

A STUDY FROM JERSEY CHURCH

THE
ROAD
TO VICTORY

WALKING INTO GOD'S PROMISE



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THE ROAD TO VICTORY

Walking Into God's Promise

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DEVOTIONALS

VICTORY REQUIRES FAITHFULNESS

DAY 1

Deuteronomy 6:4-5

Listen, Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.

Before Israel ever crossed the Jordan, before a single wall fell at Jericho, God gave them this. The whole journey into the Promised Land was built on top of these words. Faithfulness was never meant to be a list of rules - it was meant to be the natural overflow of a heart that belonged completely to God.

The world Israel was walking into was crowded with other gods. Every hill had a shrine. Every nation had its own deity making demands. And God said, in effect: I am not one option among many. I am the Lord, and I am yours alone. Love Me with everything. Because the moment your heart is divided, your obedience will be too.

That is still true. We rarely abandon God outright. We just quietly let other things share the throne. And when the heart is split, obedience becomes selective. We give Him the parts of our life that are easy and keep the rest for ourselves. Total obedience flows from total love. Everything else is just performance.

- **What other “gods” quietly compete for your heart right now - even good things that have grown too big? What would it look like to love the Lord with all of you, not just part?**
- **Thank the Lord that He calls you into a relationship of love, not just duty. Ask Him to expose anything that has divided your heart, and to draw your full affection back to Him this week.**

DAY 2

1 Samuel 15:22

Does the Lord take pleasure in burnt offerings and sacrifices as much as in obeying the Lord? Look: to obey is better than sacrifice, to pay attention is better than the fat of rams.

King Saul was given a clear command: destroy everything. Instead, he kept the best of the livestock and spared the enemy king. When the prophet Samuel confronted him, Saul did not see the problem. He had obeyed - mostly. He had won the battle. He even planned to sacrifice the animals to God. Surely partial obedience was good enough.

God said no. You cannot make up for disobedience by being religious about it. You cannot trade church attendance, generosity, or good intentions for the one thing God actually asked of you.

After the wall of Jericho fell, God told Israel that everything in the city was set apart to Him - what Scripture calls a “devoted thing.” It was God’s rightful claim, the spoils of a victory He won. Achan kept a piece for himself. One man. One private compromise. And the whole nation lost its next battle.

Partial obedience is not a smaller version of obedience. It is its own kind of disobedience, dressed up to look acceptable.

- **Where in your life have you been calling something “mostly obedient” when God has been calling it disobedience? What is the specific thing He has already asked of you that you have not yet done?**
- **Confess the places you have settled for partial obedience. Ask the Lord to give you esrs that pay attention, and a heart willing to give Him the full yes He asked for.**

DAY 3

Luke 16:10

Whoever is faithful in very little is also faithful in much, and whoever is unrighteous in very little is also unrighteous in much.

We tend to imagine the Christian life as a series of big moments. The decision. The calling. The breakthrough. But Jesus says the real shape of a person's faith is revealed in the small stuff. The unseen choices. The unnoticed habits. The thoughts no one will ever read.

The person who can be trusted with much is the one who has been trusted with little - and was faithful there. The hidden five minutes of prayer. The honest word when a small lie would have been easier. The kindness no one saw. These are not minor. They are forming the person who will or will not stand when something bigger comes.

God is not waiting until your life feels significant before starting to work on you. He is at work right now, in the ordinary. Faithfulness today is how you become someone who can carry tomorrow.

- **What small, hidden area of your life have you been treating as “not a big deal”? How might God be using that very thing to shape who you are becoming?**

- **Ask the Lord to give you eyes for the small places - the unseen moments where your character is being formed. Pray for the grace to be faithful there, today, even if no one notices.**

DAY 4

1 Corinthians 10:11-12

These things happened to them as examples, and they were written for our instruction, on whom the ends of the ages have come. So, whoever thinks he stands must be careful not to fall.

Paul looks back at Israel's wilderness story and tells the Corinthian church: pay attention. Their failures were written down for us, because we are prone to the very same things.

The conquest of Canaan was not just a military campaign. Scripture pulls back the curtain to show real spiritual powers behind the gods of Canaan. When God told Israel to set Jericho apart entirely to Him, He was making a cosmic claim: this land, this victory, this people - all of it belongs to Him, and not to the spiritual rivals who had ruled there. The "devoted things" were not just plunder. They were enemy ground that could not be allowed to follow Israel home.

The same pattern plays out in us. After a powerful worship service. After answered prayer. After a season where God felt close. That is exactly when we are most likely to drop our guard - and exactly when the enemy is still at work. Standing is not the end of the fight. It is when the next fight begins.

- **When have you been most spiritually vulnerable right after a high point? What "enemy ground" may have quietly followed you home?**
- **Thank the Lord for the victories He has given you. Ask Him to keep you alert in the days that follow them, and to help you stand without becoming proud of standing.**

DAY 5

Hebrews 12:1-2

Let us lay aside every hindrance and the sin that so easily ensnares us. Let us run with endurance the race that lies before us, keeping our eyes on Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith.

Faithfulness is not a sprint. It is not a single moment of courage at the Jordan or a single shout at the wall of Jericho. It is a long, steady run. The kind that requires endurance. The kind where you keep going long after the adrenaline of the early miles has faded and the road is nothing but ordinary obedience.

The writer of Hebrews knows we will get tired. So he tells us two things to do. First, lay it aside — anything that slows us down, and especially the sin that wraps itself around our feet. The hidden things. The small compromises. The weights we have grown so used to we forget we are dragging them. You cannot run faithfully while carrying them.

Second, keep your eyes on Jesus. He is not just the goal of the race. He is the One who already ran it perfectly. Jesus laid down everything that belonged to Him. Where we have offered God partial obedience, Jesus offered Him a complete life. And then He turned and gave that life to us.

- **What weights have you been carrying that you need to lay aside before Sunday? Where do you most need to lift your eyes off your performance - or your failure - and back onto Jesus?**
- **Thank Jesus for being faithful in every place we have not been. Ask Him for endurance for the long road of obedience, and for grace to keep your eyes fixed on Him this week.**

VICTORY REQUIRES FAITHFULNESS

JOSHUA 6:15-19; 7:1-2

JUNE 7, 2026

MAIN POINT

God gives victory and calls His people to ongoing faithfulness.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to help get the conversation going.

What kind of instruction follower are you? Do you pick and choose which instructions you will follow, or do you stick to every step exactly? Most of the time, ignoring one small step doesn't seem like a big deal in the moment. However, when the furniture doesn't stay upright or the cake tastes funny, you realize how even one small step can affect the outcome in a disastrous way.

Spiritually we are prone to the same habits. We may obey God in the big, visible things and then overlook obedience in smaller, hidden ways. We try to claim partial obedience as good enough in comparison to others. The problem is our walk with the Lord is never measured against other people but against the Word of God. When it comes to experiencing and living in the promises of God, faithfulness in every detail matters.

- **Why do we tend to think that partial disobedience is good enough?**

- **What are some areas that are common places people settle for disobedience and why?**

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

> Have a volunteer read Joshua 6:15-19; 7:1-2.

In Joshua 6, the Israelites followed the Lord's unorthodox instructions to take the city of Jericho. They were told to march around the city for seven days. Then on the seventh day they were to march around the city seven times, shout, and blow their horns. When they obeyed these instructions to the letter, the walls of the strong city of Jericho tumbled to the ground. Victory was theirs because they obeyed God.

- **How do you typically respond when God's instructions don't make sense to you?**

- **What is something God has told you to do that didn't make sense at the time but became clear later?**

God also gave instructions about how to handle the takeover of the city following the victory. He said everything in the city was to be set apart for destruction except for Rahab and her family. The people were expressly told not to take anything for themselves, or the destruction would come on them. They reached victory in the power of the Lord and following His further commands would be another act of worship and trust.

- **How would obeying the Lord about the plunder of Jericho have been an act of worship and trust?**

- **How can your obedience be an act of worship and trust?**

By devoting everything to Him, Israel was indicating that they recognized the success they experienced was about God and not their own efforts. The more Israel chose to surrender to God and obey His commands, the more victory He would bring. They had been part of the Jordan River crossing, and they watched the walls of Jericho fall miraculously.

- **Why is it important to be careful and cautious in moments when you are enjoying a spiritual high?**

- **What are some areas of your life in which you tend to rely on your own strength instead of trusting God with the battle?**

In Joshua 7, when they should be rejoicing and praising the Lord for His power at work on their behalf, they were unfaithful. While the nation was celebrating and enjoying the win, something destructive was brewing under the surface. Oftentimes when we experience a spiritual high, we can become more vulnerable to the wrong voices. God calls us to obey Him daily in the big and small matters, not just living off our past obedience.

- **Where might you be relying on past faithfulness instead of actively seeking God right now?**

- **How does this inhibit present and future faithfulness?**

God is always faithful to His promises, but we are called to walk in obedience as we follow Him. We are to trust Him with significant events and also with every detail along the way. Walking into God's promises is a journey shaped by consistent, everyday faithfulness.

- **Where is God calling you to move from partial obedience to total faithfulness?**

APPLICATION

Offer the following action steps for the application of God's Word.

- **Where are you prone to minimize disobedience in your life?**

- **How can you intentionally seek God's direction before moving forward with decisions this week?**

- **What are some spiritual practices or habits you can develop to help you walk in faithfulness this week?**

PRAY

Thank the Lord for the victories that you have experienced. Ask Him to grow your faith and trust in Him daily.

JOSHUA 6:15-19; 7:1-2

6:15 The seventh day was the number of perfection, and it signaled the conclusion of the Feast of Unleavened Bread.

6:16 The shout was a war cry (see vv. 3–5).

6:17–25 This account of the destruction of Jericho is interwoven with that of the salvation of Rahab and her household

(chap. 2). In this section there are eighty-six Hebrew words devoted to the salvation of Rahab and 102 words to describe Jericho's destruction (Richard Hess, *Joshua*). Rahab's salvation is as important as the account of Jericho's fall.

6:17 Are set apart to the Lord for destruction is literally "is a devoted thing (*cherem*) to the Lord." Anything thus "devoted" must be either destroyed or placed in God's sanctuary. The reason given in Dt 20:16–18 was to prevent worship of other gods.

6:19 The precious metals were assigned to the Lord's tabernacle treasury because these could not be destroyed by fire.

7:1 Achan's unfaithfulness (in partaking of what was set apart—devoted to destruction at Jericho) resulted in God's anger against the entire nation. The genealogy of five generations, from Achan back to the tribe of Judah, is the longest in the book of Joshua and emphasizes the connection of Achan with one of the twelve tribes and therefore with the entire tribal nation. As much as Israel benefited by Joshua, it would suffer by Achan (Rm 5:12–21).

7:2 Joshua again sent spies before an assault, as in 2:1. Again there was no condemnation of this move. Ai, like Jericho, may have been an outpost guarding Beth-aven ... Bethel, and other towns in the central hill country. It lay on the central road from Jericho westward into the hill country and therefore formed an obstacle to Israel's advance. Most scholars associate Ai with modern et-Tell and Bethel with Beitin. If so, Ai, like Jericho, lacks evidence of occupation during the time of Israel's entry into the land. This supports the interpretation of a makeshift fort for the site at this time. Materials were gathered from earlier walls to build the Ai that Joshua's spies encountered. These associations place Ai one mile southeast of Bethel.

DEVOTIONALS

THE COST OF HIDDEN SIN

DAY 1

Proverbs 28:13

The one who conceals his sins will not prosper, but whoever confesses and renounces them will find mercy.

There is something in us that wants to believe we can hold onto sin quietly and still move forward. Keep it tucked away, manage the edges, and eventually it won't matter. But this proverb — written thousands of years before Joshua's story — describes exactly what happened in Israel's camp. Concealment does not lead to prosperity. It leads to stagnation.

The word "prosper" here is not primarily about wealth. It means flourishing, forward motion, the kind of progress God wants for your life. Concealed sin doesn't just create guilt — it creates a ceiling. Israel could not move against their enemies because something was buried in a tent. You cannot fully step into what God has for you while something is buried in your heart.

But the second half of this verse is where hope lives. Confession and renunciation lead to mercy. Not scrutiny. Not punishment waiting at the door. Mercy. God's posture toward the person who comes clean is not suspicion — it is grace ready to receive you.

- **Is there anything you've been managing quietly rather than bringing honestly before God? What would it look like today to confess rather than conceal?**
- **Ask God to give you the courage to stop concealing and start confessing. Thank Him that the mercy He promises in this verse is not theoretical — it is real, and it is ready for you right now.**

DAY 2

Psalm 139:23-24

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my concerns. See if there is any offensive way in me; lead me in the everlasting way.

David didn't write these words under pressure. He wrote them as an invitation. Search me. Not because God needs the search to discover what's there — He already knows every corner of you. But the prayer itself is an act of surrender. It is the posture of a person who has decided they don't want to hide anymore.

What makes this prayer possible is what comes before it in Psalm 139. David had just spent twenty-two verses meditating on a God who knows him completely — every word before he speaks it, every moment before it arrives — and whose love is still present through all of it. The God who sees everything is also the God who pursues you, whose hand holds you even in darkness.

When you invite God to search you, you are not handing yourself over to a judge. You are handing yourself over to the One who already knows the worst and chose you anyway. The search He does isn't to condemn. It's to lead you somewhere better.

- **What would it mean to genuinely pray these words today — not as a ritual, but as a real invitation? Is there a part of your heart you are hoping the search skips?**
- **Pray Psalm 139:23-24 slowly today. Ask God to show you what He already sees, and trust that His purpose in showing you is not shame — it is freedom.**

DAY 3

Galatians 6:7-8

Don't be deceived: God is not mocked. For whatever a person sows he will also reap, because the one who sows to his flesh will reap destruction from the flesh, but the one who sows to the Spirit will reap eternal life from the Spirit.

Paul opens with a warning about self-deception, because that is exactly where the problem lives. We rarely tell ourselves the truth about what we are planting. We tell ourselves that what we sow in private stays private. That small compromises don't compound. That we can manage the edges. But sowing and reaping is not a metaphor — it is a law woven into how things work.

Achan sowed in secret and reaped in public. Thirty-six men died. A nation stood in shock. The harvest always comes up somewhere, and it rarely stays on your own land. What you invest in the hidden places does not stay hidden forever. It grows into something visible.

The good news is that the same law works in the other direction. Sowing to the Spirit — honest prayer, daily faithfulness, obedience in the moments no one sees — also has a harvest. A life oriented toward God in the hidden places grows into something solid and fruitful in the visible ones. What you plant quietly, God tends faithfully.

- **What seeds are you planting in the quiet, private moments of your life? Are they seeds you'd be comfortable seeing come up in the open?**
- **Ask God to show you where you've been deceived about what you're sowing. Ask for grace to plant faithfulness in the places only He sees, trusting that He tends the harvest.**

DAY 4

James 1:14-15

But each person is tempted when he is drawn away and enticed by his own evil desire. Then after desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin, and when sin is fully grown, it gives birth to death.

Achan's confession in Joshua 7 is remarkably specific: "I saw... I coveted... I took... I hid." Four steps. A progression as old as the Garden. Long before James wrote these words, the pattern was already ancient. Sin rarely arrives as a sudden catastrophic choice. It starts smaller — with something you notice, and then linger on.

James describes desire as something that "conceives." That is not an accidental word. It suggests a process, not a moment — something that takes root, grows quietly out of sight, and eventually produces what you cannot take back. By the time the action happens, the story has usually been going on for a while. The battle is almost always won or lost long before anyone else can see it.

This is why Jesus talks about the eye, the thought life, the heart — not only the action. Because He knows the action is almost always the last act of a story that started much earlier. Obedience in the hidden places is not a secondary concern. It is the whole game.

- **Where do you recognize James's progression operating in your own life right now — the noticing, the lingering, the desire taking shape? What would it look like to interrupt it early?**
- **Ask God for awareness of temptation in its earliest stages, before desire takes root. Ask for the strength to turn toward Him in that moment rather than negotiate with what's pulling at you.**

DAY 5

1 John 1:8-9

If we say, “We have no sin,” we are deceiving ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and righteous to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.

John opens with something that should be a relief: no one expects you to be sinless. In fact, claiming you have nothing to confess is itself a form of self-deception. The starting point for walking in the light is honest agreement with what God already sees. Not performance, not a perfect track record — just honesty.

What follows that honesty is stunning. He is faithful and righteous to forgive. Faithful — meaning this is not an unpredictable act of grace that may or may not show up depending on the severity of what you’ve done. It is consistent with His character. And righteous — meaning forgiveness is not God looking the other way. It is God acting on the basis of what Jesus already paid. The ground is cleared. The charges are settled. Forgiveness is not something you are waiting for. It is something already secured.

Notice the word “cleanse.” God does not just mark the debt forgiven — He removes the residue of it. The thing buried under Achan’s tent corrupted the camp. Confession lifts that out. This Sunday, the sermon will bring you face to face with the cost of what stays hidden. The invitation this week is simpler: is there anything you need to bring into the light before you get there?

- **What has concealment been costing you? What would it feel like to simply stop hiding and let God do what He says He will do?**
- **Come to God today in honesty — not performing, not minimizing, just telling Him the truth. Thank Him that His faithfulness to forgive is not dependent on the size of what you’re carrying or how well you confess it.**

THE COST OF HIDDEN SIN

JOSHUA 7:3-26

JUNE 14, 2026

MAIN POINT

Hidden sin may seem private and small, but all sin has real consequences. It disrupts our relationship with God and often has impact on others as it hinders the victory that God desires us to experience through faithful obedience.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to help get the conversation going.

We often think major setbacks are direct results of major decisions or failures, but Scripture reminds us hidden disobedience impacts us deeply. Today we will see that although Israel had just experienced a miraculous victory at Jericho, some seemingly small actions had significant consequences. Walking in God's promises requires our ongoing faithfulness to obey Him and remember all sin has consequences.

- **What makes it easy to justify seemingly small acts of disobedience?**

- **Where in your life are you tempted to overlook “small” disobedience?**

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

> Have a volunteer read Joshua 7:1-26.

Following the Israelite victory at Jericho, Scripture tells us the people were unfaithful. Though they had experienced God's power in their midst, something destructive was brewing under the surface that was yet to be noticed.

- **What is the danger of hidden disobedience in our lives?**

Although the Lord had given specific and clear instructions about items that were to be devoted to Him, a man named Achan disregarded the Lord's instructions and it would affect the whole nation. This wasn't just a personal sin choice, it was disobedience against a clear command from the Lord, and it would cause repercussions for the whole nation. We often view sin as private and contained, but our disobedience can have broader consequences than we ever thought.

- **What changes when you see your sin as impacting others also?**
- **How can this shift in perspective be helpful?**

Israel moved forward in battle against Ai with confidence, not recognizing the sin issue in the camp. After what they experienced at Jericho, they were likely confident about the chance of a victory and only sent a limited number of soldiers for what they assumed would be an easy win. Unfortunately, God was not with the people in these efforts due to their sin and the men of Ai struck down Israel's forces. They retreated in shock and fear.

- **When have you seen sin impact you or others in unexpected ways?**

Joshua fell before the Lord and sought answers as to what happened. God responded clearly and told him that Israel had sinned. The problem was not with God's power but with the people's obedience. Hidden sin brought consequences and all the people were affected.

- **How can we regularly assess our hearts before God to reveal any places of sin we might be missing?**

God explained that someone had broken His command and taken what was to be devoted to Him. Because of this sinful act, Israel couldn't stand against their enemies until it was dealt with. Eventually Achan was identified as the one who sinned and brought defeat onto Israel. He confessed his sin and the pattern he described was as old as Genesis 3. He saw the items, desired the items, took them, and hid them. Sin often works internally then moves to external actions.

We often think of sin as personal, but Scripture shows that it has far-reaching ripple effects. Our choices impact others in ways we may not immediately see.

- **What does this teach us about the importance of holiness of the church broadly?**

- **How do we pursue greater holiness each day?**

Sadly, the consequences to Achan's sin were severe. It led to death for Achan and loss for his family and his community. This entire situation highlights the seriousness of disobedience and the holiness of God. While we live under grace through Christ, we must always remember that sin carries consequences. To live in victory through God, we must choose faithfulness to God and integrity before Him.

- **Where might you be prone to diminish the seriousness of sin?**

APPLICATION

Offer the following action steps for the application of God's Word.

- **What keeps you from confessing sin quickly and freely to God?**

- **Where do you see Achan's progression of sin in your own life?**

- **Is there anything in your life that you are hoping no one notices or calls out? What needs to change based on this answer?**

PRAY

Praise the Lord for the way He loves you and gives victory in Jesus. Ask Him to search your heart and reveal any hidden sin you may not even be aware of yet. Confess and repent of anything He reveals to you.

JOSHUA 7:1-26

7:1. Achan's unfaithfulness (in partaking of what was set apart—devoted to destruction at Jericho) resulted in God's anger against the entire nation. The genealogy of five generations, from Achan back to the tribe of Judah, is the longest in the book of Joshua and emphasizes the connection of Achan with one of the 12 tribes and therefore with the entire tribal nation. As much as Israel benefited by Joshua, it would suffer by Achan.

7:2-3. Joshua again sent spies before an assault, as in 2:1. Again there was no condemnation of this move. Instead of confessing the promises and acts of God, these spies focused on the strategic details of what appeared to be an easy target. The 2,000 or 3,000 men may refer to two or three squads, as the same word for "thousand" in Hebrew also can mean a squad or company of soldiers.

7:5. The 36 who died from the 3,000 or three squads may reflect 12 from each squad and thus prefigure the 12 thousand inhabitants of Ai who would die (8:25). The quarries designate some of the steep ravines that break into the eastern hill country as it descends sharply into the Jordan Valley. In 2:11 and 5:1, the hearts of the Canaanites melted in fear before the accomplishments of Israel and its God. Here the Israelites' hearts melted.

7:6. Joshua's actions were those of one in mourning. Only then was the ark of the Lord mentioned. Its absence in the opening part of the chapter signifies the absence of God's presence and blessing on what happened.

7:7-8. The wish to remain east of the Jordan resembles the report of the first spies sent to Canaan in Numbers 14:2-4.

In Numbers it was a wish for death or a return to Egypt. Contrast God's promise that Israel's enemies would turn their backs and flee in Ex 23:27 with the fact that Israel had now turned its back and fled.

7:9. The challenge to God's great name recalls Moses' intercession for Israel with the same argument in Numbers 14:13-19.

7:11. The key word "cross" of chapters 1-5 (see note at 1:2) recurs here with the meaning, they have violated My covenant. Israel had "crossed" God and so could not "cross" over against its enemies as it did at Jericho. Someone had taken what was set apart. This violated the general command of Deut. 20:16-18 and the specific command of Joshua 6:17. By putting these things with their own belongings, they had made it impossible to determine the guilty person without divine guidance.

7:12-13. Joshua was commanded to "stand" in verse 10 as the beginning of Israel's means to overcome the problem that they could not stand against their enemies. Here God suggested that, so long as the things devoted for destruction remained in Israel's camp, Israel would be set apart for destruction. God would not fight for them or be present with them as He had in 1:5-9. For Israel to consecrate themselves suggests either that they would examine themselves and their families to learn who was responsible for the sin, or that they would prepare themselves for an encounter with God the next day.

7:21. Achan's confession, with the emphasis on what he saw and how it was beautiful, recalls Eve's temptation where she also saw something that was pleasing. Achan coveted them and thus violated the Tenth Commandment of the Decalogue (Ex. 20:17; Deut. 5:21).

7:24-26. The destruction of Achan with all his family and possessions contrasts with the salvation of Rahab and all her family in chapter 6. The connection of the family with its representative, for good or for ill, illustrates the key value of the family in the Old Testament. Burning someone to death was rare in Israel, but it was known as a punishment for this type of wrongdoing in neighboring cultures.

DEVOTIONALS

LEADING FROM WORSHIP

DAY 1

Psalm 77:11-12

I will remember the Lord's works; yes, I will remember your ancient wonders. I will reflect on all you have done and meditate on your actions.

The Israelites pulled twelve stones from the middle of the Jordan riverbed not because God needed a monument, but because they did. Memory is fragile. Faith that doesn't build practices of remembrance tends to drift. The stones were a physical answer to a future question — "What do these mean?" — and the answer would always be the same: God showed up here.

You have stones of your own. Moments where God was undeniably present. A diagnosis that reversed. A door that opened. A prayer answered in a way you didn't expect. Without intentional memory, they fade into the background noise of ordinary life and lose their power to fuel your faith going forward.

Asaph wrote Psalm 77 from a place of real distress. His rescue didn't come through a new experience. It came from choosing to remember what God had already done. Deliberate reflection on past faithfulness is not nostalgia. It is fuel for the journey ahead.

- **What is one moment in your life where God's presence was undeniable? What would it look like to return to that memory intentionally this week?**
- **Thank God for the moments in your story where He showed up clearly. Ask Him to help you remember well - not as a way of living in the past, but as a foundation for moving forward with confidence.**

DAY 2

Deuteronomy 6:6-7

These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Moses wasn't describing a formal curriculum. He was describing a life lived out loud in front of the people watching you most closely. The people around you, the children in your home, aren't waiting for a lesson. They are watching a life. What they observe when you don't think they're paying attention is shaping them more than anything you intentionally teach.

These instructions were given just before Israel crossed into the Promised Land. The concern wasn't only military, it was generational. Would the next generation know who God is? Would they have ears to hear and eyes to see? That depended on whether the current generation made faith a living part of ordinary days, not just something saved for formal moments.

- **What does your faith look like in ordinary, unguarded moments at home? Is there a rhythm, a conversation, or a practice you could begin that would make God more visible in your everyday life?**
- **Ask God to make your faith genuinely alive in the small moments, not just the significant ones. Pray for the people in your life by name, and ask that what they see in you would draw them closer to Him.**

DAY 3

Romans 12:1

Therefore, brothers and sisters, in view of the mercies of God, I urge you to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and pleasing to God; this is your true worship.

Joshua told the people to choose whom they would serve, and the weight of that moment is easy to miss. Worship of God is not our natural default. Left to ourselves, we organize our lives around comfort, security, what we fear, and what we want.

Paul uses the language of sacrifice, but notice the adjective: living. A living sacrifice doesn't stay on the altar without resistance. It has to keep choosing to stay. That's not a defect in the metaphor. It's the point. Worship is not a feeling you wait for. It is a posture you choose, in view of what God has already done.

The word Paul uses here can also be translated as service. Genuine worship is not limited to a Sunday morning or a moment of private prayer. It shapes the whole orientation of your life. The way you treat people. The way you spend your attention. The way you show up when you're tired.

- **What does worship look like for you on a Wednesday - not in a church service, but in your actual daily life? Is there a specific area today where you could make a more intentional choice to align your life with God?**
- **Ask God to help you move from worship as an event to worship as a posture. Thank Him for the mercies that make this choice possible, and ask for the grace to choose it again tomorrow.**

DAY 4

Joshua 24:15

As for me and my family, we will worship the Lord.

Joshua's declaration didn't come at the beginning of the journey. It came at the end — after Jericho, after Achan, after years of battle and setback and hard-won faithfulness. He wasn't making a bold statement from untested conviction. He was drawing a line in the sand from a life that had already proven it could hold.

What's easy to overlook is what he said just before this: choose between the gods of your ancestors or the gods of the Amorites. In the ancient world, these weren't simply religious preferences. They were real allegiances that shaped how households were ordered, what people feared, what they celebrated, and who they trusted. Joshua's "as for me and my house" was a declaration of allegiance in a world where that choice carried real weight. He was saying: we know whom we serve, and we have seen what He does.

Every home is being shaped by something. Some set of values, priorities, and rhythms is forming the people who live under your roof — whether you've named it or not.

- **If someone spent a week watching your household - your schedule, your conversations, your habits - what would they conclude about whom your family serves? What is one specific declaration, spoken or unspoken, you could make this week?**
- **Ask God for the courage to make Joshua's declaration your own - not as a performance, but as a genuine commitment. Pray for your household by name, and ask that your family would come to know the Lord together, not just individually.**

DAY 5

Psalm 145:4

One generation will declare your works to the next and will proclaim your mighty acts.

The twelve stones placed at Gilgal were not really for the people who built them. The pile was a deliberate act of transmission — faith made visible so it could be passed on. The generation that built it was thinking past itself.

What stone are you laying down right now? Not a monument, but a pattern. A habit. A posture in prayer. A way of responding when life gets hard. These accumulate into something the next generation can point to and say, “God was real in that person’s life.”

No one builds a life of generational faith by accident. It is assembled from small, daily choices to remember, to speak, to worship, and to lead - even on the days when none of it feels particularly significant. The stone is always smaller than the story it ends up telling.

- **What are you building right now that you hope someone else will one day be able to point to? Is there a practice, a commitment, or a relationship where you could be more intentional about leaving something worth inheriting?**
- **Ask God to make your life a stone of remembrance - not for your own recognition, but as a witness to what he has done. Pray that what you build in this season would point the people after you straight to Him.**

LEADING FROM WORSHIP

JOSHUA 4:20-24; 24:15

JUNE 21, 2026

MAIN POINT

Victory in the Lord is found through faithful daily service of Him. Those who do this lead by example as they shape homes and communities around worship and trust in God.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to help get the conversation going.

Consider the customs and values that shaped your life growing up. Whether it is family dinners at a certain time, prioritizing church attendance, praying before meals, or even handling conflict, over time these patterns of behavior shape what matters as people grow into adulthood.

Every home is led by certain values, even if unintentional. God called His people to lead from worship, both private and corporate. This powerful truth can change the trajectory of families today.

- **What was a rhythm that shaped your life growing up?**

- **What is one guiding influence you are being intentional about in your own family? Why is that important to you?**

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

> Have a volunteer read Joshua 4:20-24; 24:15.

God instructed Joshua to pick one man from each tribe to take a stone from the middle of the riverbed and construct an altar on the other side. These stones of remembrance were brought up out of the Jordan so the people would be able to look back and remember how God acted on their behalf.

- **Why is it important that we intentionally remember God's past work in our lives?**

- **What could you label as a "stone of remembrance" in your own spiritual journey?**

Remembering God's work in the past builds our faith for His work in the present and future.

- **How does verse 21 speak about our collective responsibility to the next generation?**

- **What is the danger of not taking this responsibility seriously?**

Leading from worship is to be personal and generational. Our minds are shaped by what we choose to reflect on and remember. Focusing on God's faithfulness strengthens our relationship with Him so we can move forward in obedience as He calls us to new steps of faith.

- **How are you actively seeking to reflect and remember God's work in your life?**

- **How has this practice helped you pursue obedience?**

In Joshua 24:15, Joshua brought the people to a moment of decision, telling them to choose whom they would serve. He and his family were going to serve the Lord. This was a defining moment and declaration and reminds us that worship of God is not our natural response. It is an intentional choice that needs to be made daily.

- **What does it look like to intentionally choose worship of the Lord on a daily basis?**

Leading from worship means aligning our lives in a way that points others to God. This bold statement from Joshua came after all the battles, the steps of faith, the miracles, lessons, and growth. But God again called for intentional commitment. Following Christ is more than a one-time personal decision, it is a daily posture of surrender and devotion.

- **How does your current lifestyle point others toward Christ or away from Him?**

- **Where might you be relying on past actions instead of making a present commitment to God?**

APPLICATION

Offer the following action steps for the application of God's Word.

- **What are some regular rhythms of remembering God's faithfulness that you can build into your life?**

- **Make a list of some spiritual markers in your life to remember times when God has been real and powerful in your life.**

- **How does remembering God's past faithfulness give us boldness to share Him with others?**

PRAY

Thank the Lord for His faithfulness and the spiritual markers of His faithfulness. Ask for wisdom to develop rhythms to help you remember God's activity and a stronger commitment to lead through worship in the areas you have been given influence.

JOSHUA 4:20-24

4:20-23. The purpose of the 12 stones is found in the questions that the children would ask. The question and the instruction of the next generation about the divine miracles resembles Deuteronomy 6:6-9. Questions asked by sons about the significance of the Passover and the exodus are found in the Jewish Passover Seder or liturgy. Their mention here connects this Passover with the events of the crossing of the Jordan just as the earlier Passover remembered the crossing of the Red Sea.

4:24. The purpose of this miracle is to declare God's might to all the people of the earth and to encourage Israel to always fear the Lord. Faith and commitment to God is the goal, just as with the miracles of Jesus (John 20:30-31).

JOSHUA 24:15

24:14-15 These are God's demands—the laws or stipulations by which Israel should live. The key is for the people to choose to worship the Lord only. Joshua gave Israel a choice to worship the gods of their ancestors or those of the Amorites. He affirmed the God of Israel as his own choice. So if Israel would follow Joshua in peace as they did in war, they must choose the true God.

DEVOTIONALS

SEEK GOD BEFORE YOU MOVE

DAY 1

Proverbs 3:5-6

Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and do not rely on your own understanding; in all your ways know him, and he will make your paths straight.

Israel's first attempt at Ai is a quiet warning about the confidence that can follow a significant spiritual victory. They had just watched walls fall at Jericho without a sword swung. So when the spies came back and reported that Ai was small, they sent a fraction of the army. They didn't even ask God. The victory at Jericho had given them data they trusted more than direction.

That pattern lives in us too. We tend to move fastest after we've seen something work. Past success becomes a shorthand for current strategy, and before long we're trusting what we've learned instead of the One who taught us.

Proverbs 3 doesn't say don't use your understanding. It says don't rely on it alone. The path forward is trust first, then understanding. In all your ways, know Him.

- **Is there an area of your life right now where past success might be keeping you from genuinely seeking God's direction? What would it look like to pause and ask before moving?**
- **Ask God to surface the places where you've been trusting your own understanding more than you've been trusting Him. Ask for the humility to seek Him before each next step, even when the path seems obvious.**

DAY 2

James 1:5

Now if any of you lacks wisdom, he should ask God - who gives all generously and ungrudgingly - and it will be given to him.

James writes this with a striking simplicity that's easy to read past: if you lack wisdom, ask God. Not analyze the situation further. Not consult more people. Not wait until you feel ready. Ask. The assumption behind the instruction is that God gives wisdom generously.

The harder question isn't whether God will give; it's whether we actually stop to ask. There's a version of "seeking God" that happens after the decision is mostly made — where we present our plan and invite His endorsement. Genuine seeking comes before the plan solidifies, when we're still open to being redirected somewhere we hadn't considered.

Joshua went to God before moving on Ai the second time. He listened, even when what God described looked completely different from how Jericho went. That kind of seeking requires genuine openness.

- **When you bring a decision before God, are you genuinely open to an answer that changes your direction, or are you mostly looking for confirmation? What would it look like to approach God with a truly open hand this week?**
- **Ask God for wisdom about a specific decision you're facing right now. Thank Him that He gives generously, without making you feel like a burden for asking. Ask for the openness to receive whatever direction He gives - even if it's not what you expected.**

DAY 3

Isaiah 40:31

but those who trust in the Lord will renew their strength; they will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not become weary, they will walk and not faint.

There's a common misunderstanding about what it means to wait on God. It sounds passive — hands folded, nothing moving until a sign appears. But Joshua, while waiting on God's timing at Ai, was still moving. He positioned the army, set the ambush, stretched his javelin toward the city in petition. The waiting wasn't inactivity. It was obedience to the direction already given while trusting the outcome to God.

Isaiah's word "trust" — sometimes translated "wait" — carries the idea of expectant dependence. Like someone who trusts a plan from a wiser source and holds position, not because nothing is happening but because they know the direction comes from somewhere beyond their own instinct. The strength renewed in that place isn't the strength of someone spinning their wheels. It's the strength of someone moving in step.

- **Where in your life right now are you waiting on God? Is that waiting active - are you moving in obedience to what He's already shown you - or has it drifted into passivity or avoidance?**
- **Ask God to renew your strength in the places where waiting has made you weary. Thank Him that time spent trusting Him is not wasted - it is where He builds what endures. Ask for the courage to keep walking faithfully while you trust Him with the outcome.**

DAY 4

Micah 7:7-8

But as for me, I will look to the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation. My God will hear me. Do not rejoice over me, my enemy! Though I have fallen, I will stand up; though I sit in darkness, the Lord will be my light.

After the defeat at Ai, Joshua fell on his face before the Lord. It was the right instinct - bringing the failure directly to God. And when God responded, it wasn't with condemnation. It was with clear instruction: get up. Here's what to do next.

Micah writes from a place of personal and national failure, and his response is striking in its honesty. He doesn't minimize what happened or pretend it's fine. He sits in the darkness and says: I will look to the Lord. I will wait. My God will hear me. There's a kind of faith that can only be forged in failure — one that has learned, firsthand, that God still moves toward the person who turns back toward Him.

The enemy of spiritual progress after a failure is rarely the failure itself. It's the paralysis that follows. But Scripture is consistent: the door back is always open.

- **Is there a failure or setback that has made you reluctant to return to God or step forward again? What would it look like today to stand back up - to look to the Lord and take the next step He's showing you?**
- **Thank God that failure is not final. Bring honestly before Him whatever has knocked you down, and ask Him to be your light in it. Ask for the courage to get back up and move in the direction He's showing you.**

DAY 5

Psalm 119:105

Your word is a lamp for my feet and a light on my path.

After the victory at Ai, Joshua didn't immediately push toward the next city. He gathered all of Israel — men, women, children, the foreigners living among them — and read the entire law of Moses. Every word. The people who had just won a significant battle stood and listened to God's Word as their next act.

This is what seeking God actually looks like over the long haul. Not just the moments before a specific decision, but the ongoing, daily practice of being shaped by His Word so that when you need direction, you already know the voice.

The pattern in Joshua is clear: seek God, obey His direction, win the battle, return to His Word, and then move again. That rhythm doesn't skip a step. The invitation today is - are you spending time in the place where God's direction is already waiting?

- **How consistently is Scripture actually shaping the way you make decisions, not just the ones you bring to God specifically? Is there a rhythm of time in God's Word you could build or strengthen heading into this next season?**
- **Ask God to make His Word the lamp it promises to be - not just a resource you reach for in a crisis, but a daily source of light. Thank Him that He has not left you to find your own way, and ask for a renewed hunger for what He's already said.**

SEEK GOD BEFORE YOU MOVE

JOSHUA 8

JUNE 28, 2026

MAIN POINT

True victory comes from when we seek God's guidance and then move forward in obedience.

INTRODUCTION

As your group time begins, use this section to help get the conversation going.

Think about a time when you quickly made a decision you were confident would work out well, only to realize later you should have asked for guidance before acting. Whether a financial decision, conversation, or a major life choice, acting too quickly on our own can lead to unnecessary negative consequences. The world moves fast and encourages us to do the same as a sign of strength. The problem is when we develop a habit of moving ahead quickly, it can cause us to ignore our need for guidance from the Lord, and we find ourselves moving in the wrong direction spiritually.

After a painful failure in Joshua 7 due to hidden sin, God's people sought and listened to God's guidance for their next steps.

- **When have you experienced consequences from moving forward too quickly on your own?**

- **What area of life are you most prone to move without seeking God first?**

UNDERSTANDING

Unpack the biblical text to discover what Scripture says or means about a particular topic.

> Have a volunteer read Joshua 6:1-23, 30-35.

Following the Israelites' obedience dealing with the sin in their camp, God came to Joshua with a word of encouragement. God told Joshua not to be afraid or discouraged. They had failed but once the people confronted their sin and obeyed the Lord, God's presence and guidance were restored, and they could move forward in victory. This is a reminder that failure is not final when we repent and turn back to the Lord.

- **After a failure, do you typically respond by withdrawing or seeking the Lord more intently? Why?**

Once the people were ready to seek, listen to, and obey God, He gave them specific instructions to take the city of Ai. This time the victory would come from a different strategy than they had employed previously. It was going to take planning, positioning, and timing to be successful. God was still going to give them the victory, but it would require careful obedience to every detail.

- **When have you failed to seek the Lord because you assumed He would act in the same manner He had previously?**

- **What do you need to do differently so you are open to new ways God might be directing your steps?**

Joshua followed God's instructions carefully and set an ambush behind the city. He positioned the rest of the army strategically and waited for the right moment just as the Lord instructed. This intentional obedience made all the difference. Seeking God does not mean passively sitting around. It very often involves actively following His direction as you trust His plans and wait on His timing.

- **What role does prayer play in actively seeking God's direction?**
- **How difficult do you find it to seek God daily?**

Everything happened according to God's plan as the battle unfolded. It was an overwhelming victory for the Israelites. The same city that defeated them earlier was now completely taken over. The difference is not that they enlisted more men or were a stronger army the second time. The difference was God's presence.

- **How does this victory highlight the importance of God's presence?**
- **Why can we have ongoing confidence in God's presence with us?**

Following their victory, Joshua led the people in worship of God. He built an altar, offered sacrifices, and read God's Word to all the people. This moment served as a reminder to the people that their success was not based on their own strength but was from the Lord. Seeking God and trusting Him made all the difference for Israel. If we want to move forward in victory, we also need to be grounded in the Word of God as we seek His direction for our next step.

- **What are some specific ways that Scripture helps you seek God's guidance and direction?**

APPLICATION

Offer the following action steps for the application of God's Word.

- **What is one decision you need to seek God about and listen for His response before taking the next step?**

- **What is the practical difference between seeking God and trusting in your own strength?**

- **How can you create space in your schedule to listen to God instead of constantly moving?**

PRAY

Thank God for all the ways He has directed your steps in the past. Confess ways that you tend to move forward instead of seeking Him and commit to listening and waiting for His instructions before moving forward.

JOSHUA 8

God instructed Joshua to attack Ai with all his troops. When Israel had attacked before, they did not have the explicit direction of the Lord; and they were presumptuous and haughty (7:3). Now with their sin behind them, Israel chose to obey the Lord.

Unlike Jericho, where God performed a miracle, Israel accomplished the defeat of Ai through Joshua's God-given military strategy. Although they surprised the city by ambush, the success of the war was dependent upon God's blessing. As long as Joshua stretched forth his javelin in petition to God, the victory was Israel's. This is reminiscent of Moses' uplifted arms when Israel defeated Amalek (Exod. 17:8–13).

Israel destroyed the city but was permitted to take the spoil. Since the place was condemned to be a ruin, its name Ai, meaning ruin, was appropriate. Ancient Ai has been identified with the modern site of et-Tell, but this identification is disputed. Israel had learned through tragedy that their success was

solely dependent upon God. Therefore after their victory at Ai they worshiped the Lord with thanksgiving at Shechem. In accordance with Moses' instructions (Deut. 27:2–8), they read the covenant from Mount Gerizim and Mount Ebal. These two mounts form a natural amphitheater. The reading of the law by Joshua reflected the renewed commitment of God's people (see 2 Kgs. 23:2; Neh. 8).



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