

Not Alone: God's Relentless Pursuit

Group Discussion Guide | May 17

### Series overview and leader instructions

"Not Alone" is an 11-week journey through the Old Testament, tracing God's desire to dwell with His people and His faithful work to bring redemption. Through every season—deliverance, provision, rebellion, exile, and restoration—we see one unified story of grace, pointing to Jesus and the promise of God dwelling with His people forever.

The sermons in this series will take a fly-over, covering multiple chapters—and sometimes multiple *books*—in a single sermon. You may find that some people in your group may be unfamiliar with these stories and benefit from some additional context. We recommend incorporating videos from The Bible Project books of the Bible overview videos as needed. As the leader, you can decide whether to watch the videos as a group or send them out in your group chat or via email for people to watch on their own, or some combination of the two. Recommended videos will be linked in each week's group guide.

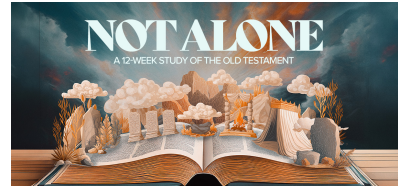
Here is an overview video of the Joshua, the book covered in this week's sermon:

**Joshua Overview Video:** <https://bibleproject.com/videos/joshua/>

As always, use the group discussion guide below in the way that works best for *your* group. Prayerfully review the material and note the questions you sense the Spirit leading you to focus on. Linger on questions that yield fruitful discussion. Break into pairs or smaller groups for conversation or keep the discussion in the larger group. You know your group! Use this guide as a template but make it your own.

**Opening prayer and reflection questions (10 minutes).**

*Begin your time together by asking the following question:*



- Do you have a celebrity lookalike? Has anyone ever told you that you looked like someone famous? Share with each other what famous people you resemble most—or help decide a celebrity Doppelgänger for each person in your group.

Joshua may not have *looked* like Moses, but the early chapters of the book of Joshua make it clear that God has chosen him to be the new Moses. After Moses' death, Joshua is appointed to lead the people. He sends spies into the land (like Moses did). He challenges the people to obey God's commands (like Moses did). He even (through God's power) parts the waters of the Jordan River (just like Moses parted the Red Sea).

In a time of uncertainty and transition, God did not leave His people alone. Then and now, He calls His people to meditate on His law and be courageous because of His presence. Let's listen to God's challenge to Joshua as he stepped into his new leadership role.

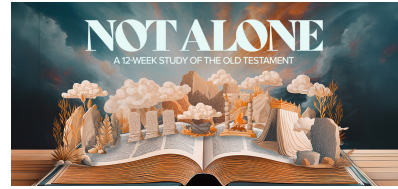
**Read Joshua 1:7-9.**

**Pray:** Lord, help us to take to heart the words you spoke to Joshua in Joshua 1. May we keep your law always on our lips and meditate on it day and night. May we be strong and courageous, not terrified or discouraged, knowing that you will be with us wherever we go. Show us how you want to shape us by our study of your word together. Amen.

**Discuss the sermon and the book of Joshua (45 minutes).**

- What stood out to you from Gary's sermon?
- What do you think this new generation thought and felt as they entered the long-awaited Promised Land?
- What do you think Joshua felt?
- Who do you identify with more - or the Israelites?

*Because of the survey nature of this sermon series, it won't be possible to read the all the passages covered in each sermon during life group. But you can take time to*



*linger in a specific moment in the story. Choose one of the following passages to read together and discuss:*

Joshua 2 (Rahab and the spies)

Joshua 5:13–6:27 (The fall of Jericho)

Joshua 10:1-15 (The sun stands still)

Joshua 23 (Joshua's farewell)

- What did you notice? What details stood out to you?
- What questions or points of confusion do you have? (*Note: as the leader, you do not have to answer all the questions. It's OK to acknowledge that we are reading an ancient document given to us by God. We won't understand everything, but we can ask our honest questions.*)
- What speaks to you from this passage?

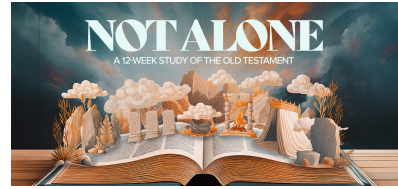
Gary discussed the concept of "syncretism" (*SIN-kruh-tiz-um*), the blending of different religious practices together. The Israelites had shown themselves to be susceptible to this – to combining the worship of God with the religious practices of their pagan neighbors.

- Where do you see people blending Christian beliefs with other beliefs in your world?
- Think for a moment. Are there places you practice syncretism in your own life? Ways you combine your Christian beliefs with the beliefs and practices of other religions or worldviews?
- Why was God so concerned about this in the lives of the Israelites and why is He concerned about it in our lives now?

In the battles Joshua and the Israelites faced, as well as the battles in our own lives, it's crucial to remember God's Promise, God's Presence, God's Power, and God's Plan.

Listen to the following verses and prayerfully reflect on the battles in your own life.

What is the Holy Spirit inviting you to meditate on right now? God's Promise, God's Presence, God's Power, or God's Plan?



*Read or invite others to read the following verses. (It may be helpful to provide a copy of this page of the guide so people can read along.):*

**God's Promise:** "No temptation has seized you except what is common to man and God is faithful. He will not let you be tempted beyond what you can bear but when you are tempted, He will provide a way out so that you can stand up under it" (1 Corinthians 10:13).

**God's Presence:** "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go" (Joshua 1:9).

**God's Power:** "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness" (2 Corinthians 12:9).

**God's Plan:** "Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes" (Ephesians 6:11).

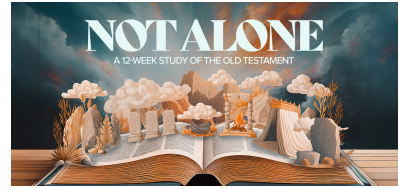
- What do you think the Holy Spirit is inviting you to focus on tonight? God's Promise, God's Presence, God's Power, or God's Plan?
- What is a specific encouragement or challenge you received from the Scriptures we read?

**Concluding reflection and prayer (10 minutes).**

*If you want to take prayer requests, you may do so here, then incorporate praying for those requests in the prayer time below.*

The book of Joshua demonstrates how God fights for His people. In the battles of our lives, we are not alone.

Are there particular battles you are facing right now? How can we pray for God's promise, presence, power, or plan in that battle?



*Share prayer requests over the “battles” in your lives. Pray for each other, remembering to ask for God’s promise, presence, power, and plan in the situations mentioned.*

*Close the time with the prayer below based on Joshua 23:14.*

**Pray:** We know with all our hearts and souls that not one of the good promises You have made us has failed. Help us to trust your promise, experience your presence, receive your power, and follow your plan in our lives. Amen.