



BREAKING THE ICE

Did you play a sport in school? If so, what sport did you play?

What is the worst injury you have ever had?

MAIN CONTENT

This week Pastor Kevin started a series called, “Battles and Blessings.” We all have battles we are fighting, especially right now, but there are blessings in the midst of the battle.

1. What are you battling right now?

Currently we are all battling something. Most of us have battles going on inside our heart and minds. In the book of Exodus, we read about how God wanted to set his people free from slavery in Egypt. For 40 years, Moses led the Israelites as they wandered in the wilderness after being freed from captivity. Unfortunately, Moses died before the Israelites made it to the Promised Land. But God had someone else take Moses’s place: Joshua.

Joshua had his own inner battles to fight in order to lead people. God called Joshua to lead just as God calls us to himself, to live a life of character with His help, to relationships and to a specific work He has prepared for us.

2. What do you believe God has called you to do? (Your calling can certainly go beyond your job.)

3. What is God saying to you in the midst of this pandemic?

One way we can know our calling is drawing near to God and listening to what He has to say about us. God knew you would be alive during this pandemic, and He is with you to lead us through it. He gives us things to be thankful for in the midst of the battles we go through, including the battle we are all going through together.

MAIN CONTENT

As Joshua spent time with God, God prepared Joshua for the battles to come. One of the battles was to help lead the Israelites through the wilderness and into the Promised Land. Part of Joshua's calling was to help others. God calls all of us to help someone.

When we go through a battle or crisis, it can cause us to forget things about ourselves. We need someone to remind us of who we are, whose we are and what we're called to do. Moses believed in Joshua. He believed in what God had called Joshua to do, so he prayed for him and reminded Joshua of what he was called to.

4. Who has made an impact in your life that helped shape you into the person you are today? What did they say or do to help shape your life into what is today?

We all need someone to remind us of our calling and speak truth into us. But the one who speaks the most truth to us is God. He will never leave us, and His peace lasts forever.

5. Are you currently asking God to step into your inner battles? Why or why not?

6. How have you felt God when you allow Him to help you with your inner battles?

In Exodus 33 we see that Joshua spent time in God's presence. He would linger in God's presence to spend time with Him. The more he spent time with God, the better he would feel. In the midst of wandering through the wilderness, Joshua knew he had to find time to linger in the presence of his creator in order to accomplish what God had called him to do.

7. Where have you been currently spending your time lingering? Is the source of where you spend your time lingering giving you restoration or weariness?

Joshua continued to make the most out of the wilderness. He spent his time in the wilderness drawing closer to God. And through that time, God helped Joshua. He prepared Joshua for the battle he was facing but also for the battles he would endure later.

Joshua saw the blessings in the battle. He knew that his God was bigger than the battles and giants before him. And because he spent time in God's presence and knew his God, He was able to help others in their own battles.

8. How can you be a blessing to someone during this time?

PRAYER

Father, we want to draw closer to you during this time. Teach us how to pray and linger in your presence. Take away the things that distract us from you. Show us the blessings in the midst of our battles. Help us keep our focus on the positive things in life in addition to leaning on you in the battles we are facing. Let us feel your presence, hear your voice and draw near to you. In Jesus name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

1. Connect with someone who helped change the trajectory of your life in a positive way this week. Write them a letter, send a text or call them and tell them how much you appreciate them.
2. Spend time lingering in God's presence this week. You can pray, be still with Him, read scripture or play worship music. Challenge yourself to spend time listening to God instead of the negative voices in your life.