

# Sermon Study

War Stories - Fearless  
Joshua 10:16-27

April 22, 2018

## vision

Eastview  
Christian  
Church is a  
fearless church  
of Christ  
followers whose  
ridiculous love  
and dangerous  
witness are  
irresistible.



## AUTHOR'S NOTES (summary of key points for this study)

Key points of this passage:

- God's victory is complete.
- Fear God, not your enemies.
- God is just. He has expectations.
- God's expectations extend to all mankind.
- You cannot hide from God's justice.

## Gather (your group getting to know each other)

Have you ever been given an instruction that seemed puzzling, but carried it out anyway because you trusted the person in authority? What was the end result? Did hindsight allow more understanding of the situation? Share an example with the group.

**Go**  
(your group on mission)

Who do you know that's hiding, trapped in their cave? How can you lead them out?

**Grow** (your group growing as Christ-followers)

**Key Scripture:**

Joshua 10:24b-25: "...Come near; put your feet on the necks of these kings." Then they came near and put their feet on their necks. 25 And Joshua said to them, "Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and courageous. For thus the Lord will do to all your enemies against whom you fight."

**Discussion:**

1. Start with prayer.

2. Have someone read Joshua 10:16-27.

3. This passage starts with the 5 kings being found "hidden in the cave at Makkedah" (10:17). Their attempt fails as they quickly find themselves trapped, sealed off in a guarded cave. How about you? What "caves" do you, your small group, the church, attempt to hide in? Where do you run?

4. Next we see some familiar imagery as Joshua instructs the people to "Roll large stones against the mouth of the cave and set men by it to guard them. (10:18)" We have already mentioned stone altars previously in our study of Joshua. As a group, discuss these parallels and also those of Jesus being sealed in the tomb (see Matthew 28:57-62).

5. God's complete victory we will discuss later, but consider the next statement. Joshua 10:19 states "but do not stay there yourselves. Pursue your enemies." Similarly in Matthew 28:7 the angel at the tomb tells the women to come and see the tomb, but to then quickly go and tell the disciples. What, if anything, does this reveal to us about God? How do we best celebrate our victories while purposefully moving on to the next battle? God's requires action from the godly.

6. The cave is opened and the 5 kings are brought to Joshua. The captains of the army place their feet on the king's necks and are told in 10:25 "Do not be afraid or dismayed; be strong and courageous. For thus the Lord will do to all your enemies." Do we fear our enemies? How do you react when God asks something that seems strange?

7. Can God murder?

8. Consider the following: Even kings aren't spared from God's judgement. John Gill in his exposition of the Bible writes "Their hiding place became their grave." Their bodies were hung on trees, taken down at dusk, and sealed in the tomb. God's victory is complete. Similarly, Jesus was hung on a tree, taken down at dusk, and sealed in a tomb. But our King, who had nothing to hide and no reason to run, had the complete victory over death! Praise God!

**Give**  
(your group serving each other)

Pray that you and your group wouldn't hide or run from God's Kingdom work, but that you would join Him, even when we don't understand.