gateway

Group Discussion Questions

Heritage June 28 & July 1, 2018

Read aloud: Joshua 1 (Underline repeated phrases and words)

What were the most repeated phrases or words? How does repetition or color effect the reading of the chapter? How would you respond if you were told, "Get packed up because in 3 days we move, by walking, to Bakersfield! Oh, and by the way, when we get there we'll be at war with the people of Bakersfield." What conversations would you and your neighbors be having? How does change and moving create stress?

Joshua 5:12 says God removed the manna from being provided to the Israelites, therefore there's no safety net! The Israelites are completely dependent on the new land to provide for them. Why would God do that? Did it raise their stress level again? Does God intentionally raise stress to cause us to be more dependent on Him or more responsible for ourselves?

What positive and negative lessons do you think Joshua learned from watching and listening to Moses all the years he was Moses attendant?

Why does God want strong and courageous people going into the promised land? Is God asking me to be strong and courageous for Him in my family, neighborhood, career environment, school, church? In what way? What are the fears of doing what God is asking you to do?

Jesus said, "Make disciples." Who are you influencing? Has God brought anyone new into your life to influence? Who are you praying for on your OIKOS card? Have you given anyone an INVITE CARD lately?

Family Time: Get on your computer or take out a picture album and look through some pictures with your children of their earliest years as an infant and ask them how God has changed them. Ask them about how God has helped them get bigger, smarter, and more helpful. In what ways are getting bigger and smarter hard or difficult? In what ways does getting bigger and smarter make life easier?