

Weekly Message Study Guide

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Date _____ Speaker _____

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE | A Thriving Strength | Week 4 | Jan 31

Joshua 5:13-14; Joshua 2:1-7; Joshua 6:2-5; Joshua 6:18-19

These study guides are designed for individual or group study but highly encouraged to be experienced in community with a small group or other friends on the journey with Jesus.

CONTEXT | As we study the story of Joshua, the Jewish nation is moving from SURVIVING in the desert to following God's leading to THRIVE in the promised land. The constant in their experience was that God was with them. This week we see Joshua and Israel following God's lead into the promised land and some surprising events unfold.

- Are you a planner? What happens when life doesn't go along with your plans?
- How does planning and your faith work together?
- Can we know God's plan? Read Rom 11:33-12:2. What do you discover that can be helpful to discerning God's will for you?

Are You For Us or For Our Enemies? | Read Joshua 5:13-14. We like to know who is on our side don't we. This tendency has grown more pronounced in our current atmosphere of tribalism.

- What does the idea that God might not be on either side bring up in you? doubt? fear? disbelief?
- Do your best to imagine and describe how a cause, a plan, a battle that God is waging that is neither your plan nor your "enemies" plan?

Our Plan Is Not God's Plan | At first level, our plan is about our objectives, our to-do list, our success, our desires and even our opinions. But do we rise above that? Can we?

- What strikes you as you read these comments?
- What questions naturally come up in you as you think about this? How are they challenging?
- What ways can we use to get closer to God's plan--to understand it better?

Up on the Roof | Read Joshua 2:1-7. This famous story begins in the house of a prostitute. Assuming this was God's plan--what is your response?

- How does God communicate His plan to us? How do we receive his Instructions?
- We aren't told very much here. What surprises you as you read this?



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- Extra Credit: read the rest of Joshua 2. What do you think of Rahab? How is your sense of God's Plan impacted?

Thriving Strength | Read Joshua 6:2-5. God begins His plan with a statement of the result. But that result doesn't come until after seven days of obedience.

- What kind of plans do you identify with? What do you look for? things like... It makes sense, I believe In that, I can defend that.....
- What did God's plan require of Israel? And with that plan, who gets the glory?
- How is that a challenge to you today? What is the step between agreement and action? Who gets the glory?

Mindful of Motivation | Read Joshua 6:18-19. "If obedient faith turns into a 5 step plan to earthly reward it suddenly loses its intention to glorify God."

- How does God present this limit to Joshua? How does it relate to safety? How does it relate to motivation?
- Why is Motivation important? Why is it difficult to track? What blinds us to our motivations?
- Read Jeremiah 17:7-10. Talk about it.

Practice of the Week | As you plan your life are you looking through an "earthbound" lens or an "eternal" lens? Take some time this week asking God to show you the difference. Set up a place where you can be quiet and reflect on the events of your life over the past day, week, month, year. Consider questions like:

- Can I see a story bigger than what I think? Where do I see God's hand guiding, directing, shaping, or correcting?
- Whose glory am I seeking as I plan into 2021?
- Did I agree in my mind but not act? How could I have acted?
- What are my motivations--heaven or convenience?