

JOSHUA

TAKE THE LAND

Small Group Questions: Part 2 - Detours

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Read

Joshua 2: 1–13; Numbers 13:31–33; John 10:27–29 and 16:33; 2 Corinthians 4:8–9

Reflect

Detours cause us to take the long way around. Detours are routes we didn't anticipate and they can require a lot of extra time. Israel spends 40 years in a self-imposed detour in the wilderness before Joshua receives instructions from God to take the land. So, he sends two spies to Jericho. There, the spies enter the home of a prostitute named Rahab, where perhaps they may not be noticed. But the king of Jericho learns of their presence and sends a message to Rahab to bring them out. She replies that the spies left. For her assistance, she and her family are spared when the Israelites invade Jericho.

Have you ever thought: This isn't how my life was supposed to go? Do you feel like you're on a detour right now?

Pastor Greg shares several things he knows about detours:

1. Sometimes God causes my detours.
 - a. In answering God's call, do you expect immediate results? Have you ever wondered, if it's God's plan, why it's taking so long? Explain.
 - b. In Exodus, the Lord says the Israelites will not take the land until they increase enough to really possess it. In what ways have you grown into the task God placed on your heart?
 - c. How do you know God is in the detour?
 - i. Despite any difficult circumstances, do you sense God's hand on you?
 - ii. Despite any difficult circumstances, do you feel that you are doing right, and being obedient and faithful?
2. Sometimes I cause my own detours.
 - a. How did the negative perspective of the initial spies Moses sent along with Joshua and Caleb lead to Israel's 40-year detour?
 - b. How does Rahab's description of how people from Jericho view the Israelites differ from the report given by the initial spies Moses sent?
 - c. What lies are you believing? What are they costing you?
 - i. How will you challenge and overcome these lies?
3. Sometimes others cause my detours.
 - a. Prostitution was probably not Rahab's first choice for a profession. Her circumstances are unknown, but her family may have experienced brokenness that deeply affected her. Are you allowing regret, shame or confusion caused by someone else to keep you on a detour?
4. You can't detour out of the grace of God.
 - a. Jesus said we will have problems in this world, but God is greater than our problems. Discuss how Rahab's life and trust in God is an example of this.

If you find yourself on a detour, consider the source. Do you need to forgive someone to walk free? How can you be more faithful and joyful while you wait for God's deliverance?

Respond

What is your next step? Where is God leading you? How can your small group support you and hold you accountable in this?