

Small groups – Week beginning Monday 6th July 2020

Introduction/icebreaker

- Have you ever been in the newspaper or on the news? What for?
- What's under your kitchen sink?
- They say experience is the best teacher. What's one lesson that experience has taught you?

Discussion questions

1. There wasn't a "sermon" on Sunday but did anything resonate with you?
2. We were encouraged to remember Joshua 1:9 – "*This is my command – be strong and courageous! Do not be afraid or discouraged. For the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.*" → How do those words make you feel?

Digging deeper

Read Joshua 1:1-9. Notice the following components:

- A scary situation (v1-2). Moses is dead, Joshua is next in line with big shoes to fill.
- God's promises (v3-5). God promised His provision, protection and presence.
- God's challenges (v6-9). God instructed Joshua to:
 - "be strong and courageous" (x3 → importance of repetition)
 - "Be careful to obey" – Success would be conditional upon obedience (see also Deuteronomy 8:1, 11:8-9, 22-25) Note v8 "Study this book continually" – continual spiritual growth leads to faithful obedience. God promised all the things He would do – He wasn't looking for a miracle worker (He would do those!), just a faithful, obedient servant/leader.
 - "Do not be afraid or discouraged" – Joshua had huge shoes to fill and a big job ahead; perhaps he felt unprepared, or scared of what could happen. But it was God who chose him & equipped him (see Numbers 27:18 & Deuteronomy 34:9) – God sees what we don't and prepares us for what we can't! Deuteronomy 34:10-12 – Joshua wasn't like Moses, and that's ok. Be you!

Every situation can either be an opportunity to show fear or to show faith. God's promises and challenges to Joshua are equally applicable to us. **Discuss...**

3. What situations are you facing right now where you have the option to choose faith over fear?
4. As you look back, can you see how God has prepared you for what He has in store for you?
5. God chose, *appointed* and *anointed* Joshua because he was Joshua, not because he was like Moses. Do you find it easy to accept that you are God's man/woman for a job, and that He wants to use you exactly the way you are?

Prayer

Take time to share prayer requests and pray for each other.