

## Taking it Home

We've seen that Joshua prepared for battle, possessed the land by fighting the battles, parceled out the land he won in battle, and let go of the spoils of war at the end of his life.

Spend some time this week thinking out what weed whackers (struggles) you need to prepare for battle for.

Once you've determined a couple of things, you must do battle with prayer that God would give you a battle strategy. The Bible calls this wisdom.

Also think of areas of your life where you have been victorious. Make sure you take some time this week to enjoy the benefits of those victories.



## Small Group Lesson - Joshua

October 27, 2013

### Quick Review:

What in Sunday's message spoke to you, troubled you, helped you, or encouraged you?

### My Story:

Read Joshua 1:6 God encouraged Joshua to be courageous in the face of difficulty. Like Joshua we all need courage to face our giants. Pastor Bob likened our struggles to his struggle with his weed whacker. What are some of the weed whackers (struggles/giants) that you need courage to overcome?

Read Hebrews 12:1 The writer encourages us to let go of things that slow down our spiritual journey. Discuss any weed whackers (struggles, sins, or challenges) you have successfully let go of (gotten victory over).

## Digging Deeper:

The book of Joshua is about how Joshua led the people of Israel into the promised land. The land was not vacant, giants already lived there. Therefore it took a lot of courage to enter it. The book is divided into four sections: Joshua prepared, Joshua possessed, Joshua parceled out, and Joshua bid Israel farewell. These four sections give us great insight into how we can achieve victory in our own lives. We prepare for victory by obeying God. We possess victory by engaging in battle with our spiritual enemies. We parcel the spoils of war out by enjoying the rewards that God gives us. And we bid farewell to our Israel by not worshipping our success but by staying faithful to God in our victories as well as our defeats.

Read Joshua 1:6-11 How was Joshua to prepare himself? How was he to prepare the people?

Read Joshua 2:8-11 This is the story of Rahab. Rahab was a resident of Jericho. Jericho was the first city that Israel was to fight against in the promised land. According to Rahab's story, and these verses specifically, how had God already gone ahead of Israel and prepared their way for victory?

Read Joshua 3:7 God said that He would begin to exalt Joshua by having Joshua take the people of Israel across the Jordan River (in flood stage) on dry ground. Why do you think God needed to exalt Joshua as a leader?

Read Joshua 3:14-17 The Jordan river was a natural barrier in the way of Israel's getting into the promised land. God miraculously overcame that barrier by having the ark lead the way into the water. What do you think the ark's leading the way symbolized? How does that apply to us and the barriers to victory that we face?

Read Joshua 5:2-4 God commanded Joshua to make knives so that they could circumcise all the males that had not been circumcised. According to these verses, why were they not circumcised? What is the significance of circumcising them after they had crossed the Jordan River?

When Israel attacked Jericho they were not to take any spoils of war. They belonged to the Lord. When Achan took a Babylonian garment and a wedge of gold (Joshua 7:21) he touched what belonged to the Lord. For this reason the Israelites were defeated by a very small enemy in the next battle. Read Joshua 7:5-12 and discuss how Joshua responded to this defeat and how the Lord responded to Joshua's response? What do we learn from this?

Read Joshua 24:15 This is a very famous verse. What's not so famous is the understanding of its context. Joshua is bidding farewell to the people of Israel who he's led. Why do you think he challenged them in this way?