

## Weekly Devotional

\*Material taken from "The Story" curriculum by Randy Frazee with Kevin and Sherry Harney.

### *Session 7 – The Battle Begins*

*"Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go."* Joshua 1:9

When someone keeps telling you to "be strong and courageous," you might suspect you are up against something big. And the Israelites were.

My guess is you have a few giants in your life too. Some uphill battles that appear insurmountable. A task demanding more than you think you have to give. One too many things on your "to do" list than you have the time or energy to do. Unemployment is staring you down. Depression has a grip on you. Bills have raided your bank account and left it empty. An illness hovers in your life like a threatening storm. You'd rather just run and wander.

Instead, be strong and courageous. You have a Joshua that will lead the way. The New Testament equivalent of the name "Joshua" is "Jesus."

And He has promised to be with you always (Matthew 28:20).

Read Ch. 7 in *The Story* book or in your Bible: **Joshua 1:1-11,16-18; 2:1-16, 22-24; 6:1-17,20-26a,27; Joshua 8:1-2,10-22, 25, 30-31a,34-35; 10:1-28, 40-43; 11:1-15,23; 23:1-5, 14-16; and 24:1-15, 24-31.**

### **Think on these questions:**

1. What do these passages tell us about GOD? (Who is God? What is God like? What has God done?)
2. What do these passages tell us about US (Human Beings)? (What/how are we supposed to be? What has gone wrong?)
3. What do these passages tell us about HOW WE SHOULD LIVE? (What has God done about what has gone wrong? What does He expect of us? How should we live?)

### **Closing Prayer:**

*As you take time to pray, here are some ideas to get you started:*

- Pray for a renewed and deeper love for God's Word and a commitment to read and study it daily.
- Ask God to help you communicate more often and with greater intimacy as you speak with him in prayer.

### **Personal Action:**

Is there an area in your life where you have given in and stopped pushing forward because of the culture of our world? It's not that you don't care, but you just are heading in the wrong direction. If you felt such a conviction, make a commitment to take specific steps to follow God's will, resist temptation, and begin your battle against this particular area of sin or apathy. Find a friend who will pray for you and keep you accountable to keep up the good fight.

**Next Session:** Please read chapter 8 of *The Story*, "A Few Good Men and Women."