

THE ESSENTIAL NATURE OF TRUST

JOSHUA: Trusting God in the Heat of Battle

I invite you to walk with me through the Old Testament and discover how God uses the stories of broken men—not perfect ones—to help us learn to trust Him.

These lives aren't just ancient history; they are windows into our own struggles and hopes. Each story leads us closer to Jesus, the one in whom all trust finds its meaning.

Along the way, your “trust muscle” will be stretched and strengthened as we explore what it means to truly follow the One who is trustworthy.

Let's take the journey together.



Series Overview

1. Goal: Strengthen trust in Jesus through Old Testament characters.
2. Theme: Who Do You Trust?
Who Do You Follow?
3. Outcome: Build trust in relationships, make discerning decisions, and deepen your relationship with Jesus.



JOSHUA

Leadership in Conflict

1. **SURRENDERED STRATEGY** → **Trust Follows God's Strategy Over Human Logic.** Joshua obeys God's unconventional plan to march silently around Jericho, trusting divine direction over traditional battle tactics. Joshua 6:1-20 – Jericho. Trust means believing God's wisdom outpaces human strategy.

2. **COURAGEOUS HONESTY** → **Trust Confronts What's Hidden Before Moving Forward.** Joshua halts the military campaign to seek God after unexpected defeat. He leads with humility, uncovering and addressing hidden sin in the camp. Joshua 7 – Achan's Sin. Trust means slowing down when needed to purify what's within.

3. **DAILY RELIANCE** → **Trust Seeks God's Presence in Every New Battle.** Even with momentum, Joshua prays boldly for divine intervention, depending on God in every stage of leadership. Joshua 10:12-14 – The Sun Stands Still. Ongoing trust is not just for beginners—it's the path of every faithful leader.



The 5 Essentials of Trust

1. Understanding

You trust people who 'get you.' They listen, empathize, and validate your perspective without quick fixes.

2. Motive

Trust is built when the other person's heart is for you, not just for their own interests. You feel safe when someone genuinely wants your good.

3. Ability

Good intentions aren't enough. We trust people who are competent—who have the skills, wisdom, or experience to follow through.



The 5 Essentials of Trust

4. Character

You trust those who do the right thing when it costs them. Integrity, humility, and consistency over time shape deep trust.

5. Track Record

Trust is strengthened when someone has shown up again and again—when they've proven themselves trustworthy through real-life situations.



BUILD YOUR TRUST MUSCLE

1. Intentional Growth → Trust Is Grown, Not Given

Trust develops over time through small, repeated experiences of vulnerability and repair. It's earned, not assumed. Quote: "We grow trust by taking intentional, small steps toward people who prove trustworthy."

2. Relational Training → Trust Strengthens in Community

Real relationships that involve both grace and truth become the training ground for learning how to trust. Quote: "Real relationships are the training ground for building your trust reflex."

3. Restorative Repair → Requires Rebuilding After Breaks

Broken trust is not the end. It becomes an opportunity for growth if both parties are willing to engage the repair process. Quote: "When trust breaks, those willing to work through it get stronger—not weaker."



Take Action!

Journal Prompts

1. SURRENDER → When have you experienced the results of your courageous surrender in trust of God?
2. HONESTY → When have you seen your trust of God grow by vulnerable owning and sharing your story?
3. DAILY RELIANCE → How have you seen growth in your trust muscle?

