

Message Series: Classics week 1

Message Title: Jericho

Date: July 9 & 10, 2016

Message Summary: From the promise God made to Abraham to the Jericho walls crashing down, the Bible is full of amazing stories that still hold truths we can apply to our lives today.

Leaders: The questions that follow are designed to stir reflection and discussion. Please read through them prior to your meeting, so you can be prepared to prayerfully pace your group well. Feel free to write your answers down and make notes so you are prepared to lead your group. And remember, as leader, your goal is to promote increased *biblical* awareness, as well as individual *self-awareness* – a combination that with the help of the Holy Spirit, results in revelation and...transformation!

Below you will find questions that relate to the primary scripture and additional scripture. There will be other reflective questions intended for group discussion and application.

Before we looked into the Jericho story we hit rewind several hundred years to recap how we got to Jericho.

Read Genesis 12:1-2

God spoke to Abraham and gave him a promise that he would become the Father of a great nation and his descendants would be as numerous as the sand of the seashore. This is the start of the family tree of Abraham to Moses.

In Exodus 1 we see that an entire generation died and Egypt got a new king who made all the Israelites slaves for over 400 years.

Then Moses comes onto the scene. God uses him to free the Israelites. We get the stories of the Red Sea, manna and quail from heaven, and the 10 spies who said no. They wandered in the desert until all the adults pass away.

The two adults that were still alive: Caleb and Joshua. The two spies that thought they could take the Promise Land before the wandering.

Read Joshua 6:1-21

3 observations Pastor Ken shared:

Observation 1

Just because you were born into it doesn't mean you were destined to live in it, for God's voice will call you out of it.

The people who circled Jericho had only wandered. They had heard stories of God's greatness.

Do you feel like you have been wandering? Whether it be for 5 years, 2 years, 6 months or just a few weeks. What is an area that you find yourself in IT?

This part of the story reminds us today that if we find ourselves in IT or you were born into IT, you don't have to resolve yourself to saying "my life will never change. I should just get used to wandering."

Our God is a God of change. How have you seen God make a change in you? What area do you want Him to change today?

Obedience to the voice of God leads us out of it and to a better land. For Israel it was called the Promise Land.

Observation 2

Why would God allow an obstacle to be in the path of HIS choosing?

Read Joshua 6:2

The verb tense God speaks with is a future action which is already finished.

Joshua LISTENED and OBEYED. The only path in life that truly leads to this is through a relationship with Him and obedience to His Word.

-- Nothing is impossible with God.

-- A Jericho victory in our lives requires complete obedience. We must be faithful in the little things.

What act of obedience is God calling you to? What Next Step do you need to take?

Observation 3

To experience something you've never experienced you have to do something you have never done.

Read Joshua 3:3-4

What is something that you have to do to experience something that you have never experienced?

Leaders, end your time with asking this question and follow up next week:
>What is your story of faith that you are going to pass on? What is your Next Step of faith at Cypress?