

JOSHUA AND THE PROMISED LAND

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INTRO:

1. **Welcome** to a new world
2. **Winds** of change

A. THE PURPOSE OF GOD

1. Symbolized through **circumcision** (Joshua 5:2-8; Genesis 17:9-12)
2. Symbolized through **Passover** (Joshua 5:10; Exodus 12:12-14)

B. THE PRESENCE OF GOD

1. The **presence** of God in Joshua's encounter (Joshua 5:13-16)
2. The **presence** of God in Moses' encounter (Exodus 3:1-6)

C. THE POWER OF GOD

The power of God was...

1. Foretold by their **testimony** (Joshua 2:9-11; 6:1)
2. Declared with **certainty** (Joshua 6:2)
3. Preceded by **continuously** following God word (Joshua 6:3-5)
4. Demonstrated because of their complete **dependency** (Joshua 6:8-11, 20)

CONCLUSION

TABLETALK QUESTIONS

1. Share about a time when a team that you were a part of (as a member or a fan) won an unlikely victory.
2. Read Joshua 5:10–15. In this passage, we see two signs of shifting for Israel. They would no longer be nomads wandering through the desert. Instead, they would finally claim the land of Canaan, promised through their ancestor Abraham. First, the manna that had fed them for the last forty years stopped. Second, the commander of the Lord’s army showed up to announce that the time for battle had come. Can you share about a time when circumstances in your life shifted so much that you knew it was time for a change?
3. Read Joshua 6:1–5. This was not the way a general would attack a city, especially one like Jericho, which had big walls and the best defenses of the day. But God had a plan to show the people who were living in the Promised Land that He was responsible for the victory. If the people of Israel could defeat Jericho, they could overcome anything. The same is true today. God promises to be with us and wants us to use His power and strength to overcome our obstacles. Have you ever felt God calling you (or someone you know) to do something that seemed to go against conventional wisdom, but it worked out in the end? Share with the group.
4. Read Joshua 6:6–11, 14–16. Can you imagine how intimidating this must have been for the residents of Jericho to watch this large army march around the city for seven days? The people of Jericho had heard of the Israelites and how their God had delivered them from Egypt and other enemies during their desert wanderings. The reputation of the Israelites’ God had the Jericho people quaking before the first soldier had taken up his arms (Joshua 2:9–11). But while the people of Jericho were full of fear, the people of Israel were full of faith. They marched around the city day after day, trusting God and believing His plan would lead them to victory. Have you ever been in a situation that just got scarier as you waited for it to unfold? Have you ever been in a situation where the longer you waited, the more your faith grew?
5. Read Joshua 6:20–21. What would it have been like to watch the walls of Jericho suddenly collapse? This is nothing that could have been accomplished by human hands. The people of Israel’s part was to have faith in God and then to walk through the door that He opened. In the same way, the salvation of our soul cannot be accomplished by human effort. Jesus alone has collapsed the walls that once separated us from an eternity with God. We are invited simply to have faith to believe this truth and to demonstrate this faith by walking through the open door He has provided. Obedience is a key theme throughout the Bible. At its root, obedience hinges on trust. Why do you think our obedience matters to God? What obstacles are there in your life? How have you tried to overcome them on your own?