



BREAKING THE ICE

What is the best vacation you have ever had?

What is the best meal you have either cooked or had delivered in the last few weeks?

MAIN CONTENT

This week we are finishing up our Battles and Blessings series. Our scripture reference is Joshua 5 and 6.

1. What blessings have you seen in your life in the last few weeks?
2. What is one way you have been able to be a blessing to others in the last few weeks?

This week Pastor Kevin talked about praying circles around our situations. Praying circles around your situation is when we pray with consistency, intentionality and perseverance. Pastor Kevin said, “When we pray circles, it changes things.”

3. Where have you seen God move in your life after praying circles around a situation?

When we look back at the story of Joshua we see God calling him to be strong and courageous. And through that courage, Joshua had confidence that God would take care of the Israelites he was leading.

Just after they crossed the Jordan River, Joshua felt like he was facing impossible circumstances. The battle of Jericho was beyond what he could imagine, and he had to trust God to win the battle.

When we face something impossible, God wants us to surrender to Him. We have to embrace the truth that we are not in charge and not in control.

4. How easy is it for you to surrender things to God? What keeps you from surrendering things to Him?

MAIN CONTENT

God wants us to come to Him and **surrender to Him**. He asks us to humble ourselves and tell Him we need Him. When we surrender to God and tell Him we need Him, we also need to tell Him what our problem is. We need to **define reality** and what we need.

5. What reality do you need to define? How does this help you know what you need in order to move forward?

When we define our reality, we can **ask God to give us His plans** for our reality. We can pray and wait for His plans. It may take time to know what His plans are, and they may not make sense to us, but He knows what's best for us.

6. Have you ever been in a situation where God asked you to do something and it didn't make sense? What happened?

Joshua asked God for His plans. God's plans did not make sense at the time. But Joshua and the Israelites obeyed. They walked and prayed circles around Jericho for 7 days.

When we walk and pray for God to give us His plans, we are walking in obedience. We may not have the most articulate prayers, or know exactly what to say, but walking and talking with Him draws us near to Him.

7. Share about a time when you felt the nearness of God while walking and talking with Him. What can you take from that moment to help build your faith?

Don't give up. Pastor Kevin said, "Sometimes faithfulness is the faith to just do one more day." Take it one day at a time. We are not alone, God is with us.

8. When have you seen perseverance pay off in your life? Describe the situation and outcome to your group.

PRAYER

Father, we don't always know what your plans are, but we do know they are better than what we have planned. Help us surrender everything in our lives to you. Show us exactly what we need to pray for and give us the plans to move forward with you guiding us. In Jesus' name, Amen.

ACTION STEP

1. This week, surrender to God what you have been holding on to and trying to control. Feel free to use the prayer Pastor Kevin prayed in this week's message:

God, you are in charge, you are in control and I surrender everything and everyone to you. I give you my Jericho and I ask you to tear down the walls, to give me the faith to trust and the courage to do what you say. The battle belongs to you.

2. Walk and pray. Being outside in nature can clear our heads. Walking while praying can help open our hearts for God to reveal things to us. Spend some time this week walking and praying for the answers and guidance you need from God. and guidance you need from God.