**Joshua 4-5**

I. Looking Back (Joshua 4:1-7)

A. Before the jumped into the next season of their lives, God called the Israelites to intentionally pause and remember his power and faithfulness and give thanks.

B. God has been faithful to our church community and we want to pause to give him thanks before we enter this new season.

C. We see this change to two services as, in many ways, simply a response to the ways God has been faithfully at work in our community

II. Looking Forward (Joshua 5:13-15)

A. As Joshua was thinking about the future battles to be fought, God reminded him that ultimately these were God’s battles to be fought and won. It wasn’t an issue of asking God to be on his side, it was an issue of realizing that God was in control and that he was simply God’s servant.

B. As we move into this new season in our church community, we don’t want to strategize and create vision and then ask God to be on our side. Rather, we want to stop and recognize God is in control and this is his church, and we simply want to entrust ourselves and commit our future into his sovereign hands.

 1. Committing ourselves to God as individuals

This involves moving from consumers to servants: not asking, “what’s in this for me?” but rather, “God what are you asking of me in this transition?”

 2. Committing our entire church body to God

 Praying and working towards unity

 3. Committing the larger community of Orange County and beyond to God

Reaching out to those outside of our church with the love and truth of Jesus Christ

**Discussion Questions**

1. How did Sunday’s service change or enhance your perspective or your posture as we move to two services? Was there anything in particular that stood out to you?

2. Consider the stones of remembrance (Joshua 4) that God called the Israelites to gather as a way to intentionally remember his faithfulness. What role does that kind of intentional remembrance and celebration play in your life? Do you have any rhythms or practices that help you acknowledge and remember God’s faithfulness in your life?

3. As you look back on how God has faithfully been at work in your life through the Grace community, what specifically would you like to give Him thanks for?

4. How would you answer the question that was asked on the survey to the large group of Grace attenders: “As you think about how moving to two services is going to affect you personally, what issue(s) most quickly comes to mind? (This can be something you’re excited about or something you’re not excited about. We’re not necessarily looking for a "right" or spiritual answer, just your honest and candid response.)” And how might you faithfully respond to that issue?

5. How impact Joshua’s encounter with the angel of the Lord impact the way you approach new seasons in your own life?