



Discussion Questions for Sermon Based Home Fellowships

Week of April 27, 2008

Pastor Brian Long

Series: Finding Courage through the Challenges of Life

Title: Let God's Faithfulness Compel Your Faithfulness

Scripture: Joshua 24:1-28

Big Idea: Always remember God's sovereign faithfulness and let it compel you to revere him and serve him faithfully.

Opening Sharing

Joshua summoned all the people. As a child, were you ever summoned to the principal's office? For what?

Discussion Questions

Verses 2-13 list the things God did for the Hebrew people. Count them up. Our faith does not rest on philosophical abstracts, but on God's historical acts. If we are to face the challenges of our day, we must have a solid foundation of confidence in the trustworthiness of God. He has given us promises of what he will do. We can trust him because he has a flawless track record. In verse 13, after reciting the victories over the other tribal nations, God reminded the people, "*You did not do it with your sword and bow.*" Share three things God has done for you that were beyond your input or activity. [Remember, the troops did go to these places with their swords and bows; think about why this is stated].

1. Share how God pursued you to bring you to himself
2. Share one area where God has given you victory over habits or behaviors that were not wholesome, but destructive
3. Share one instance where you know God protected you from harm

To challenge us to remember that God is faithful and so worthy of our trust, Pastor Brian listed three verses we could commit to memory: Psalm 107:1; Exodus 34:6; Psalm 36:5. Write these out on a 3x5 or smaller card and carry them with every day. When you have an extra moment, pull them out and read them (out loud if possible). Do that for at least 7 days and you will probably have them memorized. However the key to memory is constant review, so pull them out every week and go over them. After reading, give a sentence prayer like this: "Father, I'm so thankful I can trust you!"

Share with your group other verses that tell of God's faithfulness that have been helpful to you

In the same way that Joshua challenged the people to throw away their idols of pagan worship, the pastor challenged us to look at those things that are idols to us. As you respond to each of these questions, you do NOT need to share anything that you are not comfortable sharing. However, there is a level of victory gained when we “confess” our sins and issues to trustworthy brothers and sisters in Christ. James 5 tells us to confess our faults to one another so we can be healed. That includes the whole gamut of human healing: spiritual, emotional, mental and physical. Here are the questions from the sermon:

- ✚ “What am I depending on more than God for my overall well-being in life or to make life work for me?”

- ✚ “What habits, patterns or ways of living that don’t honor or serve God have crept in and gotten a foothold in my life?”

- ✚ “Is there anything that is competing for my allegiance in place of God?”

- ✚ “What in my life risks being more valuable to me than my relationship with God?”

As people are willing to open their hearts and lives, have someone in the group pray for that person’s need.

In verses 14-15, Joshua lays down the challenge of choice. He understood the power of choice and its place in how God put us together. He concluded that for him and his house, they would serve the Lord. Francis Schaeffer wrote: “The English uses a future tense here, but the Hebrew tense has a fuller meaning. It expresses continuous action. It involves the future, but it also can point to the past. Joshua was undoubtedly affirming, ‘I have chosen, and I will choose.’”¹

- ✚ If you have made a similar commitment, share with your group what brought you to that point and how that has worked out in your life

- ✚ If you haven’t done so, what is holding you back?

If you could do anything to better serve the Lord, what would it be?

¹ Francis A. Schaeffer, *Joshua and the Flow of Biblical History* (Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1976), 207-208