

Applying It In My LifeGroup time - 25 minutes

1. Some people doubt the Bible because of miracles like Joshua's "long day" (Joshua 10:12-15). Others, like Rahab, come to believe in God because of His miraculous works. Discuss how you might respond to the skeptic who discounts the miraculous as myth. What is God's purpose when He does miraculous works? Where do we see God doing miraculous works today?
2. How does consistent and faith-filled reading of the Bible help us remain strong and courageous as we battle against the challenges and obstacles of this world? What are your personal Bible study habits and commitments? How can you encourage each other to grow in your love for God's Word?
3. Chapter 7 of *The Story* teaches us that we should always talk with God to make sure He is going before us and we are not heading off on our own. Why is it so important to pray, listen to God, and follow His leading as we make important life decisions? What are some of the possible consequences if we forget to do this? What practical steps can you take to gain a faith in God that will carry you through the challenges and obstacles in your life?

Prayer TimeGroup time - 15 minutes

Praise God for His promise to be with you each and every day. Thank Him that His "bigness" can overcome every challenge and obstacle in your life. Pray for a renewed and deeper love for God's Word and a commitment to read and study it daily. Ask God give you a desire to speak with Him in prayer more frequently. Pray for greater boldness and courage as you face the battles in your life.

Finish your prayer time by praying for the needs of those in your *Growth Group*. Take a few minutes to share prayer requests. Ask someone in the group to record your prayers.

THE STORY *The Battle Begins*

Joshua

- Joshua serves for us as a great EXAMPLE of courage.

"Be strong and very courageous." Joshua 1:7

Be Strong and Very Courageous

Joshua 1-6

- God prepares us NOW for what will be required later.
- It is important to follow God's WILL, God's way!
- Courage is not absence of FEAR; it's moving forward in spite of fear.
- Our number one way of dealing with fear is AVOIDANCE, not courage.
- We are to keep moving forward in OBEDIENCE to God's direction.
- God wants our story to be about His BIGNESS.

Five New Words

GROWTH GROUP HOMEWORK

Week of October 28 – Nov. 3, 2013

Getting Started.....Group time - 15 minutes

1. Can you think of a time in your life when you were faced with an overwhelming challenge you needed to confront? What was it and how did you respond? What did you learn about yourself and about God from this challenge?

FOR GROWTH GROUP TIME

Getting Into God's WordGroup time - 35 minutes

Read *The Story*, Chapter 7 (In preparation to answer questions)

1. Read Joshua 1:1-6. Following the death of Moses, God appointed Joshua to succeed Moses in leading His People. Throughout the conquest of the Promised Land, Joshua was a strong leader. How was Joshua able to be "strong and courageous" in the face of such intimidating situations?

2. Read Joshua 1:7-9. What did God call His people to do as they got ready to enter the Promised Land? What was the purpose of each of these acts of preparation? Later in Joshua 5, God instructs Joshua to circumcise the Israelites. What was the purpose of this?

3. Rahab told the two spies, "*I know that the Lord has given you this land*" (Joshua 2:9). What was her declaration of faith based upon? How is it that a prostitute, who so easily lied, is described in Hebrews as "a woman of great faith?" What do we learn about God from the story of the salvation of Rahab and all of her family during the conquest of Jericho?



4. The Israelites had a string of miraculous and amazing battle victories against powerful tribes with fortified cities. What are the distinguishing features of these great victories? What do these victories reveal about who is really in charge of history?

5. How does God's command to annihilate entire cities fit into the Upper Story of the Bible? Read Deuteronomy 9:3-5. In what way do these battle stories fit into God's Upper Story? What is the importance of the purity of the Promised Land to the Upper Story?