

Sometimes we know what God says is true, but we struggle to live our lives in a way that reflects that truth.

Are there circumstances or challenges in your life that are making it difficult to trust God? Share these with people who will help you to see those things through God's eyes-(e.g. If you are facing a medical crisis, can you trust in God's healing power and offer of eternal life?)

You don't have to face your battles alone. In fact, your battle has already been fought and won. But you may need to ask God to give you the ability to see things like He does. If something is blocking your view of God's victory, don't stop pursuing God's presence. The Israelite army marched for 7 days before the walls fell. But the Presence of God was with them every day, and He is with you.

WRAP-UP

The Israelites entered the Promised Land under Joshua after the previous generation, who had refused to trust God and enter the land, died during the years in the wilderness. Facing the daunting challenges of crossing the Jordan River and conquering Jericho, they experienced victory by trusting God, following His instructions, and keeping God at the center rather than depending on their own strength. It's a reminder that faith often means choosing obedience over fear, seeking God's direction instead of reacting out of urgency, and remembering His faithfulness from one generation to the next. Even when His instructions don't make sense or the outcome is unclear, trusting God allows us to be "strong and courageous", knowing He is with us and He is faithful to keep His promises.

MEMORY VERSE

10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. - Isaiah 41:10 NIV

Challenge –

This week nearly 500 children will attend the Main Event at New Life. Spend time each day asking God to move on their behalf. We may not know all of their circumstances and needs, but God does, and He loves them. Pray that He will give each one the victory that they need in their lives.

The Oldies- Week 6 Joshua at Jericho

INTRODUCTION

When the Israelites arrived at the Promised Land after the generation that had refused to enter it died in the wilderness, they faced two major obstacles: the Jordan River and the city of Jericho. Moses had died, and Joshua was chosen to lead God's people into the land He had promised them. Yet possessing that land would require them to trust God, obey His commands, and engage in battle. As we examine the fall of Jericho, what can we learn about stepping into the places God calls us to go?

Ice Breaker

How many times are you willing to circle the block waiting for a parking space to open up?

Key Passage

12 Joshua got up early the next morning, and the priests again carried the Ark of the LORD. **13** The seven priests with the rams' horns marched in front of the Ark of the LORD, blowing their horns. Again the armed men marched both in front of the priests with the horns and behind the Ark of the LORD. *All this time the priests were blowing their horns.* **14** On the second day they again marched around the town once and returned to the camp. *They followed this pattern for six days.* **15** On the seventh day the Israelites got up at dawn and marched around the town as they had done before. *But this time they went around the town seven times.* **16** The seventh time around, as the priests sounded the long blast on their horns, Joshua commanded the people, "Shout! For the LORD has given you the town!" - Joshua 6:12-16 NLT

STUDY QUESTIONS

1. The Wilderness Generation

Long before the battle of Jericho, God led His people out of Egypt toward the Promised Land. Even after witnessing God's miraculous deliverance from slavery, the people refused to obey Him! As a result, they wandered in the wilderness for 40 years until that generation of adults had died, except for Joshua and Caleb—the two faithful spies who had trusted that God would give them the Promised Land when they first explored it. When Israel returned to the Promised Land a second time, Joshua was now their leader. He sent out two spies, and unlike the earlier report, they returned with a message of confidence and faith (Josh. 2:24).

30 You will not enter and occupy the land I swore to give you. The only exceptions will be Caleb son of Jephunneh and Joshua son of Nun. 31 "You said your children would be carried off as plunder. Well, I will bring them safely into the land, and they will enjoy what you have despised. - Numbers 14:30-31 NLT

24 "The LORD has given us the whole land," they said, "for all the people in the land are terrified of us." - Joshua 2:24 NLT

What does God's response to the rebellious demonstrate about His character (Numbers 14:30-31)? What does the report of the spies in Joshua 2:24 reveal about the change in this generation's attitude? What stories would this generation have heard about God and what would they have experienced first-hand?

If you were raised in church, you may have heard stories of what God did (or didn't do) in a previous generation. How did that influence you and how much of your own faith story have you passed on to the next generation?

2. Urgency versus Obedience

Now the gates of Jericho were tightly shut because the people were afraid of the Israelites. No one was allowed to go out or in- Joshua 6:1 NLT

9 "I know the LORD has given you this land," she told them. "We are all afraid of you. Everyone in the land is living in terror. 10 For we have heard how the LORD made a dry path for you through the Red Sea when you left Egypt. And we know what you did to Sihon and Og, the two Amorite kings east of the Jordan River, whose people you completely destroyed. 11 No wonder our hearts have melted in fear! No one has the courage to fight after hearing such things. For the LORD your God is the supreme God of the heavens above and the earth below. - Joshua 2:9-11 NLT

The two spies sent by Joshua were hidden by Rahab the prostitute. How did she describe the way the people of Jericho viewed God and His people? What had they done in ch 6 verse 1 in response to this?

The terror of the people of Jericho had created a sense of urgency. The King's actions to shut up the city not only kept Israel out, but it also trapped the people inside. Although a response to urgency can sometimes be helpful, it is often done without consideration of the outcome.

Can you recall a decision you made based on a sense of urgency that you later regretted? Do you feel you would have made a different decision if you had paused to seek God's guidance?

When Israel first viewed the Promised Land, they had a choice to obey God or succumb to fear and terror. Despite all He had done, they did not trust in

God. But God had a plan all along. He gave Joshua specific instructions, even though they didn't make perfect sense.

3 March around the city once with all the armed men. Do this for six days. 4 Have seven priests carry trumpets of rams' horns in front of the ark. On the seventh day, march around the city seven times, with the priests blowing the trumpets. 5 When you hear them sound a long blast on the trumpets, have the whole army give a loud shout; then the wall of the city will collapse and the army will go up, everyone straight in." - Joshua 6:3-5 NIV

2 I will say of the LORD, "He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust." ...5 You will not fear the terror of night, nor the arrow that flies by day, 6 nor the pestilence that stalks in the darkness, nor the plague that destroys at midday. 7 A thousand may fall at your side, ten thousand at your right hand, but it will not come near you. - Psalm 91:2, 5-7 NIV

To follow God's commands, you must hear His voice. If you are faced with a challenging decision, what can you do to discern God's voice? How do you respond to God's directions when they don't make sense?

God's Word provides our primary source of guidance and also encouragement. Are you or someone close to you facing a difficult or frightening situation? Reflect on the truth of Psalm 91 and if God brings someone to mind, share it with them.

3. God at the Center

6 Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you." - Deuteronomy 31:6 NIV

9 Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." - Joshua 1:9 NIV

10 So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand. - Isaiah 41:10 NIV

The Israelites circled Jericho for 7 days. Each day they were led by the priests and armed guard surrounding the Ark of God. This Ark was the place God met with His people. It represented His presence. On three occasions God was recorded as telling Joshua to be strong and courageous and fearless, because God would be with them.

Consider the verses above. What reason does God give us to be strong and courageous and fearless?