



11 / 25 / 2012 // GROUP DISCUSSION FROM THE CURRENT TEACHING SERIES ... HEADLINES

## START

Take a moment, go around the circle and introduce yourself. Each person needs to answer this question:

**If money was not an issue and you had to pick another career, what job would you pick and why?**

## SHARE

We are in the series called "Headlines," in which we are looking at some amazing stories from God's word. These stories are amazing because they actually happened, and if we were alive in those days, these stories would have made some big headlines in the local paper. We have all read the paper and wondered why things happened the way they did. This week we will be focusing on a story in the life of Joshua. Joshua succeeded Moses and was leading the Israelites. They crossed the river Jordan and began a series of battles to acquire the land that God promised them. Joshua experiences God's absolute power in a bizarre way, when God actually made the sun stand still:

### Joshua 10:7-14

**So Joshua marched up from Gilgal with his entire army, including all the best fighting men. The LORD said to Joshua, "Do not be afraid of them; I have given them into your hand. Not one of them will be able to withstand you."**

**After an all-night march from Gilgal, Joshua took them by surprise. The LORD threw them into confusion before Israel, so Joshua and the Israelites defeated them completely at Gibeon. Israel pursued them along the road going up to Beth Horon and cut them down all the way to Azekah and Makkedah. As they fled before Israel on the road down from Beth Horon to Azekah, the LORD hurled large hailstones down on them, and more of them died from the hail than were killed by the swords of the Israelites.**

**On the day the LORD gave the Amorites over to Israel, Joshua said to the LORD in the presence of Israel:**

**"Sun, stand still over Gibeon, and you, moon, over the Valley of Aijalon." So the sun stood still, and the moon stopped, till the nation avenged itself on its enemies, as it is written in the Book of Jashar.**

**The sun stopped in the middle of the sky and delayed going down about a full day. There has never been a day like it before or since, a day when the LORD listened to a human being. Surely the LORD was fighting for Israel!**

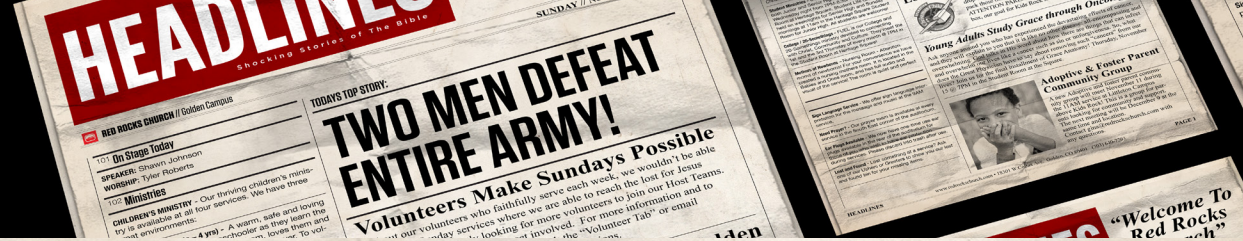
What is the promise God gave Joshua?

Although Joshua had the best fighting men, God still had to reassure him to 'not be afraid.' How can you relate to that?

What are some reasons that God allowed the sun to stand still?

Have you ever experienced God doing something out of the ordinary in your life in order to help you?





## GROW

Throughout the message, we learned that God gives us promises, but that doesn't mean we sit on the sidelines. God calls each one of us to obedience, even when things seem most difficult. Salvation is offered free to us, but obedience is always costly. It costs us something to obey, which we don't always like to hear as a follower of Jesus:

**John 14:23,24**

Jesus replied, "Anyone who loves me will obey my teaching. My Father will love them, and we will come to them and make our home with them. Anyone who does not love me will not obey my teaching. These words you hear are not my own; they belong to the Father who sent me."

What are some of the costs of obedience?

What are some of your fears when it comes to obeying what God asks?

When we do obey God, what is the promise that follows?

## MOVE

God is all-powerful, all-seeing, all-knowing and is everywhere at all times. This truth is difficult to comprehend, especially when we feel discouraged or fearful. Joshua experienced some unforgettable moments in his lifetime, including seeing the sun stand still. However, he may not have ever seen that if he didn't first obey God. Secondly, Joshua prayed some big outlandish prayers that God not only heard, but also acted on. Last, Joshua had to fight and work real hard even though God gave him the promise of victory.

**"There's always a trade-off. Before God can bring his promises to pass in your life, he has to strip away all the stuff that keeps you from trusting him wholeheartedly. And that stuff is on the inside. God's invisible work in you prepares you for his visible works through you."**

- Steven Furtick from the book *Sun Stand Still*

What is an area that God is asking you to listen to him?

How do you think God is changing you on the inside?

One of the most common problems of those who follow God are those who want the benefits of the promises, but don't want to work hard and sacrifice. In what way do you think God wants you to dig in and work harder?

## PRAY

Let's put into practice what we have been learning by praying for each other. This week, like Joshua, let's all share one big outlandish prayer with each other.