

Joshua- Courage for Battle

Keys to Being Prepared for Victory- Session #5

Small Group Notes

Introduction:

Share about a time in your life where you were asked to do something out of your normal routine or comfort zone, yet you followed through with obedience?

What are things that we learn about ourselves when we obey God through some of these uncomfortable moments?

Share about something that challenged or encouraged you from the sermon? What was your takeaway?

For today's discussion, we are going to see how even though the things that God calls us to do may be totally opposite or different to the world, we are called to trust in obedience. It's all a part of His plan to help us build trust and growth in our fellowship with Him.

Discuss:

1. God will remove our comforts to build our dependence on Him.

- Read Joshua 5:1-9

Explain: The act of circumcision for the next generation of Israel was a sign not only of their commitment to the Lord, but also of His commitment to them. This was to be a time of new beginnings and rededicated devotion to God. God would give Israel the promised land withheld from their fathers due to their disobedience before Him.

Ask:

Why was it important for the next generation of Israelites to be obedient to God's command for circumcision? What are ways that we can try to make excuses for times we disobey?

What are the lessons that you see God is wanting the children of Israel to teach future generations? How are they similar to the lessons you want to share?

2. God will remove self-reliance to build a posture of surrender.

- Read Joshua 5:10-15
- What does surrender look like?
 - o Relinquish control
 - o Worship
 - o Listen

Explain: Not only did Israel celebrate Passover, but they also did so using food from the land of Canaan. God had again shown Himself faithful by providing for them through manna. As they entered Canaan, He showed how he was going to provide not just in food but also in victory.

With Joshua's encounter with the "Commander of the Army" (a revelation of Jesus) God used the interaction to change Joshua's focus altogether. In this moment, Joshua did not need to focus on the next steps, but on God who would guide him into what was next.

Ask:

What are times that we try to convince God that we know best? What can be the result?

Has there been a time in your life when you have seen God provide for you in a new way? How did this increase your faith? What are some of the blessings of God that have grown your relationship with Him over time?

Where in your life do you need to be still before God to focus on Him? How is intentional time spent with God more substantial than any effort of our own doing apart from Him?

3. God will remove our plans to build our need for His power.

- Read Joshua 6:1-3
- Dependence on God+Surrender to God+Power of God=Victory

Explain: As the gates of Jericho were shut in 2:7, so here the place is similarly described as strongly fortified, literally "very much shut." This

describes the physical defense, but it also represents a resistance to the plans of God. The king, as the term is used in contemporary texts, was a military leader responsible to higher authorities such as the leaders of Bethel and Jerusalem. Jericho was situated at the entrance to the roads that ran westward to these towns. God spoke in the past tense as though the victory had already been decided.

Ask:

Why do you think the instructions of God were so detailed? What would be the result if Jericho fell once Israel followed what may have seemed like odd instructions? Who would get the credit?

What does it mean for us to be prepared for battle and not just to fight the battle?

What does this look like in our families to teach about future generations to prepare for battles?