

FAITHFUL

Foundational Practice: Embracing the Gospel

Embracing the Gospel is at a point in time and over time. We trust Christ as our Savior and Lord for eternity and for today. Daily, we are learning how to walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him and established in the faith.(Colossians 2:6-7).

- 1. Read Joshua 7:1-26.** (or select 4-5 people to read out loud vs.1-9, 10-15, 16-21, 22-26). What stood out to you from this passage? What stood out to you from the sermon?
- 2.** In verses 2-5, the sermon highlighted Joshua leading the people of Israel in the flesh by his own wisdom and understanding instead of remembering the battle was the Lord's. Think through some examples (and share with others) the decisions you made or well-intentioned plans you carried out in the flesh. What paradigm shift has to take place in your heart and mind, enabling you to live a spirit-filled and controlled life more consistently?
- 3.** Joshua's prayer of contrition in vs 7-9 expressed concern about the defeat suffered by the army of Ai blaspheming the name of God. What is the best way to exalt the name of God in your life; through your weakness or your strength? Cite specific examples of how God has been exalted through your weaknesses.

"It's not our vulnerabilities that are the problem. It's our victories."

-BRAD BELL

- 4. Read Psalm 32 aloud.** This is one of two Psalms David wrote after being confronted by Nathan the prophet about his sin with Bathsheba. Have you been guilty of holding onto unconfessed sin like David and Achan? How did it impact you? Is there any sin the Holy Spirit is convicting you of that you need to confess? Take a moment to confess those to God in prayer right now; experience the compassion He offers you (1 John 1:9).

CLOSING CHALLENGE

Overpromises and underdelivers. • Takes you farther than you want to go. • Keeps you longer than you want to stay.
Costs you more than you want to pay. • Impacts more than just yourself. • Always causes more damage than you can imagine.

Think about the efficacious nature of the blood of Christ to the believer (covering your sin past, present, and future). How does preaching the gospel to yourself on a daily basis gird, foster, and preserve healthy relationships with others? (see Matthew 7:1-5) Try to make a practice of preaching the gospel to yourself in times of sin and struggle. (For more info, please consult this resource: <https://www.desiringgod.org/interviews/preach-the-gospel-to-yourself>)