

Sermon Based Small Group Discussion Guide

Week of May 31, 2026

Icebreaker Questions

- Who has been the most influential leader in your life and why?
- What's the most challenging leadership responsibility you've ever had?
- What's one situation where asking for help turned out to be the best decision?

Sermon Summary

(If you missed this week's sermon, it's always available by noon on Monday on YouTube at: <https://www.youtube.com/@horizoncommunitychurch>)

In Joshua 5, Joshua encounters the Commander of the Lord's Army before the battle of Jericho. He learns that the real battle is not against the city, but against self-reliance and pride. When Joshua asks whether God is on Israel's side, he is reminded that the true question is whether God's people are aligned with His will. The appearance of the Commander—likely a pre-incarnate appearance of Christ—reveals God's holiness, authority, and leadership over every battle. Joshua responds by falling face down in worship and submission, demonstrating that spiritual victory begins with surrender, humility, and obedience. While God wins battles through us, He does a deeper work within us by calling us to trust His plan, pursue holiness, and submit to His leadership. Lord, help us to pursue you with joy and thanksgiving.

Opening Prayer

Briefly pray and invite the Lord into your conversations to bring wisdom and insight to His Word. Pray around the theme for the sermon/discussion.

Primary Passages of Scripture

Read Joshua 5:13-15, Exodus 3:5, Jeremiah 17:9, Luke 6:38

Discussion Questions

Pick 2-3 questions for discussion across the group.

- How does this passage challenge the way people often approach God?
- In what areas of life are you most tempted to ask God to bless your plans rather than seek His?
- What are some practical ways to surrender our plans to God?
- Why do you think God often allows leaders to carry significant responsibility and pressure?
- What leadership lessons can we learn from Joshua falling face down before God?
- How should God's holiness affect the way we worship Him?
- Why do you think God emphasized worship and reverence before battle strategy?
- Why does God often work on our hearts before changing our circumstances?
- How does prayer prepare us for spiritual battles?
- What is the relationship between surrender and victory?

Prayer

- Ask: "How can we pray for you this week?"
- Assign each request to a group member to ensure everyone is prayed for during the prayer time.
- Assign someone to open in prayer and someone to close in prayer.

Closing