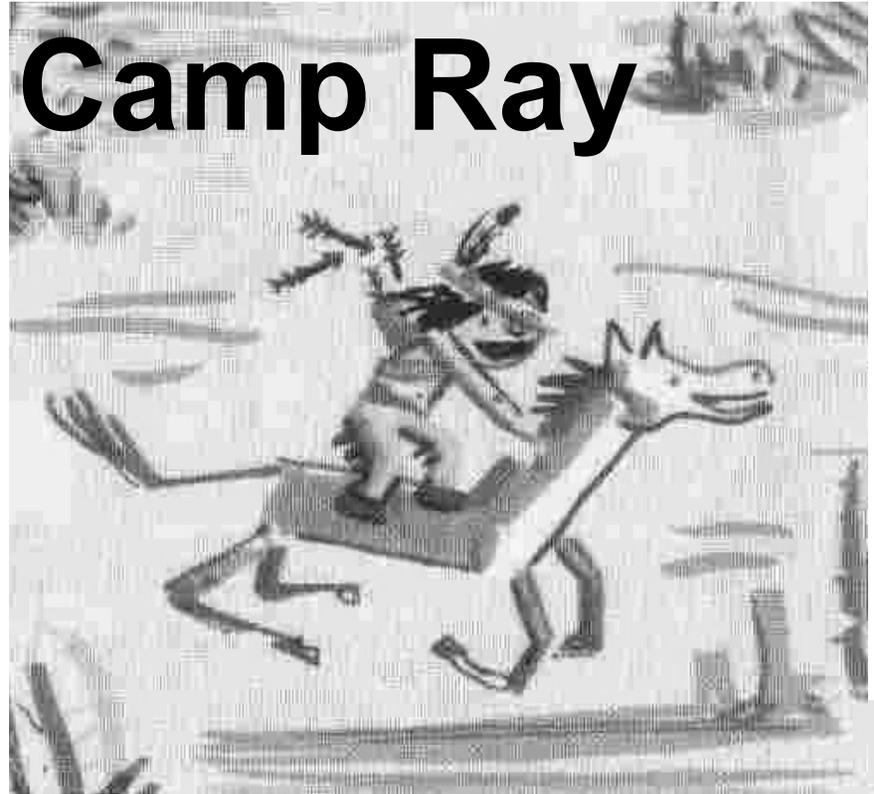


Camp Ray



**2005
Staff Devotional**

You are here, the summer is finally beginning and we are preparing to serve together as a team.

The theme of "How the West was Won", the Lone Ranger and Tonto, all conjure up images of rugged people, setting out across America in search of their dream.

This summer, we will travel across the desert with the Israelites as they journey from Egypt to the Promised Land. God's dream- His people following Him, taking the land He had promised so long ago, serving only Him...

But we know the story, we know they were unfaithful a lot, well, most of the time. But we also know that there are so many lessons for us to mine from their experiences.

As we journey together this summer, seeking to bring glory to God as we love in His name, let us purpose now to walk together well. To encourage and help each other along the way. To challenge each other to follow Him only. To let knowing Jesus become our focus and dream.

You have been prayed for since September, we have watched God call and draw each person. It is His plan for you to be here and we are excited.

Mike, Shawn & Susan

Staff Training Day 1

God's plan in God's time: Called & Sent

Read Exodus 1-2

God makes a promise to Abraham in Genesis 15 & 17 and He plans to fulfill it.

- How does the climate/circumstances in Egypt impact the Israelites?
- How has the Lord used hardship or discontent to move you in His direction?
- Why is it significant that Moses is a Levite?
- How have you seen the Lord working even through the smallest details in your life?
- What evidence of God's sovereignty can you see in these chapters?

- What do you think are Moses' motives in identifying himself with the Israelites at this time?

- How is their groaning in vs. 24 evidence of God's preparing work in their hearts?

- How have you seen God prepare you to be here this summer?

Moses learned a lot during his exile: he learned desert life, family life, God undistracted. God has a plan for every moment in your life.

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Staff Training Day 2

Read Exodus 3:1-10

- What 'strange sight' caught your attention and led you here?
- What 2 things does God teach Moses about Himself in vs. 5-6?
- 2 more in vs. 7?
- Why do you think God reinforces Moses' connection to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob?
- How are these qualities of God meaningful to you?
- How do you know that God has 'sent you' to care for His people here this summer?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Staff Training Day 3

Read Exodus 3:11-4:17

- Do any of Moses' excuses seem familiar to you?
- "Jehovah" in vs. 14 means self-existent one. Why do you think God reveals this about Himself to Moses now?
- How does God respond to Moses' questions?
- How have you seen God respond to the questions that you have?
- Why do you think God is so patient with Moses' questions and fears?
- How has God been patient with you- can you think of a specific circumstance? Write it out:

Staff Training Day 4

Often our questions can be a smokescreen for a disobedient spirit. From your own experience, when have you been blessed by simple obedience?

Share a time when you have known the pain of disobedience:

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Read Exodus 4:18-4:31

- Why do you think that Moses is not completely upfront with Jethro?
- How do you think it would encourage Moses' to have Aaron come out to meet him?
- How does it impact the Israelite leaders that God has seen their misery and cared for them?
- What is going on in your heart right now that you can be confident that God sees and cares about?

Spend some time worshipping God right now. Sing praises, pray and thank God for knowing and loving you.

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Staff Training Day 5

Read Exodus 5:1-6:12

- How do you think that Moses' gained such a quick audience with Pharaoh?
- How can you see evidence of God's sovereignty in this?
- What do you hear in Pharaoh's reply to Moses' in vs. 2?
- The Israelites struggle with belief as their circumstances worsen. In 6:2 God reveals Himself as "the Lord" or Yahweh (which mean Redeemer). Even though He is grieved at their lack of faith, how does this name of His speak into their situation with great care?
- What does He promise in vs. 2-8?

- In vs. 3, God says that He revealed Himself as El Shaddai to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. (El= power/might, Shaddai= nourishment/blessing). Why do you think He reveals Himself differently now?

- Why is the Israelites response sad?

- What names has God taught you about Himself?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 1 Day 2

Read Exodus 6:28-7:24

Observe in the next few chapters who/how Pharaoh's heart is hardened.

- Why do you think God waited so long to use Moses (vs.7) when Moses seemed ready earlier in chapter 2?
- Many of the plagues appear to be attacks on specific gods of the Egyptians (see list). How does the God of the Hebrews assert His supremacy here?
- How is this plague an offering of mercy to Pharaoh and the Egyptian people?
- What happens to Pharaoh's heart here?

Spend some time praying and asking God to sift and examine your heart- is it soft before the Lord?

<u>Plague</u>	<u>Egyptian God</u>
Blood in Nile	<i>khnum</i> -guardian of the Nile <i>hapi</i> - spirit of the Nile
Frogs	heqt- god of resurrection, form of a frog
Gnats	none
Flies	none
Plague on cattle	<i>hathor</i> - mother goddess
Boils	<i>imhotep</i> -god of medicine
Hail	<i>nut</i> - sky goddess <i>isis</i> -god of life <i>seth</i> -protector of crops
Locusts	<i>isis</i> -god of life <i>seth</i> - protector of crops
Darkness	<i>re aten atum horus</i> -all sun gods of sorts
Death of Firstborn	<i>the diety of Pharaoh</i> <i>osiris</i> -giver of life

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 1 Day 3

Read Exodus 8

The frog or toad was deified in the goddess Heqt who assisted women in childbirth.

- Even though the magicians mimicked this plague, why do you think Pharaoh asks Moses to pray?
- Who hardens Pharaoh's heart at this point?
- The third plague of gnats converts even the magicians, why do you think Pharaoh's heart remains hard?

The plague of flies brings the distinction between the Israelites and the Egyptians.

- How does Pharaoh marginalize God's demand?

- Imagine yourself a Hebrew in the land- what is going on in your mind and heart?

- How do you marginalize what God is asking of you?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 1 Day 4

Read Exodus 9

- What are some of the differences between the 5th and 6th plagues? (livestock and boils)
- How do you feel about the Lord beginning to harden Pharaoh's heart?
- How have you seen evidence of God's compassion throughout this time?
- How can you discern where your camper's hearts are? Or if you are support staff, how can you be involved with campers in a way that impacts their hearts?

- Vs. 16 is a powerful statement, how have you seen this in your life?

- Why do you think that the Lord continues to warn?

- It is scary to think that there were still people in Egypt who ignored God's words (v.21,30)-how can it help to have Moses call them out in vs. 30?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 1 Day 5

Read Exodus 10

- What have you seen the Lord do that left a lifetime impression on you? (v.1-2)
- How has God placed people around you to offer you wisdom (v.7)?
- Who are these people?
- How can you tell conclusively that Pharaoh's confession of his sin were not sincere?
- What makes a confession of sin sincere?

Ask the Lord to show you if there is any insincerity in you.

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 2 Day 1 He did it!- Deliverance

Read Exodus 11

Lelead this chapter several times- take in the immense impact of this plague on every person in Egypt.

- Why do you think something so drastic was necessary?
- Ask the Lord to show you areas of your heart that are hard to His desires.
- Why does the Lord sometimes use drastic measures to bring us back to Him?
- Have you ever seen this personally in your own life?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 2 Day 2

Read Exodus 12:1-30

Explain in your own words this incredible object lesson:

- Why the blood?
- Why the lamb?
- Why add the bitter herbs?
- Why remove the yeast?

Israel escaped judgment only by applying the blood of the lamb. Spend time praying for the campers this week that will eventually face God's judgment.

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 2 Day 3

Read Exodus 12:31-42, 13:17-22

Pharaoh kicks them out but adds a strange request, "bless me".

- How had Pharaoh already been blessed and my Moses throughout all the trials and plagues?
- How have you been blessed?
- How can you be a blessing?

The herd of Israelites was approximately 2-3 miles long (from the camp entrance to about Mayflower Road)

- It's funny that God's leading them to the Red Sea was the 'easy route'- where in your life right now does God's leading now seem to be the easy path?

- What lesson do you think the pillar of fire and the cloud teach the Israelites?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 2 Day 4

Read Exodus 12:43-13:16

- Which of the Passover regulations stand out to you?
- What are some specific things that the Lord has done in your life that you need to remember?
- How can you reinforce this for yourself?
- Why do you think the Lord makes a provision for 'outsiders' to be able to participate in the Passover?
- What does this communicate about His heart for all people?

Week 2 Day 5

- What does it look like for you to give your “first born” as an offering?

- What practically can you do to help this be a reality?

Read Exodus 14

- Why is it significant that God is again giving the Egyptians the opportunity to know that he is the Lord?

- The Israelites fearful response is understandable (v.10-12) but amusing as well- what did they forget in the story?

- When have you seen the Lord fight for you or someone close to you (v.14)?

- How/Why is it hard to be still?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

- Why do you think the Lord let it take all night (v.21) for the waters to part?

- Imagine yourself an Israelite– how are you feeling as you walk on the dry ground?

- What are you trusting the Lord for right now?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 3 Day 1 **Lessons in Repeat**

Read Exodus 15

- Read through this song of praise and list some of the things they can rejoice over:

- Think through your last 24 hours and list what you have to praise God for:

- How do verses 22-27 illustrate our human nature?

- Jehaovah Rapha (the God who heals) is revealed to the Israelites- how have you seen Him be your healer?

Pray for healing for your campers (or the campers in the cabin you hang with).

Compose a song to the Lord (this will be a stretch for some of you J) using the things you can rejoice over:

Week 3 Day 2

Read Exodus 16

- When do you tend to grumble?
- How do you see Moses' words in vs. 8 as true? (We will see the Israelites need to learn the same lessons over and over again in these next chapters.)

God reveals Himself in this chapter as Jehovah Jireh- the provider.

- How does the Lord test their obedience with the manna (literally means 'what is it?')

God, I hear you saying to me today....

- How does the Lord test their faith with the manna?

- Where are you seeing your faith tested this summer?

- Why is it essential that we realize all of our grumbling is actually aimed at the Lord?

Week 3 Day 3

Read Exodus 17:1-7

- Do you ever feel like Moses leading the Israelites with the campers here?
- In what ways?
- How can you imitate Moses' response?
- God encourages Moses in vs. 6 that "I will stand there before you". How have you seen that to be true for you this summer?
- How do we know for sure that all of our grumbling is actually aimed at the Lord whether or not we recognize it?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

- What causes you to grumble? (seems like we just talked about something similar yesterday– don't worry– so did the Israelites!)

Ask that the Lord show you areas of grumbling against Him so that you can change.

Read Philippians 2:14-16

- What do I need to do as a result of these verses:

Week 3 Day 4

Read Exodus 17:8-16

- What do you think is meant by the symbolism in vs. 11?
- God reveals Himself here as a banner- explain how you see this?
- Who are the people in your life who “hold up your arms” when you need help?
- What are some practical areas you could ask for help in?

Read 1 Samuel 15 & 30 regarding the promise in vs. 14. (The Amalekites were a continual thorn in Israel' side until they were destroyed)

- Why is it comforting to know that the Lord takes cares of the judging?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 3 Day 5

Read Exodus 18

- What is Moses “take-home” lesson from Jethro?
 - Are you the type of person that easily sees the big picture or do you need help focusing? (ask a friend if you aren't sure :)
 - Who are the ‘global’ people God has placed around you to help you see the big picture?
 - Why is this valuable?
 - Does Jethro’s description in vs. 21 describe you?
- What are there areas you need to grow in?
 - Why is it important for you to enlist those around you so that you can ‘stand the strain’?
 - Who are the trustworthy people right now that are able to help you carry your burden at camp this summer?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 4 Day 1 A New Way to Live

Read Exodus 19

- Describe God's feelings for the Israelites:
- Why does the Lord stress the consecration of His people and their adherence to His regulations?
- Why is our obedience important today?
- Where do you see yourself struggling to obey?

- God confers authority to Moses so that the Israelites will trust him- how has the Lord given you authority here?

- How does knowing God has given you this authority challenge you to run well this summer?

- In vs. 16-20 the Lord is revealed to the people- is this how you picture God?

- How does this picture stretch or challenge your view of Him?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 4 Day 2

Read Exodus 20

- Summarize the 10 commandments: (what is intended)
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - 4.
 - 5.
 - 6.
 - 7.
 - 8.
 - 9.
 - 10.
- In Mark 12 :28-31 Jesus says that the whole Law and the Prophets is summed up in 1)Love God and 2) Love others (your neighbor) as yourself
- How do you see this to be true?

- Why are the people afraid of speaking to God?
- What are the pro's/con's of this decision?
- How/In what ways is it easier for you to listen to someone else tell you about God rather than seek Him out and listen?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 4 Day 3

Read Exodus 21-23

- As you read- jot down those guidelines that especially interest you:

- Why do you think God is so specific with these guidelines?

- As you read through the Old Testament as well as the New, a common theme is that God cares deeply for the widow, orphan and alien. How are you extending the reach of His hands in these areas?

- From 23:20-33 list with references

- Promises:

- Warnings:

- Care provided by God:

- Apply a couple of these to your life right now:

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 4 Day 4

Read Exodus 24

- Has there been a time when you formally or officially promised God you would obey/follow Him?
- If not, take some time right now to pray about this.
- Ponder and describe how the events of Exodus 24 would impact young Joshua? (he appears to be with Moses even up on the mountain as an observer)
- Moses seems very intentional in developing the faith of Joshua— are you intentional in your relationships or do you tend to drift and have fun?
- How could you be more intentional? What does that look like?

- Who is your “Moses”?

- Who are you like “Moses” to?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 4 Day 5

Read Matthew 5-7

- How does the Sermon on the Mount mesh with the 10 Commandments?
 - What are the most challenging statements for you in these 3 chapters? (there are a lot of them)
 - Why are these particularly challenging for you?
- What inspires you to seek harder?
 - What is confusing?
 - What convicts you of sin in your life?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 5 Day 1
Sin Confronted- Grace to Begin Again

Read Exodus 32:1-14

- What do you think motivates the people to initiate this sin?
- How can we be tempted, like Aaron, to fashion a 'god' for people?
- What is Aaron's sin here?
- In vs. 11 & 13 Moses seeks god's favor by asking Him to remember His promises...what are some things you know that God has promised you?

- In what ways do you look to other 'gods' when it seems like God is silent- where do you turn?

- How can you wait patiently for God?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 5 Day 2

Read Exodus 32:15-29

- Vs. 19-20 seemed filled with symbolism.-.Why do you think that Moses destroyed the tablets?

- Why does he have them drink the destroyed calf?

- Why is Aaron's response when he is confronted by Moses so disappointing?

- How is this sobering as we think of the responsibility we have been given here to lead?

- Does the judgment seem severe?

- Moses was concerned that the people had been running wild and had become a laughingstock (making God's name a laughing stock)- how would you evaluate our conduct as a staff- are we honoring the Lord in this place?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 5 Day 3

Read Exodus 32:30-33:6

- Why do some of the names get erased from the scroll?
- What real emotions does the Lord demonstrate in these verses?
- How important was the Lord's presence to the Israelites?
- How do you demonstrate to the Lord that His daily presence is valuable to you?
- Spend some time in prayer asking the Lord if you have any sin to confess...
Ask to be filled anew with the Holy Spirit...

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 5 Day 4

Read Exodus 33:7-23

- What strikes you from vs. 7-11?
- How do you think the Lord used this time to grow Joshua?
- What do you think attracted Joshua to Moses?
- According to Moses (vs. 16) what makes god's people distinguishable from all other peoples on the earth?

Week 5 Day 5

Read Exodus 34

- As God assures Moses that ‘he knows his name’, He also says the same thing to us- what are some of the things that God knows about you?

- How is the Lord’s care for Moses so evident in these verses?

- How can you reflect some of these aspects of the Lord’s love and care to the campers you encounter this week?

- How is God’s grace evident in this chapter?

- The Israelites were not to make peace treaties with any peoples they were driving out of the land- how do you (us) make peace treaties with those people, things, character traits, etc....that are in opposition to Christ?

- How does God describe Himself in vs.6– write out each adjective:

- Give examples from your life that illustrate several of these:

God, I hear you saying to me today....

- What is there about the Lord's glory and presence that intimidates you?

- When does your face glow with the glory of the Lord?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 6 Day 1

Read Numbers 13

- Was the land really as the Lord had promised- flowing with milk & honey?
- What was some evidence of this?
- How does the spy's view of themselves color their report of the land?
- Why is this so sad?
- In what areas do you feel like a "grasshopper"?

- How would having Caleb's mindset impact these areas?

Week 6 Day 2

Read Numbers 14

- As you read vs. 4- do you ever feel like you, or someone of your choosing, would do a better job of guiding you than God?

Pray right now that God increases your faith and that you see more of Him than yourself.

- How, by your actions do you demonstrate that you:
- believe God leads you well

- believe He isn't leading you well

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 6 Day 3

Read Numbers 15

- Why do you think, when they will not actually enter the land for 40 years, does the Lord explain what they should do when they enter?

- Give an example from your own life of an:
- Unintentional sin:

- Defiant sin:

- God describes Himself in vs. 17-18. In our study so far, how specifically have you seen these traits in His actions?

- Explain God's judgment on His people:

- From reading these verses at the end of the chapter, what have the Israelites still not learned?

- How do you score in simply obeying what God is asking you to do?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

- Explain why you think that vs. 32-36 are included?

Week 6 Day 4

Read Numbers 20

- Explain Moses sin:

- What could be a 'tassel' in your life to help you to obey?

- Why do you think Moses' responded as he did?

- How does he show a lack of trust (vs.12)?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

- How does our obedience honor God as holy before others?

- Even with Moses' sin and judgment, how is God's grace evident?

- Explain a time (other than your salvation) that God responded graciously when you did not deserve it:

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 6 Day 5

Read Numbers 27:12-23

- Why is God showing Moses the land a compassionate thing?
- Moses shows great care for the people as he requests God give them a new leader- how can you see, in retrospect, God moving you here in answer to our prayers for His children?
- How had Joshua been prepared for this moment?
- How were you prepared to serve here this summer?
-

- The Lord pointed out to Moses that Joshua had the Spirit in him- how is the indwelling of the Holy Spirit evident in your life- what do you see?

You are the Lord's ambassador wherever you are- pray and ask the Lord to give you an increased awareness of this authority He has given you.

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 7 Day 1

Read Deuteronomy 31:1-29, skim Numbers 27:12-23

- What looms in your future that terrifies you the most? (vs. 6)

- What was a huge obstacle in your past that caused similar feelings in you?

- Could you see evidence that the Lord did indeed go before you in the past?

- How does this give you confidence now?

- The Lord tells Moses that (vs. 24) He knows what the Israelites are 'disposed to do'- what sin trips you up repeatedly that the Lord would say you are 'disposed to do'?

Week 7 Day 2

Read Joshua 1

- How does it help to know that the Lord sees this?
- Why do you think the Lord, even though He knows they will sin and turn away, still promises Joshua that he will be with them?
- What stands out to you in God's incredible promises to Joshua?
- Imagine you are Joshua- how are you feeling, what are you thinking, what is hard for you?
- How was Joshua uniquely prepared for his task?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

- How have you been prepared before and during the summer for your task this week?

- What do you need courage for this week?

- What is ironic in vs. 17?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 7 Day 3

Read Joshua 2

- Rahab is one of the 5 women listed in the lineage of Jesus-Matthew 1 (others include Tamar, Bathsheeba, Ruth and Mary). With Rahab's 'stained' past, what sets her apart in this chapter?

- Where does her faith come from?

- Read James 5:20-26. It is astounding that James, setting out to give evidence of faith & deeds uses Abraham and Rahab as his only 2 examples. Give evidence of Rahab's faith put into action:

- Explain the symbolism in the scarlet cord:

- As you look at your life- can you point to deeds that give evidence that your faith is alive?

- When do you struggle to have faith?

- Share a time when you prayed for something that required you to have great faith:

Ask a friend to pray with you that your faith would grow.

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 7 Day 4

Read Joshua 3-4

- Joshua tells the people in vs. 5 to consecrate themselves to prepare for God to work- in what ways are you anticipating God's active work in your life right now?

- When would the waters be cut off?

- Why is the timing of this important to their faith?

- Do you think the priests were scared to touch the waters when they reached them?

- What has scared you that you know the Lord wants you to do in faith?

- Hopefully, the Lord has grown your faith this summer as you have served Him here. Find for yourself a tangible reminder such as the stones from the river for you to take home to help you remember the lessons learned and the faith exercised.

- How does our faith demonstrated through our actions show that the Lord's hand is powerful (vs. 24)?

- The people of Jericho worshipped the God of the water-how would this miracle impact them?

- How does the faith of the person leading you this summer challenge you?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 7 Day 5

Read Joshua 5-6

- Why is it significant that they take time to be circumcised?

- Why did the manna stop coming?

- If you were an Israelite at that time, imagine and explain your feelings as you begin to eat the produce of the land....

- In vs. 6:2, God tells Joshua to “see” how He has handed over Jericho. What would hinder Joshua from being able to “see” this as fact?

- Right now, what is God asking you to “see” that is hard to believe?

- What strikes you about God’s plan for them to march, and march, and march then shout... (sometimes I wonder if they were thinking ‘this better work or we will be laughed out of here’):

- And then at last, after 40 years of wandering, Victory!
Describe a time in your life when you were simply obedient and saw the Lord work out the victory for you:

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 8 Day 1

Read Joshua 7-8

- Why do you think this one person’s sin impacts the whole community?
- Does this happen today?
- What do you think of Joshua’s prayer in vs. 6-9?
- Achan’s whole family suffers because of his rebellion and disobedience...how have you suffered as a result of someone else’s sin?
- How has someone suffered as a result of your sin?

- What an object lesson for the Israelites concerning God's value for obedience as they are able to take the city of Ai...

- Why is it essential that sin in our church bodies be exposed and dealt with in a scriptural way?

- Why do you think that they renew the covenant now? How do you think that seeing the price their parent's paid for disobedience impacted this situation?

Week 8 Day 2

Read Joshua 9-10:28

- What is sad as you read the story in chapter 9?

- How often do you proceed ahead without inquiring of the Lord when it all seems very clear and simple?

- Why do you think they are not judged by God for this event? Or are they?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

- Consider God's awesome power to control such things as huge hailstones and when the sun goes down- where do you need His power to move in your life?

- God works mightily in our lives but always to see His Glory revealed- how are you seeking His glory in what you are doing?

- Where you need His power?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 8 Day 3

Read Joshua 10:29-11

- You have to admire Joshua's desire and follow through of all that the Lord commanded him (vs.10:41, 11:15). How would you score yourself in this area?

- Why did the Lord want everyone and everything destroyed?

- Vs. 11:20 says that God hardened their hearts to fight against Israel...what do you think about this?

- What kinds of things harden your heart?

- How do you rebel against God during these times?

Week 8 Day 4

Read Joshua 23

- How does Joshua point the glory back to the Lord before the people?

- Imagine you are an Israelite- what are you feeling and thinking as you experience vs. 23:

- Re-write vs. 6-8 as they would apply to you today:

- How are you feeling as we bring the summer to a close this week?

- Can you see how the Lord has moved?

God, I hear you saying to me today....

- How are you disobedient in these areas? Ask the Lord to show you...

- Do you think God cares as much about our obedience as He did the Israelites (they would pay a high price for walking away)

- Why is our obedience/love/allegiance so crucial to the Lord?

- Are you concerned, truly in your heart, about obeying and following the Lord as he wants you to?

Spend some time praying and asking God to give you a heart to always follow Him.

God, I hear you saying to me today....

Week 8 Day 5

Read Joshua 24

- Spend some time reflecting on your journey with the Lord thus far, how He has moved in your life to bring you to today....

- Write out some of the highlights as Joshua does for the Israelites:

- Joshua calls all of us in vs. 15 to make a choice, out loud, before God and others- why does He ask this to be public?

- I would encourage you to do as the Israelites and take a stone as your witness and pledge allegiance to the Lord before someone else- make it public...

Take this stone with you as you leave this weekend as a reminder of your desire to be faithful to God.

God, I hear you saying to me today....

