

God's Faithfulness

Joshua 5-6 Discussion Materials

As you begin today, share together within the group your own stories of where you have seen God's faithfulness in your own life. What can you learn from these stories? How do these stories encourage you in current times?

Read Joshua 5-6

If time allows read the whole two chapters, then re-read sections as relevant for your time of study. You do not need to complete all sections, you may wish to focus on one or two which are most helpful for your group. If time is limited, pick either the first two, or the second two sections to focus on.

Circumcision at Gilgal (Read 5:1-9)

1. After Israel crossed the Jordan, fear continued to build in the hearts of the kings (v1). God could have capitalised on that fear and marched into battle, yet he calls the people to wait and to "circumcise the Israelites again". What is the significance of this?
2. Why do you think the word 'again' is added, it is not something you can do twice! How does the history outlined in v4-8 speak into this?
3. There is a physical healing outlined in v8, and a healing of national identity in v9. Why is this important at this point in Israel's history? What does it say about God's faithfulness?

Passover (Read 5:10-12)

4. What is the significance of the Passover for the Israelite people? Have someone in the group retell the story if needed using Exodus 12-13.
5. Three times we are told that they ate of the food of the land, and twice we are told that the manna stopped. What is the significance of this? What does it say about God's faithfulness?
6. What role did Israel's obedience demonstrated in verses 1-9 play in this?

Instructions to Joshua & the People (Read 5:13-6:7)

7. Joshua engages with a 'Commander of God's Army'. What surprises you about this interaction? What do you see is the importance of the answer 'neither'? What was God trying to teach Joshua with this? How does Joshua's response set him up for what is to come?
8. What stands out to you about the instructions God gives Joshua? Are there instructions you haven't noticed before? How does this differ from other pictures of battle in the Old Testament?
9. Joshua responds in obedience, immediately calling the priests and giving orders v6-7. How hard is it for you to respond in obedience to what God might be calling you to do? What things are easier to respond to? What things are harder? Are there areas God is calling you to obedience in at the moment?

Battle of Jericho (Read 6:8-27)

10. We see the people dutifully obey the commands given them in v 8-15. What might have the people been thinking as they obeyed God? What might others have thought of them? How hard would it have been to go through this process?
11. Joshua gives a range of instructions in v16-19. What key instruction stands out to you? Why do you think that instruction stands out more than the others? Joshua is very clear with the instructions, how can we have the same clarity on what God is calling us to do today?
12. The walls fall and the city is taken in v 20. After this the passage goes back and forth between the outcome of Jericho and the outcome of Rahab, they are intentionally intertwined. What do the two different outcomes suggest to us? Is this a battle of cultures or of those for and against Yahweh? These two options lead us to similar passages in the New Testament (such as John 3:36). How does our world react to such black and white choices?

Thinking it through

13. What do the passages above teach us about God's faithfulness
14. What do the passages show us about what it means to trust and obey God?
15. Where might God be calling you this week to trust in his faithfulness? How might you discern and obey what he is calling you into?

Spend some time sharing and praying for one another.