

# JOSHUA

TAKE THE LAND

## Small Group Questions: Part 5 - Tough Leadership Decisions

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### Read

Joshua 1:8–9 and 5:1–9

### Reflect

The Israelites have crossed the Jordan River into enemy territory. It is at this point that God instructs Joshua to circumcise all the men. This procedure would not only be painful (and probably unpopular), but also incapacitate their military, leaving the Israelites vulnerable in a hostile land. How would you feel about this being your first leadership decision in a new land? What verses in the earlier chapters of Joshua could he use to find the courage?

Pastor Greg explains that tough calls have several things in common:

1. They always demand a risk.
  - a. Think of a tough call you've had to make. What made it "tough"? What did you have to risk?
2. They will be second-guessed and criticized.
  - a. When you feel that you are doing God's will, do you expect unanimous support?
  - b. What preparations can you make to more effectively handle criticism?
3. They will be costly.
  - a. Is there an upcoming decision causing you to lose sleep?
4. They lead to leadership breakthroughs.
  - a. Have you made a tough call that led you to a new level of leadership? Explain what you learned.
  - b. You may be only one tough call away from a breakthrough. How will you stick it out?

How do you make a tough leadership call?

1. Don't put it off, but be wise about timing.
  - a. Is a cloud of worry following you? What do you think that means?
  - b. How did Joshua's credibility and the recent change in the Israelites' environment help him implement God's instructions?
  - c. Is there a tough leadership call that you've been putting off?
    - i. Have you ever put off a decision only to have the problem escalate?
2. Don't put it to a vote, but do seek consensus.
  - a. Is there a tough leadership call you're putting to a vote when you should just make it? Are you abdicating responsibility?
  - b. Are you doing the tough work to gain consensus or are you just alienating the leaders around you?
    - i. Who could you meet with early, to prevent surprising and alienating people?
3. Don't let fear stop you, but do find your courage in the presence of the Lord.
  - a. Is there a tough call that you know you should make, but fear holds you back?

The land God is giving you may be inhabited by giants. Do you believe God is already at work on them?

### Respond

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