



BREAKING THE ICE

Describe a time you did something completely out of the ordinary that created a lasting memory for you?

What is something new you have tried during the quarantine?

MAIN CONTENT

This week we continue to study the life of Joshua in the “Battles and Blessings” series.

We are currently living in unprecedented times. Times in which things are unclear and perhaps even a little scary. But God uses times like these to reveal things to us about ourselves and Him.

1. What is something you have learned about yourself during this time?
2. What is something you have learned about God during this time?

During this time we’ve all had some battles. We have good days and bad days. No one’s life is as picture perfect as we would like to portray on social media. The difference is in how we handle it. We can choose to take it to God or to the world.

3. Who do you talk with about the battles going on in your life? Is their advice helpful or harmful? Explain.

When we go to God with the battles going on in our lives He gives us what we need to fight them. He says in Philippians 4:6-7, “Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.”

The more time we spend with God the more we experience His peace and can consecrate our hearts toward Him. We can learn about spending more time with God from Joshua. We read in the book of Joshua that he spent his mornings with God.

MAIN CONTENT

Read Joshua 3:1-4.

Just like we find ourselves in unprecedented times, Joshua was in an unprecedented time moving the Israelites toward the Promise Land. As Joshua was lingering in God's presence one morning, God gave Joshua instructions on the next steps for him and the Israelites. Steps for an unprecedented time and place because they had never been where they currently were.

4. Describe a time in your life when you clearly knew the next steps God wanted you to take in your life. Was it easy or challenging? How did you see God move in your life during that time?

In the midst of our unprecedented times, God wants us to look for Him and follow Him. When we look for Him, we concentrate on Him, spend time with Him, think about Him and what He has done for us. We can ask Him to be with us, to bring us peace and comfort in the midst of our battles.

5. What are some personal rhythms or disciplines you utilize to help you look for God in your life?

When we look for God, we are asking Him to bring peace to our minds. It's a thoughtful way to experience Him. We can look for God and follow Him. But God also calls us to consecrate our hearts to Him (Joshua 1:5). To consecrate means to dedicate your heart to God and completely surrender to Him.

Consecration can be challenging, because it calls us to give everything to God. We continually pick things back up and attempt to handle them on our own. That's why consecration is so important. We need to consecrate ourselves daily to God and put our trust in Him, to let Him do the work, to surrender everything to Him.

6. What are some things you need to surrender to God and trust Him with?

When you live a life of consecration, trust God and follow Him he can move in you. He will show you new things and provide a new path for you to follow to feel His love and peace. He can move in unprecedented times in unprecedented ways. His ways can shape us for what we are currently experiencing and even help us for things we can't see in the future.

As we continue reading Joshua 3, we see where God asked the Israelites to take the Ark of the Covenant ahead of the Israelites and they continue their journey to the Promise Land.

The Ark of the Covenant was a representation of God's presence. When the priests took the Ark, God

parted the Jordan River so the Israelites could cross and continue the journey into the Promised Land. God performed a miracle for them with His presence leading the way.

7. Where have you seen God move in an unprecedented way in your life?

The presence of God became real when God sent His son Jesus. Jesus was God in human form. Then Jesus died on the cross so we could spend eternity with Him. After Jesus had died, God sent the Holy Spirit to dwell in us so we could have God's presence with us at all times. And we can experience God with us at all times when we look to Him and follow Him and consecrate our lives to Him.

8. What steps can you take in your life to follow Jesus and live your life consecrated to Him?

PRAYER

Father God, thank you for moving in unprecedented ways. You make a way when we don't see it and you provide a path for us to follow. Help us to look for you and spend time in your presence. Show us where our hearts need to be consecrated to you. Give us the courage to go all in on a life dedicated to you. In Jesus name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

In this week's message, we are encouraged to do two things:

1. To look for God and follow Him This is to concentrate on Him and keep Him top of mind.
2. To consecrate ourselves to Him To consecrate means to dedicate, it's when you set yourself apart for God.

If looking to God is about your mind, consecration is about your heart. Ask God to captivate both your heart and mind and to lead you in how to live that out.