

The Most Important Step

Joshua 5:13-15

Ice Breaker: Describe a time when God asked you to do something that put you in a vulnerable or humble position. What did it feel like? What was God up to in asking you to do it?

Big Idea: There's nothing wrong with planning or strategizing. It's just that there's something even more important when it comes to fighting for the people or causes we care about. The most important thing Joshua did (to prepare for the battle against Jericho) was fall on his face in humility, and take off his sandals in surrender. That's where the battle for Jericho was won.

Digging Deeper:

- 1) Review some of the stories and lessons of Joshua 1-5. Out of those mentioned on Sunday morning, which is the one that you need God's help with the most. Why?
 - Joshua's willingness to play second fiddle for 40 years
 - Joshua's willingness to let go of the dear and familiar
 - Joshua's willingness to step into the Jordan River at flood stage
 - Joshua's willingness to accept that God's heart is for the whole world
 - Joshua's willingness to obey God – no matter that it didn't make sense
- 2) Read Joshua 5:11-13. How do you think Joshua was feeling on the eve of leading God's people into battle? What was he thinking when he saw this warrior with drawn sword? What would you have been thinking?
- 3) How do you think this warrior's identity informed Joshua's role in the battle? How does the truth that "the battle belongs to the Lord" free us from a messiah complex and the stress of thinking it's up to us to make things happen?
- 4) What were the instructions that the commander of the Lord's army gave to Joshua? Why do you think this was the assignment he issued? How do you think this moment of humility and surrender informed the way Joshua approached the battle against Jericho?
- 5) Is there a specific place in life where you're facing a battle of some kind? If so, share it. Then surrender yourself (and this situation) to the One to whom it belongs. Invite others to pray for you to maintain this perspective that the battle belongs to the Lord.