

# Sermon Study

War Stories - God Fighting For Us  
Joshua 10:29-43

## 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)

*If Joshua was a movie, verses 29-43 of chapter 10 would be shown as a montage. Unlike at Jericho and Ai, the details don't seem to matter as much here as the big-picture perspective: that God's people are on the march, sweeping through the land, causing cities to fall like dominoes, conquering them all. There is some debate over whether this conquest literally resulted in 100% depopulation of these cities (see Joshua 10:20, 15:13-15, 16:10 and Judges 1 for evidence of survivors), but the key point being expressed is that Israel won total, quick, decisive victory. In this study, you'll discuss how God is directly involved in these battles (fighting and winning them), and you'll also be asked to consider some of your own battles in light of some observations about God's victory that we can glean from this passage.*

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

Have you ever come to someone else's rescue? Anyone else ever come to yours? Share a time when you saved, rescued, stood up for, or went to battle on behalf of a friend...or when someone else has done that for you.

**Go**  
(your group on mission)

Just as the Israelites still faced battles despite knowing God would deliver the victory, so we still face the battles of Sin and Death (in that all of us will sin and all of us will die) despite knowing that He has already won the victory. They still had to do battle. *We* still have to do battle. Your nonbelieving friends are watching how you face your battles, so be mindful that your approach and response will be a witness.

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

**Key Scripture:**

“...because the Lord God of Israel fought for Israel.”  
(Joshua 10:42, ESV)

**Discussion:**

1. Have someone begin the discussion time by leading the group in prayer, then read Joshua 10:29-43.

2. How did it feel to hear that passage read aloud? One commentary makes an interesting point, writing, “One of the reasons for all of this repetition could be that almost everyone (until relatively modern times) encountered the Bible by *hearing* it. They did not (or could not) *read* it themselves, and so *hearing* these passages read aloud was an impressive way of making an emphatic point.” What experience did you have while listening to it? What emphatic point was impressed upon your heart?

3. This passage begins and ends with an emphasis on God's active role in giving these cities into Israel's hand (v.30) and fighting for Israel (v.40). What does that mean? If you have time, maybe also consider passages like 2 Kings 6:8-23 (particularly v.15-17). Why is it important to remember and acknowledge God's guiding hand in these victories?

4. What do you think this concept of “God fighting and winning battles” means for you today? Does this apply to the personal, individual “battles” you might be facing? For example, what might it mean (and *not* mean) for God to “fight and win the battle” you're facing against job loss, or a crumbling marriage, or a difficult parenting season?

5. Read v.40-43 again. Here, we can identify four big ideas about God's victory: it is *comprehensive*, it is *complete*, and it is *constant* until it is *concluded*. Let's look at each of these ideas, as you address some big questions related to each.

6. God's victory is *comprehensive*. It is sweeping, it stretches throughout “the whole land” (v.40), it is far-reaching and broad in scope. When it comes to the battles in your life, how broad is your scope? In other words, what are you reluctant to address because it's beyond your scope of comfort? What's off limits? Maybe sin issues, personal struggles, past mistakes...are there areas in your life that you avoid, deny, or ignore and are therefore closing-off to the *comprehensive* nature of God's victory?

7. God's victory is *complete*. Not only does it reach the whole land in scope, but when it gets there, it achieves complete and total triumph, leaving “none remaining,” destroying “all that breathed” (v.40). When it comes to the battles in your life, where are you compromising with sin? Are you negotiating with it, justifying it, downplaying it and making excuses for it? Are you “letting it live and linger,” so to speak, instead of devoting it to destruction until nothing remains and it can no longer breathe? Where are you closing-off the *complete* nature of God's victory?

8. God's victory is *constant*. It is unstoppable, one after another, it keeps moving through the land, gaining momentum, knocking down opposition continuously “at one time” (v.42). When it comes to the battles in your life, where are you taking breaks and getting lazy? Where have you let up on the gas, started procrastinating, and stopped pushing forward? Are you letting distractions and delay close you off to the *constant* nature of God's victory?

9. God's victory is *conclusive*. The mission eventually does end (v.43), but not until it is finished in victory. When it comes to the battles in your life, where have you given up completely? What battles have you already chalked up as 'lost' before they've been finished and brought to a conclusion? What relationship is “too broken,” what mistake is “too long ago,” or what sin is “too hard” that you've closed it off to the *conclusive* nature of God's victory?

10. Of course, the most important way God himself has fought for us and won the victory is through Jesus Christ. As you close, spend some time talking about how the enemies of Sin and Death were defeated by Jesus.

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

Another thing about the constant nature of God's victory is that in order to be constantly winning, it also means you're constantly fighting! Point being, there's always a next, new battle to fight. Serve your group this week by remembering the constant, ongoing presence of their battles. Maybe follow-up or make contact more than usual this week to remind them they're not doing it alone. Because even though they had God, the Israelites still fought together.