

HEROES

HERITAGE NAZARENE

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JOSHUA

ICE BREAKERS:

- When's the last time you got something free? What was it?
- In a couple of days we celebrate our Independence on July 4th. Is freedom really free?
- Is Christianity and spiritual freedom being restricted in America?
- In the last 25 years, do Christians have more religious freedom or less? What about other religions?

READ JOSHUA 5:13-14

- What was Joshua's response to the angel of the Lord and God?
- Americans need to humble ourselves before God! How can we take Joshua's example and apply it?

NOTE: Joshua, this great warrior and leader, fell face down and was ready to serve.

Two tones of humility says...

1. "You're better than me."

- When's the last time you fell down before God in humility and said "You're better than me?"
- Why is this important?

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2. "I'm sorry!"

READ 2 CHRONICLES 7:14

Says "If" (that's a big word) "my people will HUMBLE themselves..."

NOTE: *Humble* here is a "Godly contrition", a Godly sorrow. So humility = I'm sorry!

- Is it humbling to say "I'm sorry" to someone? Does pride keep us from doing this? How about with God?

READ JOSHUA 5:15 - 6:20

- In verse 15, it says "take off your sandals." What does Joshua do?
- In verse 16, God gives instructions to Joshua. What does Joshua do?
- In Joshua 6:7-20, Joshua gives God's instructions to the Israelites. What do the Israelites do?
- Americans need to listen and obey God.

NOTE: If the church doesn't listen and obey God, what chance does America have at achieving this?

- Are you a good or bad listener when it comes to others?
- How about when it comes to listening to God?
- What is God asking you to do? Have you done it?

READ JOSHUA 6:20-21

- Why did they destroy every living creature? Why a cleansing?
- Would you consider America a clean or unclean nation? Why?

NOTE: Every nation that has ever turned its back on God has FALLEN!

- How can America become clean, so God doesn't have to cleanse us? Where does it start?
- What is the church's role in this?

READ 1 JOHN 1:9

- What if each of us applied 1 John 1:9 to our lives? What if each of us was forgiven of our sins, which leads to salvation, and cleansed, which leads to sanctification?
- What is the difference between being forgiven and being cleansed/purified?

NOTE: If we aren't cleansed/purified, how can we ever expect America to be clean?

APPLICATION:

- Take time to pray for one another, that we might be clean before the Lord and man. I believe the answer to America's problems is the Gospel of Jesus Christ and men & women living transformed, clean lives out before all!
- America cannot be clean if the church and Christians aren't clean!
- Pray for yourselves that God will sanctify & cleanse you!
- Pray for America that God would bring a great revival!

