

Talk It Over

Questions are prepared each week and are designed to prompt insights, questions, and the life experience of each listener. If these are used immediately following the sermon, it would be much the same as what was done in Israel at the time of the early church.

Violence in the Old Testament - Part 2

Read:

Joshua 6:15-21

Discuss:

1. Why would God have allowed the authors of the Bible to write from their perspectives? Why did God allow the biblical authors to tell the story from their vantage point? Why didn't God just "tell it like it is"? For instance, why didn't God supernaturally inform the biblical writers that the sun did not rise or set or move, but instead remained stationary while the earth revolved around it?
2. How does the story of the conquest of Jericho reflect the culturally accepted practices of the ancient world? Why were those practices acceptable to people in the ancient world, but not acceptable to us today?
3. In what ways does the God described in the Old Testament seem different from the God Jesus revealed? How does Jesus correct people's previously held understandings of God?
4. Do you think that Jesus is the ultimate revelation of God in the Biblical record? Why or why not? Do you think our understanding of God is still developing or evolving?
5. Can the Bible still be viewed as authoritative if we allow the story to be told from the perspective of the Biblical authors? In what ways does this make the Bible more authentic or authoritative?
6. What other questions does this conversation raise about how we understand or interpret the biblical text? What has this discussion clarified? Where are you still confused?



Wrap Up:

Share any final thoughts and close in prayer.