

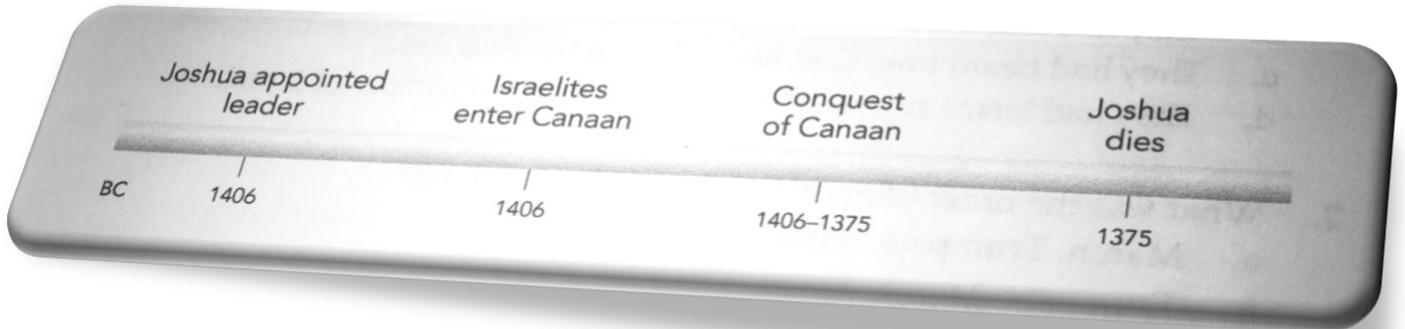
The Story

Session 8: The Battle Begins

Buhler Mennonite Church ZOOM Live – February 3, 2021

"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go." JOSHUA 1:9 (NIV)

1. Opening & Praying



2. Introduction:

- Watch the scripture video: *Joshua 1:1ff*

"This might surprise you, but following God involves engaging in an ongoing series of battles to live in God's will and walk in God's ways ... this will always be part of our story."

- **Reflect on it/Talk About It:** *Can you think of a time in your life when you were faced with an overwhelming challenge that you need to confront?*
 - *What was it and how did you respond?*

- ### 3. Review:
- As we go through *The Story* together, we want to learn how to tell the story. This week we begin a focus on Movement 2 portion of *The Story*. Read through Movement 1 in review & then begin to commit Movement 2 to memory.

MOVEMENT 2: *God builds a brand-new nation called Israel. Through this nation, God will reveal his presence, power, and plan to get us back. Every story of Israel will point to the first coming of Jesus --the One who will provide the way back to God.*

Picture	Portion of The Story	Portion of the Bible
	The Story of the Garden	Genesis 1–11
	The Story of Israel	Genesis 12–Malachi
	The Story of Jesus	Matthew–John (Gospels)
	The Story of the Church	Acts–Jude
	The Story of a New Garden	Revelation

4. Know the Story: Pop Quiz

- Why had fear struck the hearts of the people of Rahab's city?
 - a. They had heard the size of the Israelite army was a million men.
 - b. They had heard the story of how the Israelites defeated Egypt.
 - c. They had heard how God had dried up the Red Sea.
 - d. They had heard stories of plagues coming on enemies of Israel.

- What was the order of events at the battle of Jericho?
 - a. March. Trumpets. Shout. Walls fall down.
 - b. Trumpets. March. Shout. Walls fall down.
 - c. March. Shout. Walls fall down. Trumpets.
 - d. Trumpets. March. Walls fall down. Shout.

- Why did the Israelites choose to defend the people of Gibeon?
 - a. They had made a treaty with Joshua.
 - b. They had cried out to Joshua for help.
 - c. Five kings had joined together to destroy Gibeon.
 - d. All of the above.

- Who did Joshua say would serve the LORD in his final words to the Israelites?
 - a. Just himself.
 - b. Himself and his household.
 - c. Himself and his children's children to the 4th generation.
 - d. All of the people of Israel.

5. Understand the Story: Video with Randy Frazee

Video Guide: As you watch the video use the following outline to record anything that stands out to you.

- God instructs Joshua: "Be strong and courageous":
 - The Upper Story plan of God must _____ .

- Committing to be a people of the Word:
 - KEY POINT: They needed to be people of the _____ .

- Growing as a people of prayer:
 - KEY POINT: They needed to be people of _____ .

- Proud to be a people identified with God:
 - KEY POINT: They needed to be people _____ with God.
 - In the Upper Story, God is bigger than the _____ .

6. Video Discussion/Journaling: Write down your answers.

- In the story of Jericho--from Rahab to the final scene--what are ways you see the LORD directing the steps of the Israelites? What is God trying to show them?
- What did the LORD call his people to do as they got ready to enter the Promised Land (Joshua 1:1-11; *THE STORY* pp. 89-90)?
- Just like the people of Israel, we sometimes are fearful of challenges and don't want to deal with them. *What challenge in your life have you put on the back burner, but you know it is time to face it and deal with it? How can your group members pray for you, cheer you on, and keep you accountable in this process?*

In the Lower Story the giants are bigger than the Israelites.

- What are your personal habits and commitments when it comes to Bible study? *How does consistent and faith-filled reading of the Bible (God's Story) help us remain strong and courageous as we swim upstream against the currents of this world?*
- Baptism is an outward sign of an inward reality ... namely our identification with God. *What is the meaning of baptism and why is this public celebration so important and powerful?* Feel free to share your baptism story.

Personal Reflections: Think through the 3 areas of preparation for battle that Randy discusses in today's session:

1. How can I go deeper into God's Word and follow it with greater passion in my daily life?
2. What steps can I take to make more space for conversation with God in my normal day, especially when I am facing battles?
3. When people look at me, in a normal day, do they see that I am a follower of Jesus? What can I do to live and think in ways that will identify me more closely with the Saviour?
4. Think deeply of the grace you have received in Jesus.
5. Then, identify ways you need to change your actions, attitudes, and motives to bring them in line with God's will for you.

*"Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it.
Then you will be prosperous and successful (Joshua 1:8; THE STORY, p. 89)"*

6. Double Check Your Pop Quiz

Answer Key: c / a / d / b

Video Notes Answer Key: advance / Word / fear / prayer / identified / giants

7. Next Week: No Session, it is the BMC Mission Chicken Noodle Soup Supper! We resume on Feb. 17 (Ash Wednesday).