



SDG Discussion Guide

Joshua 6

June 16, 2019

For Starters:

Who was the most intimidating person you ever met: Your prospective in-laws? The captain of the other team? Your new boss? Your new secretary?

Growing up, what were you taught about fighting: Turn the other cheek? Stand up for yourself?

Guideline: The following is meant to provide an approach for further interaction with the respective sermon text and surrounding passage. Feel free to forward to your small group members ahead of the respective Sunday. Group members may also find this write up in print on that Sunday.

First, as you can, read aloud the selected passage in your group. If you have time, read it aloud a second time - from a different Bible translation.

Before you begin your discussion, pray and ask God to speak to your group. Notice, what may God be highlighting for your discussion and learning?

Now that you have read the text together and prayed, what points and questions arise? Spend plenty of time in your group to address these points and questions. Explore and see how God may steer the discussion. The following are further questions you may use to guide your interaction with the text.

1. As the battle plan is given and carried out, what seems strategic to you militarily? Psychologically? Religiously? Why?
2. What purpose is served by the number seven? By the trumpets' constant blowing? By the people's silence? By the perseverance? By the ark's position (see 3:4, where the ark is distant from the people)?
3. In verses 17-21, what is meant by "devoted things" and their prohibition? Why is such destruction of Jericho warranted?
4. What happens to any who rebuild Jericho (v 26, see 1 Kings 16:34)?
5. When did you discover what it meant to be on God's side and take direction from him, rather than having him serve you on your side?
6. What seemingly crazy battle plan may the Lord be calling you to carry out? How will you persevere in that? Who else is on the Lord's side with you in this? Your group?
7. What walled-in area of your life are you still protecting or hiding behind? How secure do you feel behind that wall? How might God give you victory over those walls if you will follow his ways?
8. How has your life been spared, even redeemed, thanks in part to someone else's faithful response to you and their Lord?

Spend plenty of time in prayer for one another. Ask God about walls in your internal life - to show you what you need to see about what may need to "collapse." Where are you feeling you need to "advance" or "cross over" to move along in your circumstances. Trust that God hears your prayers and takes it very seriously. Be expectant. Take hold of the assurance God does have a plan, process, and promise for your life.

*These questions were adapted from *The Serendipity Bible for Groups* (Zondervan, 1998).