

Study Questions

Restoring God's Favor

Joshua 8

Opening Discussion

1. Have you ever lost something of value?
2. If so, what efforts did you make to try and recover the lost item? Did you find it? If so, what did you do once you found it?

Bible Study

1. How do you respond when things don't go according to your plan?

Especially in light of Israel's superior numbers, do you think Joshua was tempted to rally the troops to make an assault on Ai instead of meeting with God? Why or why not?

Would you have been tempted to forge ahead in that situation? Why or why not?

2. Upon getting God's assurances and battle plan in Joshua 8:1-2, do you think it was easy for Joshua to follow this plan? Why or why not?

Once you understand God's plan and direction for your life, do you find it easy to follow God? Why or why not? What are the obstacles that keep you from following God?

3. Do you think Joshua had a hard time selling the soldiers on this plan? Why or why not?

Why do you think Joshua is so emphatic in verse 8 that the soldiers follow God's direction?

What have you found helpful in encouraging other people to follow God?

4. Any time a soldier follows God into battle, there is a risk of death. What are the risks that you have incurred in following God?

Are there risks or costs that you consider too high to follow God? If so, how do you grow in your willingness to accept the risks and costs that come from following God?

5. What is your response to the fact that God ordered the death of all of the people in Ai?

What does this tell us about God?

6. Are you surprised by Israel's "celebration" in verses 30-35? Why or why not?

How do you respond when you experience God's blessing in your life?

Application

1. What changes to your schedule do you need to make in order to make sure you are meeting with God regularly?

What steps do you need to take to be sure you are implementing God's plan for your life and not taking things into your own hands?

2. Honestly, right now, what risks or costs are too high for you to bear in order to follow God?

How can you grow to the point that you are willing to accept those risks and costs?

3. If you are experiencing God's blessing, based on Israel's example, what is a right response to God?