



'Battles Before Blessings'

Ice-Breakers:

- Share a story about something really good in your life that you had to work hard to attain. Was it worth the battle to receive the blessing? Why or why not?

Questions:

1. Discuss this statement: *'You can learn from yesterday... but anybody who lives in yesterday does not maximize today and usually messes up tomorrow.'*
2. Over and over in Joshua chapter one, God tells Joshua to "be strong and courageous." Define strength and courage.
3. Read Joshua 1:5 and Hebrews 13:5-6. In what area of your life do you need to trust God's promises to you in Hebrews 13:5-6?
4. God's promises are guaranteed, but they're not automatic. God assured Joshua and the Israelites that they would inherit the promised land, but they still had to fight the battles to take over the land. So there's a part that God plays and there's a part that we play. Discuss how this is similar to God's promises to us in the New Testament.
5. Read Joshua 1:6-8. God gives us three things to do with His Word (the Bible) - speak it (talk about it); save it (meditate on it) and serve it (do what it says). Which of those three areas would you like to improve upon, personally?
6. Pastor Bryan said: *"Following God's objective word (what's clearly revealed in the Bible) opens the door for His subjective guidance (answers to specific direction you need in your life)."* How often do you stop and invite God into each and every situation of your life (at work, at home, at school, before a meeting or important conversation, etc.), and what would it take for you to do this more often?

Application:

This week, practice doing life with God by saying little prayers throughout the day... asking God for His wisdom, guidance and strength in all the decisions you have to make.