



Crossroads The Story Discussion Guide

“The Battle Begins”

Week of: February 17, 2019

*This might surprise you,
but following God involves engaging
in an ongoing series of battles
to live in the his will and walk in his ways...
this will always be part of our story.*

This week we take on some challenging stories as the Israelites begin to settle in the Promised Land and expel the Canaanites who lived there previously. And as is so often the case, we a wonderful example of faith where we'd least expect it – a Canaanite woman who risks her own life to help two Jewish spies. If you don't have The Story book, you can read Joshua chapters 1-2, 6, 8, 10-11, and 23-24.

OPEN YOUR GROUP WITH A PRAYER. THIS IS ONLY A GUIDE – SELECT THE POINTS YOU WANT TO DISCUSS.

1. God called his people to take a big risk when he called them to take the land. They felt like grasshoppers among the people of that land (The Story, 61). Do you sense that God is placing some challenging opportunities in front of you or your congregation? What risks might God be asking you to take?
2. The spies entered Jericho secretly and were hidden from the king by the prostitute Rahab. What other choices could Rahab have made regarding the spies? What was the risk she was taking by hiding them in her home? Why do you think she took this risk?
3. God gave Joshua assurances to face the coming battles, but Joshua still had to act in faith. Are you facing any battles in your life right now? How can God's presence and promises impact the way you may choose to cope with them?

Diving Deeper

1. The annihilation of the Canaanites is understandably very disturbing. Much like the flood story, it is described as God using Israel to bring judgment on the Canaanites who were really evil. How does this image of God fit with popular understandings of God? How does it fit with your understanding of God?
2. Joshua read the words of God's story to all people, children, teens and the adults. What are ways we can help the children and young people in our lives grow in their knowledge of and love for the Bible? How can this be done in both our homes and churches?
3. Melanie, in her message on Sunday, described two challenges for us in "Our Story." They are going to two worship services and purchasing land for Crossroads. How can we overcome the challenges and embrace the opportunities to advance God's kingdom in these actions?

Read for Next Session

Take time before your next group meeting to read chapter 8 of The Story.