

SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

CONSECRATION BEFORE CONQUEST • JOSHUA 5:1-15 • MARCH 12, 2023

FAITHFUL

Foundational Practice: Celebrating the work of God

This month, we are focusing on our foundational practice of Celebrating the Work of God. We mark moments, mark memories, and joyfully delight in life with God! We call out God's work in one another's lives and praise the one who created and delights in us (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18). As you spend time in God's Word this week, ask the Holy Spirit to remind you of the marked moments in your life and to show you how to share those moments with others.

- 1. Read Joshua 5:1-15.** What stands out to you in the passage and why? What caught your attention in the teaching?
- 2.** The act of circumcision among the Israelites was meant to be a sign/symbol of their faith in God to carry out the Abrahamic covenant, becoming "sons of Abraham." According to Galatians chapter 3, they dumbed down the act of circumcision to be about adherence to the Old Testament law as their justification. How often do you depend on your "works" to contribute to your justification instead of being justified by your faith in Jesus' finished work? How did you live in the freedom offered to you through the gospel?
- 3.** God led the children of Israel into a compromising battle plan where they couldn't fulfill the command to take the promised land in their own strength. What situation(s) are in your life where you are powerless to do anything about them? What would it look like to live in these circumstances by faith in God's resources instead of your own?

"It's not about being ready (fit) for the battle.
It's about being faithful to our faithful God."

-BRAD BELL

- 4.** Josuah experiences a Theophany in real time. Read John 1:1-5 and Colossians 1:15-20. Compare and contrast your view of Jesus with what is said about him in these verses. How does your life measure up to your belief in who Jesus is?
- 5.** Reflect on the phrase "consecration before conquest" in light of Joshua 5. How would living your life in this posture affect your reactions to and going into difficult "battles" at work, with extended family, your annoying neighbors, your wayward children, money management frustrations, etc.?

CLOSING CHALLENGE

Break into groups and pray for your responses in question 5.