

# The story week 7 The battle begins



Joshua & the Battle of Jericho and for the Promised land was also a continuing battle for the hearts and affections of the Israelites for following God. They had been forged in their wanderings to be a people who would obey God's commands and they were only then given the opportunity to enter into the promised land to begin the conquest.

It wasn't an easy task – there was much that God still expected of them and continuously had to remind and test them too!

All during Joshua's tenure as leader he was constantly reminding the people to remember the commands of God, to cherish the Law of God and to obey what they had been commanded by God and in doing so they would conquer, and even more, remain in God's favor.

As we examine what they experienced, we too are reminded that God's law, fulfilled in Christ, is what needs to shape our affections in order for us to be most effective in our witness, service and building up of God's kingdom.

## Discussion Questions

- 1) Have you ever faced a situation where there were high expectations and you weren't sure you could live up to them? What was it & how did it turn out?
- 2) The Israelites were promised a lot, God would be with them, and "No one will be able to stand against you." Has anyone promised you something that seemed too good to be true?
  - i) Did they prove good as their word?
  - ii) What did that do for your trust in them?
  - iii) How did the Israelites take these promises from God?
- 3) Why do you think Joshua sent only two spies into the Promised Land?
- 4) When Rahab saw the spies what do you think went through her mind?
  - i) Why do you think:
    - (1) She hid the spies?
    - (2) Lied to protect them?
    - (3) & Believed their promises?
- 5) How do you think Joshua was able to be "*strong and courageous*" in all of these stressful and intimidating situations?
- 6) Has God provided a victory for you (*or people you know*) in a supernatural or completely unconventional way?
- 7) What do you think occupied the most thoughts and conversations of the Israelites for the first six days of their march around Jericho?
  - i) The seventh day?
  - ii) What about the people of Jericho? What do you imagine they were thinking that week?

- 8) Why did God say everything in Jericho was to be dedicated to Him?
- 9) What was the way God provided a victory over Ai?
- 10) With two victories Joshua gathered the people to review the words of Moses, the Law of God.
  - a) Why do you suppose this was an important event?
  - b) How does something like this relate to life today?
- 11) Joshua and the Israelites **HAD** to **RESCUE** the Gibeonites. God used this as an opportunity to bring a great victory. In your experience, has God taken something (*dumb*) you've done to bring about something good?
  - a) What did this look like?
  - b) How does an experience like that affect your faith?
- 12) Why do you think God ordered the Israelites to go to war against the Canaanites? Is this violence justified? Why or why not?
- 13) Joshua's instructions were pretty much a scorched earth policy concerning the residents of Canaan. Why does God desire those who follow Him to not allow any room for sin and temptation?
- 14) "*When Joshua was very old he gathered...*" What was the main exhortation in Joshua's message to the Israelites?
  - a) Have you ever experienced the wisdom of an elderly saint?
  - b) What was the message of the elderly saint(s) to individuals & to the church?
- 15) What kind of message (*based on a life of faithfulness*) would **you** want to impress upon those who would follow in your footsteps?