

# WEEK OF OCTOBER 23RD

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## CLARITY + *courage*

"I gave you a land on which you had not labored  
and towns that you had not built, and you live in them;  
you eat the fruit of vineyards and olive yards that you did not plant."

-Joshua 5:13 NRSV

### PRAYER FOR THIS SEASON

Continue to pray the prayer for the church introduced in the first week of the series. If possible pray at three set times throughout your day.

Do you notice any word or response emerging as you continue to offer this prayer on behalf of the Church?

Look back at your responses from last week. If you noted tension, how has that continued to evolve or resolve?

If you noticed an invitation, how have you, or how might you respond to that moving forward? Note any specific help you might need from God.

Almighty and everlasting God, in Christ you have revealed Your glory among the nations: Preserve the works of your mercy, that your Church throughout the world may persevere with steadfast faith in the confession of your Name: through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, on God, for ever and ever, Amen

### READ: JOSHUA 24:1-8, 13-15

What word, image, or phrase sticks out to you from today's passage?

Draw about it or write a response to God using the space below.

## QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION:

It is easy to fall into the trap of believing that the fruit we hold is the produce of our own hands, and the byproduct our intellect or actions. But God gives Israel, and us, clarity that God alone is the source of any freedom or fortune we may receive, reminding us that strength for those who follow Him is in remembrance.

How is this difficult for you to believe, both in your life, and in the life of the church?

How might this be an invitation?

In Joshua 24:12, God says through Joshua, "not by your sword or by your bow." Sit with this verse for a bit, using it as a breath prayer. Begin with your life, family, home in mind - Breath in, "not by my sword" breath out "or by my bow." Then transition to praying this prayer over the church. Breath in "not by my sword" breath out "or by my bow." Write anything you notice from this prayer below.

## PRACTICE OF THE WEEK:

Gratitude

As the Israelites gather to renew their covenant with God in Chapter 24, Joshua begins his address by reminding them of the redemptive story that has led them to this place of abundance.

How would you write your own additions to this story? Begin by including what is mentioned here, or by reflecting on Stephen's recollection of God's faithfulness in the 7th Chapter of Acts. Then add a timeline, story, or list highlighting some of the places where you find evidence of God's deliverance and provision.