



STEP IN FAITH (Week 4)

WELCOME: What has been the most significant Word or learning you received from God through this series?

WORSHIP: As we begin, let's welcome the presence of God by singing *DO IT AGAIN* (by *Elevation Worship*). You can find the lyric video of the song through this link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0B_InQIITxU

WORD: The purpose for the entire *Envision Greater Things* series are wrapped up in these four questions:

1. "God, what do you want to say to your church?" 2. "What do you want us to learn individually?" 3. "What areas of faith do you want us to grow in?" 4. "Where are you taking us?"

Stepping in Faith is the ability to fully obey the plans of God for us even when things don't make sense or when things get routine and monotonous. We will learn from the story of Joshua and the conquest of Jericho.

Can someone recall or retell the story of Joshua and the conquest of Jericho? (Joshua Chapter 6)

Lessons from the Story.

1. God declares His victory before the battle. Read Joshua 6:1-2. Imagine how it must have been for Joshua—because what he was seeing was not exactly he was hearing. He hears, "I have given you Jericho" but what he sees in front of him is a strong and powerful city! Sometimes, we feel overwhelmed when what we see doesn't match what God's Word says.

- What do you do when what you see does not match you have just been told?
- What do you do when the preacher talks about blessings, peace, abundant life and joy and you go home to a broken family; you owe a lot of money; you can't make ends meet; when you're out a job, your wife is ill; your child is rebellious; your crush doesn't like you back?
- Read Hebrews 10:36.

2. God's plans are different from ours. Read Joshua 6:3-5. He told Joshua to have the armed men march around the city once each day, for six days. The priests were to carry the ark, blowing trumpets, but the soldiers were to keep quiet—their role was to just walk around. The plan makes no sense. How can an army conquer a kingdom just by walking around it? But God was asking them to do something that didn't make sense so His power can be more evident. They were just told to follow the plan. Audacious faith is simply following what God says! We find this to be true all throughout the Bible: God can do the impossible but He asks us to do the impractical.

- Read Isaiah 55:8-9.
- What are your plans for victory? What are your plans for the future?
- Read Proverbs 19:21. Should we be more focused on our plan or should we just seek God's purpose?
- "To be victorious, you got to be willing to do something ridiculous." – Steven Furtick
- What impractical things is God asking you to do in your own life so you can receive the blessing/victory you expect?

3. Sometimes, God withholds some details of His plan. Read Joshua 6:6-10. God told Joshua the exact plan, but he did not tell the army and priest everything. It's human nature to refuse to do what they're told, and, to want to know what's going on. We hate to be told what to do! But we also hate it when details are not supplied for us. However, even when we do what we're told, we "improvise"—we don't usually stick to the plan because we think our strategy in life is better! But we learn from this story that there are times when the best strategy is just shut up and march—do as you're told. The army of Israel did exactly what Joshua told them.

- Do you have authority issues? Do you struggle to submit to a leader God placed over you or to obey a plan laid out for you?
- "If you can't submit to someone God placed over you, you won't submit to a God you don't see." – Levi Lusko
- Read Hebrews 13:17 and Jeremiah 42:6.
- "For every promise there is a plan, so follow the plan and He'll do what He promised." – Pastor Jon

4. Don't resist the monotonous so you will not miss the miraculous. Read Joshua 6:11-14. We must to learn how to step and keep stepping in faith; to walk and keep walking. Part of the reason why God makes us walk farther and see no result is because He wants us to stop focusing on the outcome and be more focused on obedience. God wants you to do what he tells you to do because is doing a deeper work in you. Some of the things God tells us to do are repetitive so we can develop habits that are honoring to Him. The key is, repeat the right things the right way. Don't deviate from the plan (even if the plan does not make sense).

We must keep stepping in faith and embrace the routine because the routine is also a blessing. Stay in the rhythm and routine that God is giving us. Keep obeying God—keep coming to church, keep mentoring others, keep attending your DGroup, serve in church, keep giving your tithe, keep sharing your faith, keep inviting your friends, keep investing, keep sowing, keep declaring--don't stop!

- Do you get easily bored? How do you keep yourself excited with what God is asking you to do?
- Read Galatians 6:9. What is the result of routine?
- What can you do to remain engaged in what God is doing?

5. Victory will come on God's appointed day. Read Joshua 6:15-16, 20. God did not call us to make victory happen on the day we want it to happen—what we need to do is to keep declaring God's victory and behave as if the victory that is yet to be is already ours; because behaving like victors helps us to remain faithful and expectant! The moment you cease to be expectant is the moment you embrace defeat. Keep expecting *Greater Things* from your God, keep attempting great things for God! While we wait for the fulfillment of God's promise, our role is to keep obeying—to keep stepping in faith and grow.

- Do you have a tendency to look at the negative? How can you change that tendency?
- Do you have the tendency to become less enthusiastic? How can you change that tendency?
- How can you live everyday with an attitude of a victor? Read James 1:12, Romans 8:37, 1 Corinthians 15:57.
- Stay excited about your faith; don't let anything move, but keep giving yourself to God's work. 1 Corinthians 15:58.

Prayer Time:

Pray for the people seated on your left and right; that the Lord will develop the following areas of faith:

Seeing in Faith. To envision purpose and potential; to see the good and the great; learn to see how God sees.

Sowing in faith. To invest who we are and what we have in what God is blessing.

Speaking in faith. To declare the word of God over our situations and to speak the life of Christ over people, situations, places and things.

Stepping in faith. Embrace the plan and routine; obey the directions God gives that lead to victory.

ANNOUNCEMENT:

FALL BAPTISM BASH – OCTOBER 23 (Right after Sunday worship at the Microtel Inn swimming pool)

If you have received Jesus as Lord and Savior and you want to take your next step of faith, SIGN UP FOR BAPTISM!