

JOSHUA 8:1-29 STUDY NOTES (3/27/22)

Joshua's Big Theme: The Israelites are finally ready to enter into the land that God promised - that God is *gifting* to them - that is currently inhabited by enemy forces which need to be pushed out. Over the course of Joshua, they will learn what it means to be strong and courageous in the Lord as they follow God and trust Joshua in the scariest and most overwhelming of situations.

Today's Context: After a failed attempt at capturing Ai (ch. 7), the Israelites capture Ai with God on their side. In this single story we see the beauty of God's faithfulness, even in the face of disobedient people.

Additional Study Notes:

- We see a similar story of ambush in Judges 20, when the Israelites attack the Benjamites.

For Additional Study (most are available to borrow from CFC):

- NIV Study Bible
- ESV Study Bible
- Other commentaries available upon request

Discussion Questions

CATCHING UP ON LAST WEEK

- (1) What was most significant for you from Joshua 7? What's stuck with you as meaningful or impactful?

TODAY'S TEXT

KNOWING God

- (2) What questions do you (or members of your group) have about this passage? Discuss.
- (3) What does this passage tell us about God?
- (4) What does this passage tell us about humanity?
- (5) Alpha and Omega Question: How do we see a sign of remembrance here, and what other signs of remembrance have we seen throughout the OT so far? What purpose do these signs serve?
- (6) Look back at Israel's defeat by Ai in Joshua 7. What are the differences between there and Joshua 8? How does their failure in Joshua 7 help lead to their success in Joshua 8? How does God rewrite their failure?

GROWING Together

- (7) **If people in your group are following the Alpha and Omega reading plan, take time to discuss/encourage their reading for 5-10 minutes.*
- (8) What does it mean that God's promises and faithfulness are ongoing, even in our disobedience? Can we lose God's gifts through our disobedience?
- (9) What does it look like *practically* (or daily) to obey the Lord? How do you try to do this in your life? How would you like to grow in obedience?
- (10) What does the fruit of obedience look like? How is obedience ultimately more of a joy than a burden?
- (11) How does Christ's obedience show us how to live obediently, and how does His obedience cover our disobedience?
- (12) What questions, ideas, or themes would you want to study further?

SHOWING God to Others

- (13) What in this passage serves as good news for the world around us?

PREPARING FOR NEXT WEEK

- (14) For next week, spend some time reading Psalm 88. What's interesting?
What questions do you have?

QUESTIONS FOR CHILDREN (from Children's Director Emily Reiser)

- (15) What stood out to you in this story? What did you find interesting and what was confusing?
- (16) What did God tell the Israelites to do and what actually happened? What does this tell you about God and His faithfulness? Is God trustworthy?
- (17) Did the Israelites do as God asked? Do you ever hear God telling you to do something? Do you always obey? How can we learn from the Israelites in this story?
- (18) How does Jesus help us when we disobey God and don't follow Him perfectly?