



## Joshua 6:1-25 Small Group Discussion Questions

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- Have someone in your group read Joshua 6:1-25. What do we learn about Jericho in these verses? What was the situation facing the Israelites?
- How does God introduce His battle plan to Joshua in verses 2-5?
  - Why do you think God chose such an unconventional military approach?
  - How does this passage challenge our cultural tendency to trust in strategy, power, or human wisdom rather than God's ways?
  - What does this strategy reveal about who is actually winning the battle?
  - When have you been asked by God to do something that seemed illogical from a human perspective? How did you respond?
- What characterizes the Israelites' response to God's instructions in verses 6-14?
  - Why is their obedience significant, especially given how strange the instructions must have seemed?
  - Michael said that God's power is shown through small steps of obedience, or "small yes's." Where do we see the Israelites saying "yes" to God in small, ordinary ways here?

- What are some examples of small, ordinary ways that God has called us to obedience? What makes it hard sometimes to obey God in the ordinary day-to-day of life?
- How do we balance the tension between acting in obedience while also waiting on God's timing?
- How does our obedience today connect to experiencing God's power in our lives?
- In what ways have you experienced the power of God through faithful obedience to Him? What does His power enable us to do that we couldn't do otherwise?
- In verses 15-21, we see the culmination of God's battle plan. What happens when the people shout? What does the miraculous fall of Jericho's walls reveal about God's power?
- The destruction of Jericho in verses 17-21 can be challenging to understand. How does this judgment reflect God's character?
- On first read, what thoughts come to mind when you read this part of the story?
  - What does verse 18 tell us about God's attitude toward sin?
  - The Canaanites had hundreds of years to repent (Genesis 15:16). How does this long patience reveal God's justice and mercy working together?
  - Take a moment to reflect on the sins of Jericho. What did Michael say about them? How does this affect how we think about the judgment of God here?
  - How does God's judgment of sin actually demonstrate His love for His people and His creation?

- Michael said that we cannot “manage” sin but instead must eradicate it. Where do you feel like you are merely managing sin instead of eradicating it?
- What steps do you need to take this week in order to begin the process of eradicating sin in your life?
- How can community help us to keep sin far away from us?
- How does understanding God as both loving and just shape how we view our own sin?
- Despite the judgment on Jericho, we see grace extended to Rahab and her family in verses 22-23. What stands out about this act of mercy?
  - Rahab was a Canaanite and a prostitute, yet she was saved. What does this tell us about God's grace?
  - What qualified Rahab for salvation? What was the basis of her being spared?
  - In Matthew 1:5, Rahab is revealed to be an ancestor of Jesus. What does this tell us about the gospel and about God’s mercy? How does this help us understand some of the hard parts of this passage better?
- Hebrews 11:30-31 mentions both the fall of Jericho and Rahab's faith. How does this New Testament perspective help us understand this story?
  - What does it mean that "by faith the walls of Jericho fell"?
  - How does the New Testament's emphasis on faith connect to the obedience we see in Joshua 6?
  - What, then, is the relationship between faith and obedience?

- If obedience is an area we need to grow in, how can we practically bolster our faith to strengthen our obedience? What might this look like?
- Throughout this passage, we see the themes of God's power, God's judgment, and God's grace working together. How do these three attributes of God interact in our own spiritual lives?
  - How does this passage challenge the way we think about fairness and justice? Are there areas in our lives where we are tempted to judge God's actions rather than trust His wisdom?
  - How might acknowledging God's power change how you approach challenges this week?
  - Where in your life do you need to trust more deeply in one of these aspects of God's character?
- What is one practical step you can take this week to demonstrate greater obedience, greater respect for God's holiness, or greater gratitude for His grace in your life?
  - What are subtle ways we sometimes tolerate or justify sin rather than fight it? How can we be more ruthless in dealing with sin?
- How would you respond if someone were to approach you and ask, "Why did God command genocide in the conquest of Canaan?"
  - How do his mercy, judgement, and grace all inform this answer?
  - What should our attitude be when engaging with someone who is struggling with the idea of God's judgment? How can we reflect both truth and compassion?