

## Session 4: Staying the Course

## **Launching Questions**:

Have you ever been to a graduation when you heard these instructions, "Ladies & gentlemen, we ask in advance that you, please refrain from applauding, clapping, or cheering when your child or friend is called? Hold all applause until every graduate has been acknowledged."

| • | Why do you think it is difficult for people to follow these instructions   |
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| • | In your experience, what tends to occur when these instructions are given? |
|   | Why do you think such instructions are provided?                           |

## **Joshua 6:6-14**

So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, "Take up the ark of the covenant and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD." <sup>7</sup> And he said to the people, "Go forward. March around the city and let the armed men pass on before the ark of the LORD."

<sup>8</sup> And just as Joshua had commanded the people, the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the LORD went forward, blowing the trumpets, with the ark of the covenant of the LORD following them. <sup>9</sup> The armed men were walking before the priests who were blowing the trumpets, and the rear guard was walking after the ark, while the trumpets blew continually. <sup>10</sup> But Joshua commanded the people, "You shall not shout or make your voice heard, neither shall any word go out of your mouth, until the day I tell you to shout.



Then you shall shout." <sup>11</sup> So he caused the ark of the LORD to circle the city, going about it once. And they came into the camp and spent the night in the camp.

<sup>12</sup> Then Joshua rose early in the morning, and the priests took up the ark of the LORD. <sup>13</sup> And the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark of the LORD walked on, and they blew the trumpets continually. And the armed men were walking before them, and the rear guard was walking after the ark of the LORD, while the trumpets blew continually. <sup>14</sup> And the second day they marched around the city once, and returned into the camp. So they did for six days. (ESV)

|    | What were the instructions Joshua gave the marchers?   |
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| 2. | What specific directives did Joshua give in v.10?  |
| 3. | Reflecting on the passage, what do you think was the significance of the silence while marching around the wall? |
| 4. | Why do you think it might have been difficult for the marchers to remain silent each day around the wall?        |



| 5.           | When are times you find yourself needing silence?  |
|--------------|--|
| 6.           | What thoughts or emotions are you normally processing during your time of                      |
|              | silence?   |
| 7.           | How can God minister to you in times of silence?   |
| <u>TAKIN</u> | NG IT PERSONAL:  |
| 1.           | Currently, what situation or challenge are you facing that requires you to hear from the Lord? |