

Small Group Questions

August 4, 2018

Series: Fearless

Message: "Us or Them?"



In this series, we will make our way through the Old Testament book of Joshua. While there are many themes in the book, we will focus on a theme that starts out the book and then sees many different applications, "be strong and courageous." Joshua contains many moments requiring faith, action, obedience in the face of overwhelming obstacles. Real people were asked to trust God's promises of what He had for them. We will not only better understand those situations for those who walked through them but we will seek to apply them to our lives so that we can move forward in faith, action and obedience.

Life in our broken world will never be free of battles, struggles or opposition. Those realities can cause us to be paralyzed by fear. As Jesus said in John 16:33, "In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world." That statement makes a good summary of the book of Joshua. God wants to build our faith and strengthen us to experience more of what He has for us.

The hope of this series: people take real steps of faith, trusting more in God's promises despite obstacles.

(Questions to get everyone to participate)

1. Who is the most intimidating person you've ever met? i.e future in-law, the captain of the other team, new boss, new assistant, etc.
2. When it was time to pick teams in gym class, were you among the first picked or the last? What was that experience like for you?

(Questions based on the primary text)

Read Joshua 5:13-15.

3. In the encounter, what does the divine commander want? Why? What is the effect on Joshua?
4. When Joshua asks if he's friend or foe, what do you make of the response "neither one?"
5. What do you make of the similarity of this experience with the one Moses had when God asked him to lead the effort to free the people from slavery in Egypt? (see Exodus 3:6)
6. What is meant by "take off your sandals?" What does Joshua's response indicate?
7. Opinions please, on this sentence: Most people come to God out of need but at some point we need to realize that we need to be on God's side, whatever He wants and wherever He leads.
8. Have you had an encounter or a season in which your faith surrendered more to God and it was more about Him and less about you?