

SERMON NOTES: November 9, 2025

The Most Important Lessons

Joshua 8

I. God breaks the silence - 8:1-2

II. Return to obedience - 8:2b-23

“Now the Lord said to Joshua, “Do not fear or be dismayed. Take all the people of war with you and arise, go up to Ai; see, I have given into your hand the king of Ai, his people, his city, and his land.”

Joshua 8:1

III. God’s victory is best - 8:24-29

IV. There is only one way - 8:30-35

“Then Joshua built an altar to the Lord, the God of Israel, in Mount Ebal, just as Moses the servant of the Lord had commanded the sons of Israel, as it is written in the book of the law of Moses, an altar of uncut stones on which no man had wielded an iron tool; and they offered burnt offerings on it to the Lord, and sacrificed peace offering”s.”

Joshua 8:30-31

Life Group Study Questions

The Most Important Lessons

Joshua 8

1. Have you ever experienced that awkward moment after you have apologized or acknowledged wrongdoing, when you were uncertain of what to do next? What was that like?

2. Why does it matter that God is the one who breaks the awkward silence with Joshua? What do you think we most need to hear from him after we repent?

3. Many of us are afraid to revisit the places where we have failed. What is the danger if we never trust God to lead us through those experiences?

4. Describe the differences between the first battle of Ai and the second. What are the major indicators that reveal a change in Israel as they approach Ai a second time?

5. Would you describe your obedience to God as general or specific? Why is general (often vague) obedience dangerous?

6. God's victory is comprehensive ("all encompassing") and leads to reward and blessing. Describe a time when you obeyed God and it resulted in comprehensive victory.

7. Trusting God with the timing of our lives results in reward. Why is it so hard to wait on God for reward? What are the things that cause us to "jump the gun"?

8. The renewing of the Covenant at Mt. Gerizim and Mt. Ebal is a powerful object lesson with great significance. What do the two mountains represent? Why does it matter that the altar was built on Mt. Ebal?

9. The most important lesson is that you cannot have relationship with God by doing everything right; it comes only through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ. How does understanding the Cross of Christ free you to pursue God's blessings?