

## **Long Story Short: The God Who Fights For Us**

### **Reflect**

1. How do respond to situations that challenge or frighten you? Do you fight or flee?
2. Can you recall moments in your life when you were courageous? What motivated you? Where do you think courage comes from?
3. Do you ever feel defeated in your faith walk? Have you faced something that was seemingly too big for your faith—something that shook your confidence in God?

### **Read Your Bible**

- Joshua 1:1-11
- Ephesians 6:10-12
- Mark 1:21-27

### **Apply God's Word to Your Life**

1. What jumps out at you from God's statements to Joshua?
2. Joshua had lost his mentor and leader: Moses, the man who led Israel out of Egypt and to the Promised Land. Now Joshua was taking the reins. What things did God want him to know? How can you apply those to your own life?
3. In what areas do you find it hard to let God fight for you? How might courage help?
4. From the Ephesians verses, what battle are we truly swept into as followers of Christ? Who are we standing against? Who are we standing with?
5. What surprised the onlookers in Mark 1? What types of authority did Jesus show?
6. Prayer is a primary avenue of putting Christian faith into courageous action. Have you ever claimed Jesus' authority in your life—over evil, fear, or sin? Have you ever asked God for courage or asked Him to fight for you? You can start today!

God is fighting for us in the midst of this broken world. Why? Because He has loved us with an everlasting love. We doubt sometimes if He would really fight for us or speak up on our behalf. We know our sin and failures. But, we need to hear the clear witness of Scripture: "I will never leave you nor forsake you." As these words came to Joshua, so they come to us today (Heb 13:5). God's patient plan is being played out with the goal of salvation and the renewal of all things. Our call is to trust—to lean upon Jesus and His mighty saving power on our behalf. It is to be strong and courageous, knowing that our God is fighting for us. Is anything keeping you from that courage and trust? Confess it to Him. Our Father waits for the humble heart.

### **Pray**

Dear Lord, we ask for new courage today. We do not want to merely fight or flee. We want to lean into You and step forward bravely in this world. We confess that we hurry to lean on our own strength—until it fails us. But, today, we ask for Your strength. Remind us that it is You that fights for us. Teach us to stand with You in the spiritual battles we face. All power and glory are Yours! Fill our hearts with the power of Your Holy Spirit and renew our confidence in Your mighty love. In Your name. Amen.