

# JOSHUA

Rev. Barlow  
Grace Lutheran Banning

## Study Questions Lesson 4 Chapters 4 & 5

### Discussion Questions

#### Chapter 4

After the nation crosses over, God commands Joshua to set up a memorial of the crossing.

1. What were the things God wanted Israel to remember?
2. Why was this important to pass down to their children?
3. In what ways do we continue this practice remembering today?
4. What do you think Israel's expectations were for life in the Promised Land? (Hint: was it a time for rest or a conflict?)
5. Now in the Promised Land the challenges are increasingly bigger. What do you think allowed Israel to not lose hope?
6. God exalted Joshua in the sight of Israel (4:14) What miracle established with Moses was repeated with Joshua? (Hint: water)
7. What significance does water have in the life of believers today?

#### Chapter 5

1. Vs. 1 — Having seen the Lord's intervention at the Jordan, all the kings of the Canaanites hearts melted. Describe why this was significant to the Israelites? What doesn't it mean to have their hearts melted?



*The word melt is masah which is used in a Hiphal form himesin (hi me sin) and literally means to cause to flow down. Some modern translators will insert the word fear in here to indicate that the people were overcome with such fear, that their hearts melted. That is a part of it, but not all of it. Another use of the word masah is melt which is a picture of a candle with a bright flame being fueled by the wax. Once the wax has melted the*

# JOSHUA

Rev. Barlow  
Grace Lutheran Banning

## Study Questions

### Lesson 4

### Chapters 4 & 5

*flame has gone out.*

FUN FACT (looking ahead) Joshua 14:8

Later this image of melting shows up in Joshua 14 as Israel begins to grow weary.

It wasn't just fear; it was the final melting of the wax that held the flame of their expectations alive. This candle had been melting since the beginning of their journey. The wax of this candle was made of self-sufficiency, pride, and an expectation of comfort and security. Their journey was anything but easy. They faced fear of starvation, thirst, poisonous snakes, invading armies, disease, etc. Sure God delivered them, but they were getting tired of it all. Their wax was melting. Now when they are about to reach their final destination, about to finally get their reward for all their struggles in the wilderness, what do they learn? Yes, it is a land of milk and honey, but it is also a land filled with giants.

2. Now that the kings hearts are drained of "spirit" courage you would think this is the perfect time to advance for Israel - but God commands Joshua to circumcise a new generation of warriors. Why was this necessary?
3. What is the current day equivalent or visible sign of God's covenant with believers today?