

**PRAYER**

- Ask God to make your heart desire for more of His presence and help you be devoted in reading and meditating on His Word regularly.



**Honor God. Make Disciples.**

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# STRONG

## Start Strong

Week 2

## Week 2

NOTES

**CONNECT**

- When you have an important event to attend, what do you usually do to prepare for it?
- What things do you collect because of their beauty, rarity, or value? Why do you like these things?
- What thing or place do you like to keep clean always? How do you do this?

## WORD

### WHAT

What does the Bible say?

Joshua told the people, “Consecrate yourselves, for tomorrow the LORD will do amazing things among you.”

Joshua 3:5

As the Israelites were about to fight for their Promised Land by first conquering Jericho, Joshua tells them to prepare by consecrating themselves. It is an interesting way to prepare for a battle. Consecration in the Old Testament means to devote, separate, dedicate, or set apart from what is unclean to make something worthy to be used for God’s purposes. Let us learn more about why God’s people had to consecrate themselves first.

- **There is a purpose for consecration.**

<sup>20</sup> . . . some are for noble purposes and some for ignoble. <sup>21</sup> If a man cleanses himself from the latter, he will be an instrument for noble purposes, made holy, useful to the Master and prepared to do any good work.

2 Timothy 2:20,21

It is God’s will that you should be sanctified . . .

1 Thessalonians 4:3

It was God’s command that the Israelites need to consecrate themselves before proceeding with God’s work which was to claim the Promised Land. As one people, they need to solely devote themselves to God’s cause else their enemies will defeat them. Like the Israelites, we too must ensure that our hearts are set aside for God’s purposes if we are to claim His promises for us. How much do you want God’s will to happen in your life?

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- **There is a process of consecration.**

How much more, then, will the blood of Christ, who through the eternal Spirit offered himself unblemished to God, cleanse our consciences from acts that lead to death, so that we may serve the living God!

Hebrews 9:14

The Israelites obeyed God’s command for consecration through an external act of washing their bodies and changing their clothes (Exodus 19:10,11). Because of this God was with them all throughout their conquest. For us, God made way through Jesus so we can be sanctified from sins. We just need to yield to His work in our lives moment by moment. How do we become more Christlike in our character and lifestyle? (1 Corinthians 6:11, John 17:17, 1 Peter 1:2)?

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- **There is a reward for consecration.**

*“This is how you will know that the living God is among you and that he will certainly drive out before you the Canaanites, Hittites, Hivites, Perizzites, Girgashites, Amorites and Jebusites.”*

Joshua 3:10

As the Israelites consecrated themselves, God was with them in their battles. The next chapters of Joshua show that as long as the Israelites remained true to God, His presence was with them. More than answered prayers or winning battles, the ultimate reward for consecration is God’s presence in our lives. What benefits does having God’s presence give us?

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### SO WHAT

What is the relevance of the Word to my life?

- What part of this lesson struck you most? Why?
- How much do you think are you yielded to God’s will and purposes right now?
- What habits, attitudes, or thinking do you feel God is pointing out to you to change?

### NOW WHAT

How do I apply the Word to my life?

- Take time to listen to God in prayer and let Him check your heart for things that are not according to His will. What can you do starting today to yield to His cleansing?
- What talents or skills do you feel God is calling you to dedicate to Him? In what way can you serve God through these?
- What steps can you take to dwell more in God’s presence? When can you start doing these?