

First Things First: Caring for the Covenant Relationship

PASTOR JONATHAN WILEY • JOSHUA 5:1-12

AGAIN & AGAIN**WARM UP**

What's something you'd like to accomplish in the next 12 months?

COMING UP

GRACEPOLARIS.ORG/CALENDAR

Considering Church Membership Class Sunday, February 24, 4:00 p.m., MC 3.
Learn more and RSVP at GracePolaris.org/Membership.

GraceKIDS Grand Prix Saturday, March 2, 9:00 a.m., FC auxiliary gym. Visit
GracePolaris.org/GrandPrix to register by Saturday, February 23.

Baptism Sunday, March 10, during worship services. Visit
GracePolaris.org/Baptism to learn more and register by Sunday, March 3.

WITNESS

- On your white board, list the names of people in your sphere of influence you're praying will come to know Jesus.
- Share any progress/updates. Pray together for God to use you and your Grace Group to influence these people for Jesus.

EXPLORE

- 1 Read Joshua 5:1-12. Share about a time you benefited from a fresh start.
- 2 List all the reasons Joshua and the Israelites had to *not* obey God's call to circumcision (5:2).
- 3 Why is conditional obedience so appealing to us? What is the interplay between faith (2 Corinthians 5:7; Hebrews 11:6) and unconditional (actual) obedience?
- 4 Israel's physical obedience (5:3) revealed the circumcision that God truly desires: that of their hearts (Deuteronomy 30:6; Romans 2:25-29). What does a "circumcised heart" look like? Give examples you have seen in your life or in others' lives.
- 5 Circumcision was the Israelite's physical sign of their embrace of God's covenant relationship with them. What significant spiritual signs/symbols do we as Christ-followers have today? Why are they important? Have you made these a priority?
- 6 Israel's obedience resulted in the Lord rolling away the reproach of Egypt from them (5:9). How have you seen disobedience — yours or others' — result in reproach? Which is a bigger challenge: (A) a casual attitude toward God's call to holiness and obedience, or (B) bondage to the reproach of confessed sin because of a belief in Satan's lie (that your sin is beyond God's ability to forgive)?
- 7 God made a way to liberate Israel from slavery in Egypt. He has also made a way to liberate those in slavery to sin and death by offering Jesus as the ultimate Passover Lamb. Have you received Jesus as your Savior in repentance and faith? How do you regularly celebrate that reality in your life?

PRAY

Pray for a heart that is increasingly sensitive and set apart to the Lord.