IMPACTERS COMMUNITIES

A Work of The Catholic Guy Ministry

I WILL BE WITH YOU

SUMMARY

Drawing from Joshua 1:1-9, Bridgette Downes explores what it means to live as a missionary of God's presence in everyday life. Just as Joshua stood at the edge of the Jordan River facing an uncertain future after the death of Moses, many believers find themselves in seasons of transition, fear, and change. The central message is not a call to strive harder or perform better, but rather a call to remain consistently aware that God is already present wherever we go. The Message emphasizes that courage is not manufactured through willpower but is cultivated through a conscious awareness of God's companionship. As members of IMPACTERS Faith Community, believers are reminded that being a missionary of His presence does not mean bringing God somewhere He is not, but rather awakening others to the reality that He is already there.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

- **Awareness is the starting point.** God does not disappear during seasons of transition, busyness, or uncertainty. What changes is our awareness of Him.
- **Presence before strategy.** God's first word to Joshua was not a plan. It was a promise. "I will be with you" comes before "here is what to do next."
- **Fear and discouragement are not the same thing.** Fear responds to change and challenge. Discouragement begins to doubt whether we can meet it at all. Left unchecked, fear becomes discouragement. Neither, however, gets to be our identity.
- **Not every voice deserves equal access to your life.** Joshua had already watched ten voices overpower two. The question is not whether voices are speaking — they always are. The question is which voice is shaping you.
- **We carry His presence, we do not manufacture it.** Our calling is not to bring God somewhere He is absent, but to live so aware of His presence that we awaken that awareness in others wherever we go.

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES:

Joshua 1:1-9, in which God commissions Joshua to lead the Israelites into the promised land following the death of Moses, repeatedly calling him to be strong and courageous and promising that His presence will accompany Joshua wherever he goes

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SMALL GROUP GUIDE

This guide is designed to help your small group dive deeper into the message.

OPENING PRAYER

Invite the Holy Spirit to guide your discussion and open hearts to God's transforming work. Pray the **IMPACTERS** Community Prayer .

OVERVIEW

This Message explores what it means to be claimed by the love of Christ and sent as Missionaries of His presence. BrIdgette draws on the apostle Paul's conviction that Christ's love establishes a claim on every believer's life, reshaping priorities, ambitions, and sense of purpose. Being a missionary is not reserved for clergy or those who travel to distant places. It is the calling of every Christian, in every context, at every stage of life.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Getting Into the Word

1. Read Joshua 1:1-9 together as a group. What stands out to you most when you read God's words to Joshua? What surprises you, if anything?
2. God repeats the instruction "be strong and courageous" multiple times in just nine verses. What does that repetition tell us about what Joshua might have been feeling at this moment in his life?
3. Bridgette noted that God did not open by giving Joshua a battle plan. He opened by giving Joshua a promise of His presence. Why do you think God prioritized that? What does that tell us about what God values most in our relationship with Him?
4. The Message described how Joshua had already watched an entire generation miss God's promise, not because God was unfaithful, but because fear spoke louder than faith. How do you see that same dynamic playing out in people's lives today, including your own?

Going Deeper

5. Bridgette described the difference between fear and discouragement this way: fear is concerned about the challenge ahead, while discouragement begins to doubt whether we are able to meet it at all. Can you think of a time in your own life when fear crossed the line into discouragement? What helped you find your way back?
6. The Message used the image of a director speaking into the ears of a camera crew. The director sees the whole picture while each operator only sees their small part. How does that image change the way you think about listening to God's voice compared to all the other voices competing for your attention?

7. Bridgette said: "The discussions that we have on the inside eventually influence how we behave on the outside. The words we rehearse, the voices that we listen to, and the things we continually tell ourselves, they all shape the direction that we walk in." What internal conversations have been shaping you lately? Are they drawing you closer to awareness of God's presence or pulling you away from it?
8. She also said: "Every day we are discipled by something." What are the primary things discipling you right now — shaping your thoughts, your fears, your priorities? How intentional have you been about choosing those influences?
9. The Message made a distinction between stepping into God's presence at church and carrying His presence out into the world. How would your week look different if you walked into every room this week consciously aware that you are a carrier of God's presence?

PERSONAL REFLECTION

- Bridgette asked a simple but searching question: "Are you aware of His presence today?" As you sit in this group right now, how would you honestly answer that question?
- Is there a particular area of your life — a relationship, a workplace, a season of transition — where you have lost awareness of God's presence? What might it look like to reclaim that awareness there?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

Choose one or more of the following to carry into your week:

- **The Awareness Pause.** At least once each day this week, before you walk into a new space — your workplace, your home, a difficult conversation — pause and say quietly: "God is here and I am with Him." Notice whether it changes how you enter that space.
- **Audit your voices.** Spend some time this week identifying the five to ten voices that most consistently shape your thinking. These might be people, media sources, internal narratives, or habits. Ask honestly: which of these are building awareness of God's presence, and which are eroding it?
- **Write it down.** Joshua was told that the word of God should not depart from his mouth and that he should meditate on it day and night. Choose one verse or one phrase from Joshua 1:1-9 and write it somewhere you will see it every day this week. Let it be the voice you return to when other voices get loud.
- **Carry it somewhere specific.** Identify one place or one person in your life this week where you will intentionally go as a Missionary of His Presence. You may never say God's name. But go with the awareness that He is already there, and that you are carrying something real.
- **Pray for awareness.** Each morning this week, before you check your phone or begin your day, offer a simple prayer asking God to heighten your awareness of His

- presence throughout the day. Keep a note of moments when you sense Him showing up.

CLOSING PRAYER

Lord, we acknowledge that you are already here. You were here before we arrived and you will remain long after we leave. Forgive us for the moments when busyness, fear, or distraction has caused us to lose awareness of your presence. As we go into this week, make us people who carry what we have received here. May those around us not just hear about you but sense you in the way we walk into a room, in the peace we carry, and in the courage we demonstrate. We are yours. We will go. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.