

COURAGE

These questions are designed to extend the impact of the weekend message. Use them to go deeper in your personal study time, with your family, and/or with a group.

ON THE EVE OF ISRAEL'S FIRST BATTLE FOR THE PROMISED LAND, GOD ASKS THEM TO DO THE UNTHINKABLE. HIS REQUEST WOULD MAKE THEM INCREDIBLY VULNERABLE TO ENEMY ATTACK. SURRENDERING TO GOD'S COMMANDS CAN SEEM CRAZY, BUT WE COME TO REALIZE THAT ONE MOMENT OF SURRENDER IS ALWAYS PART OF A BIGGER STORY.

1 Read Joshua 5:1-3. The Israelites enter enemy territory, set up camp, and put their army under the knife. When has God asked you to do something that didn't make sense from your perspective?

2 Read Joshua 5:4-9. The Israelite's surrender was part of a bigger story of grace. What is the relationship between forgiveness and obedience?

3 Read Joshua 5:10. Their surrender was part of a bigger story of rescue. The first passover was in Egypt - enemy territory. Once again the Israelites are in enemy territory remembering the exodus. Why was it significant to remember God's rescue before any battles were fought? (*Hint: Look at this week's courage verse - Psalm 56:11*)

4 Read Joshua 5:11-12. Surrender was part of a bigger story of promise. The new generation waited forty years before they could taste the fruit of the land. But they get a foretaste of what God has promised before they go to claim their inheritance. What has God promised us in Jesus? What are the moments we taste some of what's been promised?

5 Read Colossians 2:9-15. Paul uses circumcision as a metaphor to talk about baptism. How is our surrender to Jesus in baptism and in daily life part of a bigger story of grace, rescue, and redemption?

