

Main Idea: Those who have gone before us were willing to "go and not know."

The Process NOT the Product

Scripture teaches us that God is more interested in the process of our lives than the product. We typically obsess over the "products" (the production, the progress, the wins). Today we are going to discover how God uses failure in the process. How we handle failure is more important to God than the failures themselves.

Background

In Joshua ch.7 Moses is dead. Joshua is the leader of God's people. After their spectacular victory over the **mighty city of Jericho (ch.6)**, God's leader and God's people faced an **even greater challenge**. Following the thrill of victory at Jericho came the agony of **defeat at Ai**. How would Joshua respond? What did God want him to see?

Not So Unlike Us

One of the timeless elements of the Word of God is its **commentary on human nature**. The names and places have changed, but the **tendencies, strengths and weaknesses** of mankind have not. Just like Joshua, you and I will face defeat on the heels of victory. We can learn from his example. **When we fail...**

1. **We Question the Process (v.7).** In Joshua's mind God's promise for deliverance was going to be "defeat-free." This is part of our nature. We expect to win all the time. We know better, but we cannot seem to help ourselves. Questioning the process certainly makes transition more difficult.
2. **We Focus on One Defeat (v.8).** Joshua seems to blame God. Like us, he failed to realize that even if you have prayed; fasted; claimed the promises of God's Word you may still face defeat.
3. **We Worry about Public Opinion (v.9).** Joshua is basically saying, "God, you need us to protect your reputation." No, God doesn't need us to protect His reputation.

Remember

It's a natural part of life and living – today we are up and in charge, tomorrow we are down and out. Today we are confident that things are going to work out, tomorrow we aren't so sure. This is the process that most pleases God. He is working in the process which means He is working through the failure. Never quit! Refuse to give in. Don't give up.

Family Night Big idea – Read Joshua 7:1-13

This is a perfect opportunity to teach your children how to deal with failure. We are all going to fail from time to time. Failure is not as important as our reaction to it. How should we respond to failure?

- **Elementary School** – Ask, "What made God angry (v.1)? Why did Joshua only send a small number of men to battle against Ai? How did Joshua react to defeat? How should we act when we fail?"
- **Middle/ High School** – Ask, "Why would God punish the whole nation for the sin of one man (Achan v.1)? How do you most often react to failure? How can God use failure to our benefit?"

Prayer

"Father, help us get up when we fail. Teach us to fail gracefully and help us learn from our failure. Amen."

Velocity (Middle and High School Students)

Velocity: Meet at the church this Wednesday, Aug. 2nd.

Gravity: Middle Schoolers come to the Community Room.

Today's Songs

Great Things.....Phil Wickham

Blessed Assurance.....Third Day

Joyful, Joyful We Adore Thee.....Hymn

Kenya Mission Trip

The Mission Team is home safe. We will talk with them and show pictures on a Sunday in August. Thank you for your prayers.

PlusONE

Add one thing to your church attendance. Ask us how!

Promotion Sunday

August 6th, children starting Pre-School will sit with their parents in the service in Reserved Seating up front. Sixth graders will be recognized in the service and have a reception in the Community Room between the services.

Women's Retreat

All ladies are invited to attend our Women's Retreat on August 25-27 at Beaver Creek Plantation in Twin City. You can sign up in the lobby. Cost is \$150 for the weekend. Pick up a flyer in the lobby.