

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.

BOLDNESS IS NEEDED TO POSSESS ALL GOD IS WILLING TO GIVE. THIS STUDY OF JOSHUA WILL CALL INDIVIDUALS AND CHURCHES TO THE KIND OF COURAGE THAT CROSSES RIVERS, FACES GIANTS, AND CLAIMS THEIR FULL INHERITANCE.

1 Chapters 11 and 12 of Joshua give an account of all the Israelites had accomplished (they defeated 31 kings in all). We might assume that the conquest was quick and complete but neither was true. **Read Joshua 11:18.** Great efforts, no matter how worthy, can be exhausting, and keeping people motivated is a challenge. How have you experienced this to be true in your life?

2 WHERE WE ARE: *the enemy of victory is complacency.* Israel controlled the land but there was still lots of work to be done. Many began to get complacent and were willing to settle for what they have. **Read Joshua 18:3** to see how Joshua responded. Sometimes the biggest obstacle to a great finish is a good start. How have you seen this to be true in general and how could it be a challenge for our church at this stage of the Courage Campaign?

3 WHAT WE DO... *let's be grateful for the victories we've already had.* Joshua was a proponent of using past victories to fuel courage to pursue future victories. **Read Joshua 10:24-25.** One way to combat complacency is to remember the places where God has allowed us to set our feet. Rick mentioned a number of great victories God has given us in the last two years. Share some of the ones that stood out to you the most. How can these memories motivate us to have the courage to continue to pursue future victories?

4 WHAT WE DO... *let's be mindful of the challenges that are still ahead.* Joshua knew that Israel's enemies had been vanquished but had not vanished. We know the same thing. Our enemy will always attempt to discourage us (see **Ephesians 6:10, 12**). What are some ways Satan might try to discourage us as a church going forward? Take a moment to pray for those right now.

5 WHAT WE DO... *let's be faithful to the mission we must always pursue.* Our mission as a church is to make and grow follower of Jesus. That's why we are going to continue to do what Jesus said in **Mark 16:15**, "**Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.**" What inspires you most about our mission as a church? What is one thing you can do to be more faithful to the mission God has given us?

6 Stay courageous! For God's work to continue in this church it must continue in you. And it will. God has so many more places for us to set our feet. The gates of hell are no match for a church that is strong and courageous! What is one thing you can do to allow God's work to continue in and through you? If there is a specific area in your life where you need God to work, share that with the group and then pray for each other as you close your time together.

