

Sermon Based Small Group: Joshua

The Fall of Jericho: Joshua 6

Introduction

- Tell a funny story about coping this week. Now share one of your struggles.

Victory belongs to the Lord

- Read Joshua 6:1-14. Pastor Dave talked about territorial gods and the sun and moon gods (Egypt and Canaan). Who is fighting in the battle of Jericho? What is God's territory?
- Israel is dealing with fear and uncertainty. That sounds a bit familiar right now. Where do certainty and courage come from?

Victory rests with the Lord

- Read Joshua 6:15-27.
- **Holy-War**
- If you want to get a discussion going, talk about holy war. Pastor Dave made four comments about holy war: Removal from the Land; Detestable Practices (Deuteronomy 8:9-12); Protection from Idolatry and Apostasy (Deuteronomy 7:3-6); and, time to repentance (2 Peter 3:9; Joshua 2:10, 11). When you discuss this, think about these questions:
 - How do you react to the idea of holy war? How can God wipe out an entire city?
 - How should we approach a difficult discussion?
 - Is God just in holy war?
 - If you think into Israel's future, what was the nation's greatest failing? Why did it happen?
 - How serious is idolatry to God? Think of the greatest commandment.
 - How did God use Holy War to develop the character of the people?
- How do we honor God as we walk through fear and uncertainty?

Victory belongs to the Lord

- March Patiently
 - God told Joshua the plan, but Joshua did not tell the people. No one knew how long the siege, or the entire war, would last.
 - Why is patience such a tough lesson? In the past, how did you get through a tough time when you could not see the end? What did you do well? What could you improve?
 - Read Hebrews 11:1, 2. How does experience help us to understand this verse?
- March Unitedly
 - The army marched around the city in unity. How can our group unite to walk through this together?
- March Triumphantly
 - This present difficulty may last a long time (The Stockdale Paradox)
 - *People who acknowledge the challenge while believing in a positive outcome are the ones who survive.*
 - We are triumphant because victory rests with God.
- Remember that a Greater Joshua is coming. Read Revelation 11:15 and 19 and 19:11-15. We have not been this way before, but God is walking with us and will bring us home!

Prayer

- Start your prayer time with worship. God will triumph and God will walk with us.
- Pray for practical needs.