

The Narrow Way, Week 1 - Live Speak Outline

MAIN IDEA: Extraordinary faith is built through ordinary obedience..

TEACHING TEXT: ⁹ *This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your **God is with you wherever you go.*** Joshua 1:9 NLT

WHAT DO WE WANT STUDENTS TO KNOW? When we commit our lives to Jesus, He will lead us to do things, go places, and love people that we could not and would not do on our own. The good news is that He is with us every step of the way, and His Spirit gives us the power to do more than we ever could on our own. But, to actually follow Him in the face of seemingly impossible odds requires strength and courage. Thankfully, that's exactly what we find when we study God's Word, are surrounded by God's people, and walk in step with God's Spirit.

WHAT DO WE WANT STUDENTS TO FEEL? Confident that God is with them wherever they go. Hopeful that they can do more with Jesus than they ever could on their own.

WHAT DO WE WANT STUDENTS TO DO? Choose to follow Jesus even when what He's asking seems impossible.

How To Prepare a Great Live Speak:

First, read through this entire document from beginning to end. Second, copy the MAIN IDEA, TEACHING TEXT, KNOW-FEEL-DO and the OVERVIEW into your copy of the [Switch Sermon Outline Template](#). Third, read the whole chapter of Scripture the teaching text is found in. Fourth, write out your version of this message word-for-word in the Outline Document you've created. Fifth, throw your word-for-word manuscript out and start over with a blank slate, but this time, just write out the bullet points and big ideas. Sixth, run this message in front of people to get feedback on it. Seventh, because we don't stop on six, set the message down and pray for the students who are going to hear it. Remember, the MAIN IDEA and the TEACHING TEXT are north on the compass. Don't change those. The KNOW - FEEL - DO and the MESSAGE GUIDE are your guardrails, keep your message consistent with those. Other than that, contextualize this message to fit your communication style and the students you pastor.

THE OVERVIEW

Extraordinary faith is built through ordinary obedience.

If you want an extraordinary life *with God*, build it through ordinary obedience *to God*.

⁹ *This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your **God is with you wherever you go.*** Joshua 1:9 NLT

Be faithful in the little things.

¹⁰ “If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won’t be honest with greater responsibilities.” Luke 16:10 NLT

¹³ So Moses and his assistant Joshua set out, and Moses climbed up the mountain of God. ... ¹⁸ Then Moses disappeared into the cloud as he climbed higher up the mountain. He remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights. Exodus 24:13, 18 NLT

Stay faithful when others do not.

... “We can’t go up against them! They are stronger than we are!” Numbers 13:31 NLT

⁷ They said to all the people of Israel, “The land we traveled through and explored is a wonderful land! ⁸ And if the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us safely into that land and give it to us. It is a rich land flowing with milk and honey. ⁹ Do not rebel against the Lord, and don’t be afraid of the people of the land. They are only helpless prey to us! They have no protection, but the Lord is with us! Don’t be afraid of them!” Numbers 14:7-9 NLT

Courage comes from knowing God is always faithful to you.

⁹ This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your **God is with you** wherever you go.” Joshua 1:9 NLT

¹⁹ Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. ²⁰ Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. **And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.**” Matthew 28:19-20 NLT

What’s one ordinary step of obedience God is asking you to take?

Extraordinary faith is built through ordinary obedience.

THE OUTLINE

INTRO: Well, what is up Switch?!? My name is _____, and I get to be one of your youth pastors. I am excited to share the Word of God with you! If this is your first time with us, this semester we are walking through the Old Testament together, learning how the whole Bible is a unified story that leads us to Jesus and teaches us to live like Jesus. This week we are starting a new message series called “*The Narrow Way*,” and today we’re going to be talking about how God loves doing extraordinary things through ordinary people. So I have a question for you ...

TENSION: Do you believe God has something more for your life? Not just getting through school or figuring out a career one day, but actually being used by Him in a real and meaningful

way? Most of us would say yes. We believe God has a purpose for us, and we believe He wants to do something significant through our lives.

But here's the problem, we want to do extraordinary things for God ... without being faithful to God in the ordinary, everyday moments. We want God to use us in big ways, yet we struggle to stay consistent in our faith with the small, daily choices we make. And here's the truth: that's just not how it works.

If you want an extraordinary life *with God*, you have to build it through ordinary obedience to God.

(Share a story about a time you wanted to do something extraordinary but didn't want to put the work in or a story about someone who has achieved extraordinary things by being consistent in the ordinary things.)

Let me tell you a story about an ordinary guy who did some extraordinary things ... **He's a basketball player. Some people call him the GOAT. Most people *should* call him the GOAT. His name is Michael.. Just kidding, his name is **LEBRON JAMES**. Now, when you look at LeBron's career, you see all the amazing things he's done. Championships. Records. MVP awards. All these incredible moments. And sometimes you look at someone like that and think, "Man, that must come easy to him." But here's the reality. If you actually look at LeBron's life and the things he's said about his career, you start to realize something: LeBron prepared himself for extraordinary moments *by being disciplined in ordinary moments that nobody sees*. He has a crazy routine. He spends a huge amount of money every year taking care of his body so he's ready when the moment comes. He trains constantly. He watches what he eats. He works out over and over again. All these small disciplines. All these ordinary habits. And those ordinary things are what prepare him for the extraordinary moments on the court.**

Sometimes we look at people like LeBron, or athletes like Tom Brady or Michael Jordan, and we say, "*Man, I want to be extraordinary like them.*" But we don't always pay attention to the ordinary things they did to get there. I can speak for myself. Sometimes I think, "*Man, I wish I could dunk on a 10 foot goal. I wish I could play like LeBron.*" But the truth is, I'm not willing to put in all the work, all the discipline, all the everyday effort it would take to actually become the greatest basketball player of all time.

And if I'm being honest, sometimes our faith works the same way. We say, "*God, I want you to use my life.*" We see people doing incredible things for God. We read stories in the Bible about people God used in powerful ways. But when it comes to being obedient in the small, everyday things, that's where we struggle. So, that's what we are going to talk about for the rest of this message.

But, I want you to hear this loud and clear: **God is ready to use you.** The question is, **are you ready to be used by God?**

TRUTH: God often prepares us for extraordinary moments through ordinary faithfulness. And that's exactly what we see in the life of Joshua. Joshua did some incredible things in his life. After Moses died (yes, the guy who encountered God in a burning bush, got picked to be the person who led God's people out of slavery in Egypt, was used by God to part the Red Sea, was so close to God that his face literally glowed after spending time in God's presence ... that Moses), Joshua was the guy who stepped into leadership and led the Israelites from the wilderness into the Promised Land. That's huge, one of the biggest leadership moments you could imagine. But when God speaks to Joshua in **Joshua 1**, He doesn't say, "Hey Joshua, you're awesome, go crush it." Instead, God tells him this:

⁹ *This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your **God is with you wherever you go.*** Joshua 1:9 NLT

God is reminding Joshua that He is with him.

Here's something important to note: God didn't just randomly pick Joshua one day and say, "You know what? I think I'll use that guy." Joshua had been faithfully following God for years. Before Joshua stepped into an extraordinary calling, he spent a long time being faithful in the ordinary. And that's what we're going to focus on.

Before Joshua ever stepped into the spotlight, before he led the people, before he stood in that massive leadership moment, Joshua had already demonstrated something over and over again: he was faithful in the ordinary. So we are going to look at 3 key choices, 3 key moments in Joshua's life to help us choose faithfulness in the ordinary moments too.

Joshua chose to ... **Be faithful in the little things.**

Before Joshua was leading a nation, he was simply serving. He was Moses' assistant. He wasn't the main leader. He wasn't the one everyone was looking at. He wasn't the guy with the microphone. He was simply doing what God asked him to do, faithfully showing up in the ordinary moments. One example of this is when Moses goes up Mt. Siani to receive the Law from God ...

¹³ *So Moses and his assistant Joshua set out, and Moses climbed up the mountain of God. ... ¹⁸ Then Moses disappeared into the cloud as he climbed higher up the mountain. He remained on the mountain forty days and forty nights.* Exodus 24:13, 18 NLT

Where was Joshua during these 40 days and 40 nights? Patiently waiting for Moses to come down. He didn't decide his situation wasn't fair and that he deserved to be up there with Moses. He resisted the temptation to elevate himself. He also didn't get impatient and quiet quit because Moses was taking too long. He didn't join the golden calf, idol-worshipping party that the rest of the nation was indulging in. He stayed right where Moses left him. He was faithful. Day after day.

And honestly, that's where the majority of our lives happen too. Not in the spotlight, but in the day to day. Sometimes those moments don't feel very important. No one sees them. No one's

clapping. No one's posting about it. But those are *exactly the moments* God uses to shape your life.

Scripture makes it really clear that the kind of person God trusts, the kind of people He wants to partner with, are those who are faithful, even when the opportunity for faithfulness feels insignificant ... Jesus says it like this: ¹⁰ *"If you are faithful in little things, you will be faithful in large ones. But if you are dishonest in little things, you won't be honest with greater responsibilities."* Luke 16:10 NLT

Joshua proved he could be trusted with the little things before God gave him the big responsibility of leading thousands of people.

For you, choosing faithfulness is going to look like having integrity when nobody's watching. It may mean opening your Bible instead of scrolling Instagram, praying when you're stressed instead of just freaking out, being kind to someone who's hard to like, or listening to your parents even when you're frustrated. Those moments might feel small, but they matter more than you think. Because before God trusted Joshua to lead thousands of people, Joshua had already proven he could be trusted in the small stuff.

Being faithful in the small things isn't always easy, especially when everyone else around you is going one way and you're supposed to go another. That's exactly what we see in Joshua's life next ... that he would choose to ... **Stay faithful when others do not.**

In Numbers 13, Moses sends twelve spies into the land God promised Israel. Their job was simple: explore the land and report back.

When the spies returned, they all agreed on one thing: the land was incredible. Beautiful. Exactly what God promised. But ten of the spies focused on the problem, the cities were huge. The enemies were powerful. The battle looked impossible. And they said, ... *"We can't go up against them! They are stronger than we are!"* Numbers 13:31 NLT

But two men saw it differently, Joshua and Caleb. They said, ⁷ *"The land we traveled through and explored is a wonderful land! ⁸ And if the Lord is pleased with us, he will bring us safely into that land and give it to us. It is a rich land flowing with milk and honey. ⁹ Do not rebel against the Lord, and don't be afraid of the people of the land. They are only helpless prey to us! They have no protection, but the Lord is with us! Don't be afraid of them!"* Numbers 14:7-9 NLT

Joshua and Caleb chose faith when everyone else chose fear.

We face moments like this all the time. Moments where the crowd is going one way, and following Jesus means going the other. Maybe your friends are making choices you know aren't right, so you lovingly tell the truth about where those choices are leading and you do not participate in them. Maybe everyone's gossiping, and you kindly and courageously put a stop to it. Maybe social media is pulling you toward comparison, negativity, or things that don't honor God, so you delete it from your phone and invite someone to hold you accountable. Sometimes standing up for what's right makes you feel like the odd one out. Joshua was one of only two

people willing to trust God. Often the moments where we feel the most different are the moments our faith shines the brightest.

So, if faithfulness in the small things and standing strong when others shrink back prepares us to be used by God, how do we actually live courageously when our “spotlight moment” comes? That’s where our final point comes in: **Courage comes from knowing God is always faithful to you.**

In Joshua 1:9 we read: ⁹ *This is my command—be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*” Joshua 1:9 NLT

God didn’t tell Joshua to be courageous because Joshua was naturally super brave. He said “be courageous” because *God was with him.*

Courage doesn’t come from believing in yourself, it comes from knowing God is with you.

See, following Jesus will absolutely put you in situations that require courage. Jesus has given us a big job to do: ¹⁹ *Therefore, go and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.* ²⁰ *Teach these new disciples to obey all the commands I have given you. **And be sure of this: I am with you always, even to the end of the age.***” Matthew 28:19-20 NLT

Whether it’s inviting a friend to church or praying for someone going through something incredibly painful. Whether it’s offering forgiveness to someone who’s wronged you ... or asking for forgiveness from someone you’ve hurt ... those moments ... God’s calling on your life requires courage. But the same God who walked with Joshua promises He will always be with you—at school, when you’re with your friends, at home, in the moments that feel easy, and in the moments that feel impossible.

APPLICATION: So here’s the question that we are going to talk about in our small groups: **What’s one ordinary step of obedience God is asking you to take?** Maybe it’s starting a Bible reading habit and sticking with it. Maybe there’s someone you know God has put on your heart to invite and you haven’t done it yet, it’s time. Maybe every time we talk about serving, you’re like, I think God is asking me to take that step. Sign up! Those moments might seem small, but they matter ...because ... **Extraordinary faith is built through ordinary obedience.**

CONCLUSION: The big, spotlight moment for Joshua didn’t create his faith, it revealed the faith he had been building all along. And, the same God who used an ordinary man like Joshua can use your life too. But it starts with something simple: being faithful in the ordinary moments God puts in front of you today. **Extraordinary faith is built through ordinary obedience.**

Let’s pray.