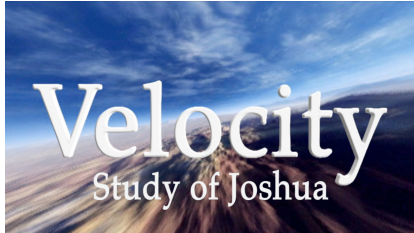


# onechurch

## bigIdea



God loves to make promises. He invites us to draw a circle around those promises and pray until we see them become a reality. God is inviting you and me into the adventure of seeing His dreams come true in this world. This happens as we make the decision to become circle makers.

**BIG IDEA:** We will never fight God's battle God's way if we don't pray and spend time with God.

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Tell about a time you did something risky or extreme. What moved you to do something adventurous like this?
2. When is the last time you felt under-qualified and overwhelmed?

*When we feel under qualified and overwhelmed, we might be exactly where God wants us. These moments force us to pray like everything depends upon God. They also drive us to our knees. In times like this we move to a place of raw dependence on God. It is this raw dependence on God that is the raw material in which God performs His greatest miracles.*

3. Read Numbers 13:26-33. Describe the territory God called Joshua and the people of Israel to enter and take as their own. What was the nature of this task and why would prayer be such an essential part of accomplishing it?
4. Read Joshua 5:13-15. Who was the most intimidating person you ever met? Tell the group about that meeting. Where is Joshua when he meets this intimidating person? Think about this incident and put it in the context of today. (*An American General in Afghanistan close to enemy territory is approached by a person with a gun drawn.*) What do you think Joshua is thinking? How do you think Joshua feels?
5. What is meant when the Commander says, "Neither" in verse 14? Is the Lord saying He's neutral?
6. Compare Joshua 5:15 with Exodus 3:6. What is similar about these situations? What is different?
7. Is the Commander in Joshua 5:13-15 the same as the Lord in Joshua 6:2? Why do you think so? (*see Genesis 16:7-11, with 16:13*)
8. Read Joshua 6:1-2. What do these verse say about the mindset of the people living in Jericho? Look at what God says in 6:2. Is it past, present, or future tense? What is the significance of that?

*There are moments when you need to stop praying and start praising. God has already done it. Even though Jericho is still standing—God has already done it. It is past tense!*

9. Read Joshua 6:1-5. Where do you think Joshua came up with this battle plan?

*The plan that we're getting ready to read in chapter 6 is the plan told to Joshua at the end of chapter 5. If you and I want to hear from God, then we need to be near God and be willing to listen and do what He says—no matter how crazy the plan is. You and I will never fight God's battle God's way if we don't spend time alone with God.*



10. Prayer is not about outlining your agenda for God. It's about finding out God's agenda for you. When we pray most of our prayers, who's agenda are we really focused on? How can we become more focused on God's agenda?
11. Describe a time you prayed about something and God did far more than you expected.
12. *Read James 4:1-3.* God has determined that certain expressions of His power will only be exercised in response to prayer. Simply put: We have not because we ask not. Put another way, we have not because we circle not. How do you respond to this idea that some things don't happen because we choose not to pray and circle these things? What might be an example of something we would miss because we make the choice not to pray?

#### THINK ABOUT IT

What is something you have *not* been circling in prayer that you now feel you need to engage with a whole new level of seriousness? What steps will you take to circle this matter in prayer, and how can your group members come alongside of you?

#### WHAT WILL YOU DO?

Joshua prayed circles around his Jericho. What is your Jericho? Take a moment and draw a map or picture of an area, relationship, goal, or something else that you believe God wants you to circle in prayer. It could be as simple as the name of a person, or a drawing of your neighborhood or workplace. Next, write down 3 or 4 prayers you can begin to pray around this territory.

### The 21-Day Prayer Challenge

This is a "prayer experiment." It's as simple as picking a time and a place, and then identifying something or someone that you are going to pray for daily for 21 days. The goal isn't to force God's hand and make Him answer your prayer within your 21-day timeline. The goal is to establish the habit of drawing prayer circles.

#### CHANGING YOUR MIND

*Now the gates of Jericho were tightly shut because the people were afraid of the Israelites. No one was allowed to go out or in. But the LORD said to Joshua, "I have given you Jericho, its king, and all its strong warriors. Joshua 6:1-2 (NLT)*