

Small Group Guide: For the Next -- The Walls Come Down

Overview

This week's message from Joshua 6 and Hebrews 11 explored the fall of Jericho as a spiritual battle won through obedience, worship, and walking with God. At the heart of the story is Rahab, whose redemption reminds us that God is always at work in the lives of people around us -- even while we are focused on our own challenges and new seasons.

Key Takeaways

- God has a redemptive plan not only for your life but for the people connected to you.
 - Jericho was a spiritual battle, not merely a military one -- and so are many of the battles we face today.
 - The strategy God gave Joshua was unconventional because it required complete dependence on him rather than human strength.
 - Worship and walking in obedience are the keys to spiritual victory.
 - No one is beyond the reach of God's redemption. Rahab's story proves that past and present circumstances do not disqualify anyone from God's grace.
 - God is always faithful to his word. Whatever he has promised will come to pass.
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Discussion Questions

Opening Question

Think of a time when you were on the edge of something new -- a new job, a new city, a new season of life. What emotions did you feel as you stepped into the unknown?

Getting Into the Text

1. Read Joshua 6:1-5. God gave Joshua a battle plan that made no military sense. Why do you think God chose such an unusual strategy? What does this tell us about how God often works?

2. The sermon highlighted several details that point to this being a spiritual battle rather than a natural one -- the number seven, the ram's horns used for worship, the ark of the covenant leading the way, and the shout of faith. Which of these details stood out most to you, and why?
3. Joshua told the people not to speak a single word until he commanded them to shout. The sermon connected this to the danger of complaining and murmuring. How does the way we talk during difficult seasons either help or hinder our faith?
4. The sermon described Jericho as a picture of our world today -- a place of abundance on the outside but filled with corruption, idolatry, and brokenness on the inside. Where do you see that tension in the culture around you?

Going Deeper

5. The sermon made the point that while the Israelites were focused on taking the city, God had his eye on Rahab the entire time. Have you ever looked back on a season of your life and realized God was using your circumstances to reach someone else? Share what that looked like.
6. Rahab declared faith in God before she saw the walls fall. She acted on that faith by hanging the scarlet cord in her window. What does her example teach us about the relationship between faith and action?
7. The sermon connected the scarlet cord to the blood of the Passover lamb and ultimately to Jesus. How does understanding that thread of redemption running through Scripture strengthen your own confidence in God's faithfulness?
8. The sermon said, "People who have been redeemed love to bring redemption to other people." Do you find that to be true in your own life? What holds people back from sharing their redemption story with others?

Personal Reflection

9. The sermon challenged us to ask: God, what are you going to do today? Rather than only focusing on our own needs and struggles, how can we become more attentive to what God might be doing in the people around us?
10. The sermon described worship and walking as the keys to spiritual victory. On a practical level, what does it look like for you to keep worshiping and keep walking during a season when things feel impossible?

Practical Applications

This week, try one or more of the following:

- Identify one person in your life who does not yet know Christ. Begin praying specifically and consistently for their redemption. Ask God to open a door for you to share your story with them.
- Reflect on your own redemption story. Write it down in a few sentences. Who was the person or moment God used to reach you? Consider sharing it with someone this week.
- Pay attention to your words during difficult moments. When you feel the urge to complain or doubt out loud, practice pausing and turning that moment into a prayer or an act of worship instead.
- If you are in a hard season right now, commit to one specific act of worship this week that is not dependent on your circumstances improving first -- a song, a prayer of gratitude, or a declaration of what you know to be true about God.
- Ask God directly: Is there someone in my life whose redemption story you are writing right now? What role do you want me to play?

Closing Prayer

Close your group time by praying for one another's new seasons, for the people in each group member's life who need redemption, and for the faith to keep walking and worshipping even when the walls have not yet come down.