

## Thriving in the Future Joshua 14:6-15; Selected Scriptures

### Application

4. Look at the lessons for abundant living that Jim shared. Is there one area where you see a need to work? Share your plan with your group.

5. This is the last week of our fall session. The time between now and the beginning of the next term is busy with holidays, but consider setting up a time for your group to meet and get to know each other better before we begin a new term in January.

“It is a fatal mistake to assume that God’s goal for your life is material prosperity or popular success, as the world defines it. The abundant life has nothing to do with material abundance, and faithfulness to God does not guarantee success in a career or even ministry. Never focus on temporary crowns.”

Rick Warren

### Looking back to see ahead (Joshua 23:1-5)

We all face multiple transitions in life that bring special challenges.

Some seem advantageous while others seem intimidating but all bring dangers to abundant living

A “spiritual rearview mirror” is useful to

- remember God’s work for you
- remember God’s promise to you
- remember God’s potential through you

Firmly rooted to grow deep (Joshua 23:6-16)

The two challenges for continued abundance

**Be strong** in the Lord

**Be careful** to obey and avoid compromise (Heb 12:1)

With compromise it's easy to **get tripped by sin** and **get weighed down with stuff**

Present faithfulness does not guarantee future success; there are conditions

**"It couldn't happen to me,"** is a recipe for disaster

Finding ourselves frustrated in aimless living, or enslaved to habitual sin it's a sure sign we need to start looking in the right place (James 1:23-25)

Otherwise we will find ourselves **treating the symptoms** instead of **curing the disease**.

Getting to Know You

1. Look back at your time in this ten-week small group session. Share one or two things that you learned from others in the group. Use the time to encourage those friends who have helped you mature in your walk with Christ.

Into the Bible

2. In verses 9-10, Joshua talks about the way God fought on behalf of Israel. Joshua 10:5-15 is an account of one time God fought for them. List the things that God did to their enemies on their behalf. Can you relate these to things that God has done on your behalf to conquer enemies to your spiritual well-being?
3. In verses 12-13, Joshua gives the leaders of Israel a warning of what will happen if they turn away from God. Move forward a few years and look at Judges 2:10-19. This passage appears to be a general description that fits Israel's continuing cycle of sin and redemption. List the steps of the cycle. Can you relate the steps to your challenge to live an abundant life in Christ? Remember, not all idols are made of wood, stone or precious metal.