

JOSHUA 5:13-15

14 MARCH 2021

ICE BREAKER: Describe a place you often find rest or inspiration.

GROUP QUESTIONS:

(Read verse 13) Apparently, Joshua was alone as he approached Jericho. As Commander of the Israelites, he must have been weighed down with thoughts of the coming battle with the fortified City State of Jericho. The LORD had promised victory, but had not given him details on how that would be accomplished.

Before the battle began and before Joshua gave his first military command, **God came** to Joshua. **The key to success** would occur **before the battle**, not during it. **Before** every crisis, conflict or battle we face, we may be assured that God desires to come to us, at times to instruct us, but all times to encourage us.

1. Describe a time you sensed **the LORD coming** to you **before** you had to **face a conflict, crisis or challenge**.

(Read verses 13-14) Before the battle for Jericho, God suddenly appeared to Joshua in an unforgettable, disturbing way—through a heavenly figure known as ‘the Commander of the Army of the LORD’. Struck by the awesome appearance of this other-worldly warrior with His sword drawn, Joshua boldly ‘went up to Him and asked, **‘Are You for us or for our enemies?’**

The answer given was not what Joshua expected, **‘Neither!’** When we approach God for his direction or blessing, what is important is **not whether God is on our side**, but **whether we are on God’s side**. The key to blessings is not asking God to bless what we are doing, but asking God to **join Him in what He is already doing**.

2. How is **asking God to bless what you are doing different** from asking God to **join Him in what He is already doing?**

(Read verses 13-14) Joshua is confronted by the heavenly warrior, ‘the Commander of the Army of the Lord’. But wait. Joshua could rightly claim to also be the Commander of God’s army. Had not God Himself commissioned Joshua to command His people, the Israelites? Had not God demonstrated His power through Joshua’s command by defeating the Amorite kings east of the Jordan. Had not God demonstrated His power through Joshua in the miraculous crossing of the raging River Jordan?

Joshua could have fallen to pride and insecurity and resisted the heavenly warrior. But Joshua didn’t. Look at Joshua’s response of **humility**. ‘Then Joshua **fell facedown to the ground in reverence**, and asked Him, ‘What message does my LORD have for **his servant?**’

3. How have you seen **humility** as a key to **success, spiritual maturity** or truly **being a servant** others?

(Read verses 14-15) Joshua asked the Commander of the Lord’s Army, ‘**What message** does my Lord have for his servant?’ So what was God’s message, **first battle command** for Joshua? Would it be where best to attack the enemy or what weapon would be most successful?

No, the first battle command to Joshua was, **‘Take off your sandals!’** The call to step into battle, crisis, or conflict with others is first a **call to holiness** before God. Why? So that whatever we are about to say or do with people would have been first inspired and directed by our time with a holy, loving God.

4. Specifically, what does God’s **call to holiness** look like for you now?

CUT ALONG DOTTED LINE & USE PRAYER LIST AS BIBLE BOOK MARKER

PRAYER GROUP TIME

(Make a list of people whom those in your group plan to share Christ with this week.)
