

**GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE**

**May 2022**

(Member)



**Season 1, Episode 3 (Part 2-B)**

**Instructions:** Our faith was meant to be learned through *conversation* in the Word of God. This discussion guide is intended to function exactly as it is titled, as a *guide* to help your discussions as you watch The Bible, read the Bible, and work through these questions one by one. Please also feel free to allow the conversation to go where the Lord leads, remembering to focus your conversations about the movie on and in *His Word*. I always appreciate your feedback as I write these curriculum. I am not writing them for me but for you! God bless all of you in your faith and fellowship with one another.



This study is the third and final month studying the story of Joshua, Jericho, and the conquest of the promise land. This means this study is based on the same segment of the movie from last month. If you think it would be helpful to re-watch that part, please do.

**WATCH:** *The Bible*, Episode 3, from **00:00 – 14:30** to the end of the episode.



**Take a few minutes to discuss what you just watched.**



Read Joshua 4, then discuss the following questions as a group.

As He did for Moses, God parts the waters for Joshua. This would no doubt give assurance to Joshua and the Israelites that the same God who delivered them from Pharaoh would deliver them from their enemies and into the promised land. As He did with Passover, a meal to commemorate and remember deliverance from Egypt, God again commands that something be done to commemorate and remember the faithfulness and saving power of the Lord. He commands Joshua in verse 3, “Take twelve stones from here *out of the midst of the Jordan, from the very place where the priests’ feet stood firmly*, and bring them over with you and lay them down in the place where you lodge tonight.”

What is the significance of taking the stones “out of the midst of the Jordan” and “from the very place” the priests stood? What does this communicate? What meaning does this give the monument?

God would again, many years later, stand “in the midst” of the Jordan “fulfilling” His promise of salvation and deliverance. Where in the Bible do we read of this? Talk about what you read and how it connects us with Israel in Joshua 4.

**Looking back to Joshua 4, what was the purpose and reason that the Israelites were to set this 12 stone monument up “in the place where you lodge”? What does this teach us about God’s expectations and where and how He desires to reveal Himself, give faith, and save souls?**

**This is not the first time God has made clear His intention and expectation that His word and faith in Him be at the center of every home and family. Can you think of any other place God explicitly commands parents to raise their children in the faith, in the home?**

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### **Pastor Jay’s Thoughts**

From the very first day that man opened his eyes and breathed his first breath, God intended man and woman to not only be the agents through which God would bring human life into the world, but be the agents through which He would speak to His “little ones,” teach them of His love and salvation, and secure them in the faith that would save their very souls.

God did not intend for parents to raise their children in the faith only by “**going to** church” or “dropping their children **off at** confirmation” or “**going to** youth group.” All those things must be a part of a life of discipleship and faith, but that is not where faith begins or ends. Too many parents today expect pastors and the church to do what God intended them to do. Because God intended it that way and commands it to be that way, parents will never give to their children, and children will never receive what God wants to give them, if the responsibilities and privileges entrusted to parents are neglected and passed off to others.

On average, each year parents have approximately 3,000 hours available to them (before -not after- filling those hours with sports, clubs, etc.) with which they can teach their children, talk with their children, and raise them in the faith. Pastors, have an average of 40 hours (and I think that is being generous given the average church attendance per month).

As Christians, we profess our relationship with Jesus to be the single and eternally most important thing we have. Is that how our children perceive it? What do they hear most, see most, and experience the most from us as parents? That is what they will understand to be most important. Regardless of what we say is most important, our time, effort, energy, words, and actions will reveal what is.

*<sup>26</sup> Then God said, "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. And let them have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over the livestock and over all the earth and over every creeping thing that creeps on the earth."*

*<sup>27</sup> So God created man in his own image,  
in the image of God he created him;  
male and female he created them.*

*<sup>28</sup> And God blessed them. And God said to them, 'Be fruitful and multiply and fill the earth and subdue it, and have dominion over the fish of the sea and over the birds of the heavens and over every living thing that moves on the earth.'* – Genesis 1:26-28

Parents were created in the image of God to reveal God to the lives God would miraculously bring forth from parents. Notice that God did not create Adam, Eve, and a pastor. It was Adam, Eve, and God. My job, my calling, though a noble one, only exists because of sin. Pastors should not exist. Sin should not have come into the world. Of course, it did, and we are all guilty of that, however, our disobedience does not nullify or change what God intended, what He desires, and what He considers "very good."

The most precious gift any parent can give their child is the gift of the Gospel. The biggest sacrifice you can make is not that of money that will perish, but the sacrifice of everything else that stands in the way of your child's knowledge of God's love and truth and living in that truth through their relationship with Jesus Christ and His Word through which He comes to all of us. You can't take the time back, parents. You spend it once.

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Joshua repeats the purpose of the monuments in verses 21-24, but we find something new this time. What is it? How does that only magnify what we have discussed thus far?



Read Joshua 5, then discuss the following questions as a group.

Once again, the Passover makes an appearance in the account of Israel coming into possession of the promised land. This time, however, there is also an accompanying command to “circumcise the sons of Israel a second time.” Why “a second time”?

God clearly lined up the time of healing from the second circumcision to coalesce with the celebration of the Passover *before* entering the promised land. What do you think God was teaching Israel by reinstating HIS *covenant* of circumcision and HIS Passover meal *before* leading Israel into the promised land?

Read Colossians 2:11-12 as a group. Read Luke 22:14-20 as a group. What connections can we make to Joshua? How does this show that salvation has *always* come to us by grace alone and through faith alone?



Read Joshua 6, then discuss the following questions as a group.

Have you ever had noisy neighbors? It can get old quickly. My wife and I get particularly frustrated when some cars in our neighborhood drive slowly by with their enormous sound systems booming bass that rattles the windows while the kids are trying to sleep. Now, imagine 6 days in a row. In the morning you are jolted awake by the piercing blasts that go on continually as a massive army silently circles your city one time. How intimidating and creepy it must have been to watch tens of thousands of Israelite soldiers marching around the city walls, every mouth shut, not a word, only trumpets. Then on the seventh day, seven times around the city. The tension had to be thicker than mud! Yet, it's clear God was doing far more than merely weakening the resolve of the enemy by putting fear into their hearts (Joshua 2:8). God commanded Israel to be silent until the appointed time. It wouldn't be the trumpets alone that would bring down the walls, but the shout of Israel. Nothing is mentioned of "a strong east wind" like that used to part the Red Sea, or a "pillar of cloud/fire" like God used in the Exodus. Nothing visible. Just the voices of Israel shouting brought the walls down. What are we to understand/learn from this?

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### Pastor Jay's Thoughts

By faith. That's what the Lord was doing with this ritual marching, silence,



trumpets, and final shout. Building the faith of Israel, but also demanding

faith. Consider this. The mound, or "tell" of Jericho was surrounded by a

great earthen rampart, or embankment, with a stone retaining wall at its base.

The retaining wall was some four to five meters (12–15 feet) high. On top of that

was a mudbrick wall two meters (six feet) thick and about six to eight

meters (20–26 feet) high. At the crest of

the embankment was a similar mudbrick wall whose base was roughly 14

meters (46 feet) above the ground level outside the retaining wall. This is

what loomed high above the Israelites as they marched around the city each

day for seven days. Humanly speaking, it was impossible for the Israelites to

penetrate the impregnable bastion of Jericho.<sup>1</sup> Impossible for the Israelites, yes, but not for God. God demanded they have faith and exercise that faith by doing something as preposterous as shout at Jericho's walls to make them come down. And they did!

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**I can't help but think of Jesus words in Matthew 10:16-32. To close, read that passage and discuss how the Lord is the same yesterday, today, and always, and how He still builds our faith and brings salvation through our shouting.**

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<sup>1</sup> <https://answersingenesis.org/archaeology/the-walls-of-jericho/>