

Week 4 | JOSHUA & THE COMMANDER (Joshua 5:13-6:8)



ANNOUNCEMENTS (5 minutes)

Catch everybody up to date on what's going on with New City. You can use your bulletin as a tool to do so. Especially note all the new summer studies that are beginning soon: <http://bit.ly/1pkczVc>

STARTER QUESTION (10 minutes)

Starter question(s): Did you ever get in a fight when you were a kid? Tell the story.

AND/OR If a fight broke out in your high school were you the kid to (1) run toward it to get a good view (2) jump in throwing punches (3) run away and hide in your locker (4) run and tell the assistant principle (5) I was probably the reason the fight broke out.

REFLECTION & STUDY (30-35 minutes)

>> READ>> *Joshua 5:13-6:8*

- (1) What immediately stands out to you as interesting, encouraging, challenging, confusing, etc.? What questions does this passage raise for you?
- (2) How does Joshua interact with the Commander of the Lord's Army? What other stories in Scripture does this remind you of?
- (3) On Sunday, Brian suggested that Joshua's worship was characterized by submission, reverence, and obedience. What are the examples in this passage of submission, reverence, and obedience?
- (4) Of these three aspects or characteristics of worship, which do you feel that you need to grow in (could be in personal or family worship or in corporate worship)? How might you try to grow in this grace?

Week 4 | JOSHUA & THE COMMANDER (Joshua 5.13-6.8)

- (5) What do we learn about God's sovereignty (his control over all things) from this passage?
- (6) God had promised to give Abraham's descendants land and offspring and blessing. Here the Israelites were 600 years later ready to take the land. What was the key to their conquest of this land? (HINT: it was NOT their strength or numbers).
- (7) We see in this passage that Joshua bows down and worships the Commander/the Lord and he calls him "Lord" but God has also told Joshua to be strong and courageous. And in the New Testament we're told that we ought to approach the throne of grace with confidence (Hebrews 4) and yet worship God with reverence and awe because he is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12). How do we hold these ideas of boldness/confidence and awe/reverence in tension as we relate to God?

>> *READ*>> *Romans 8.31-39*

- (8) This passage from Romans calls Christians "more than conquerers." How does a passage like this give us encouragement and hope against our "strongholds," as God's promise and instructions gave the Israelites hope as they stared down the seemingly impenetrable Jericho?

ACTION STEPS

- (1) Listen to the song "With God on Our Side" by Bob Dylan. Discuss where you think he's right and where he's wrong especially in light of what we've learned in our discussion.
- (2) The Israelites conquered the promised land, our role as Christians is to be God's ambassadors urging people to be reconciled to God (2 Corinthians 5.11ff). Determine who in your life needs to be invited into the Kingdom. Who needs to hear the good news that the Kingdom of God is at hand. Pray for them and for opportunities to have those conversations (and for the boldness to do so!).
- (3) Consider how you can grow in your worship in one area: submission, reverence, or obedience. What might that look like.

PRAYER (15 minutes)

Take some time and pray together. You can pray as a large group, break into smaller groups, split up into men and women, etc. If you share prayer requests, post them to the City so that your group can continue to be praying for each other.