

# All about Jesus

## Small group questions

*Disaster in the promised land: Joshua-Judges*

Leaders - if the questions make no sense or you don't know the answer - please contact

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1. How has this sermon series increased your understanding of God's persistent love despite human failure?
2. What were the main points you gathered from this week's sermon? Were there any aspects that were challenging or confusing? Discuss these with the group.

Mark's outline was as follows:

### CONQUERING THE PROMISED LAND

3. How does the story of Joshua leading the Israelites into the Promised Land illustrate God's faithfulness to His promises?
4. Despite the daunting task, Joshua leads the people across the Jordan. How does God enable and empower Joshua in this endeavour?
5. How does this section of the sermon apply to our lives today, especially (a) the quest to share Jesus and (b) in other daunting situations? (Why did Mark say we can't lift the promises to Joshua out of the Old Testament and apply them directly to ourselves?)

### WHAT!?

6. Discuss your initial reaction to the notion of God commanding the Israelites to drive out and destroy the inhabitants of the land. How did the sermon help you navigate this challenging narrative?
7. How does this part of the narrative challenge and/or deepen your understanding of God's holiness and justice?

### 'I DID IT MY WAY'

8. In what ways did the Israelites fail to obey God's command to rid the land entirely of the Canaanites? What was the eventual result of Israel doing it 'their own way' rather than strictly following God's instructions?
9. Why is trust such a crucial aspect of our relationship with God?
10. How does Israel's partial obedience serve as a warning to us today?

### THE ASTONISHING LOVE OF GOD

11. Reflect on the cycle of rebellion, punishment, repentance, and deliverance depicted in the books of Joshua and Judges. How do these cycles demonstrate God's enduring patience and love?
12. Looking at the story of Ehud and other judges, how do these imperfect saviours point to our need for a perfect Saviour?
13. How does Jesus break the cycle of rebellion once and for all? Share your thoughts on how this part of the Old Testament story line helps your understanding of Jesus' saving work.

*Pray together for faith to trust in God's promises, wisdom to obey His commands, and gratitude for His astonishing love demonstrated through Jesus, our perfect Saviour and King.*