

Sermon Study Guide



#5: Blueprints and Battle Plans

Series: *Courage in the Crucible*

February 14, 2021 | Dr. Stephen G. Tan

In this study on the book of Joshua, we learn how we can stand courageous when trials, difficult situations, opposition, and inevitable changes surround us.

Reflect

What major plans have you spent a lot of time planning? How did you go about it?

Read and Discuss

Scripture

Joshua Joshua 6:1-27

Discussion Questions

Knowing how to fight your spiritual battles gives us the courage to face an uncertain world. The battle at the city of Jericho shows us a blueprint and battle plans of how to fight spiritual battles.

1. In fighting spiritual battles, should you deal with it with a human solution or a spiritual solution (v. 1)? Why? Describe the city of Jericho. How could it be penetrated? What battles in life are considered spiritual? How should it be solved?
2. As you engage with spiritual battles every single day with the help of the Lord, remember this battle plan:
 - a. **#1: Obey the Lord's specific instructions (v. 2-5).** What were the clear instructions given by God to Joshua concerning the wall of the city of Jericho? From a human point of view, why would it be dangerous to follow the instructions God gave Joshua? When you are dealing with a certain problem, what is your first instinct? What should you do in dealing with problems like the pandemic that has no quick solution? How would you maintain your obedience to the Lord without rushing ahead of Him in fighting a spiritual battle?

- b. **#2: Focus on the Lord at all times. (v. 6-16).** How did Joshua and the people of God follow His instructions? What specific instruction was given in verse 10? What were the two purposes of this instruction? Why is it important to focus on the Lord when you are dealing with a spiritual battle? What happens when there are "noises" or if you are multitasking while dealing with something that needs your focused attention? What is God's instruction in Psalm 46:10 so that you won't lose focus on Him who leads you to victory? Just like the Israelites after focusing on God and witnessing the wall falling down, what should be your response to victory over your life's battles?
- c. **#3: Maintain a life of holiness (v. 17-19).** What was the next instruction of God to Joshua, which he in turn communicated to the people? What does coming to the battle with "clean hands" mean? Does it mean that you have to live a perfect life? What should be your attitude towards sin? Share what sin is hard for you to overcome? What should you do so that you can live a life of holiness? What is needed when you fall into sin?
- d. **#4: Keep eternity in mind when you make decisions (v. 20-27).** What further instruction did God give to Joshua and the Israelites? What saved Rahab and most of the members of her family? Why did the rest of the people in Jericho perish and die? Why would momentary pleasure, success, and achievements not be worth it if you will spend eternity in hell (read Mark 8:36)?

Respond

In Walk: In order for us to have the confidence to enter the battlefield and find victory in Jesus Christ, we need to obey the Lord's specific instructions, focus on Him at all times, maintain a life of holiness, and keep eternity in mind when you make decisions. Are you in a spiritual battle right now? How do you

deal with it? What important lessons have you learned from the message that you should apply to your life?

In Prayer: Heavenly Father, thank You for the wonderful reminder of how I should face life's spiritual battles that I deal with every single day. First of all, help me to focus on You in the midst of all the noises and busyness of my life so that I can hear Your instructions clearly. Thank You for reminding me that I should really hate sin. May You give me the ability and the conviction to live a righteous life. Thank You for the security of my salvation because of Jesus Christ, my Savior. Help me to live a life that is truly pleasing to You. I commit to You all my plans, desiring to do what is according to Your will. In Jesus' name. Amen