**chapter 7: The battle begins**

**Icebreaker Question**: As a child or young person, who did you look up to as a hero, either fictional or real? What was it that made them heroic in your eyes?

1. In the original languages both “Joshua” and “Jesus” mean “Jehovah saves.” How is Joshua’s relationship to Israel similar to Jesus’ relationship to the Church?

2. What basis did Joshua have for being “*strong and courageous*” (p. 89)? Which assurances that God gives Joshua are most strengthening and encouraging to you?

3. What concerns might Joshua have had as he accepted the reigns of leadership from Moses? What can we learn from this in areas where you take on more responsibility?

4. Rahab told the two spies: “*I know that the Lord has given you this land*” (p.90). Upon what was her declaration of faith based? What do you learn about God through Rahab’s example, considering her position in society and the people she represented?

5. Review the main points of the covenant that God made with Abraham. (See the summary for Chapter 2, also p. 13.) What examples can you find in this chapter that shows God’s faithfulness to its fulfillment?

6. How does God’s command to annihilate entire cities fit into the Upper Story of the Bible? In what way do these battle stories fit into God’s Upper Story? (Hint: review p. 86, especially the first full paragraph.)

7. Some people doubt the Bible because of miracles like Joshua’s “long day” (p. 97). But some people, like Rahab, come to believe in God because of His miraculous works. Discuss how you might respond to the skeptic who discounts the miraculous as myth.

8. What character traits of Joshua most impress you? Which of those would you like to be known for?

9. Joshua is known for his statement “*As for me and my household, we will serve the LORD*” (p.101). How can you lead your household (and/or circle of influence) to serve the Lord?

In the time remaining ask your group members to share any of their personal reflection insights from their journal entries.