



Breakthrough | Shawn Johnson | 3.24.19
Weekly Study

START

To get things started, go around the circle and answer the following question:

If you could live anywhere in the world for a year, where would it be and why?

SHARE

What was the most impactful conversation you had this week? Who was it with and what was it about?

This weekend we focused on what it is to experience breakthrough! God delivered the Israelites into the Promise Land 3,500 years ago, and we believe He still delivers breakthrough for us today as a Red Rocks Church family!

What are your initial thoughts when you hear the word “breakthrough”? What does that word mean to you?

G R O W

We all need breakthrough at some point in our stories because we are all broken and are all in need of Jesus! Whether it's physical healing, breaking an addiction, mending a relationship, or just getting a good night sleep, we all need God to work in our lives. But chasing after breakthrough is not for the faint of heart. It can be an overwhelming and quite intimidating process that requires us to be strong and courageous trusting that God is the one going before us!

Read Joshua 1:1-11

It's easy to read this story and assume Joshua is some brave soul who has never been intimidated by anything. But if that's the case then why does God need to tell him to be "strong and courageous" three times in eleven verses? Pursuing a breakthrough can be an intimidating thing. But if you find yourself being scared, don't worry, you are in good company! Like Joshua, we all get scared and need constant reminders that God's got us. He is before us. As Franklin Roosevelt once said, "courage is not the absence of fear, but rather the assessment that something else is more important than fear." It's time for Red Rocks to experience breakthrough!

How you view obstacles or issues in life makes an incredible difference regardless of the outcome. Looking at life through God's promises, we see things differently and respond to life differently, but when we look at life without a God-perspective, we have trouble seeing things clearly.

How do naturally tend look at life, especially when issues or obstacles arise?

So how do we keep going even in the face of all the fear? Joshua tells us, so let's keep reading.

Read Joshua 4:1-9

The Jordan river was the last big obstacle standing in the way of the Promise Land. Once they cross it, Joshua instructs twelve men (one from each tribe) to create a memorial by laying down a stone. Why take the time to do this? Verses 6-7 tell us.

"In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the Lord. When it crossed the Jordan, the waters of the Jordan were cut off. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever."

This is a brilliant move! Joshua knows the challenges that lay ahead for his people, and when they do they will be tempted to forget how much God has already done. Let's be honest, humans tend to do that. So, before they go any further, he forces them to stop, pause, and set up a memorial representing God's faithfulness to them. When times get tough, they are going to need a reminder of where they came from.

How true is this for us today? It's easy to look at the obstacles ahead and so quickly lose heart. But God has already brought us through so much! And as Shawn reminded us this week, "if you want to see breakthrough, you have to remember what you've been through." Let's take some time to remember what God has already done for us by answering the following questions.

Think back on the last several years of your life, where have you seen God at work? How has God come through for you in the past and how can that propel you forward into facing this next challenge before you?

What is one area of your life you need to see a breakthrough? How has your past been preparing you for this next step?

M O V E

Read Joshua 6:1-21

What's your initial reaction to this story of Joshua and the Israelites entering the Promise Land?

When it comes time to enter the Promise Land, God's methods are a bit unorthodox. He asks Joshua to march around the city seven times, blow the trumpets, shout, and trust that He will do the rest (Joshua 6:2-5). Put yourself in Joshua's shoes for a second. After everything you've been through, your time has finally come, and these are the instructions God gives you.

How would that make you feel?

One of the reasons God has Joshua do this is to remind him that He is the one bringing the breakthrough! In the church, we often get shy about talking about things like this, because it feels selfish. But there are two reasons why praying for breakthrough is actually one of the most unselfish things you can ever do:

1. God is the one bringing the breakthrough in you.
2. Once you've experienced the breakthrough you can help others do the same

As Shawn reminded us this week, "if you want to see breakthrough, remember it's not about you." Breakthrough is contagious! The natural result of experiencing God in your life is turning around and helping others receive the same thing in theirs. Even the biggest wildfire just needs a spark to start. That's what we want to see in our lives! We want to be a church where breakthrough catches on and spreads like wildfire in our communities and beyond! The breakthrough Joshua experienced was not just for him. Far from it. It was for the entire nation of Israel for generations to come. This week let's pursue the same thing by asking God for breakthrough in our lives!

Do you ever feel selfish praying for breakthrough in your own life? If so, how can you combat that feeling this week?

In addition to prayer, what are a few of the practical steps you need to take this week to see this happen?

P R A Y

As a group, spend some time praying for breakthrough for each other. Pick one person in your group and pray for the breakthrough they are asking God for!

If you are in a coed group, consider breaking up into men and women's groups to share more freely.

T O G O

The seventh time around, when the priests sounded the trumpet blast, Joshua commanded the army, “Shout! For the Lord has given you the city!”

Joshua 6:16

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