

## WORSHIP

### SUGGESTED WORSHIP SONGS:

See the Light, Great Things, What a Beautiful Name, More Like Jesus, The Anthem

## WELCOME

What was the greatest epic battle movie that you have seen? What do you like most about the storyline?

## WORD

### DEUTERONOMY 3:21-22

<sup>21</sup>At that time I commanded Joshua: "You have seen with your own eyes all that the Lord your God has done to these two kings. The Lord will do the same to all the kingdoms over there where you are going. <sup>22</sup>Do not be afraid of them; the Lord your God himself will fight for you."

### JOSHUA 1:5-9

<sup>5</sup>"No man will be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I have been with Moses, I will be with you; I will not fail you or forsake you. <sup>6</sup>"Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them. <sup>7</sup>"Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go. <sup>8</sup>"This book of the law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do according to all that is written in it; for then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have success. <sup>9</sup>"Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous! Do not tremble or be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go."

*Read Joshua chapters 5–8, 10:7-15*

According to the books of Exodus, Numbers and Joshua, Joshua was Moses' assistant and was the appointed leader of the Israelite tribes after the death of Moses. God gave this commander-in-chief an impossible task—to destroy the walls of Jericho and capture the city, the first step in conquering the Promised Land. Israel destroyed the Bronze Age-wall of Jericho by walking around it with the Ark of the Covenant for seven days. Once per day for the first six days, then circled the walls seven times on the final day. The Israelites under Joshua's command blew trumpets of rams' horns and shouted to bring the walls down (**Joshua 6:14–15**).

How did Joshua fight the battle? He let God fight the battle for them. As Joshua submitted to the process of brokenness by humbly trusting God's wisdom and ways, God allowed him to experience a victorious breakthrough in the war.

### DO YOUR PART

God commanded Joshua to be "strong and courageous" in fact He said "be very strong and courageous! The LORD already brought Israelites out of Egypt, but Joshua must do his part and obey whatever God would ask him to do. Joshua by then had some limitations, for he was no longer young. But God reminded Joshua of His promise to Israel: "Be strong and courageous, for you shall give this people possession of the land which I swore to their fathers to give them" (**Joshua 1:6**). Battle already won! God was just asking Joshua to do his part: "Only be strong and very courageous; be careful to do according to all the law which Moses My servant

commanded you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, so that you may have success wherever you go." (**Joshua 1:7**). To encourage Joshua more, God re-affirms His promise in **verse 9**, "I will be with you".

God gave instructions to Joshua that Israel should know His word, study them and follow His commands, and God will make them prosperous and successful (**Joshua 1:8**). Prosperity and success does not always mean material blessings but obedience does bring blessings.

### HAVE FAITH

God told Joshua to accomplish an impossible task, to bring down the wall of Jericho by "circling around and blowing trumpets — not the best military strategy for winning a war! But Joshua, a man of faith, remembers the promise of God (**Joshua 6:2**): "The Lord said to Joshua, 'See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant warriors'" God already promised victory over Jericho! God just wanted Joshua to have faith in Him and go through the process of trusting God. According to one source, "Jericho was a secured and shut city, its walls (were) approximately 1.5 to 2 meters thick and 3.7 to 5.2 meters high, as well as that of the tower (8.5 meters)...making it impossible to break down by marching around and blowing of trumpets"<sup>1</sup>. But God had an amazing plan, He wanted Joshua to go through the brokenness process as Joshua trusts God to break down Jericho's mighty wall. The LORD wanted Joshua to trust in Him not in Israel's army, nor in his previous victories. God wanted Joshua to trust Him, and not lean on his own

<sup>1</sup> [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wall\\_of\\_Jericho](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wall_of_Jericho)

## WORD (cont'd)

strength, his own might. When God asks us to do the impossible thing, we just must have faith and trust God. Faith in the LORD is already victory!

### EXPERIENCE VICTORY

After doing his part while trusting in God, the LORD allowed Joshua to experience breakthrough and the impossible happened--the wall fell in a crumbly heap! The power to destroy the wall came from above not through the soldiers, nor the priests not even from Joshua. Joshua's experience of victory over Jericho was simply the fulfillment of God's promise. God will always win, He just wants us to do our part and have faith His process.

This however, seemed to have been quickly forgotten by Joshua. In **Joshua 7:2-5**, Joshua did not inquire of the Lord before going against the much-smaller city of Ai. However, *"The men of Ai struck down about thirty-six of their men and pursued them from the gate as far as Shebarim and struck them down on the descent, so the hearts of the people melted and became as water."* (**v.5**). God did not allow them to win this small battle to remind Joshua that the battle is the Lord's. Had Joshua inquired of the Lord first, he would have known that there was hidden sin among the Israelites

(**Joshua 7:10-13**) which displeased the Lord. As a result, Israel could no longer defeat their enemies unless they destroyed sin among them and consecrated themselves to God as He will not tolerate sin. This is a spiritual lesson for us today as well—even secret sins are known to the Lord and will have negative consequences for us. As Joshua trusted the LORD again (**Joshua 10:8-14**) God delivers powerful enemies into his hands as God once again fought for Israel.

At the end of Joshua's journey, he experienced total victory over his enemies and the fulfillment of all God promised to Israel. *"So Joshua took the whole land, according to all that the Lord had spoken to Moses, and Joshua gave it for an inheritance to Israel according to their divisions by their tribes. Thus, the land had rest from war"* (**Joshua 11:23**).

*"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?" The sting of death is sin, and the power of sin is the law; but thanks be to God, who gives us the victory through our Lord Jesus Christ"* (**1 Corinthians 15:55-57**). Even in our greatest battle in life, what we learn from Joshua's story is still true. We can finish well, win every battle as we do our part and put our faith in God—the battle is the Lord's!

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS:

*(Leaders: Please choose questions that are appropriate to the level of spiritual maturity of your members)*

1. Are you in a difficult or seemingly impossible "battle"? How are you fighting it?
2. In **Joshua 1:6-9**, God lays out His strategy for victory. How well are you obeying God's instructions for winning your battles? How can you improve?
3. Is there any sin in your life that might be hindering you to experience victory over your battles? What must you do to remove this sin?

## WORKS

### PRAY CARE SHARE IN ACTION

Pray for people that you know are facing battles in their lives, to turn to God and trust him to fight their battles. Pray that they will encounter Jesus in every step of the process of brokenness. Share the gospel to them that they may experience breakthroughs as they trust in him as Savior and Lord.

### WEEKLY PRAYER POINTS

#### I. Thanksgiving

- Worship God for who He is, what He has done, and what He will do in our lives

#### II. Country and the World

- Upright and moral governance of Public Servants
- A God-centered Philippines
- Repentance and Salvation

#### III. Church

- That CCF Members would honor and love God and make disciples
- Elders, Pastors, Leaders, and Families
- Ministries and Churches worldwide

#### IV. CCF Facilities

- Worship and Training Center
- Prayer Mountain

#### V. Personal Concerns

- Deeper intimate relationship with God
- Righteous living
- Salvation of family and friends