



**Reaching,  
Restoring,  
Raising Up**

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**L.I.F.E. Group Questions—Realm of the King**

Our L.I.F.E. Groups that meet in homes use the following questions from the sermon for discussion and application. To find a group pick up a L.I.F.E. Group brochure in the Welcome Center.

1. Brainstorm some of the "kingdoms" that rule this world (what are the primary motivations for most people's actions)?
2. Talk about specific ways to show the glory of our King in our everyday lives, and how to seek the guidance of the King. Discuss how these 2 things are related.
3. Let each member share how well they are "extending" the kingdom in their lives, and their main reason for not doing so—1) not part of it; 2) in rebellion to it; 3) don't know how.
4. Think of how we are to let Christ's righteousness which has been placed in us, work its way out through our actions (what tools can we use to "let it out")?
5. Share about how much worry affects your life. Encourage one another with ways to overcome it, especially based on Matthew 6:25-34.
6. Talk about anything else that impressed you from the message if you have time.

**You Can Join an ABF Anytime — Find  
Yours Below and Join Us!**

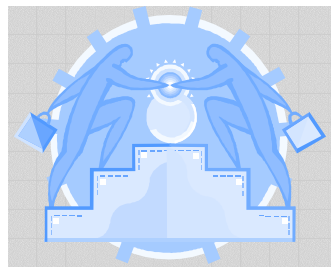
**Adult Bible Fellowships—Times and Places**

**9:00**

- Married Adults 39-46, led by Jerry Sims, Room 205-6**
- Married Adults 47up, led by Jan Christensen, Room 201**
- Master Your Money, led by Matt Lux (on break currently)**

**10:45**

- Open Adults ABF, Led by Ralph & Nelle Hixson, Room 104**
- Open Women ABF, Led by Karen Byrum, Room 112**
- Adults 18-31, Led by Steve & Mary Jones, Room 201-2**
- Nexus ABF (Single Adults), Led by Jay Reynolds, Room 203**
- Adults 32-38, Led by Jim Miller, Room 204**
- "Welcome" ABF, Led by Charlie Anderson/Dave Regis, Room 205**



**ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS**  
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -

**Celebration Fellowship**

**Dec 7, 2003**

Volume 2, Issue 18

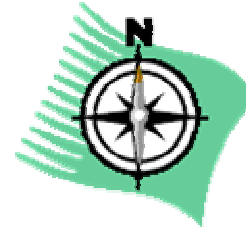
*"Building Your relationship with God through 2 questions a day"*

**LifeGuide 18**

ABF Study Questions

**Lotto Palestine**

Introduction to Dec 7-13, 2003



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**ABF Mission:**

Adult Bible Fellowships exist to help people discover and apply God's Word to their lives, and to connect with others in the process

**ABF Core Values:**

- The guide for successful living is found in God's Word, the Bible.
- Everyone can understand the Bible with God's help.
- Life application of God's truth is our goal.
- People discover God's truth best through interaction with others.
- People need the support of others to make life work successfully.
- There are no dumb questions, and they all deserve God's answers.

Unlike "Lotto Texas", which steals the resources of many who hope to get something for almost nothing, there was a beneficial, divinely sanctioned lottery in Joshua's day. Having begun God's plan of possessing Canaan through the destruction of their major towns, Israel now played "Lotto Palestine", God's prescribed way of dividing the land they had captured. As the priests cast divinely led lots for each tribe's portion, Israel finally received the "payday" for which they had been waiting. There were, however, some interesting details that were recorded in Joshua 13-22. One was that the Levites didn't receive any



The "good news" about Jesus changed the world forever!!

land, but lived among all the tribes. While this might seem unfair, it was really a blessing, because instead of land, God Himself would be their inheritance. Also, Caleb, now 85, rather than settling for a nice, peaceful plot of land, asked for the hill country where the giants lived. Thus, he began to fight the giants

that he had predicted Israel could defeat some 45 years before. Sadly, though, all Israel didn't share his aggressive and faithful attitude; each of the tribes failed to drive all the Canaanites from their land, contrary to God's will, and the tribes in the north were slack in beginning to take possession of their land. The section ended though, on a positive note: the 2 1/2 tribes east of the Jordan, when confronted for setting up a huge altar, explained it was only a memorial, and thus reaffirmed their commitment to the Lord. So, while God's "lottery" had determined Israel's land, it was still theirs to possess.

**"Taking No Prisoners"**

Whenever someone wants to accomplish a total victory the command is given to "take no prisoners" (to which is sometimes added "and eat the wounded"). Literally this is what God told Joshua and Israel to do to the Canaanites as they were conquered. For 400 years these natives had committed despicable, degenerate sin—sin so bad that the land would soon "vomit" them out, and they refused to repent in the face of God's impending judgment through His people. Even if Israel had wanted to stop short of total annihilation they wouldn't have been able to because God had allowed the Canaanites'

hearts to be so hard that they determined to fight to the death. After the defeats of Jericho and Ai had cut the land in half, there were two responses by the Canaanites. The first response, by the southern Canaanite kings, was to form an alliance to fight against Israel. However, Gibeon, who was a great city with mighty warriors, took a different approach. Considering themselves no match militarily for Israel's God, who not only had parted the Red Sea, but had also defeated the kingdoms of Sihon and Og, they resorted to deception. They sent an envoy to Joshua that had the appearance of having come from far away. They put

(Nov 30-Dec 6, 2003)

on old clothes, carried old wineskins, and had dried, cold bread in their pouches. Saying they were from outside the land of Canaan, they asked for a covenant of peace with Israel, which the leaders granted. Relying on their senses rather than consulting God, Israel's leaders were deceived, thus violating God's will for the total destruction of the Canaanites. This is a picture of how Satan works: when he can't defeat God's people directly, he resorts to deception, usually leading us to trust our senses; so we must always be on guard. Even though the congregation of Israel grumbled against them for their bad decision, when the leaders (cont pg 2)

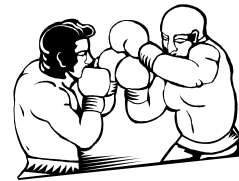
## Acts—Week 18

(continued from pg 1)

discovered the Gibeonites' deception they faithfully honored their commitment; but they did require Gibeon to become Israel's slaves forever since they couldn't destroy them. However, God used this mistake for good: the Gibeonites became servants at the altar of God, and this unholy alliance led to an opportunity by Israel not to destroy them. However, God used this mistake for good: the Gibeonites became servants at the altar of God, and this unholy alliance led to an opportunity by Israel to destroy the five southern kings in one battle. The kings' reaction shows how strongly unbelievers react against the invasions that believers make into the world's kingdom. We must always expect a fight when Satan's subjects transfer their allegiance to God. We also see from this that when we make alliances, however innocent, with those opposed to God, we will often encounter problems that otherwise would never have occurred. Yet, God always helps us where we are, and carries out His will anyway. Here we see that Israel, enlisted to help Gibeon because of their alliance, was encouraged by God's promise to defeat them. So, they came upon the five kings suddenly by marching all night, and soundly defeated them by God's help. He first confounded them, then slaughtered them through Israel, then rained huge hailstones down on them to complete the annihilation. The fatalities from the hailstones were greater than those from the

war, showing that God was clearly fighting for Israel. This truth was further evidenced by the fact that God caused the sun and the moon to stand still for almost a day (a fact confirmed by computer models), so that the destruction could be complete. The reason God did this was that a man, probably Joshua, had asked Him to do so; so God responded, showing the power of prayer. The final outcome of this battle was that all were defeated, and the 5 kings were struck and hanged, an accomplishment requiring strength and courage. Further, in contrast to the earlier grumbling, no one spoke a word against the sons of Israel because of this great victory, illustrating again that God has the ability to bring about His good in any situation. After this Israel defeated the rest of

the southern towns, leaving no survivors, then turned north and defeated all the towns in this area, and even burned Hazor to the ground (a fact confirmed by archaeologists today). While none of this was easy because the Canaanites, with hardened hearts, wanted to fight, God's plan was to execute judgment on this sinful, unrepentant race of people. We learn from this that while God promises victory and fights for us it is often not easy, as seen in the fact that one of the groups that were defeated were the giants of Anak. Some 45 years before the 10 spies had said that Israel couldn't defeat them; yet with God no enemy is too large, and while victory may not be easy, with God it is certain. This is seen in the overall outcome of the conquest of Palestine—31 kings, representing 31 kingdoms were defeated, and the power of Canaan was destroyed. All that remained was for the 12 tribes to receive their portion of land and drive out the enemy that remained in the outlying areas. Because Israel had been faithful to God to engage and destroy the enemy, and because God, faithful to His promise, had helped them, Canaan had been completely conquered and the land had rest from war. The Promised Land was Israel's, and, with the exception of Gibeon, they had taken no prisoners.



**"We must always expect a fight when Satan's subjects transfer their allegiance to God."**

## Week 18 Study Questions - Dec 7-13, 2003

(Joshua 13-22)

*The time has finally come for each tribe to receive their portion of the land and settle there. .*

1. Look at Joshua 13. What was God's command to Joshua (v7), and His promise (v6)? How was this fulfilled for the Levites (v14), and for the eastern 2 1/2 tribes (v8-12)? What failure is recorded (v13)?
2. In Joshua 14 what is Caleb's request (v12), its basis (v7-9), and its significance (see Num 13:32-33)? Describe Caleb physically (v10-11) and spiritually (v8-9, 12, 14)? How is he a good example for us today?
3. From Joshua 15 whose territory is allotted 1st (v1,12), and who begins their conquest 1st (v13-15)? How did he pass his attitude of faith to the next generation (v16) and what was the result (v17-19)?

4. In Joshua 16 who receives their land next (v1, 4-5)? What did they fail to do (v10) and what was possibly their motive (v10)?

5. Using Joshua 17 what 2 requests were made (v3-4; 14) and how does Joshua respond to each (v4-6; 15-18)? Why do you think he responded differently to these, and what can we learn from this?

6. From Joshua 18 what job remained (v2) and what was the reason (v3)? What did Joshua tell them to do (v4-10), and what model does this provide for us in strategizing for the kingdom?

7. Read Joshua 19:1-9. Who got their inheritance (v1) and where was it located (v9)? Why did they (and Levi) not receive a separate allotment (see Gen 49:5-7 and 34:25-30)? What can we learn from this?

8. In Joshua 19:10-51 who received their inheritance (v10, 17, 24, 32, 40)? What special inheritance is recorded (v49) and why (v50)? Who was really in charge of each tribe's allotment (v51)?

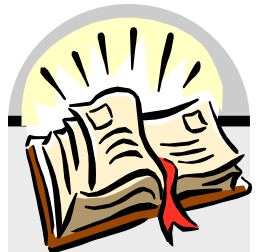
9. From Joshua 20-21 what final allotments were made (20:2; 21:1-3)? What would each of these allotments allow (20:2-6; 21:4-8), and what purpose would they serve (20:9; 21:41-42)?

10. Looking at Joshua 22:1-20 what did the 2 1/2 tribes do when they settled (v10), what was the reaction of the other tribes (v11-12), and why (v16-20)? Do think this was a good reaction?

11. Read Joshua 22:21-34. How did the 2 1/2 tribes respond (v21-29) and what was good about what they had done? How did it all work out (v30-34) and what lessons can we learn from this whole event?



**"Yet, God always helps us where we are, and carries out His will anyway."**



## Verse To Memorize

**"Not one of the good promises which the Lord had made to the house of Israel failed; all came to pass."  
Joshua 21:45**