

RENAMED

*Joshua: The Lord Saves | Teacher: Libin Abraham
Sermon Questions for 6.28.2026*

OPENER

We live in a culture that constantly tells us to believe in ourselves. We hear messages like, "Follow your heart," "Trust yourself," and "You have everything you need within you." While confidence and responsibility are important, these messages can subtly convince us that we are ultimately our own saviors.

Joshua's story confronts that mindset. His renaming from **Hoshea** ("salvation") to **Joshua** ("The LORD saves") shifts the focus away from human effort and toward God's power. This wasn't simply a name change. It was a declaration that would shape Joshua's life and ultimately point to Jesus, the greater Joshua, who alone can save.

READ

Numbers 13-14, Joshua 1, Hebrews 4

MAIN POINTS

1. Our Identity Changes When We Know Who Our Savior Is

Hoshea's original name spoke about salvation in a general sense, but Joshua's new name declared that **the Lord Himself is the One who saves**. This subtle change completely shifted where confidence was placed, not in human ability, but in God's faithfulness. The sermon contrasts the modern message of self-salvation with the biblical gospel of divine rescue. When Joshua embraced the truth of his new name, it shaped how he viewed every obstacle that followed. Our identity is transformed when we stop trying to save ourselves and begin trusting the God who saves us.

2. Faith Focuses on God's Presence More Than the Size of the Problem

When twelve spies entered the Promised Land, they all saw the same giants, cities, and challenges. Ten spies focused on the obstacles, while Joshua and Caleb focused on God's promise and presence. Their courage did not come from believing they were strong enough, but from believing that **"The Lord is with us."** Fear magnifies our problems, while faith magnifies God's power. The difference between living by fear and living by faith is often determined by what we choose to keep before our eyes.

3. Courage Comes from Knowing God Is With You

When Joshua became Israel's leader after Moses' death, he faced an overwhelming assignment. God repeatedly told him, "Be strong and courageous," not because Joshua was exceptionally gifted, but because **God promised to be with him wherever he went**. Joshua's confidence rested in God's presence rather than his own qualifications. The same truth applies to believers today. We can face uncertain seasons with courage because the God who saves also walks with us.

4. Joshua Points Us to Jesus, the Greater Savior

One of the most beautiful truths in the message is that **Joshua and Jesus share the same name**—both mean "The Lord saves." Joshua could lead God's people into the earthly Promised Land, but he could not provide eternal salvation. Moses, representing the Law, could only bring

Israel to the edge of the promise, but Joshua, representing God's saving grace, led them in. This becomes a powerful picture of the gospel: the Law reveals our need, but only Jesus can bring us into God's eternal rest. Every part of Joshua's story ultimately points forward to Christ.

5. Jesus Gives Every Believer a New Identity

The Renamed series concludes by reminding us that Joshua's renaming is ultimately our story as well. At the cross, Jesus took our old identity, our guilt, shame, condemnation, and sin and exchanged it for His righteousness. Because of Him, we are renamed forgiven, redeemed, adopted, beloved, and children of God. Revelation even promises that one day Jesus will give every believer a personal new name written on a white stone, symbolizing innocence, acceptance, and belonging. Our greatest identity is not what we have done, but what Jesus has done for us.

ENGAGE WITH GOD IN A GROUP

- What stood out to you most about Joshua's renaming from Hoshea to Joshua?
- The sermon contrasts **self-salvation** with "**The Lord saves.**" In what ways are people tempted to rely on themselves instead of God today?
- The twelve spies all saw the same land but reached different conclusions. What does that teach us about fear, faith, and perspective?
- God repeatedly told Joshua to "be strong and courageous" because He would be with him. How does God's presence give us courage in difficult seasons? What circumstance are you in that you need to remember God is with you?
- The sermon explains that Moses represents the Law while Joshua points to grace through Jesus. How does that deepen your understanding of the gospel?
- Which of the new identities described in Christ—forgiven, redeemed, adopted, beloved, child of God—do you most need to remember right now? Why?
- If you truly believed "The Lord saves" in every area of your life, what might change this week in how you pray, make decisions, or face challenges?

BOTTOM LINE

We were never meant to save ourselves. Jesus, our greater Joshua, has done what we never could - He has saved us, given us a new identity, and invites us to live with confidence in His presence rather than our own strength.