



## Part 5: Joshua and Jericho

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**Myth:** God never gives us more than we can handle.

- **Noah** was asked to build an ark and survive a cataclysmic flood
- **Joseph** was sold into slavery, falsely accused of rape, separated from family
- **Moses** was an 80-year-old shepherd asked to deliver millions from slavery in Egypt
- **Jesus** prayed, "Let this cup pass from me"
- A rag-tag group of **Jesus' disciples** was given responsibility of worldwide evangelism

**Truth:** When you have more than you can handle, God gives you what you need.

**Background:** Jericho is the obstacle to the Promised Land.

**Mission to take the Promised Land: Impossible.**

**Joshua had huge shoes to fill.**

After the death of Moses the servant of the Lord, the Lord said to Joshua the son of Nun, Moses' assistant, "Moses my servant is dead. Now therefore arise, go over this Jordan, you and all this people, into the land that I am giving to them, to the people of Israel. Every place that the sole of your foot will tread upon I have given to you, just as I promised to Moses. – Joshua 1:1-3 (*ESV - English Standard Version*)

**Joshua's Resume:** He believed God

**God provides what Joshua needs when he has more than he can handle.**

"No man shall be able to stand before you all the days of your life. Just as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. I will not leave you or forsake you. Be strong and courageous, for you shall cause this people to inherit the land that I swore to their fathers to give them. Only be strong and very courageous, being careful to do according to all the law that Moses my servant commanded you. Do not turn from it to the right hand or to the left, that you may have good success wherever you go. – Joshua 1:5-7

- I am with you
- Be strong and courageous
- Obey me

(Continues on back)

## **Joshua meets Jesus before Jericho.**

When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, "Are you for us, or for our adversaries?" And he said, "No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come." And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, "What does my lord say to his servant?" And the commander of the Lord's army said to Joshua, "Take off your sandals from your feet, for the place where you are standing is holy." And Joshua did so. – *Joshua 5:13-15*

## **God's plan to defeat Jericho seems absurd.**

- God's plan to work in your life also might not make sense in the moment

## **God's victory at Jericho is complete.**

- Some things we read in the Bible are more than we can handle
- Use difficult Bible passages to draw you closer to the Lord
- God's provision will lead to victory in your life when you have more than you can handle

## **Next Steps**

- Read (and re-read!) the full account of Joshua coming into the Promised Land and the battle of Jericho: Joshua Chapters 1-7.
- If you want to start a relationship with Jesus, talk to a member of the After Service Prayer Team in front the stage after the service.
- Talk to Brian Steele about joining CTK Student Life as a student or volunteer.
- Read "3 Ways to Handle What You Cannot Handle" by Pastor Ryan Ervin: <http://ctkblog.com/2012/07/09/bumper-sticker-faith/>

## **Small Group Questions**

- 1) Is there a time when you felt like you had more than you can handle? What were the circumstances?
- 2) In what ways do you connect with Joshua? How is his story like your story?
- 3) What one thing could you change in your life to experience the presence of God in a greater way?
- 4) Where do you need strength and courage most in your life? How does God's presence give you what is needed in those areas?
- 5) What is one area of your life where you know God is calling you to obedience? How will you respond?
- 6) How can we pray for you right now?

## **OUR MISSION**

To create an authentic Christian community that effectively reaches out to unchurched people in love, acceptance and forgiveness so that they may experience the joy of salvation and a purposeful life of discipleship.