

PREPARING FOR VICTORY

JOSHUA 5

MAIN TAKEAWAY

Joshua did not prepare for battle—He prepared for victory. The pathway to victory is found in obedience, remembrance, and dependence. We are victorious in Christ!

INTRODUCTION

What's a time you felt fully prepared for something, only to realize God had a completely different plan?

What is the difference between preparing for battle and preparing for victory? What does Joshua's story tell us about the kind of "victory" God values?

UNDERSTANDING

READ JOSHUA 5:1–6:3

They Put God First (5:1–3). Circumcision was the sign of the covenant, marking Israel as the people of God and reminding them that their bodies belonged to the Lord. Why is the timing of this event important? How does this reveal that obedience is more important than victory?

The physical operation on the body was meant to be a symbol of a spiritual operation on the heart (Romans 2:25–29). How does the flesh hinder intimacy with God? How can we put God first in all things?

They Remembered the Lord's Faithfulness (5:10–12). Before the battle, how were God's people assured of His promises and presence? In Christ, how do we remember His faithfulness (John 1:29; 1 Corinthians 5:7)?

God is victorious. Pastor Jonathan said, "Remember God's victories and remind yourself of what Christ has done for you." How can you be assured that you are victorious in Christ (1 Corinthians 15:54–57; Romans 8:37–39)?

***Joshua Meets Jesus*—the deliverer of Israel bows before the deliverer of the world (5:13–15). The Commander of the LORD’s army was a Christophany—an Old Testament appearance of Jesus Christ. How did Joshua respond to the presence of God? How was this similar to Moses’ reaction (Exodus 3:2–6; 33:15)?**

Pastor Jonathan said, “God renewed His people’s hearts, reminded them of His faithfulness, and then revealed His presence.” After the covenant was *renewed* (circumcision) and *remembered* (Passover), then came divine *revelation* (the Commander’s appearance). In what way was this a “holy pattern”? How did this compare to the previous generation’s failure?

What do the names *Joshua* and *Jesus* both mean? How is Jesus the “greater Joshua”?

***The pathway to success is by dependence on the Lord* (6:1–3). How does the victory of Jericho reveal that the battle belongs to the Lord, and how is God glorified this way? Why shouldn’t we rely on our own strength?**

APPLICATION

God’s primary goal for the Israelite’s was to teach them dependence—not only to get them out of Egypt, but also to get “Egypt” out of them. How have you experienced God’s way of preparing for victory? How are you learning to depend on God?

Pastor Jonathan said, “Before God tears down walls *around* you, He often wants to bring down walls *within* you.” In what areas of your life do you need to put God first?

How are you aware of God’s presence when facing a spiritual battle? How can you respond in worship—to obey, remember, and depend upon God?

PRAYER

Thank God for His victory! Pray for renewed obedience, remembrance, and dependence—put God first, focus on His faithfulness, and rely on His strength. Pray for your group and encourage one another in the spiritual battle.