



JOSHUA CHAPTER 8 (FACILITATOR)

Discussion Starter

- Is it easy or difficult for you to let go of the past? Why?
- Are you a person who worries about or looks forward to the future? Why?

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 8:1-35)

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

Joshua 8:1-8

- How do you think Joshua and the Israelites were feeling after the bitter defeat at Ai? Why would it have been easy for them to wallow in self-pity because of their failure?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.
- What is the significance of God providing the Israelites encouragement prior to them reengaging in battle with Ai?

- God knew that Israel needed to be restored, refreshed, and encouraged because of their defeat and failure. To be prepared for what God had ahead of them, Israel had to allow God to pick them up from their defeat and failure.
 - How do you allow God to pick you back up from your defeat and failure? How do you resist allowing God to pick you back up from your defeat and failure?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Joshua 8:9-17

- Notice in verse 9 that Joshua spent the night with his people. What does this indicate about Joshua's leadership and what does this indicate about God's leadership of the Israelites and His leadership of us?
 - Joshua was not a distant and disengaged leader nor was he a leader that was a dictator. He was a Spirit filled leader that took his lead from God and in turn pointed his people to what God said rather than pointing them to his leadership skills and gifts. God is not distant or disengaged to or with us. Rather, he is in the trenches with us every single moment of every single day.
 - What are some intentional things that you do throughout the course of your day and week to remember that God has your back and is in the trenches with you?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
 - What makes it difficult for you to remember that God has your back and is in the trenches with you?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
- Notice the language of verse 15 and try to visualize it in your mind. Although an ambush had been set behind Ai, notice that the Israelites were again in a place of vulnerability in battle, and this seems to be a recurrent theme in the book of Joshua. While God is going to provide Israel victory, He is going to do it on His terms and in His timing.

- How do you wrestle with God providing you victory on His terms and in His timing? How can you more fully and intentionally accept His terms and His timing?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Joshua 8:18-29

- What is the significance of the two things that God tells Joshua in verse 18?
 - God wanted Joshua to understand that he and the Israelites were indeed His chosen people, but they were also instruments and tools through which God was going to claim victory. God's victory and the Israelites' victory was not because of them but because of God's goodness and graciousness.
 - What is inspiring about remembering and knowing that you are a tool and instrument through which God has chosen to work? What is humbling about remembering and knowing that you are a tool and instrument through which God has chosen to work?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions so please listen as the facilitator.

Joshua 8:30-35

- A great deal of the significance of Israel building an altar to the Lord and sacrificing to him at Ebal is lost for us because the reality of the situation is that Ebal was about 20-25 miles from Ai and it would have been extremely difficult and inconvenient to move a ton of people like the Israelites 20-25 miles, especially after a battle but worship of God and sacrificing to God were that important.
 - In what ways does worship of God and sacrificing to God cost you?
 - This is a perspective and opinion question so please listen as the facilitator.
 - Are you an individual who seeks to worship God and sacrifice to Him based on what's easiest and most convenient for you? How do you know?
 - These are perspective and opinion questions 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 9)

JOSHUA CHAPTER 8 (STUDENT)

Joshua 8:1-8

- How do you think Joshua and the Israelites were feeling after the bitter defeat at Ai? Why would it have been easy for them to wallow in self-pity because of their failure?

- What is the significance of God providing the Israelites encouragement prior to them reengaging in battle with Ai?
 - How do you allow God to pick you back up from your defeat and failure? How do you resist allowing God to pick you back up from your defeat and failure?

Joshua 8:9-17

- Notice in verse 9 that Joshua spent the night with his people. What does this indicate about Joshua's leadership and what does this indicate about God's leadership of the Israelites and His leadership of us?
 - What are some intentional things that you do throughout the course of your day and week to remember that God has your back and is in the trenches with you?
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