

LET THE BATTLE BEGIN CHAPTER 7 OF THE STORY

Joshua 1:1-9

MEMORY VERSE

“Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.” (Joshua 1:8-9 NIV)

INTRODUCTION

1. Can you think of a time where the Lord was calling you to be brave for the Lord and step up to a challenge you'd rather have avoided or run from?

QUESTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

2. What do we see that Joshua learned about sending spies; what was the significance of sending the 2 spies? How did they see their assignment differently? How is it dangerous to allow the opinion of a “majority of people” decide what bold steps God may want you to take?
3. Why is Rahab an unlikely hero in this story? What is different about the way she heard and digested the story of what God had done in Egypt than her fellow citizens? How does her faith get acted out? What encouragement is there for us, that in spite of our past we can be part of God's bigger story?
4. In Joshua 10:24, Joshua has the soldiers put their feet on the necks of the kings of their enemy. This is a picture of how Jesus won over Satan and declares that He has put our spiritual enemies under our feet. What might be an area where you've been under attack that Jesus wants you to claim the victory of His finished work? Answer the blank, “Today, I am declaring the enemy's attack of _____ is under my feet!”
5. We learn, that it is faith that comes from hearing, believing, and activating God's Word in our life that allows us to overcome the enemy. We learn that in the “lower story” the giants are bigger than us, but in the “upper story” God is bigger than our giants through the Word. What action, attitudes, or realizations can we take hold up that will help us and our family love, believe, speak, and act on God's Word more?
6. Someone said that *prayer isn't just preparation for the battle, it is the battle. What we do afterwards is just picking up the spoils of our victory in prayer.* How did Joshua and the people suffer by not praying and listening to God before attacking Ai, or by making a covenant with the Gibeonites? What is a battle you are presently facing where you could use the help of friends to pray through, hear God, and find peace in the Lord through prayer? Where in our life might God want us to pray a bold “sun stand still” prayer of faith? What is a faith declaration God might want you to speak to some mountain in your life? Go ahead and practice.

7. Bold obedience is another key way that we overcome giants and the fears that come with them. What is an area of your life that God is calling you to bold action? What would it look like to take a bold step of faith in that area?

KEY SCRIPTURES FOR DISCUSSION

Joshua 1:1-9

“After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua son of Nun, Moses’ aide: “Moses my servant is dead. Now then, you and all these people, get ready to cross the Jordan River into the land I am about to give them—to the Israelites. I will give you every place where you set your foot, as I promised Moses. Your territory will extend from the desert to Lebanon, and from the great river, the Euphrates—all the Hittite country—to the Mediterranean Sea in the west. No one will be able to stand against you all the days of your life. As I was with Moses, so I will be with you; I will never leave you nor forsake you. Be strong and courageous, because you will lead these people to inherit the land I swore to their ancestors to give them. 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. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Joshua 8:34-35

“Afterward, Joshua read all the words of the law—the blessings and the curses—just as it is written in the Book of the Law. There was not a word of all that Moses had commanded that Joshua did not read to the whole assembly of Israel, including the women and children, and the foreigners who lived among them.”

Joshua 10:12-13

“On the day the Lord gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the Lord in the presence of Israel: “Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon.” So the Sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies.” Joshua 10:12-13)

Joshua 10:24-25

“When they had brought these kings to Joshua, he summoned all the men of Israel and said to the army commanders who had come with him, “Come here and put your feet on the necks of these kings.” So they came forward and placed their feet on their necks. Joshua said to them “Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Be strong and courageous. This is what the Lord will do to all the enemies you are going to fight.”

Joshua 24:14-15

“Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”