fulfillment and to His glory. This study of the Word of God is designed to prepare you to lead as God would have you do, totally relying upon Him for direction and guidance. If you do have natural abilities or talents, it was God who put them there. He will develop them and fine-tune them as you listen to Him. If you feel you have absolutely no ability, He will develop it within you as you obey His guidance.

God doesn’t make mistakes. We know that if you are beginning this study today, you have sought Him and have confirmed that you are called to minister to marriages and families. This may be for a season or it may be for a lifetime. Either way, God is going to use this time to develop you into the leaders He has called you to be in His army. Wherever He calls you to serve, you will be prepared and trained to lead. Begin now to trust in Him. Place all your confidence and all your fears at His feet and allow Him to mold you in His direction. Leadership is an awesome responsibility but it is also a delightful joy. When you are in service to our Father, in obedience to Jesus, led by the Holy Spirit, you are the most powerful force on this earth. The kingdom of God benefits and rejoices and the kingdom of the enemy trembles.

“Not by might nor by power, but by My Spirit,” says the Lord of Hosts [Zechariah 4:6 NIV].

This Bible study is designed for you to complete together as a couple before you begin teaching **2=1** courses. It will prepare you for your role as leaders. You will receive as much from the Lord as you are willing to take. Allow Him to do a deep work in preparation for leadership in His army.

THE CALL

Joshua was called by God from a place of relative obscurity into a position that changed the course of generations to come. You also are being called into an assignment that is going to change the course of marriages and families. You probably will never know this side of heaven how many lives you are going to touch by the things you say and do in each of your **2=1** classes. How many engaged couples will begin their marriage on a strong biblical foundation? How many marriages will be readjusted long before divorce becomes an issue? How many children's lives will be affected by the stability of their parents' marriage? How many people's lives will be touched by those that you lead to Jesus and to the infilling of the Holy Spirit? Only God knows. Your obedience to what He is asking is the key to the fulfillment. Just as Joshua knew when to listen, so must you. Just as Joshua knew when to step out in boldness, so must you. Our goal is to die to self and become so finely tuned to the will of God that we can truly say as Jesus did that we only do what we see our Father doing. If this seems like an enormous task, be comforted that it is achieved step by step.

Read **Exodus 17:8-16**.

Joshua first appears in the Bible without any introduction. Like most of us, he seems relatively unknown, no famous name or family. If this were the only account of Joshua in the Bible, you would probably not have paid much attention to him. It is how he handled himself in this initial account, however, that brought him to prominence later.

In an unprovoked attack the Amalekites came against the children of Israel at Rephidim. The Israelites had already experienced God's deliverance (coming out of Egypt) and His provision (the manna and the quail in the desert). Now they were about to see His victory over the enemy. In order for there to be victory, however, there must be clear delineation of authority.

CONFUSION IN THE RANKS LEADS TO DEFEAT. OBEDIENCE BRINGS ORDER AND VICTORY.

The staff, or rod, in the Bible represents authority.

Who held the staff in this passage? _____

Who was in charge? _____

Read **Exodus 24:13**.

What was Joshua to Moses? _____

Look up that word in the dictionary. How is it defined?

You have just defined your role during your season of leadership preparation. In this Bible study Joshua will be your role model. You will be learning right along with Joshua how to support leadership. Later in the study you will be experiencing the transition to leadership as you begin to lead a class of your own. Joshua spent forty years in training. Praise God, your training time will be shorter.

In verse 9 of **Exodus 17**, Moses issued an order to Joshua. He had assessed the situation and decided how it would be handled. We know from Moses' previous record that he had sought God and was now following His direction.

What did Joshua do in **Exodus 17:10**?



By all appearances, who was doing the “work?” _____

What were Moses, Aaron and Hur doing that affected the outcome of the battle? _____

Moses’ role was one of support in intercession while the actual battle was being carried out. Behind every successful ministry there is much intercession. What is seen in the natural is the result of many hours of prayer. Leadership must be willing to be used of God in intercession to see His will come to pass.

There are going to be times when you may question what those who are leading you are doing. You may question what they have asked you to do or not to do. You may question where **they** are while you are doing what they have asked you to do. You may feel you are more spiritual than they. You may feel you can do the job better than they. It is in times such as these that you need to remember Joshua in battle and trust that God is working in your class. We all need each other. Even Moses couldn’t hold his hands up alone all that time. Aaron and Hur came to his assistance. God provides each one in leadership the support that is needed. Respect the lines of authority that God has established and you will be blessed. Victory over the schemes of the enemy comes from recognizing where God has placed us and fulfilling His call in that place.

Read **Exodus 17:13**.

What was the outcome of everyone doing what they were called to do? _____

Who got the credit for the victory? _____

Joshua learned two important things here:

- 1) The value of _____
- 2) That he could trust God to bring _____

BEING OBEDIENT TO GOD AND TRUSTING GOD ARE THE KEYS TO EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP.

Read **Exodus 17:14,15**.

God wanted Moses to write down the record of the victory to make sure that Joshua heard it.

Read **Romans 10:16,17**.

What was God building in Joshua? _____

How do you acquire faith? _____

Exodus 17:13 says Joshua overcame the enemy with the sword.

Read **Ephesians 6:17**.

What is your sword? _____

Are you in the Word daily? _____ Your strength to face what lies ahead in leadership is going to come from DAILY Word and prayer time. God wanted to make sure that Joshua’s eyes saw and his ears heard the Word of the Lord. Joshua didn’t have a Bible to pick up each day. Praise God

Leadership Training

you do. It is essential for your own walk, and it is doubly essential for your role in leadership. Right now, together, set a time each day when you will be in the Word. Record it here.

Husband: _____ Wife: _____

God promised two other things in **Exodus 17:14,15** that were to prove important to Joshua:

1) God would erase the memory of the Amalekites from under heaven.

God is teaching us new patterns, in our lives, in our marriages, and in leadership. He is doing away with old strongholds, old fears. He is teaching us to walk in new light. List below a few of your own “Amalekites” that God is telling you to fear no more.

2) God promised that He would war against the enemy from generation to generation.

God is teaching us that we cannot only trust our present to Him but our future as well. This includes children, finances, jobs, and anything else that lies ahead. List below some of the things you are trusting God to care for in the future.

What has happened in your lives that has helped build your faith? Have you kept a record of it that your eyes might keep it in remembrance? Have you testified of it that your faith and the faith of others might be built up? Write below several of the things that have helped to build your faith. Continue to keep a record of future victories.

THE EARLY PREPARATION

Much of what you will learn about leadership will be gained from watching your leaders. Observe them and learn. How do they handle situations? What do they hear from God? What do they say? What do they do? As leaders we need to realize that our actions often speak louder than our words. Many times, more is learned by observation than by direction.

Read **Exodus 24:13**.

Joshua was Moses' aide and he went everywhere with Moses. The account of Moses and God on Mount Sinai only mentions Moses, but we know from this verse that Joshua went up with him. As you read **Exodus 25 through 32**, imagine what Joshua must have seen and heard on that mountaintop! What a valuable time of watching his leader receiving instructions directly from God. Maybe Joshua was even taking notes. We don't know that for certain but we do know that for all the time Moses was up there, Joshua was up there. Read from **Exodus 24:13** through **Exodus 32:16** and see the scene from Joshua's eyes.

In **Exodus 32:17**, Joshua alerted Moses to the noise coming from the camp. Moses was probably so caught up in being with the Lord that he missed the sounds. As the trustworthy assistant that he was, Joshua picked up on something that he thought his leader needed to know. Joshua was concerned that the camp might be under attack and he reported the problem.

In **Exodus 32:18**, Moses took note of the sound and corrected Joshua. He told him it was the sound of singing, not war. Moses had listened to the children of Israel for quite some time and he knew their actions very well. Also the Lord had related to Moses in **verses 7 and 8 of Exodus 32** exactly what the children of Israel were doing in his absence. There are two things to note here:

1) Your leadership will often be more familiar with what is happening regarding your class than you are. Many times the Lord will have spoken something to them concerning a situation.

2) Learn to take correction from your leadership as a means of becoming a better leader. When they share an insight with you that was not what you thought it should be, do not become angry with them or attempt to defend your position. Continue to keep the matter in prayer and the truth will always surface. Take every opportunity to learn from their wisdom and experience.

Read **Exodus 33:7-11**.

Who entered the tent to hear from the Lord? _____

To whom did God speak? _____

Who gave God's word to the people? _____

Who stayed in the tent all the time watching and learning? _____

Sometimes our role as we train doesn't seem very glamorous. Other leaders get the credit for hearing from God. They give the direction and are recognized as leadership. Sometimes you wonder just what you are accomplishing there in the "tent." Later on in this study, though, you will see how valuable the time spent in the tent was for Joshua.

Go to **Numbers 13**.

The children of Israel had come to the edge of the land of Canaan and Moses needed to send out scouts to spy out the land. It was decided that one leader from each tribe would be selected to go. Verse 8 tells us that a man by the name of Hoshea, son of Nun, was selected from the tribe of Ephraim. Verse 16 says that Moses changed that man's name to Joshua.

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Hoshea means “salvation.” Moses changed his name to Jehoshua which means “God is salvation.” Jehoshua was later shortened to Joshua. One of the most important lessons taught to Joshua by Moses was that it was God who won the battle for him. It was God who gave direction and leadership. In changing his name, Moses seemed to once again be reminding Joshua to rely on God, not on his own ability.

Read all of **Numbers 13**. Notice the instruction given by Moses in **verses 17-20**. Note the questions that he asked to be answered. He wanted to know two basic things:

- 1) How easy would it be to take the land?
- 2) What would it be like to occupy it?

Leadership is always looking ahead. In your times of intercession for your couples God will show you areas that need to be conquered by spiritual warfare. But conquering is never enough. He intends for those areas to be OCCUPIED in order to bear fruit. As the couples in your class grow stronger, you will be teaching them how to live victoriously in those new areas. You will be teaching them how to be fruit bearers in the new areas they have conquered. The first step, though, is always going before them in the spirit and spying out the upcoming land.

IT IS ESSENTIAL THAT YOU INTERCEDE FOR THE COUPLES IN YOUR CLASS.

Without this time of intercession, you will be surprised by enemy attack. You will not be able to bring your couples through to victory or to teach them to stay in victory. Each new class is a new land of Canaan, a unique territory. Don't get sloppy and think you can rely on what God showed you last time. Explore the land anew each time. Be willing and grateful to be assigned as scouts “to spy out the land.”

Read **Numbers 13:26-33**.

Ten of the spies had not yet learned to look to the Lord instead of to their own strength. You will come in contact with these types of people from time to time. They will most definitely appear as soon as you become **2=1** leadership. They will remind you who you are and what little ability you have. They will tell you that your own family is going to fall apart if you aren't home every single minute. They will remind you of past failures. They seem to come out of the woodwork as soon as you move into a position of leadership.

REMEMBER: THEY ARE NOT THE ENEMY. The real enemy, Satan and his bunch, want you to quit before you begin. They have already seen the impact that **2=1** is making on this and other nations. They aren't going to use the mouths of people you don't respect to discourage you. They're going to have people talk to you whose opinions you value. Do not battle the people. Take it all to Jesus and seek His council. Follow His direction. He may show you that you are overly committed and that there is something that you need to give up or get out of in order to be **2=1** leadership. At all times you need to be doing just what the Lord calls you to do, nothing MORE, nothing LESS. When you are in the center of God's will, the task ahead of you is the LORD'S, not yours. Do not allow the report of giants to make you think you are a grasshopper. Look at the challenges ahead in relationship to Jesus and they will diminish in size.

In **Numbers 13:30**, Caleb silenced the negative voices with his positive confession. Where was Joshua? Remember, he was Moses' aide and had probably already confided his answer to Moses in verse 26.

REMEMBER, you have a very special and privileged relationship with your leadership. When God shows you something regarding your class, take it to them first. They need your input and support. The two of you working together as a team are going to see mighty victory in your class.

Read **Numbers 14:1-10**.

Note the questions Moses asked the spies when he sent them out in **Numbers 13:17-20**. He asked them only for observations yet each spy returned with opinions regarding the situation. It is the conclusion that the ten drew that was wrong for both the two and the ten saw the same thing. Record below the questions, the factual answers and the answers of Joshua and Caleb from both **chapter 13 and 14**. Compare those answers with the opinions given by the other ten spies to the same questions.

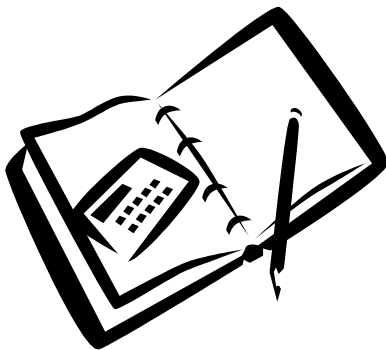
QUESTION	FACT	GOOD REPORT	BAD REPORT
Numbers 13:18			
Numbers 13:19			
Numbers 13:20			

Keep these two reports in your memory as you work together with your leaders. Remind each other of the victory of God, of His power and ability. Do not dwell on the size of the problem or the enormity of the task. God is more than able. Be cautious to observe facts and interpret them in light of the Word of God, not your feelings or opinions.

Remember also that all twelve of the spies were LEADERSHIP. They were all leaders in their respective tribes. Because they failed to see the victory of God in their own hearts, they and all who followed them lost the victory of the Promised Land. The way you as leadership approach matters will affect not only your own lives but also the lives of those couples who are members of your class. **KEEP YOUR EYES ON JESUS!**

Sometimes there is a price to be paid when we do this. In **Numbers 14:10**, observe that Joshua and Caleb faced stoning for their optimistic outlook. But God intervened on behalf of those who trusted in Him. One of the tricks of the enemy is to get leadership to look more at the problems than at the glory of the Lord. With victory in your heart it will be much easier to lead others forth into victory in their lives. Joshua and Caleb were wise leaders who knew where to keep their eyes and their faith.

Keep a record while you are in training of all the mighty deeds you see God perform. It will encourage you as you grow and give you something to keep before your eyes as you move into leadership.



ANointed FOR SERVICE

Read **Numbers 27:12**.

Because of disobedience, Moses was not allowed to enter into the Promised Land and the leadership of the people was passed on to Joshua who had been developing in leadership as Moses' assistant. The passing on of leadership always involves the passing of two things, the anointing and the vision.

The vision is always given to the leadership to guard, protect, and fulfill.

The vision for **2=1** was given to Mike and Marilyn Phillipps, the Founding Directors, many years ago. The vision had to be in their hearts and before their eyes before anyone else could see it. God has now placed the same vision of **2=1** firmly in the hearts of thousands of other couples around the globe, so that the vision may be brought into its fullness throughout the world. Each leader of **2=1** has received the vision from the Lord and is charged with protecting and keeping that vision pure in their area of leadership responsibility. The vision always comes from the top in leadership and is passed on. Before you will be called to lead, that vision must be forming in your heart. God always gives leadership the vision of the completed work.

In order for Moses to pass the vision on to Joshua as he became leader, Moses needed to have the vision of the Promised Land in his own heart. God took Moses to the mountaintop so that He might set before his eyes the vision of the Promised Land. From that point Moses saw the land in its entirety, just as it would be when the children of Israel possessed it. Moses had to see **WHAT** would be accomplished in order to seek God for **HOW** it would be accomplished. Once he had the vision for God's plan firmly in his own heart, he was ready to pass on the anointing and authority to his successor.

Read **Numbers 27:15-17**.

With the vision before his eyes, Moses could now seek out the leadership required to accomplish the vision. Moses sought God and God appointed Joshua in **Numbers 27:18**.

With God's vision for marriage and family before your eyes, you too will become sensitive to future leadership. Those who selected you have that sensitivity. The leaders in this ministry have that sensitivity as God calls forth more and more **2=1** leadership couples across this land and around the world. You, too, will begin to see potential leadership in your churches, prayer groups, Bible studies, and your community. It will become your desire to multiply. And that multiplication will be after its own kind. You will reproduce leadership with the same vision and direction as you have in your heart. You will be able, like Moses, to articulate to God the type of people you are seeking for future leadership.

Habakkuk 2:2 tells us to write down the vision that others might run with it. Write the vision of **2=1** as God gave it. (If necessary, see the beginning of the teaching manual for a description of the vision.)

Now write how this will be accomplished for you in your own marriage.

How do you envision that God will accomplish this in other couples through you?

The account of Moses' conversation with God and later with Joshua can be found in **Deuteronomy 3:21-28**. The burning desire in Moses' heart was to see the vision come to pass. It is that very desire in your heart that will help you to select and train leadership. The vision must come to pass to the glory of God.

Read **Numbers 27:18-23**.

God informed Moses whom to commission as his successor. God told Moses to give him instructions, to encourage him, and to strengthen him. Then He gave him directions as to how Joshua was to be commissioned. In those directions we find four points that are important and necessary for anyone entering into leadership.

1) **Verse 18**. THE WORK INTO WHICH YOU ARE ENTERING MUST BE CALLED AND ANOINTED OF GOD.

In addition to that, **you must be called specifically to that work**. There are many good works in the Body of Christ, but if you are involved in one to which you are not called, you are wasting precious time and spiritual energy. Jesus only did what His Father told Him to do. In those things He was empowered by the Holy Spirit [**John 4:34, John 6:38**]. Seek the Lord as to where HE would have you minister [**Proverbs 21:30**].

2) **Verse 19**. YOU NEED TO BE PART OF A LOCAL CONGREGATION.

You need to share with your pastor what you believe God is calling you to do with the **2=1**. Your involvement with **2=1** should add to your role as a member of your congregation, not detract from it. As leadership in **2=1** your strengthening of engaged couples, marriages, and families can only benefit your church. Your pastor should know that you are vital, functioning members of his congregation.

3) **Verse 20**. AUTHORITY IS FROM GOD AND GOES WITH THE ANOINTING OF THE POSITION.

The authority given is sufficient for and specific to the position. To function properly in authority, you must recognize the authority of those who are leading you and the authority you have over those whom you are leading. Authority always comes from submitting to someone in authority over us. If we do not recognize this, then our authority is perverted and does not benefit those we are to supervise. Jesus could speak with such authority because He had been given authority over ALL things [**Matthew 28:18**]. **Philippians 2:5-11** says that Jesus first humbled Himself and became a servant, obedient even unto death. It is in your obedience and submission that you are raised up into authority. You will have

godly authority in the areas over which God has placed you. When you humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, it is He who will lift you up. For your own authority to be recognized, you must recognize authority.

4) **Verse 21.** LEARN TO SEEK GODLY COUNSEL.

We are not islands in the Body of Christ. We are not expected to have all the answers. We need to learn to draw on the collective wisdom of the Body. One of the keys to seeking counsel is to look for godly fruit in the area in which you are seeking help. For instance, if you are seeking aid regarding your children, seek help from someone whose children are in order and serving God. If you are seeking financial wisdom, seek counsel from someone whose finances are in scriptural order and blessed by God. If you are seeking counsel regarding leadership of your group, seek it from the leadership God has supplied to guide and supervise you. They know how to produce godly fruit and that is why they have been promoted to that position. Never be afraid to say, “We need help!” [**Proverbs 15:22**].

In **Numbers 27:22,23** Joshua was commissioned by Moses. In this one act the vision, the commission, and the authority were passed. Joshua was anointed by God for the task to which he had been called.

It is interesting to note that the rest of the book of Numbers and all of the book of Deuteronomy go by before Joshua takes over as leader of the Israelites. In fact, the very next verse, **Numbers 28:1**, begins with, “The Lord said to Moses...”. How many of us would have said, “Hey, wait a minute. This is MY job now.”? God continued to speak only to Moses until almost the end of Deuteronomy. Joshua had learned a great deal during all those hours he spent watching Moses and God. It would do us well to know those things also.

For one thing, when the commission of God is in our heart, we are not to be anxious regarding time factors. We can be assured that God will bring it to pass in HIS time frame. This can be seen scripturally in the life of David. He was anointed to be king as a young boy long before he actually became king. Jesus’ life also reflects this rest in God’s timing. At the age of twelve He was in the temple going about His Father’s business. Yet it was not until the age of thirty that He began His public ministry. Man’s time frames should not govern our lives. God has a perfect timetable for each event.

Secondly, we need to know that performance is not the barometer for success in the kingdom of God. OBEDIENCE is. This can be clearly seen in **John 11**. Jesus did not perform as others expected when He did not return in time to heal Lazarus. In **John 11:14,15**, however, Jesus expressed His joy that His obedience was going to have a greater impact than His performance would have had initially. When we are in God’s perfect will we may not always be performing as others would like, but we are pleasing our Father.

There may be many who will question if you are called because they won’t have seen the immediate results they desire. Perhaps many questioned Joshua as to why he wasn’t leading if he was supposed to be their leader. There is no reason to attempt to bring something about prematurely when we can have God’s perfect timing. Don’t receive the pressure of men. Receive instead the peace of God. In **Numbers 32:11,12**, God said that, out of all the Israelite men twenty years old or older, only Joshua and Caleb would enter the Promised Land. Joshua knew that meant he wouldn’t possibly be taking over in leadership until all of those other people died. That took years. When you have the assurance of God’s promise in your heart, you can wait patiently for the fulfillment of the promise.

What has God spoken to you that you are still waiting to see fulfilled? Have you been pressured to accept man’s timing?

THE TRANSITION TO LEADERSHIP

Finally, after the preparation, after the anointing, after the waiting, the time had come for Joshua to lead the children of Israel. The transition to leadership was very slow and very methodical. Great attention was given to detail. Important points were repeated. Cautions were given. Encouragements were shared. By the time the transfer was completed, everyone involved was ready.

Read **Numbers 32**.

Often, when one is about to take over in leadership, something happens that wasn't planned. It was no different with Joshua. As if it weren't already a large enough task to lead the Israelites into the Promised Land, there were now two-and-a-half tribes who decided they liked it where they were and refused to go any further. Moses wasn't really pleased with them and reminded them of the trouble their ancestors had caused when they gave the bad report concerning the Promised Land.

You can just picture Moses and Joshua making the final plans for the transition of authority. Moses was making sure he'd covered absolutely everything Joshua needed to know. (After all, it wasn't going to be possible for Joshua to just pick up a phone and call Moses when he needed help.) Then on top of everything else, there were the spokesmen from the tribes who didn't want to go on. They had all their good reasons lined up and they didn't want any arguments. Moses did his best to persuade them that they were making a mistake. He even threatened that all the people might have to suffer for the desires of a few.

You will also encounter couples such as this as you teach your classes. There will be those who are happy with the place they have reached and who choose not to go any further in working on their marriage. Like Joshua, you will have to learn to leave them where they are and go on with those who are hungry for more.

Finally a solution was reached and the two-and-a-half tribes agreed to send their men into battle to help the Israelites take the Promised Land if they would be allowed to stay where they were. You can almost hear Joshua breathe a sigh of relief that the matter was settled before he had to deal with it by himself in leadership. In **Numbers 32:28**, Moses instructed Joshua concerning what the procedure was to be and told him what the consequences would be if the tribes did not keep their promise. Joshua knew that the burden of carrying out the plan had now fallen to him.

The closer you get to teaching your own class, the more you are going to feel like Joshua in this passage. Your leaders will go over class protocol with you. These rules have been made for specific reasons. You may not always understand why things are done the way they are, but each one has a valid reason behind it. There will be consequences that will come from failing to follow their direction. For instance, if you allow people to begin speaking and sharing during the teaching time, the impact of the teaching will be greatly diminished. If you allow the class to deteriorate into a social time, the work of the Holy Spirit will be hindered. If you do not seek the anointing of God for receiving the offering and do it with boldness, the work of the ministry will be hindered.

As your leaders share directions with you, ask God to give you a willing heart to carry out their instructions with eagerness. There may be many things that you think could be done differently, but the Holy Spirit has directed the way He would like it accomplished. You may even think that the lessons are taught in the wrong order. Be assured that this has been taken to prayer many times and the Holy Spirit has confirmed that they should be left as is. Just as Joshua knew that following Moses' instructions would bring order, so must you realize that the guidelines set down in **2=1** will make your job easier.

Leadership Training

Record here any areas of concern that you have or questions regarding areas you do not fully understand and need to check out with your leadership.

In **Numbers 34**, God laid out the plan for how the land of Canaan would be divided up when the Israelites occupied it. In **Verse 17**, Joshua was appointed as one of the men who would assign the land. There is a great similarity between his assignment and that of city leadership in **2=1**. As each area grows, City or Area Directors are appointed to oversee that area. They have a special call and anointing on them to supervise the growth of **2=1** within that city or area. They are the next link in **2=1** network for each class in that area. They make the decisions concerning class organization, appointment of leadership and leadership training. Realize that just as God set boundaries and made the plans for the land of Canaan, so it is by His Spirit that plans are made for your city or area. The couple in city or area leadership has tremendous responsibility to see that God's will be carried out for **2=1** classes in your area. Remember them in your prayers daily. Work with and rely on them. Seek their help when you need it. God is providing high quality leadership in all areas so that **2=1** may fulfill the vision and plan that He has given. That is what will bring forth the abundant fruit. Your city or area leadership are valuable gifts, precious resources from God.

Read **Deuteronomy 31**.

The final transition phase of leadership was about to occur. In **verses 1 to 6**, Moses notified the people that Joshua was about to take over. (Sounds something like when the couples are notified that they will be in your class.) Moses assured the people that nothing was going to change. God was still with them just as He had been.

Moses told them:

- 1) _____ would go before them.
- 2) _____ would also cross over before them.
- 3) God would give them _____.

As any good leader would, Moses told the people not to fear. God would never leave them or forsake them. You need to remind the couples in your classes often of the same thing. It is not just being in a **2=1** class that will bring them victory. It is applying the principles of God's Word that will bring them healing and strength. When a class is finished, couples sometimes are afraid that their progress in the Lord also will end. Remind them that God is with them. He will never leave them or forsake them **[Matthew 28:20]** and the keys to their continued progress are in His Word.

Moses next summoned Joshua before all the people and in **Deuteronomy 31:7 and 8** he publicly encouraged Joshua to begin functioning in his leadership role. In his encouragement Moses reminded the people, as well as Joshua, of just what the leadership call entailed. Sometimes we need to be reminded as leadership just what it is that we are called to do.

Record here your understanding of what your mission is as **2=1** leadership.

What is your perception of what city and area leadership are called to do?

Challenge your couples to excellence! God's vision and blueprint for His one-flesh covenant are so very far above that for which most of us have been willing to settle. No matter how good a marriage is, it still falls short of God's plan. Get those healed who need it so that they too can go on to seek the very best God has for their marriage. Get the vision and purpose of one-flesh planted firmly in your own heart and then impart it to all you lead. The goal of **2=1** is to help equip couples to fulfill the call of God on their lives. Don't allow them to stay complacent. Encourage them, challenge them.

Next Moses reassured Joshua again that God was with him. Joshua had already learned by experience and by observation that he couldn't lose when God was on his side. Moses was now reminding him of that fact again. It is important to encourage each other in leadership. Moses was instructed by God in **Deuteronomy 1:38** to do just that for Joshua. We need to remember to encourage each other frequently.

In **Verse 8 of Deuteronomy 31**, Moses cautioned Joshua against two robbers of the call of God, fear and discouragement.

FEAR - is always FUTURE oriented. The thought that precedes fear usually begins with a "what if..." Leadership fears they won't do a good job, or that the couples in their class won't be helped, or that they won't measure up. Whatever the enemy can get you to imagine as a future problem, he can get you to fear. You must be on your guard to all his "what if's."

DISCOURAGEMENT - is always PAST oriented. "Remember when" is the way this attack usually begins. If the enemy can't get you to worry about the future, he will try to get you to regret the past. He will attempt to disqualify you as a leader in your own mind by the failures of your past. Remember, regret is never from the Lord. The minute we repent, Jesus turns our lives into PLAN A from that point on. We cannot change the past. Leave it in the hands of the Lord. Today is the day given to us by the Lord for His service.

Don't be robbed of the potential for today by the fear of tomorrow or the regret of yesterday.

Beginning in **Deuteronomy 31:14**, Moses and Joshua were called by God to the Tent of Meeting. At that point God was still speaking only to Moses. He had him summon Joshua so that He might speak to BOTH of them. Remember in Lesson 2 when you learned that Joshua stayed in the Tent of Meeting all the time? It must have been a very familiar place to him, a place in which he was comfortable. Do you have a time each day that you set aside just for communication with the Lord? When your leadership

says, “Let’s pray,” are you comfortable? Have you taken the time to learn to hear the voice of God? It is vital that you be able to hear from God when you are in a position of leadership. This communication FROM Him can only come from hours of communication WITH Him. As leaders you need a vibrant personal prayer time, an extended one-flesh prayer time, and consistent Word time each day. You cannot give out from an empty barrel. It must be full to overflowing for ministry.

As God began speaking to Moses in **Deuteronomy 31:16**, Joshua heard some very unsettling news. God foretold of the apostasy that was forthcoming among the people Joshua would be leading. The picture God painted was very bleak. Joshua had already wandered in the desert for forty years because of the rebellion of the people. It must not have thrilled him to hear this latest piece of information concerning their future. He must have had second thoughts at that point about even taking over the job. Have you ever felt like that even when you didn’t know what lay ahead?

God then had Moses write a song as a testimony against the children of Israel for their descendants. The words of the song must have been a comfort to Joshua helping him to realize that even though God knew that Israel would rebel against Him, He would not leave them. It must have given Joshua courage to go on leading them. How often are you tempted to give up on people? To decide that a couple will never make it? May it be an encouragement to you also that God is still hanging in there for them. May the words of the Lord to Joshua in **Deuteronomy 31:23** be for you also, “*Be strong and courageous...I Myself will be with you.*”

In **Deuteronomy 34:9**, it is obvious that the same anointing and authority that had rested on Moses was now on Joshua. The anointing that was passed on from leader to assistant was not diminished in the least from the original anointing. It was in the same anointing and power that the new leadership preceded. So it is when the anointing for **2=1** leadership is passed. You will begin leading your first class under the same anointing and power of the Holy Spirit as your leaders did.

In **Deuteronomy 34:10-12**, though, it is obvious that the reputations of the two men were not the same. Even though Joshua was operating in the same anointing and authority, Moses’ reputation remained greater at that point. People may not know you as well as someone else and knowledge of your obedience to God may not be as widespread, but your anointing is not diminished. Sometimes people continue to relate more favorably for awhile to other leadership than they do to the new leadership. Don’t let that trouble you. Continue on in obedience and humility in doing what God has called you to do and God will show Himself mighty on your behalf.