

JOSHUA: SUN, STAND STILL DEVOTION AND DISCUSSION GUIDE

Joshua 10:7-15 ESV

7 So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor. 8 And the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you.” 9 So Joshua came upon them suddenly, having marched up all night from Gilgal. 10 And the Lord threw them into a panic before Israel, who struck them with a great blow at Gibeon and chased them by the way of the ascent of Beth-horon and struck them as far as Azekah and Makkedah. 11 And as they fled before Israel, while they were going down the ascent of Beth-horon, the Lord threw down large stones from heaven on them as far as Azekah, and they died. There were more who died because of the hailstones than the sons of Israel killed with the sword.

12 At that time Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord gave the Amorites over to the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, “Sun, stand still at Gibeon, and moon, in the Valley of Aijalon.” 13 And the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, until the nation took vengeance on their enemies. Is this not written in the Book of Jashar? The sun stopped in the midst of heaven and did not hurry to set for about a whole day. 14 There has been no day like it before or since, when the Lord heeded the voice of a man, for the Lord fought for Israel. 15 So Joshua returned, and all Israel with him, to the camp at Gilgal.

Opening Discussion:

- How is your dreamer? How has the last few months affected your ability to dream? Is there a dream that you have lost hope for? Have you experienced the birth of a new dream?
- What is your response to the challenge to have a bolder prayer life, a bigger faith walk, and a better dream?

Radical Truth #1: We serve a God who delights in turning our most significant mistakes into his most glorious miracles. (Verse 7)

- Is there a significant mistake you have made that has caused you to lose hope for your prayers to be answered or your dreams to come true?
- Can you explain why the miracle of the sun standing still may be considered a greater miracle than the walls of Jericho falling?
- What did Joshua do that set the stage for this great battle?
- Joshua’s compromise with the enemy led to a conflict Joshua didn’t choose.
- Read Deuteronomy 7:1 and 2 Corinthians 6:14-16: how do these passages relate to Joshua’s plight? Have you found yourself fighting a battle you did not choose, either from your own mistake or from circumstances beyond your control?
- We are kingdom people called to fight kingdom fights. What kind of battles are we called to fight (see Ephesians 6:12)?

- The church fails when it takes its eyes off the real fight, and focuses on the enemy's fight. How do you see this playing out in various ways in light of recent events in the US? How should we respond in these recent battles that we did not choose—the COVID-19 pandemic and racial oppression?

Radical Truth #2: Perseverance is the key that unlocks God's promises. (Verse 8)

- Joshua had a promise from God. What promises from God do you need to remember in order to renew your faith?
- Joshua had a past with God (parted waters and drowned enemies). What are ways God has moved in your past that you can remember to help strengthen your faith?
- Joshua had to persevere before God (he had to march). Are you willing to march all night in faith for your promise?
- Read James 2:14-18. What actions do you need to take that align with the promises you are believing for?

Radical Truth #3: Audacious faith moves the hand of the Almighty God. (Verse 12)

- What was Joshua's bold prayer (verse 12)? How did God answer that bold prayer (verse 13)?
- Joshua was bold enough to pray it and God was big enough to perform it.
- God did not call us to survive this world, He called us to change this world.

Closing:

- What audacious dream will you begin believing God for? What big bold prayers are you willing to pray? What are you believing for that captures the attention of a God who says, "all things are possible to those who believe?"
- What mistake does God want to turn into a miracle?
- Would the word "audacious" describe your dreams? Your prayers? Your faith?