

Small Group and Personal Bible Study Guide

This Weeks Memory Verse: Joshua 1:7

“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go.”

This Weeks Lesson: Joshua 5:13-6:27 A Story About Spiritual Warfare

Most of us read about the fall of Jericho and the amazing power of God and we are in awe of the Lord. We may even be puzzled at the Lord’s battle plan but without question encouraged how his power comes through so clearly.

1. How do you feel about the battle plan the Lord gave to Joshua to take out Jericho?

It really makes no logical sense. It goes contrary to a typical battle plan but we are reminded in 2 Corinthians 10:3-4 that we do not battle as the world does. We have to remember that the Lord desires trust and obedience from us. There is no other way than to trust and obey.

2. Would you say that Joshua was strong and courageous? Was he acting in obedience?

He was blessed to be strong and courageous. Throughout the historical accounts we see Joshua boldly going to battle in the presence of the Lord and in complete obedience to His commands. He was extremely obedient to God and had the power of God working through him.

Now read Joshua 7:1-13. In this chapter we find a complete contrast to the previous battle. Here we find the children of God sinning against the Lord and not obeying His command. We may find Joshua becoming confident and unlike the battle of Jericho, he goes up against Ai with only the wisdom of man and he never consults the Lord. We often do the same. We see God work and then pride sets in and we take over.

3. What factors do you think contributed to Joshua failing to consult the Lord before going to take Ai?

The fact that they won Jericho so easily may have brought on a false sense of confidence in self. Joshua may have begun to assume he could do it on his own or that God would give him whatever he desired. I think the biggest issue is that he failed to seek God for his leadership guidance. Instead, he asked men and followed their advice.

4. Why did the Israelites lose this battle?

They forgot the key ingredients of dependence and obedience to God. Sin had entered into the Israelites and God was demanding repentance. Instead of repenting and seeking the Lord, they turned to self-wisdom and made a personal choice that made sense to them.

5. What message should embrace from the story of these two battles?

We must always seek God first in all things. Give him all the glory for every battle won in life. Give him the glory for every successful accomplishment in life. Remain obedient so he can pour out blessings upon us. When we screw up, we should repent and turn to his power and grace for our lives.

This Weeks Reading Schedule

Day 1 Deuteronomy 31:1-8, 32:44-52, 34:1-12

Day 2 Joshua 1 & 2

Day 3 Joshua 3 & 4

Day 4 Joshua 5 & 6

Day 5 Joshua 7 & 8