

LEADERSHIP BIBLE STUDY



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Official curriculum of  **2=1** | *DISCOVER
THE POWER*

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PHASE 2 - Leadership Bible Study

LEADERSHIP (THE BUCK STOPS HERE)



Read **Joshua 1**.

The first requirement for anyone in leadership is to hear from God. As Joshua assumed his leadership role, the Lord spoke to him giving him both instructions and promises. In the first three verses of Joshua 1 the Lord confirmed Joshua's role as leader, instructed him to cross over the Jordan, and promised him that every place he put his foot would be his.

As we read this passage, we know how the Israelites crossed over the Jordan River but we need to remember that Joshua had no idea how they were going to do it when he received his instructions from the Lord. He only knew that God had told him what to do and had to rely totally on God to perform it. Very often it is the first step of obedience that brings the clarification of the "how to" from the Lord.

In **Joshua 1:3**, the Lord assured Joshua that his anointing was the same as that which had rested on Moses. In your role as Class Leaders you need to realize that the ability to perform what you have been called to do rests in the anointing of God, not your own ability.

Matthew 25:14-30 teaches us something very valuable about ability. We always tend to gauge our ability by what we know we can do. The parable of the talents, however, makes very clear that each servant was entrusted with what the master believed he was able to handle. Verse fourteen tells us that the master entrusted his goods to his servants. What they were given was not their own; the talents or goods belonged to the master.

In **Matthew 25:15** we are told that the master gave to each a certain measure of talents based on each one's ability. It is evident from the end of the story that those who remained faithful over what they had received were given greater responsibility.

Based on this knowledge we can safely assume that the talents given to each in verse fifteen were more than each one had ever handled before. They would be proved faithful according to what the master believed their ability to be, not according to their own perception of their abilities.

The next time the master left town, no doubt the first servant would be responsible for the eleven talents with which he was now entrusted. The second one would be responsible for the four talents he had received.

Each of the faithful servants had doubled that with which they had been entrusted. The principle illustrated by this parable makes it very clear that the responsibility was always increasing, not

Leadership Training

according to the servant's proven track record but according to the master's faith in the servant's yet unproven ability. If it had been based solely on the servant's track record, then the next time the master left, the first servant would receive only five talents and the second only two. As it happened, though, the master gave six more to the first servant and two more to the second servant just for being faithful.

Leadership is like that. As you prove faithful in that which God has entrusted to you, He will continue to increase that which He entrusts to you. In **Luke 12:48 (NIV)** we read, *"From everyone who has been given much, much will be demanded; and from the one who has been entrusted with much, much more will be asked."*

There is an interesting relationship between the words in that statement. The dictionary defines give as "to make a present of; to grant or bestow." Entrust, however, is defined as "to commit to another with confidence." Demand is defined "to ask or call for with authority" while ask simply means "to call for an answer."

Looking at these definitions, it would seem that the progression of responsibility from the Lord goes as follows. God makes a present of or grants certain gifts and talents to us. He then, with authority, calls for our response. As we respond and develop in the ability He has placed in us, He begins to commit further responsibility to us with confidence. Because we have learned to respond to His direction, He then simply calls for us to answer the new challenges of our abilities.

Paul was one of the best examples of someone who knew how to develop leadership. In **1 Corinthians 4:2** he wrote, "Now it is required that those who have been given a trust must prove faithful." To his beloved disciple Timothy he wrote in **1 Timothy 6:20**, *"Timothy, guard what has been entrusted to your care."*

Joshua's ability to do what was required of him did not rest in his own ability or in his reputation or that of Moses. His sole source of ability and power came from the Lord whom he obeyed. Remember that next time you are feeling inadequate.

List talents that God has given you.

Do you see any areas in your lives where God is now entrusting more responsibility to you regarding these talents?

ACCOUNTABILITY

When the Lord calls and appoints a work to be done to His glory, He gives three things. First, the blueprint for the work is given. He provides specific guidelines that give direction regarding His plan for the accomplishment of the work. Secondly, He gives the rhema (the Word specific and alive) for the work He is calling. Thirdly, He gives the anointing that is the fuel that powers the ministry to bear the

fruit called for in the blueprint. The Lord demands of leadership that they call the people receiving the rhema into accountability regarding what they are being given. All three of these elements are essential to the bearing of good fruit through the work.

If leadership chooses to alter any of these three elements, they thwart the ministry called of God. Sometimes people observe the fruit of a certain ministry and desire to emulate the work. They decide, however, that they do not like the blueprint given to that ministry so they develop their own blueprint. They believe if they take the rhema given by God into their own blueprint they will bear the same fruit as the ministry they desire to emulate.

The anointing of God, however, is given by the Lord as the fuel needed to accomplish the work only when it is being done in the manner He has ordained. The Lord is free to appoint another work at any time with a new blueprint and a different anointing, but man cannot try to force the anointing of God given for one call into another plan created by man.

When God has ordained a work, given a blueprint and the anointing to accomplish the call, it is very important that leadership stays faithful to all that God has given.

Furthermore, if leadership does not call the people receiving ministry into accountability regarding the rhema that the Lord is giving, the people are allowed to harden their hearts regarding the revelation of God. In other words, revelation from the Word of God is not simply given to excite people. It is given by the Spirit of God to enlighten His people. The people, however, must be accountable to what they have received.

What this all means to you as **2=1** leadership is that; **1) Remain faithful to the blueprint** given to this ministry. **2) Call the people to whom you minister into accountability** regarding the rhema they are receiving. And, **3) when you are doing the preceding two things, the anointing of God will flow in your ministry to bear the fruit God desires.**

In calling others into accountability, though, it is sometimes an easy thing to fall into legalism. If you recognize the symptoms, you will know what to avoid as you work with others.

As leaders, you are entrusted with bringing the light of the Word to banish the darkness in the lives of those whom you teach. You are required to hold high the standard of the Word and the power in the Name of Jesus. There will be some who will embrace the truth and be set free in Jesus' Name and others, sadly, who will refuse the truth of the Word and remain bound in areas of their lives.

The key is for you to remain faithful to ministering the uncompromised Word of God and yet not judge those who refuse to receive it. Legalism sets a standard and judges and condemns all who refuse to take it. Freedom in the Lord Jesus Christ proclaims the high standard of the Word of God but continues to love and accept those who refuse to take it, interceding for them with loving compassion. Do not allow the upholding of the Word to become a hardened, judgmental standard. The Word gives life. We who bear it into the lives of others should give life also.

For example, **2=1** takes a strong stand on divorce and remarriage. There are going to be many who will receive life and freedom from what you teach in this area. There are also going to be many who will refuse to accept that stand. Do not reject those who turn away from what you are sharing. Accept them with love as brothers and sisters in the Lord. Do not judge them for what they believe and where they stand. Scripture says in Isaiah that the Word of God will not return to God void, not that it will not return to us void. Leave the matter in the hands of the Lord and continue to love and accept.

SCOPE OF RESPONSIBILITY

In **Joshua 1, verse 4**, the territory for which Joshua would be responsible was laid out for him. It is important for leadership to know the exact boundaries of your area of responsibility. Contained within this understanding of boundaries of responsibility are also the goals for that area of responsibility. When it is clear to you for what God holds you accountable in leadership, it is also clear to you what He desires for you to accomplish there.

Leadership Training

What are your boundaries of responsibility as **2=1** leadership? _____

What goals has the Lord given you regarding that area of responsibility?

If you are not aware of your goals as leadership, if you are not certain what you are called to do, you will not know if you are right on target in accomplishing them. It is important that you have your goals as leadership **WRITTEN DOWN** for each year. Each long-term goal for the year should have a series of short-term goals designed to help you meet the long-term goal step by step throughout the year. It is also helpful to have personal, one-flesh, and family goals for each year. **Habakkuk 2:2** says to write down the vision so that others may run with it. When you write down your goals for the year, not only can you gauge your own progress but also bless those to whom you minister.

WRITE DOWN YOUR GOALS! IT IS IMPORTANT!

Just as God sets the boundaries, He will also protect and keep them. Do not fall into the trap that you must be perfect and must never admit to a flaw or a problem if you are to be effective leadership. Being transparent before God and before man brings with it freedom and joy. It will set the stage for those you lead to be free to admit shortcomings and problems.

Many times, especially early on in leadership, there can be a tendency to want to control situations and people. This flows out of our insecurity in the new position in which God has placed us. You may feel you need to make all the decisions and make sure that everyone is following your directions to the letter. You may become frustrated with those who balk or seem slow in responding. You may label those who do not co-operate fully with you as rebellious and stubborn. You may fear to release areas of responsibility or delegate to others because they will not do it correctly or, at the very least, the way you would do it.

All of these are symptoms of insecurity in leadership and should ease as you become more confident in God's ability within you. Until they do, though, you may be tempted to run things by the letter of the law. Rigid formality is somehow more comforting when you are not sure of yourselves. Continue to ask yourselves, "How would Jesus handle this situation?" Then realize that He lives right within you and will handle it through you if you just give Him the freedom.

Be transparent. Be yourselves. Be free in Jesus. You will make mistakes. So will the people you are leading and ministering to. Give each other grace and mercy in Jesus' Name. Remember, it's not so important that we look good as leaders as it is that we get our assignments accomplished. Jesus has called and equipped you. He will enable you!

In **Joshua 1:5**, God promised Joshua that He would always be with him, that He would never leave him. It is not God who moves when we feel lost. Just as He promises to always be with leadership, so must leadership promise to always be with Him. It is this close-knit relationship that brings forth the mighty fruit of ministry.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR LEADERSHIP

In **Joshua 1:6-9** God gave Joshua some very important instructions for leadership. We will look at them one by one.

Joshua 1:6 Joshua was encouraged to remain strong and of good courage because God would accomplish that which had been promised.

What has God promised you? In what areas do you need to remain strong and courageous?

Joshua 1:7 Joshua was told to follow instructions carefully. Again, once God has given the blueprint, do not deviate from it.

Are there any areas in the mission of the **2=1** team that you do not understand? Do you question the “why” of some things? Write those here. Do you know whom to ask regarding these?

Joshua 1:8 The key to success and prosperity in leadership is found in daily time in the Word. The Lord instructed Joshua to meditate on the Word day and night. Do you have daily Word time? Are you following a Bible study plan or do you just read here and there? Do you have time together in the Word as a couple? List your daily Bible reading plan.



Imagine this barrel as a container of your Word and prayer time. Now draw a line across the barrel indicating the level of prayer and time in the Word that you need as a couple just for yourselves in your one-flesh walk with the Lord. It may be half way up the barrel. It may be one-fourth, etc. Write in that section of the barrel, **Our own feeding.**

Now look at what is left of the capacity of that barrel. Write on that section of the barrel, **Reserve for Others.** To minister effectively, your barrel must be full. You give out to others from the section above your own need. As long as you always minister from this surplus, you will not be robbing your own spiritual needs.

If you allow your Word and prayer time to drop below your own vital level, though, you will begin to experience a deep weariness. The needs of others will become a drain on you and you will begin to resent them. You will constantly be looking for time alone and will begin making excuses not to have to minister to others. You will become dry and burned out.

Remember that barrel each day. Take time to read the Word, to meditate upon it, and to pray. Fill yourselves to overflowing with the life of Jesus and the living waters will spring up from within you to minister life to others.

It is important also that you stay on target and don't get sidetracked. During war a military pilot is given specific orders. After he is briefed on his target and his mission, he is sent off to carry out his orders.

On the way to bomb the target he has been assigned, he may see many other assignments that look tempting. If he gets sidetracked and decides to drop his bombs on something other than his assigned target, he may seriously damage the entire war effort. From his limited vantage point, it may look easy to take out an enemy troop train instead of continuing on to bomb the ammunition factory that he has been assigned. It may be difficult for him to see how important his assignment is based on how it fits in with all the other assignments. For the sake of the war effort, it is essential that he accomplish his mission and not someone else's.

Leadership Training

Can you think of a time when God gave you an assignment and you got sidetracked fulfilling something else?

Have you seen it happen to others? _____

There will always be many good works to choose from, many ministries available to you. You need to know, just like that pilot, what your specific assignment is and how to accomplish it. Then, just like that pilot, you need to keep your eyes on your target and go for it with full power. God will take care of all the other needs through the others He has assigned to those things. If we all do our assigned parts, we will see the victory!

Joshua 1:9 Direction and authority in leadership come from God Himself. Again Joshua was cautioned not to be fearful (based on future worry) or discouraged (based on past regret) for God would be with him every step of the way. Promotion comes from God, not man. Do you have a desire for greater leadership responsibility? Do you have vision for a greater area of leadership than you are presently accomplishing? Write those desires down here and give them to the Lord for His timing.

In all of **verses 6 to 9** God was placing the vision for leadership firmly in Joshua's heart. As soon as it was fixed, Joshua began to delegate authority, to share the responsibility he had been given. Joshua had been given an order from God to cross over the Jordan and he sent the officers out to get the people ready. Joshua still did not know how they were going to accomplish the task, he just knew God wanted it done. The officers also did not know how the job would be accomplished but they had faith that their leadership had heard from God. Leadership that trusts the Lord for direction will be trusted by those they lead.

SPYING OUT THE LAND



Read **Joshua 2**.

In the second chapter, Joshua sent out spies to check out the land into which they would be entering. The spies encountered opposition and found refuge at the home of Rahab, a harlot. Because she saw the effects of God in their lives, Rahab offered help to the spies in return for her own salvation and that of her family. There are some important lessons to be learned as leaders from this passage of scripture.

First of all, before anything is approached in the natural, it should be approached in prayer. Just as the spies went out to check out the land, so must leaders “check out” that into which they are heading. Prayer prevents surprises. Prayer paves the way for God’s will to be accomplished.

What is your next assignment as leaders?

What have you already learned about it through prayer?

What do you still need to know?

Since they knew the land well, the spies could say to Joshua, “*The Lord has surely given the whole land into our hands*” [**Joshua 2:24 NIV**]. Know how things are going to go by what happens in the prayer closet, not by what you see with your natural eyes.

A second lesson to be learned from this passage of scripture is that you never know how many people are watching you as leaders. The harlot Rahab had learned of the God of Israel by observing what happened when the Israelites entered a new territory. She knew God was real because of His relationship with the Israelites. How many people know God is real because of His relationship with you? As leaders you are in the spotlight of ministry. Many are watching to see if God makes a difference in your life.

This does not mean you must keep up a front. It does mean, though, that your relationship with Jesus must be real. Others will know of God by watching Him in your life. Many, like Rahab, will find the help and salvation they are seeking because they have seen God be real in your life.

Leadership Training

Read **Joshua 3**.

As the Israelites prepared to cross over the Jordan into the Promised Land, they were instructed, *“When you see the ark of the covenant of the Lord your God, and the priests, who are Levites, carrying it, you are to move out from your positions and follow it. Then you will know which way to go, since you have never been this way before”* **Joshua 3:3,4**.

Sound familiar? Does it seem to you that you are spending a lot of time in places you have never been before? Don't feel alone. Leaders are called of God to get out of comfortable, familiar positions and take risks by moving out into new areas that require greater faith. Most of the time these are areas where “you have never been before.” The Israelites had to keep their eyes on the priests and the ark. You must keep your eyes on Jesus. Move only when He moves and stop when He stops. It is the only way to successfully navigate new, unfamiliar territory.

Following close to Jesus provides safety and protection as well as direction. Obedience to His instruction rolls back the hindrances that leadership face just as the waters of the Jordan rolled back to allow the Israelites to pass through.

It is interesting to note that the Jordan rolled all the way back to a town called Adam. For you as leaders that means that staying in the presence of Jesus and being obedient to His instruction will help you to roll back those human, fleshly tendencies coming from Adam's fall that hinder you from fulfilling God's call on your life **[Hebrews 12:1]**.

What fleshly tendencies do you encounter that keep you from fully and whole-heartedly pursuing the call of God on your life?

After prayer time together, discuss how you can help each other in these problem areas. Record here what you will be doing.

What scriptures will you be claiming for each other?

Give each other permission right now to give help in these areas as the Lord directs. Remember, this must be done out of a heart of compassion, not a critical spirit.

THE VICTORY IS NOT JUST FOR YOU

Read **Joshua 4**.

After all of the children of Israel had passed safely through the Jordan River, Joshua instructed one man from each of the twelve tribes to each take a stone from the midst of the river bed where the priests had stood holding the ark. The stones were to be left where the people lodged that night so that when future generations asked what they meant, the story of God’s deliverance might be told again and again. The miracle that God had performed was not just for those that day that were passing through the Jordan. It was also for others who would be blessed and encouraged by hearing of the wondrous deliverance of God.

1 Peter 2:5 says, “*You also, like living stones, are being built into a spiritual house to be a holy priesthood, offering spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ.*” Just as Joshua had the stones grouped together as a monument to the Lord’s deliverance, so we also, as living stones in the Body of Christ, are joined together that the world might see and know of the deliverance of God. Our lives should be a testimony, day by day living out our salvation.

Being a leader does not mean that the challenges stop. It does mean, though, that each area of challenge in your own life becomes something to be shared with others. Your own victories are no longer just for you. Sharing your struggles, sharing your victories with other couples will give them hope to tackle challenges in their own lives. From this day forth, remember that your struggles and your victories are no longer just for you. Learn from each one. Share what you have learned.

List some areas where you have already seen God’s deliverance in your lives.

Have you shared these victories with others? _____

If not, is it just that you have not had the opportunity or have you been reluctant to admit that you were weak in these areas?

Remember, leaders are not perfect—don’t try to pretend you are. Be honest, be transparent and your life will become an open book from which others may read and learn.

The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and the half-tribe of Manasseh passed over the Jordan fully armed and prepared for battle. Remember, Moses had promised them that their tribes could live on the other side of the Jordan but the warriors had to cross over and help take the Promised Land first. Because they did not plan to live there, they came dressed and prepared for war. That was their only objective and when the battle was over, they intended to return home and stay.

There are many who are in **2=1** leadership for a season. You may be one of those couples. You know you are called to do something else, but you believe God has you here to learn and to grow

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before you move on to your permanent assignment. We ask you to take note here of the tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh. They came meaning business. They wanted to see the war won as soon as possible and they were willing to stay as long as they were told to by the Lord.

That is all we ask of you. There is a war going on for the homes of the nations. If you are joining this team, even briefly, we ask that you give it your full-hearted effort. There are some leaders who are here for life. This is their permanent assignment. Work along side them. Assist them in battle. Make this your full-time commitment as long as the Lord has you here.

The tribes of Reuben, Gad, and Manasseh were dedicated to victory. They wanted to see the enemy defeated even though they themselves would not be staying there. That needs to be your attitude also. The stakes are too high to just dabble in this. As long as God has you here, fight for the homes of your brothers and sisters. Fight to set the captives free.

If you are a couple whose permanent assignment is **2=1** leadership, rejoice at your brothers and sisters who fight beside you for a season. Do not expect them to stay longer than God has instructed them to. Release them with your blessing when the time comes for them to move into their permanent call.

Record here your assignment from the Lord regarding **2=1**. Has He called you for a season or are you here for the long haul? What vision has He given you? Have you received any prophetic words regarding your call? Include them also.

GOD'S PROVISION

Read **Joshua 5**.

Chapter Five of Joshua begins with the account of the fear in the enemy camp because of the mighty miracle of the rolling back of the Jordan River. Scripture says, “...neither was there spirit in them any more, because of the children of Israel.”

This would seem like a great time to attack. The enemy is fearful and downhearted. What a great time to hit them with all they had and win the battle. It seems, though, that God had other plans.

Instead of sending them off to battle, God instructed Joshua to make sharp knives and circumcise all the Israelites who had been born since the first circumcision right out of Egypt. All of those who had been previously circumcised had died in the wilderness and they had circumcised no one during the forty years of wandering.

Here is another important lesson for leadership. Victory always brings with it the temptation to get careless. Some rush foolishly into new battle, resting on the laurels of the previous one. Others tend to want to rest for a while until the next conflict comes along. Neither one is God’s plan for leaders.

God knew that for the Israelites to achieve victory, the covenant had to be renewed. There were grave dangers and challenges ahead that they would not be able to face on their own. He had to remind them of the covenant He had made with them. He had to remind them of His faithfulness. He had to remind them of their part in that covenant.

Circumcision is painful. God used the temporary fear in the hearts of the enemies as a time for healing and rest. There was a lull in the war, a time of peace, and God took advantage of it.

In your lives as leaders, He will do the same thing. When there is a time of great victory, a time of God moving mightily, it will be followed by a time of circumcision, a cutting away of the flesh to fine tune you for the increased challenges ahead. God is gracious, though, and will give you a time of rest and healing. It is purposeful rest, however, and will bring you not only to the point of refreshment but will also strengthen and prepare you for future conflict. It will be a time of God renewing His covenant with you and reminding you once again of His promises. It will be a sweet time of fellowship if you recognize what He is doing and do not fight Him.

Human tendency wants to collect trophies and display them in the spiritual trophy case. Human tendency wants to invite a few friends over and recount the battle. Human tendency wants to hold a victory parade and pin on medals. God is not like that. Each victory is but a stepping-stone to the next time of preparation which is a stepping stone to the next victory.

Right now, are you at the peak of victory or have you returned to camp for circumcision?

What did you learn after your last victory that prepared you for this battle?

What promises has God reminded you of?

Leadership Training

What is being circumcised out of your lives? _____

Truly during those times with the Lord, He does “roll away the reproach of Egypt” [Joshua 5:9].

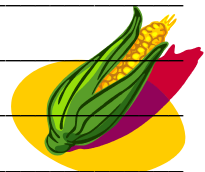
Shortly after the circumcision, the Israelites celebrated the Passover once again. It is fitting that the Passover led them out of Egypt and also welcomed them into the Promised Land. Your Passover Lamb, Jesus, is the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. It is He who provides your every need, whether you are just entering into something or just coming out of it. He is all you need.

The manna ceased that day as the Israelites ate of the corn of the land. God’s provision for you will vary according to your need and His plan. Sometimes it will be miraculous as was the manna. And other times it will come through very natural provision as did the corn they consumed. Don’t expect God to meet your needs by your plan. Just rest in the fact that He is faithful and will meet those needs. Sometimes the provision is missed when only the miraculous is expected. Rejoice in the corn also. It is just as much God as the manna.

No doubt God has fed you both ways during your walk with Him. Record some instances of the miraculous (the manna) and the natural (the corn) that He has supplied you with. The manna will be obvious but you may have to really look for the corn.

MANNA

CORN



Then, in God’s timing, came the mighty move of His Spirit. That is the greatest time for leaders, when the Spirit of God is moving! It is truly the mountaintop experience! It is what leadership longs for and loves to see happen. For Joshua it came after a time of dealing with the flesh and a time of quiet obedience. For you it will probably be the same.

TRUSTING IN GOD

Read **Joshua 6**.

Once again God gave Joshua a plan for victory that didn't seem to make a great deal of sense in the natural. Joshua was a warrior, trained to fight, trained to win. Surely he must have thought that his first big battle in the Promised Land was going to be one of action and challenge. Instead the challenge was to be obedient to God's instruction even though they didn't seem very exciting for a warrior.

Put yourself in Joshua's shoes for a moment. If you had been trained as a warrior and knew you could fight well, how difficult it would be to do something so foolish as to march quietly around the city for seven days.

Have you ever been given instructions by the Lord that didn't make any sense to you?

If so, what? _____

Were you obedient? _____

What was the outcome? _____

Even on the seventh day, Joshua, the warrior, did not get a position of honor or glory. The task of winning the victory was given to the priests and the people. The priests blew the ram's horn and the people shouted. What was Joshua's job? He was to see that the people received the instructions of the Lord. He was to lead them according to God's plan and God's blueprint. If Joshua had been careless or sloppy in his assignment, the victory would not have been secure.

The role of the leader is not glamorous or lofty. It is being a servant to the people and bringing them the Word of God that they might have victory in their lives. The reward of the leader is seeing God's will come to pass.

What specific instructions has God given you to give to those you lead?

What is His blueprint for victory for your area of responsibility?

Leadership Training

Can you step out in faith and pass along God's instructions to your people even when those instructions don't make a lot of sense to you? _____

Can you say by faith like Joshua, "*Shout; for the Lord hath given you the city.*"

Have you instilled in those you lead that they are to trust God, not you? _____

If you made a mistake, would those you are leading still believe in you as a leader? _____

Would you still believe in yourself? _____

Do you think God's opinion of you would change? _____

If you are afraid of making a mistake as a leader, give that to the Lord today. It is His ability, not yours. It is His plan, not yours. It is His reputation, not yours. Let it go and relax in the position He has called you to.

It is not up to you to keep your ministry alive, it is up to Him. It is not you who gives life to your call, it is He. Release to Him any fear that you have that you will make a mistake and blow the whole ministry. Listen to His voice; obey His direction. Repent if you miss it. God is faithful and His gifts and callings are without repentance. Don't let fear keep you from stepping boldly into the position to which God has appointed you.

When Joshua was obedient to give the instructions and the people were obedient to carry them out, the victory was theirs. The walls of Jericho fell and the Israelites took the city.

In the taking of that city is another important lesson for leadership. God instructed the Israelites to destroy every living thing within the city, except for Rahab the harlot and her family. Nothing and no one was to be left alive. He further instructed that the silver and gold and vessels of brass and of iron were to be put into the treasury of the Lord.

It is well for leadership to remember these instructions when storming an enemy stronghold. God always has specific directions for each enemy target. If you pray and wait on the Lord for the tailor-made answer, much time and effort will be saved.

God instructed the Israelites to surround the enemy. Once you have identified the enemy stronghold that needs to be taken, surround it in prayer. Spiritual warfare will help you identify the enemy's position and activity. Keep it surrounded in prayer until God tells you it is time to move in and take it. When He does instruct you to go for it, follow His directions carefully.

Once the walls have fallen and the enemy is in your hands, you must take authority over every spirit that has been part of that stronghold. Scripture tells us, "*For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that he might destroy the works of the devil*" **1 John 3:8 KJV**. Jesus has given you authority over the enemy. Use it!

The hidden treasures within, though, are to be consecrated to the Lord. In other words, that which is of God is to be left and dedicated to Him. Learn to recognize the ungodly and set people free from that but help them to develop that which is godly within them. Destroy the ungodly but consecrate that which is precious and from the Lord.

And lastly, just as Joshua warned against rebuilding the city, take steps to ensure that the stronghold does not get re-established. Help people to see how they got into trouble in the first place and what it will take to stay out of it in the future. Disciple those you help set free or make sure that

someone else is discipling them. One of the keys of **2=1** leadership is not just teaching the Word of God but also helping couples to walk through the new truths they have learned.

Read the rest of the book of Joshua. Each chapter contains a nugget for leadership. Do your own Bible study. Take a principle presented in each chapter and cross-reference it throughout scripture. You will be delighted with what you learn. Some of the major themes contained in the rest of Joshua are:

Chapter 7	The consequences of disobedience.
Chapter 8	Specific strategies for victory.
Chapter 9	Deception.
Chapter 10	Honoring covenant even at a price.
Chapters 11-12	Standing against great odds/Not quitting until you have total victory/Entering into rest.
Chapters 13-19	Delegating authority and responsibility/Following through with God's direction.
Chapter 20	God's provision for sinners.
Chapter 21	God's blessing for those who minister in His Name.
Chapter 22	Releasing those whose season with you is over.
Chapters 23-24	Recognizing when ministry work is finished/How to release the work to others.

Read the Gospels looking for leadership principles that Jesus used. Read the Epistles of Paul in light of what he spoke to leadership, how he oversaw a work, how he released, how he corrected, and how he encouraged. Scripture is filled with wonderful teaching and examples for you as leaders. Begin to search out the principles and you will be encouraged and strengthened. This Bible study never officially ends. Be strong in the Lord and continue on in His direction!

