



Bible study for the week starting March 27, 2022

SHARE

1. What's the scariest thing in your life you have ever faced? (Sorry, this could be a little heavy, but I promise, everyone has gone through something significant.)

READ/STUDY/DISCUSS

1. Read Joshua 5:10-15, and feel free to look at surrounding verses for context. Joshua, the newly ordained leader of the Israelites after Moses' death, had a daunting task ahead of him, that would pretty much last the rest of his life. What would be going through your mind as you crossed the Jordan and saw this task ahead of you?
2. Looking back at the previous question, God chose this moment for a "Christophany." First, feel free to review what this is and where else in the Old Testament the Lord showed up like this. Now, why was this such a timely affirmation for Joshua?
3. The Bible tells us, "If God is for us, who can be against us" (Read Romans 8:31-39 for context). This is not God speaking platitudes; this is a significant promise. What other verses (you can paraphrase) carry similar promises? What does this mean for what you're facing?
4. There have been times in my life when I sincerely needed affirmation that I was headed in the right (Godly) direction, and God has given me that affirmation (usually in the form of an encouragement or exhortation from one of His people). Think about the times that has or hasn't happened for you.
5. Looking at #4, has God ever used you to do this for someone else? Here's a challenge: look for people who could use those words of affirmation, encouragement, or exhortation, and have the courage to be God's mouthpiece; you never know how God might be using you!
6. Read Luke 15:1-3, 11-32. This is the assigned Gospel reading for this Sunday in the lectionary. This reading is more loosely connected to today's theme, but what do we learn about the heart of the Lord from the end of this parable? How do we see the Lord's heart playing out as He brings the Israelites into the Promised Land? Is He for *us* or for *them*?

PRAY

7. We continue to pray for God's peace in a world of conflict. Pray for the unseen spiritual battle also being fought, for the hearts and minds of God's people. As you pray, imagine the invisible armies aligned on the hillsides, and know that the Lord fights for His people. Amazing.



God is For Us

Joshua 5:10-15

March 27, 2022 – Pastor Eric Van Scharrel

“If God is **FOR** us, who can be **AGAINST** us?” -Romans 8:31

The battle tactics the Lord handed down to Joshua for this battle were tailor-made to remove any **DOUBT** as to who was leading the Israelites to **VICTORY**.

The manna **CEASED**, but that doesn't mean God wasn't **WITH** the people anymore.

“But I am the **COMMANDER** of the army of the Lord. Now I have come.” -Joshua 5:14

CHRISTOPHANY = manifestation of Christ

While typically faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see, God still chooses to provide **AFFIRMATION** from time to time.

“Those who are with **US** are more than those who are with **THEM**.” -2 Kings 6:16

God doesn't speak **PLATITUDES**.