

Joshua 8:1-9 Discussion Questions

Sermon Outline

Intro

- Kids' games teach life lessons
 - Tag
 - Red light/green light
 - Simon Says
- Proverbs 3:5-6
 - Trust in the LORD with all your heart
 - and lean not on your own understanding;
 - in all your ways submit to him,
 - and he will make your paths straight.
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 - Repeating the Process (v.1-2)
 - Obeying the Commands (v.3-9)

The Backstory

- Abraham to Moses
 - God declares in a covenant with Abraham that he is going to take his family and build a nation of people who will love, trust and obey him
 - Abraham's family multiplies to become the nation of Israel, but due to a famine they travel to Egypt where after a few generations they become slaves to the Egyptian empire
 - Moses is called by God to lead Israel out of slavery and into the land promised by God.
 - God creates a new covenant with these people calling for them to obey him because he delivered them from slavery
 - Moses dies just before the people cross the Jordan River and enter into the promised land
- Joshua 1-4
 - An intentional reminder that Joshua is the new Moses who will lead Israel and experience the Lord's faithfulness
 - Commands Joshua to remind the people to obey the laws they received before entering the promised land
 - Opens up the Jordan River for Israel to walk on dry land, just like when the Lord opened up the Red Sea for Israel to flee Egypt

- Joshua 5-7
 - Joshua and Israel are introduced to opposition
 - Chapter 5 sees Joshua run into a warrior, who reminds Joshua to follow the Lord's leading in the battle
 - Chapter 6 success at Jericho, but Achan steals things that were supposed to be destroyed
 - Chapter 7 Israel experiences defeat and Achan is punished
 - No explicit command from the Lord about when or how to attack Ai
 - Achan's sin causes harm to others besides himself

Repeating the Process (v.1-2)

- *"God, help us to trust in You when nothing around us makes sense to us." - David Platt*

Obeying the Command (v.3-9)

Discussion Questions

Read Josh 8:1-9

1. Right before this passage, Joshua lead his people into failure because he got out ahead of God's leading and failed to address sin that had tainted the people. Can you relate? When have you gotten out ahead of God and what ended up happening?
2. After they dealt with their sin, God lead Joshua and the people to re-attack Ai. Given their recent loss, it could have been really easy to be apprehensive about going back to Ai—especially because their loss was so humiliating. When is it most difficult for you to trust the Lord's plan?
3. Were you ever asked by God to do something that didn't seem to make sense to you? If so, what was it and how did you respond? How did it work out?
4. What is the relationship between trust and obedience, belief and action?
 - a. In light of this fact, how then do we know if we really trust God in a particular area?

4. Have there been areas of your life where initially you struggled to trust God, but you have been able grow in that area? If so, how did you grow? What did that growth process look like?

5. What is the area in which you are currently struggling to trust God most? What is God calling you to do at this time? What is keeping you from doing it?

Take some time to pray:

- **Confessing your lack of trust in specific areas and desire to trust the Lord**
- **Pray for one another regarding the specific challenges shared**