



JOSHUA CHAPTER 5 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- What is one of the most beautiful places you have ever been and what makes it so beautiful?

Opening Prayer

- Ask if someone wants to volunteer before leading the prayer.

Tell the Story

- **PLEASE MAKE SURE THAT YOU HAVE ONE PERSON WHO STORIES (SUMMARIZES THE CHAPTER) BEFORE THE GROUP READS THE CHAPTER TOGETHER.**

Breaking it Down

- All questions should be utilized as appropriate based upon group dynamics to facilitate both understanding and discussion. Don't feel tied to the questions and don't feel like you must get through every question. Follow the Spirit's lead! All questions are a matter of perspective in some way BUT there are specific questions that this is truer of, and these questions have been indicated to be perspective/opinion questions.

Read the Story (Joshua 5:1-17)

Read out loud as a group, 3-5 verses per person. Let everyone know they can opt out if they would like.

Joshua 5:1-8

- ☐ How was the obedience of the Israelites tied to their witness to the nations around them?
 - God worked through the obedience of the Israelites to speak very loudly to the nations around them that He was on their side and that because of this fact alone, nothing was going to defeat them. More than that, God let the nations around Israel know that He was not going to be defeated.
 - In what ways is your obedience to God testifying about God's goodness, love, and power in your life and inviting others to experience the same?

- This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

□ Why did God command Joshua to circumcise the sons of Israel?

- As Israel was wandering in the wilderness for 40 years, all the males that had been circumcised had passed away. Those males who had been born in the wilderness weren't circumcised. More importantly, physical circumcision in the Old Testament wasn't just ritualistic. Rather, it was an extremely profound and powerful symbol teaching and reminding the Israelite that they had been set apart as the Lord's cherished and treasured possession. For the Israelite, physical circumcision taught and reminded them that they were daily committed to renounce what they thought was best for what God said was best. It pointed to the reminder of dying to what they wanted and embracing what God desired.

- In what ways do you need to more fully remember that you as a child of God are His treasured and cherished possession? What makes it difficult for you to remember and embrace this?

- These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

- In what ways do you need to more fully and simply die to yourself?

- This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

□ Notice that this act of circumcision of the Israelites fighting men again puts Israel in an extremely vulnerable and less than desirable position, just like their crossing of the Jordan River. Consider that in effect, what God Joshua to do incapacitated their army for several days but this act also left the entire nation of Israel vulnerable to being engaged in battle and defeat. Why did God choose this key time to give Joshua and the Israelites this command?

- Like Joshua chapter 3 when Israel crossed the Jordan River on dry ground, God desired that the Israelites understand that they were being taken care of and provided for because of His power working through their obedience. It wasn't their skilled military expertise, strategies, or intellect. Rather, it was only by His hands.

- Consider the following quote by a contemporary Christian author and pastor. "I don't want my life to be explainable without the Holy

Spirit. I want people to look at my life and know I couldn't be doing this by my own power. I want to live in such a way that I am desperate for Him to come through. That if He doesn't come through, I am screwed."

- Do you believe that most Christians live like what Chan expresses? Do you live like what Chan expresses? Why or why not?

- These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Joshua 5:9-15

- The name "Gilgal" means "a rolling away." Israel left Egypt as slaves and in God taking them through the wilderness and being with them every step of the way, God continued to roll away the shame and slave mentality that were present with and within them for so long.

- What is difficult for you about allowing God to remove any shame and guilt that you have in your life?

- This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

- Notice that the nation of Israel celebrated the Passover and in doing this, they remembered what God had done for them in liberating them from Egypt.

- In what ways do you purposefully celebrate God's redemption of you? What does this celebration daily look like?

- This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

- What we see taking place between Joshua and the commander of the Lord's army further cements everything that has happened in this chapter and throughout the book of Joshua thus far. Israel's redemption and provision is coming through God's hands and because of His graciousness. This commander of the Lord's army is arguably Joshua coming face to face with God and His power. He doesn't answer Joshua's question about if He is for Israel or Israel's enemies because this isn't the most important question. This has already been established. God's heart is for His people. Rather, the question is whether the nation of Israel is going to continue to submit and surrender to God and this begins with Joshua and the removal of His sandals, symbolizing that He is giving everything to God in his worship.

- In what ways do you need to more fully be honest with God and yourself regarding your daily surrender to Him?
- This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Joshua chapter 6)

JOSHUA CHAPTER 5 (STUDENT)

Joshua 5:1-8

- ☐ How was the obedience of the Israelites tied to their witness to the nations around them?
 - In what ways is your obedience to God testifying about God's goodness, love, and power in your life and inviting others to experience the same?
- ☐ Why did God command Joshua to circumcise the sons of Israel?
 - In what ways do you need to more fully remember that you as a child of God are His treasured and cherished possession? What makes it difficult for you to remember and embrace this?

- In what ways do you need to more fully and simply die to yourself?
- Notice that this act of circumcision of the Israelites fighting men again puts Israel in an extremely vulnerable and less than desirable position, just like their crossing of the Jordan River. Consider that in effect, what God Joshua to do incapacitated their army for several days but this act also left the entire nation of Israel vulnerable to being engaged in battle and defeat. Why did God choose this key time to give Joshua and the Israelites this command?
 - Consider the following quote by a contemporary Christian author and pastor. “I don’t want my life to be explainable without the Holy Spirit. I want people to look at my life and know I couldn’t be doing this by my own power. I want to live in such a way that I am desperate for Him to come through. That if He doesn’t come through, I am screwed.”
 - Do you believe that most Christians live like what Chan expresses? Do you live like what Chan expresses? Why or why not?

Joshua 5:9-15

- The name “Gilgal” means “a rolling away.” Israel left Egypt as slaves and in God taking them through the wilderness and being with them every step of the way, God continued to roll away the shame and slave mentality that were present with and within them for so long.
 - What is difficult for you about allowing God to remove any shame and guilt that you have in your life?
- Notice that the nation of Israel celebrated the Passover and in doing this, they remembered what God had done for them in liberating them from Egypt.
 - In what ways do you purposefully celebrate God’s redemption of you? What does this celebration daily look like?
- What we see taking place between Joshua and the commander of the Lord’s army further cements everything that has happened in this chapter and throughout the book of Joshua thus far. Israel’s redemption and provision is coming through God’s hands and because of His graciousness. This commander of the Lord’s army is arguably Joshua coming face to face with God and His power. He doesn’t

answer Joshua's question about if He is for Israel or Israel's enemies because this isn't the most important question. This has already been established. God's heart is for His people. Rather, the question is whether the nation of Israel is going to continue to submit and surrender to God and this begins with Joshua and the removal of His sandals, symbolizing that He is giving everything to God in his worship.

- In what ways do you need to more fully be honest with God and yourself regarding your daily surrender to Him?

Final Application

- What does this passage teach us about God?
- What does this passage teach us about mankind?
- What is a command to obey in this passage?
- What has God revealed in your life that needs changing?
- What truth can be applied to your life about the gospel?

Closing & Prayer Requests

- Have a designated person to capture and share (as appropriate) within the life group.
- What happens in life group, stays in life group.
- Don't forget get to confirm the next meeting date and time
- Also recruit someone to do the story for the following week (Joshua chapter 6)