

Introduction:

Key Question: What are God's basic methods in guiding His people?

Text: Joshua 1:1-9

A. God's method is a BOOK (Joshua 1:7-8)

1. The **Torah**: First five books of the OT
2. **All** Scripture: The entire OT (2 Tim. 3:16-17)
3. The entire **Bible**: OT and NT
4. A Bible acronym:
5. The Ten Commandments: Basic guidelines for divine and human **relationships** (Ex. 20:1-17).
6. Jesus compressed the Ten Commandments into two (Matt. 22:37-40).

7. APPLICATION

- a. The **benefits** of obeying the Bible (Joshua 1:7-8; Psalm 1:1-3)
- b. How to become **wise** from hearing God's Word (Matt. 7:21-27; James 1:22)
- c. The Bible is the only book whose **author** is with you whenever you read it.
- d. **Challenge:** Take **time** to read the Bible everyday.
- e. **Illustration:** The percentage of people who read the Bible in the USA
- f. **To do:** Follow our Daily **Bible** Reading Guide

B. God's method is His PRESENCE (Joshua 1:1-3)

1. God's **presence** guided Joshua to victory (Joshua 11:23; 23:3; 24:13)
2. Moses' exemplified to Joshua the **value** of God's presence (Exodus 33:12-17)

3. Application:

- a. Gods' hand will guide us if we **seek** and **cherish** His presence with us.
- b. A consuming hunger for the presence of God will **quench** us from the hunger after things and excitement that kill our appetite for the presence of God.

C. God's method is a MAN

1. E.M Bounds said, "God's method is a **man**."
2. God's method in delivering Israel out of Egypt was a man—**Moses**.
3. God's method in leading His people to possess the Promised Land was a man—**Joshua** (Joshua 1:1-3, 5; 11:23).
4. When Joshua was **85** years old (like his friend Caleb, Joshua 14:10-12), God told Joshua in Chapter 13:1, "You are very old, and there are still very large areas of land to be taken over." (Joshua 13:1)
5. Like Joshua, I am very old, but still have a lot to do.
6. 25 years later, Joshua said to the people,
 - a. Joshua 23:1-2
 - b. Joshua 23:6
 - c. Joshua 23:7
 - d. Joshua 23:14
 - e. Joshua 23:15-16
 - f. Joshua 24:14-15, 24
7. After his farewell address, Joshua died at **110** years old (Joshua 24:29).

Conclusion:

TABLETALK STARTERS

(For family devotions and Life Groups)

1. In guiding His people with a book (Bible), His Presence or a Man (a Pastor or another Christian), how do these three methods of guidance work in your life—even today?
2. When you need God's guidance, in any decision making, how will you apply any of these methods to keep you from going astray, or from being misguided by your own natural thinking, or by other people who are not guided by God themselves?