

# Sermon Based Small Group: Joshua

## Taking God Seriously: Joshua 7, 8

### Introduction

- Are there words you can taste? Discombobulated is one of them. You can taste and feel the disorientation and confusion as the word rolls around on your tongue trying to find its way out of your mouth. How do our friends and neighbours respond when this word fills their psyche?
- Our easter theme is Romance in the War Zone: Who are you going to invite? How will you do it?

### Review

- Re-read Joshua 6:20 and 21. When you LET GOD LEAD, you get to WATCH GOD WIN!
- How did these two lessons work out in your life this week? Walking blind is unsettling. But our blindness lets us see ourselves and God in new ways.

### Taking God Seriously

- Read Joshua 7:9 and 4:24. What does it mean to be people of “My Name”?
- When you think of the term “Fear God”, what do you think of? Do you have a “struck by lightning” story?
- Two Patterns: Pastor Mel referred to two patterns of behaviour that are common among Christians.
  - **Take God Seriously**
    - He shared this pattern: Devotion; Discipline; Abundance; Decadence. Is that true?
    - There is a wordplay in this passage, devoted things either devoted to destruction (separated from God) or devoted for life (separated for God). As your understanding of God grows you see that God is jealous of His worship. How is the fear of God, taking God seriously, shown here in two ways?
    - Devotion takes us back to Base Camp. We let God lead and watch God win. What will look different tomorrow if we take God seriously?
  - **Take God for Granted**
    - When we drift, we get into a pattern: I saw, I coveted, I took. Who was the first person to say this?
    - Why is our self-centeredness so subtle? Are we like Achen? All he wanted was something better for his family. What was wrong with that? How do you make your world revolve around you?
    - Read verses 19 - 21. Is this a confession or an excuse?

### God's Pattern

- To take God seriously is to take His grace ... and mercy ... and love seriously. Really seriously. God unleashes his grace in overflowing ways! Read Joshua 8:1, 2. What happened next? What is the picture of forgiveness and grace that is seen here? Does God say, you blew it and you have to prove yourself or something else?
- How did Jesus become “devoted to destruction” (Set apart from God)? Contemplate the depth of what that meant. How did that lead to the possibility of being “devoted to living 100% for God”?
- Think about these verses
  - 1 John 1:9
  - Hebrews 4:16

- Psalm 34:4, 9
- Today we saw God's judgment and grace. Talk about that.

## **Prayer**

- Ask God to show you through your selfishness and to watch Him win.
- In this crisis, what can you do for someone else this week?