

February 22, 2015

Step Up...Do the Big Things Joshua 5:13-15; 6:1-24

INTRODUCTION

Joshua fought the battle of Jericho, and the walls did come tumbling down because Joshua did as he was told. (Joshua 5:15) But, we don't see Joshua's name in Hebrews 11:30 because it wasn't Joshua alone who fought the battle, it was the people of Israel. He set an example when he stepped up to a big wall with the people of Israel right by his side. We are meant to step up to the big things that are too big to do alone with others by our side.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1. Before any of us step up we need to consider who Jesus is in our lives. Share briefly who you personally know Jesus to be in your life. "And it is impossible to please God without faith. Anyone who wants to come to him must believe that God exists and that he rewards those who sincerely seek him." **Hebrews 11:6**
- 2. To step up we need to: <u>recognize</u> a need for change, <u>take</u> one step at a time, <u>be willing</u> to do the right hard thing, and <u>make</u> a decision to make a commitment. How does **Psalms 37:23** and **Psalms 119:133** encourage those who struggle with control? Discuss the differences between giving God control of our situation and asking Him to do the big things for us.
- 3. We often hesitate to take the first step because we are projecting the next ten steps by way of the "What If" game. How do the following verses help us step away from the what if's and take that first step? **Proverbs 16:3, 20:24; Jeremiah 29:11; Romans 8:28; James 1:5, 4:17**
- 4. After reading **I Corinthians 12**, where Paul speaks about the body of Christ, share where you have seen God use the body of Christ to do big things?
- 5. Read **Acts 4:32-37** for an example of collaboration in the early church as they sought to do the hard thing. <u>Faith</u> (surrender to His control), <u>action</u> (proves our faith), and a <u>period of time</u> (wait for Him) are three ways we can see the hand of God moving in our lives. Discuss how these are seen in **Acts 4**.
- 6. How has your motivation to do the right hard things changed over the course of this seven week series? Review the seven areas David challenged us to step up and do the right hard thing.
- 7. Doing big things demands follow through with the possibility of no immediate results. And, at times, you will want God to just do it for you. But, with collaboration and accountability, you can step up and do just as you are told, like Joshua and the Israelites. How will you, as a small group, support one another, through accountability, to stay faithful in your commitments to step up?

CONCLUSION

"Now all glory to God, who is able, through His mighty power at work within us, to accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think." **Ephesians 3:20**