

## **PREVIEW TO SESSION 5**

### **How to Be Israel**

#### **A. SESSION DESCRIPTION**

Joshua is commonly viewed as a text describing the conquest of Canaan. While this is certainly one aspect of the story, it does not capture the text as a whole. In this session, a bigger idea is proposed: Joshua is a text that kneads the question of Israelite identity. What does it mean to be the People of God? What does it mean to be Israel? Two pieces of evidence are suggestive. The first emerges from a comparison of the stories of Rahab and Achan. The second emerges from the story of the Transjordan tribes. By the end, one recognizes that many walls come “a-tumblin’-down in Joshua!

#### **B. SESSION GOALS**

Learners who successfully complete this session will . . .

1. be able to identify the following characters and their role in the text of Joshua: the spies, Rahab, Achan
2. be able to define the terms Cisjordan and Transjordan within the context of Israel’s tribal allotments
3. acknowledge how the narrator uses Rahab’s story and the story of the Transjordan tribes to chew the questions of identity, obedience, and the People of God

#### **C. SESSION ASSIGNMENTS**

Before the beginning of this session, all learners must . . .

1. Read Joshua 22:1-24:33.
2. Begin memorizing Joshua 1:7-9. Use the version linked [here](#).
3. Read SOT 225-232.
4. Complete the worksheet for Session 5 and bring a paper copy of this work to class. It will be collected in the first few minutes of the meeting.
5. Have a look at the graphic, “The Tribal Allotments of Israel” (see [here](#) for a copy saved to server; see [here](#) for the original internet post). It might be good to print this map and include it in your notes.

#### **D. FOR FURTHER STUDY**

Ziese, Mark. “Rereading Joshua.” Pp. 391-402 in *The College Press NIV Commentary: Joshua*. College Press, 2008.