

NEXT STARTS NOW

1976–

The Win Starts Within (Week 4)

Preacher: **Stephen Scott**

Worship:

Suggested Song: “*Touch of Heaven*” – a song of surrender that helps us posture our hearts before God.

Check-in:

Where have you recently felt the tension between *your* plans and *God’s* plans?

Big Idea:

Before God brings victory on the outside, He does a deeper work on the inside.

In Joshua 5–6, God marks, moulds, and matures His people – preparing their *hearts* before giving them the *promise*. The fall of Jericho didn’t start with marching; it started with surrender.

In God’s Kingdom, the secret sauce of success is surrender.

Or in the language of the sermon: “The win starts within.”

Key Scriptures:

- Joshua 5 – 6 – God prepares Israel through surrender and obedience
- Proverbs 19:21 – Many plans in our hearts; God’s purpose prevails
- 2 Corinthians 5:17 – New identity in Christ
- Matthew 16:25 – We find our life by laying it down

Discussion Questions:

1. Marked by God – Identity

What part of your identity in Christ (*new, forgiven, chosen, loved*) do you find hardest to fully embrace right now, and why?

2. Moulded by God – Private Surrender

Where is God doing a “win starts within” work in your life – something private, hidden, or uncomfortable that He is inviting you to surrender?

3. Moving With God – Obedience

What is one *step of obedience* God is calling you to take that may feel unconventional, risky, or counter intuitive – like marching around Jericho?

Prayer Pointers:

Pray into three movements of surrender:

- **Identity:** “Lord, thank You for rolling away my shame. Help me live from who You say I am.”
- **Surrender:** “Create in me a clean heart. I lay down my plans for Your purpose.”
- **Obedience:** “Strengthen me to trust You and obey, even when it doesn’t make sense.”