



**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. Share individually what the "church" means (feeling, not definition) to you today, and how your viewpoint of this has changed over the years.
2. Talk about some reasons why the church is described as Jesus' body, and as His bride. What implications does that have for us today?
3. Discuss what it means, "It takes an unselfish church to reach people today". How well is Celebration Fellowship doing this, and how can we individually, and as a group, "buy into" this?
4. Re-read Matt 16:18. In what ways has the church been built on Peter's confession? How can we apply that?
5. Based on the phrase "the gates of Hades will not prevail against it [My church]", what is the business or mission of the church for now and the future?
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

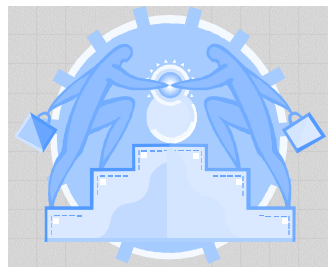
Open Women ABF, Led by Karen Byrum, Room 112

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



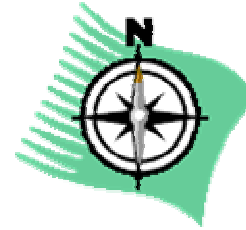
ADULT BIBLE FELLOWSHIPS
- CONNECTING AROUND THE WORD -

Celebration Fellowship

Dec 14, 2003

Volume 2, Issue 19

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



LifeGuide 19

ABF Study Questions

U-Hauls and Hearses

Introduction to Dec 14-20, 2003



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

There's an old saying, "you'll never see a hearse pulling a U-Haul", meaning you leave everything behind when you die, so there's no point in worrying too much about material things. But the truth is that you leave your influence behind, too, so you ought to do or say what you can while you still have the opportunity. That's the approach Joshua took at the end of his life. He had fought the good fight of faith, having been a servant and a warrior for Moses, as well as his successor; he had been a man of faith, the leader of the conquest of Canaan, and the distributor of the land to the 12 tribes. Now the time

had come for him to vacate, and he needed to "say his piece" as it were, and make his final impression. He recounted the history of God's blessings on Israel, at first recalling the conquest, then at a second gathering tracing God's blessings forward from Abraham. He reminded them that none of God's "good

words" had failed because they had followed His instruction, but also warned them that if they failed to follow Him in the future God could withdraw those blessings immediately. He then called Israel into a renewal of their covenant with God. He told them to put away their idols (which they were still secretly worshipping), and to choose to serve the Lord, as he and his family were doing. They said they would, but Joshua made them say it again; then the covenant was renewed. The burial of Joseph's bones conclude the book, reminding us that while we leave it all behind, our influence of faith is all that really matters.

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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.

"Acres of Diamonds"

(Dec 7-13, 2003)

There is an Arab legend about a man, Al Hafed, who left his wealthy estate to search for diamonds which he never found. Tragically there were acres of the very diamonds he sought in his own backyard, while his search left him in poverty. The moral is that the things we seek most in life are often not in some far off place, but already in our possession. This was true of Israel after the initial conquest. Although the land had been conquered, it had not yet been settled by Israel, making it was worthless to them. So God directed Joshua, along with the High Priest, Eleazar, to divide the land among the tribes, and

promised He would drive out the inhabitants of the land before them. The eastern 2 1/2 tribes had already received their land, but the Levites had a different experience: God promised that He Himself would be their inheritance. They would be supported both financially by the 12 tribes in their priestly ministry, and physically as they ate of the grain and animal sacrifices offered in the worship of the Lord. However, the 1/2 tribe of Manasseh, having received their inheritance, failed to drive out the inhabitants of the land, not relying on God's promise, and this would later cause problems for their descendants. Next Caleb's

request for the hill country, where the giants of Anak lived, is recorded. Although he was 85 yr old, Caleb was as strong physically as he had been at age 40. He wanted to defeat these very giants that the 10 spies had earlier feared, so he asked for this land. He was a man of faith who followed the Lord fully, and so was confident that he could defeat them with God's help. He is a good example of faith for us; regardless of our age we should look for the greater opportunities to bring glory to God, no matter how big the challenge. After this the 1st tribe to receive their allotment was Judah, and, as expected, Caleb was the 1st to the battle. He (cont pg 2)

Acts—Week 19

(continued from pg 1)

drove out the giants of Kiriath-arba, then offered his daughter, Achsah, to anyone who would defeat Debir. This would insure that his daughter would marry a man of faith and initiative, passing Caleb's faith down to the next generation. Seizing the offer, his nephew, Othniel, defeated the inhabitants and married Achsah. In typical Caleb-like boldness, she asked her father for a piece of land, along with its upper and lower springs of water, which Caleb granted. Next, the tribe of Ephraim received their inheritance; unfortunately they, as many of the tribes, failed to drive out the inhabitants, choosing rather to put them to forced labor. Possibly, they were driven by a financial motive rather than by their obedience to God—as many are today. After this the daughters of Zelophehad requested their inheritance since they had no brothers. Even though this was a male-dominated society, Joshua, in fulfillment of God's promise to them (Numbers 27:6-11), granted their request, demonstrating God's justice. Another request was made, though, by Ephraim and Manasseh. They felt they hadn't received an adequate amount of inhabitable land for the size of their tribes. First, there was heavily forested land, and then there was land occupied by Canaanites with iron chariots.

While both presented difficulties, Joshua's answer was that if they wanted more land, they should clear off their land and defeat the Canaanites. The lesson is clear: what we want is often there for the taking, if we will only act in faith. Next Joshua challenged the last 9 tribes to stop putting off taking possession of their land. So, they sent out scouts to discover what was theirs, then lots were cast to determine their territory. With map in hand they were then able to begin to take possession. This provides a good model for advancing Christ's kingdom today. We must 1st decide to act on God's promises, and determine with what we have to work; then we must get about the business of possessing the land for Him. One of these tribes, Simeon, received their inheritance in the

midst of Judah's territory, fulfilling the prophecy Jacob had made in Genesis 49. Because they had been overly violent they were "dispersed" in Israel; but God graciously gave them an inheritance anyway. There are consequences to our actions, but God's grace often turns them into good. Lastly, after the remaining tribes got their land, Joshua, as a servant, received his. Since God always rewards our faith in Him, Joshua received a special allotment of land from God, who was the One really in charge of the division of land. Finally, the 6 cities of refuge were appointed, to save innocent people from blood-vengeance, and then 48 cities were granted to the Levites. These were spread throughout Israel so that God would be readily accessible to all the tribes. As this section closes the eastern 2 1/2 tribes returned home, and set up a huge memorial altar on the border to remind their children to worship with the rest of Israel. However, the other tribes, assuming it was a "rebel" altar, at 1st prepared to go to war with them—the appropriate reaction, if their assumption had been right. Once they received the explanation they backed off, but this teaches us to gather the facts before drawing conclusions; however, if wrong is being done we should take a strong stand against it.



"What we want is often there for the taking, if we will only act in faith."

Week 19 Study Questions - Dec 14-20, 2003

(Joshua 23-24)

As Joshua comes to the end of his life he calls the nation to faithfulness and renewal.

1. Read Joshua 23:1-5. Whom did Joshua address (v2) and what was his motivation (v1, 2)? Of what did he remind them (v3), what remained for them to do (v4-5), and how would they be able to do it (v3, 5)?
2. In Joshua 23:6-13 what did Joshua command Israel to do (v6, 8, 11) and not to do (v7, 12)? To what had their obedience led (v8-10), and what would happen if they failed to disobey (v13)?
3. From Joshua 23:14-16 what did Joshua reiterate (v14), and of what did he warn them (v15-16)? Do you think he was being harsh (see also Deut 28; 30:15-20; 31:23-29)? How should we apply this?

4. Look at Joshua 24:1-7. Where did Joshua gather Israel (v1) and what was significant about this (Gen 12:6-7)? What blessings of God do these verses reveal (v3-7) and why was this so gracious (v2)?

5. Using Joshua 24:8-13 what other things had God done for the present generation (v8, 9-10, 11, 12, 13)? What does 24:1-13 teach us about God (v2-3, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13)?

6. Read Joshua 24:14-15. What did Joshua call Israel to do (v14) and how would they show this specifically (v14)? Upon what basis did he call them to do this (v15) and how did he encourage them (v15)?

7. From Joshua 24:16-18 how did the people respond (v16, 18) and what was their reason (v17-18)?

8. In Joshua 24:19-21 how did Joshua react (v19) and why (v19)? What did he assume about these people (v20) and how did this affect them (v21)? What principle about commitments does this reveal?

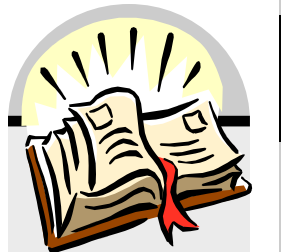
9. Looking at Joshua 24:22-28 to what do the people agree (v22, 23-24)? How did Joshua reinforce this renewed covenant between the Lord and Israel (v26-27), and how can we follow this example?

10. In Joshua 24:29-33 whose deaths (v29, 33) and burials (v30, 32, 33) are recorded? How would this record cause Israel to look ahead in faith, rather than fear (v32)?

11. Review Joshua. What major truths had God taught Israel (1:8, 1:9; 4:23-24; 6:20-21; 7:10-12; 9:14-16; 10:11-13; 10:14; 13:1, 6; 17:17-18; 18:3; 21:43-45; 24:16-24)?



"Possibly they were driven by a financial motive rather than by their obedience to God—as many are today."



Verse To Memorize

"Now, therefore, fear the Lord and serve Him in sincerity and truth."
Joshua 24:14