

**WEEK 6 | BLESSING AND CURSE**  
**JOSHUA 8:1-35**



**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)**

Name the best concert you've ever been to and why. If you've never been, who would you see if you could only see one concert for the rest of your life?

**REFLECTION AND STUDY (30 MINUTES)**

**>>>>Read Joshua 8:1-35**

(1) What stands out to you from this story as significant, challenging or confusing?

(2) Retell the basics of the story together as a group, answering these questions:

- WHO are the main characters in the story?
- WHAT happens here?
- WHEN is this all occurring?
- WHERE is the action taking place?
- WHY are the people of Israel doing what they're doing?
- HOW is what's happening here part of the larger narrative of scripture?

(3) What was the cause of Israel's victory over Ai? In other words, why did Israel win defeat Ai this time?

(4) The covenant renewal in vv. 30-35 is in response to the fulfilled promise of God to deliver the Promised Land to Israel. As members of the New Covenant in Christ, what promises has God given us?

(5) Dave talked about the importance of the peace of God in the Christian life. How have you experienced the peace of God in your life?

(6) Dave showed us that God's Law is an expression of his character. What place does the Law have in our lives today? Specifically, what does the Law tell us about how God wants us to live?

(7) How does God's Law point us to Christ?

## **ACTION STEPS**

(1) One of the ongoing calls in our lives as Christians is to contribute to "shalom" (peace, rest, contentment) in the world. What are some specific ways you can work towards this in your own life?

(2) Dave emphasized the importance of understanding the Bible as one *story*, not a mash up of interesting stories. In other words, the whole Bible is the story of the "good news". Imagine someone asked you to explain the basic message of the Bible. How would you answer?

## **PRAYER (15 MINUTES)**

Break up into smaller groups of men and women. For those who are comfortable, share your applications and pray for one another.