

### THE BIG GUY

It doesn't matter which team you're rooting for, when a "big guy" makes an unexpected play, we all celebrate. The most unforgettable "big guy" moment, for me, was the 2010 NFC Championship Game when Packers defensive lineman B.J. Raji intercepted a pass, ran it into the endzone, and danced. That dance put me, and everyone else watching, on the floor laughing. The next day, that dance was everywhere—even a State Farm commercial.



In Joshua 10, the *real* Big Guy showed up in unexpected ways as well. Although God has used and will use *his* people in *his* army to fight *his* battles, today he fights for *them* as well.

It takes a Big God to do big things. However, God often uses people to accomplish those big things. we must trust and obey God to work through us. God doesn't need people to do anything. However, he allows people to see him at work by working through us. The Big Guy did big things through Joshua and we can trust him for big things too!

#### JOSHUA 10:1-4, 7-8

<sup>1</sup> As soon as Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, heard how Joshua had captured Ai and had devoted it to destruction, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them, <sup>2</sup> he feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were warriors.

<sup>3</sup> So Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, to Piram king of Jarmuth, to Japhia king of Lachish, and to Debir king of Eglon, saying, <sup>4</sup> "Come up to me and help me, and let us strike Gibeon. For it has made peace with Joshua and with the people of Israel."

<sup>7</sup> So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor. <sup>8</sup> And the Lord said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you."

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Do you believe the Lord will fight for you? Although the Lord may fight for us in different ways than he did in the time of Joshua, it doesn't mean the effects are any less significant. Our battle is not against flesh and blood, we aren't reclaiming a Promised Land. Our fight is against sin and to see sinners saved. However, apart from the ultimate battle, life is hard.

Check out the QR code for some needed encouragement (especially the verses) that the Lord fights for us!



### DISCUSSION

What is your favorite "big guy" moment in sports?

ICEBREAKER

1. What did the King of Jerusalem fear regarding Israel? (1-2)

OBSERVATION

2. How did he respond? (3-4)

3. On what basis did God tell Joshua not to fear? (8)

4. What do Joshua's actions and God's promise reveal about...

-Joshua's faith? (7)

-God's heart? (8)

INTERPRETATION

5. What evidence is there that you trust God for big things? (Ask yourself these questions)

-If God answered "yes" to all of your prayers over the last week what are some things that would change?

-What is something big you're trusting God to do right now?

APPLICATION

Sometimes we have victory in battle. Sometimes we take some licks. No matter what your facing, don't go it alone. Talk to your coach today.

## STUDY NOTES

### CHANGE THE WORLD

William Wilberforce became a Christian in 1785. Two years later, his faith inspired a lifelong fight against slavery, first in England, then in the United States, and later throughout the world. Slavery had always existed and appeared in almost every culture from antiquity to present. Many considered Wilberforce's vision lunacy. He wanted to do something that had simply never been done—abolish the slave trade.

It's hard to overstate the uphill battle Wilberforce faced. Entire economic systems stood on the shoulders of the slave trade. To eradicate slavery meant emptying the pockets of many wealthy and powerful people—not to mention putting many working people out of a job. It was an industry unto itself. Even before we consider ol' fashioned racism and prejudice, there were practical issues related to ending slavery.

Wilberforce didn't care. Slavery was pure evil. He trusted a Big God to do the impossible. Thankfully, God used Wilberforce to end slavery in England and much of the world would follow his example.

### VICTORY REQUIRES VISION

The fame (or infamy depending on who you asked) of Joshua and Israel spread throughout the Land. **As soon as Adoni-zedek, king of Jerusalem, heard how Joshua had captured Ai and had devoted it to destruction, doing to Ai and its king as he had done to Jericho and its king, and how the inhabitants of Gibeon had made peace with Israel and were among them, he feared greatly, because Gibeon was a great city, like one of the royal cities, and because it was greater than Ai, and all its men were warriors.**

Although the Gibeonites had snookered Israel, Adoni-zedek recognized the problem. Mighty Gibeon laid down arms and chose to make peace. If Gibeon couldn't stand their ground, who could?

**So Adoni-zedek king of Jerusalem sent to Hoham king of Hebron, to Piram king of Jarmuth, to Japhia king of Lachish, and to Debir king of Eglon, saying, "Come up to me and help me, and let us strike Gibeon. For it has made peace with Joshua and with the people of Israel."**

Adoni-zedek joined with five other kings in a coalition force. This coalition understood they weren't stronger than Jericho, than Ai, or Gibeon on their own. However, together, maybe they had a shot.

Because of their treaty, the men of Gibeon sent word to Joshua to come protect them. **So Joshua went up from Gilgal, he and all the**

**people of war with him, and all the mighty men of valor. And the Lord said to Joshua, "Do not fear them, for I have given them into your hands. Not a man of them shall stand before you."**

Notice God's words. He used a past tense verb for a future event. He said, "I have given..." Although God had not yet delivered Israel's enemies over, his promise was so sure, he spoke as though it already happened. This promise probably reminded Joshua of God's promise through Moses spoken not that long ago, recorded in Deuteronomy 20:4, "*For the Lord your God is he who goes with you to fight for you against your enemies, to give you the victory.*"

Boy howdy! Joshua 10 records two very miraculous events. As Israel and the Gibeonites faced the coalition force, God threw the army of the 5 kings into panic. Israel struck them and they fled. As they fled, God sent giant hailstones that killed more of the coalition force than Israel's army. Not only that, Joshua prayed and God answered his prayer by keeping the Sun up for a whole day so that the fight may not end because of nightfall. Verse 14 records that, "*There has been no day like it before or since, when the Lord heeded the voice of a man, for the Lord fought for Israel.*"

### VISION TRUSTS A BIG GOD

Do you believe God will fight for you? Do you believe that we can trust him to do impossible things? Although God probably won't smash our enemies or extend daylight hours for us, he did it for them. He did it because his people needed him and they prayed.

On this side of the resurrection of Jesus Christ, God has already accomplished so much. However, we live in a strange time that many people call the "already/not yet." Sin has *already* been defeated by Christ on the cross. However, sin has *not yet* been eradicated because Christ has not returned in judgment. When Christ comes back, people will be judged and any person that does not have a relationship with Jesus will spend an eternity apart from God in Hell.

We mentioned earlier in this study that God promised Abraham the land that Israel is now fighting for in *Joshua*. Why? Because "*the iniquity [sin] of the Amorites is not yet complete*" (Genesis 15:16). The same thing is true now. The Promised Son will return just as assuredly as Israel took the Promised Land. However, we might guess that the sin of those who haven't trusted Christ is not yet complete.

Time is quickly running out for us to change the world. When Jesus returns your friends and family that don't know him face severe consequences. God is Big. He will fight with us and for us. Let's change the world.