

Encore 2026 – Monologue Level 2

Joshua Is A Numbers Guy

by Jeremiah Gamble
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NOTE:

Joshua was second in command of the Israelites under Moses until he took command of them after Moses's death. Among other aspects of his life, this script recounts the battle of Jericho found in Joshua Chapter 6. Try to find different characterizations/voices for the characters of The Lord and the Angel. Blocking (where you stand when you speak as each character) can also help identify these characters as separate people.

I love numbers.

More than people. People are fine, they're just not numbers.

I really like lots of numbers. And I really don't like lots of people– being in front of them. So, when I am, I just start counting – the people – 10... 20... 30. It helps.

After Moses died a voice spoke to me. I knew it wasn't my brain talking because my brain wouldn't say, "Hey. You should be a leader. You should lead the people of Israel – all two million of them – across the Jordan River – which is about 50 spans wide – into the land of promise."

And then my brain thought, "Woah, this voice is the Lord. The actual Lord that spoke to Moses. The Lord that sometimes appears as a pillar of cloud about 3,700 cubits high, and sometimes a pillar of fire roughly the same height, and who parted the sea into two equal sections. That Lord."

And then the voice – who I was pretty sure by then was the Lord – said, "I will be with you, Joshua. Be careful to obey all the instructions Moses gave you. Study them day and night and you will succeed."

And I thought, "That I can do. I love studying."

And then the Lord said, "Be strong and courageous. You will lead these people. Be strong and very courageous. I will be with you."

And my brain said, "Why is he repeating himself, but just adding the word very?"

But then I thought– that's fair. I'm kind of a mess right now. And it helps to hear it."

It does. Every time it helps. I've heard it 967 times now. Sometimes it's the voice, the Lord. But mostly it's my own brain saying, "Be strong and very courageous. God is with you."

And he was with me the day we crossed the Jordan, by first purifying ourselves according to the instructions, and then after crossing – according to the instructions – stacking 12 stones to remind us that God was with us.

And he was still with us the day we sent spies into Jericho and the day they came back and said, “It’s basically full of giants.” And I said out loud to myself and everyone, “Be strong and very courageous. God is with us.”

But I didn’t feel strong or courageous when I stood face to face with an angel wielding a flaming sword that said, “Take off your shoes.”

So, I took off my shoes, and now I’m realizing I must have left them there. *(look at feet- lost shoes!)*

And God was with me when we faced the walls of Jericho –20 cubits high – lined with 319 archers – and the “not me” voice said to instruct the people of Israel to walk around the entire city once a day for seven consecutive days. Have the seven priests blow the seven horns and lead the people as they walk in complete silence. And then on the seventh day, walk around the city seven times— I think the Lord has a favorite number– and on the seventh and final time shout.

Those were the instructions, and I am very good at remembering instructions. And so, we walked– the first day, the second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and on the seventh time of the seventh day when I didn’t think I could take any more silence we shouted.

And the walls blew apart into a billion pieces. God was with us.

And he still is. Even when I don’t feel strong or courageous.

I just count the number of times he’s been with me. One, two, three, four, five, six, seven – and it helps.

Every time it helps.