

Remember

Week 5 – August 9

Scripture: Joshua 7:1-26

Grab your Bible and a few people to connect with. Look up the verses below and share your thoughts. It's that easy!

Share: Are you looking forward to summer turning into fall or would you prefer summer to stay?

Read Joshua 7:1-26 together: Take turns reading if you prefer. Enjoy the different Bible translations we each read.

Discuss the following context:

Until this point Joshua and the people of Israel had only experienced victory, but chapter 7 in the story changes to one of defeat. Thirty-six men are dead, the army is frightened, and Joshua is confused. Certainly Joshua expected an unbroken string of victories, and that is God's desire as well – for Israel then and for us today. God provides every avenue to make victory possible. At the same time, He does not make defeat impossible. We make choices that can lead to victory or failure. Too often we choose to go our own way, and sin is the result. But remember, a failing life does not make life a failure. When we experience failure, it does not have to be a lasting defeat.

Share your thoughts about the following questions:

1. Beth Moore said *"If destruction fails to entangle us, distraction will do it's best."* Distraction can lead to dismissing the important things in our lives. What types of distractions can lead us away from God's direction?
2. God instructs the people to consecrate themselves. Consecration is simply an act of confession and restoration. How can consecration help us recover from the distractions and destruction in our lives?
3. Failure isn't final with Jesus. He sees our temporary hurts, sins, or veers towards distractions, and He restores this brokenness into beauty. Think about the **EXTERNAL HOPE** we have in Jesus and fill in the blank below (as many times as you can!):
In Him we have our *Help*.
In Him we have our *Hope*.
In Him we have our *Future*.
In Him we have our _____

Pray together: Ask each other to share what is on your heart today. Remember that even though distraction can lead to destruction, failure is not final. Thank God for the victories. Thank God for restoration. Ask Him for courage to be vulnerable and courage to address your failures.

Question for Kids and Families: In Joshua chapter 7 God teaches the people of Israel that disobeying His instructions (even just one person) can result in hurting the whole community. God expected **ALL** of His people to obey Him, not just **SOME** of them. Can we hide anything from God? Who else can our disobedience hurt besides ourselves?