

Here are some talking points to start using to get your group talking to each other and to start generating meaningful conversations. Remember, you want others to do most of the talking. **Start Talking.** Find a conversation starter for your group. **Start Thinking.** Ask a question to get your group thinking. **Start Sharing & Talking About the Message.**

Setting/Open: Israel is facing big changes and significant transition. They are going from wandering in the wilderness for 40-years to taking possession of the promised land, and going through a leadership change from Moses Joshua. Joshua inherits a large group of disgruntled, disobedient, rebellious people.

Joshua 1:1-9 God reaffirms His commands and promises of victory to Joshua if he is obedient.

1. What command does God give Joshua three times in verses 6, 7 and 9? **A.** Be strong of good courage. Why might God have told Joshua three times to be strong and of good courage, and in verse 9 not to be afraid or dismayed? **A.** Because Joshua was going from being an assistant to Moses to being the leader as Israel goes into possess the promised land. He may have experienced fear taking on a new role and responsibilities and needed encouragement. **Discussion Question:** Have any of us experienced fear of dismay during a time God asked us to take on a new role and responsibility?

Point: In times of change, allow God to be our foundation so that we can experience His presence and power. "God's promises come with God's commands."

2. What happens to our outlook when we experience losses in our lives? **A.** We come to expect that we will experience more losses. But does God want to do for us? **A.** Lead us to victory!

Joshua 6:1-27 The Victory over Jericho.

3. In verse 2, what does promise God to give Joshua? **A.** Victory. Why did Pastor Josh declare this battle the first big step of faith for Joshua (and Israel)? **A.** Because the battle plan did not make sense. Walking, blowing trumpets and yelling were going to make walls fall-down? Besides battle, to what is Joshua calling Israel? **A.** Obedience to a crazy battle plan the will last 7-days.

4. Application: In times of loss and transition (trials), although God's instructions may not make sense in the moment, why is it important for us to be obedient? **A.** Because people are watching us and we need to be a good example. **Key Point:** We affect the lives of the people by both our obedience and our disobedience.

5. **Verse 14** Israel did the same thing that they were commanded to do for 6 straight days despite it not making sense. What is a key takeaway from this example? **A.** Obedience must be consistent. We must put our obedience over our desires in order to receive the promises of God and "Sweet Victory." **Isa 55:6-9**

5. What is a vital action we should take during times of important decision making? **A.** Take a step back and pause to ask God, "Is this your will for my life? Is this the direction You want me to go; or the action you want me to take?" We experience another loss when we do things without God.

6. What can be said about the actions Israel took on day 7? **A.** They were obedient and God brought complete victory.

7. **Verse 18** What was the final warning that Joshua gave the people? **A.** Obstin from the cursed thing – taking the gold and silver which belonged to the Lord. What is the application for us? **A.** Don't take what belongs to God, whether it be the "spoil," His glory or credit for His victory. **Pro 3:5-6; Isa 42:8**

Close: Sweet victory and fulfillment of God's promises come to us when we are consistently obedient.

Start Praying & Start Doing. Check Prayer Requests, & pray.

Please remember to fill out the LIFEgroup meeting assessment form after your meeting. Here is the link: <https://bit.ly/LIFEgroup-Assessment>

LIFEgroups

talk it over | week 10

discussion | study

Sweet Victory

Joshua 1:1-9 and 6:1-27

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