

THE RADICAL US, WEEK 2

Scripture used: [Joshua 1:1-2 \(NIV\)](#), [Joshua 1:9 \(NIV\)](#)

OVERVIEW

This is a season of unknowns for all of us. With all of these unknowns, we are tempted to feel anxiety and even panic. In the second sermon of our “Radical Us” series, Pastor Hurmon explained why it is so important to find comfort and inspiration in God. We serve the same Lord who used Moses and Joshua to deliver the Israelites from Egyptian slavery to freedom in the Promised Land. We serve the same Lord who used Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr to strike down generations of racist laws. All of these people were asked to lead, which required huge sacrifices in service of others. They could not have accomplished such incredible goals on their own. They were with God, and God was with them. Today all of us face a similar situation as the world struggles to avoid panic in the midst of the coronavirus. People are losing their jobs, struggling financially, and facing serious health challenges. God is calling each of us to lead. It’s up to us to listen to His voice!

KEY POINTS

- 1) **God speaks to all of us.** This is a fundamental part of our belief system as Christians. We share a faith that tells us the Creator of the entire universe knows us and desires a personal relationship with us. Part of that relationship involves Him speaking with us every day. All we have to do is listen. That’s one of the reasons [to give up something for the 40 days before Easter](#). When we create space for God, we can hear His guidance for our lives.
- 2) **God expects His servants to lead, especially during a crisis.** God put Joshua in charge after Moses died. Joshua was overwhelmed with the burden of leading the Israelites. There were so many unknowns facing them, and Joshua did not have the education and training that Moses had as a member of Egyptian royalty. But instead of giving in to fear and discouragement, Joshua clung to his faith. He remembered the promise that God would be with him wherever he went. This is an example for us to follow:
 - a. **Lead by sacrificing.** God set the ultimate example for us. In [John 3:16 \(NLT\)](#), we remember that God sacrificed His “one and only Son” for us. Anything we do for other people is a reflection of our gratitude.
 - b. **Lead by serving.** Each of us will be called to serve in different ways. Joshua had a huge task in front of him to complete the journey of the Israelites. As a church, NBCC is also serving. Pastor Hurmon is working with his leadership team to find two smaller Bay Area churches that need financial support to avoid shutting down. For us as individuals, the service will be something smaller and more practical. If we take the time to ask God, we will be shown the ways that He wants us to serve the world.
 - c. **Lead by standing firm and trusting God.** When Dr. Martin Luther King’s wife Coretta and one of his daughters were almost killed by a bomb thrown at his home, a group of people formed outside his home. They wanted Dr. King to lead them, and he did, but not in the way they expected. He drew his inspiration from [Joshua 1:5 \(NIV\)](#), telling them to trust in the God who had not forsaken the Israelites. Dr. King did not give in to the anger that he felt. Instead he stood firm, and led people away from violence and toward a better world.

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Pastor Hurmon offered us two questions. First, “is God with me?” Second, “am I with God?” We should make sure we are always asking both these questions! Which one of these questions are you asking right now?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - Pastor Hurmon offered examples of incredible leaders such as Moses and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We may be called to lead in much smaller ways. Pastor Hurmon explained how we can lead by setting an example. When he feels trapped and isolated at home, he knows that choosing to shelter in place is actually an act of leadership. How is God asking you to lead right now? Do you think it’s something big or something small?

- 3) **DO** - Download the NBCC app (text “NBCC App” to 77977) to be kept up to date with NBCC schedule changes, and to sign up for our daily devotional email. Look for ways to serve others, including checking in on family members, neighbors, or people you know are at-risk for social isolation and anxiety.