



STEADFAST DEVOTIONALS

MAKE FLINT KNIVES

At that time the Lord said to Joshua, "Make flint knives and circumcise the Israelites again." So Joshua made flint knives and circumcised the Israelites at Gibeath Haaraloth.

Joshua 5:2-3

God has a reason for everything He says and does. And this passage of scripture is no exception. By this point, the Israelites had seen the amazing things we talked about in last week's devotional from Joshua 3. In Joshua 4, the Jordan river had dried up and everyone crossed over into the Promised Land on dry ground. Their devotion led them to a miracle! But soon after, God asked for more. And the Israelites quickly realized that crossing into the land was one thing, but taking it for God's glory was another.

God's people were now in uncharted territory. There were lands to conquer and enemies to fight. God needed to prepare them for the unknown, which meant cutting away what may be holding them back. It was a painful but necessary sacrifice to show their devotion once again.

God will give us opportunities to trust Him throughout our walk with Him. He doesn't stop - but we do. We think that if we trust Him once or twice, He's satisfied with that. But God's desire for us is to keep growing, because He has so much more to give and do through us. Even when it's painful, He is doing His best work because His power is made perfect in our weakness (2 Cor. 12:9).

CHALLENGE

The Israelites had to make a painful sacrifice - God asked them to be circumcised AGAIN. What are you willing to cut away for Jesus? How will you keep trusting God when He allows you to go through hard things or asks you to lay down your desires to follow Him? Read Joshua 5 and 6 this week, and watch what God does through Joshua and the Israelites. Write your thoughts and prayers on the Reflections page.

PRAY THIS

Lord, thank you for wanting more for me. I'm sorry for not always being willing to cut things away from my life, for not trusting You when I go through pain and hurt. Holy Spirit, create in me a clean heart and renew a steadfast spirit within me (Ps. 51:10). I want to live my life for Your glory and honor, God.

