

Flourish: Week 5

November 17, 2024

Message Summary

In the final message of our Flourish series, we looked at Joshua’s encounter with the commander of the Lord’s army in Joshua 5:13-15. As Joshua prepared to lead Israel into the Promised Land, he faced the fortified city of Jericho and the challenges of new leadership. During a late-night walk, Joshua encountered a mysterious figure—Jesus in pre-incarnate form—who called him to surrender, follow, and worship. This powerful moment reminds us that flourishing with God begins with full surrender, trusting that He is leading us and inviting us to be part of His mission. Just as Joshua encountered Jesus with a raised sword of victory, we too are invited to step into the assurance of His victory and follow Him in faith.

Icebreaker Ideas**1. Most Embarrassing Moment (That You Can Laugh About Now)**

Ask everyone to share a funny, embarrassing moment from their past that they can now laugh about. This always leads to laughter and helps everyone end the group on a light-hearted note.

2. If You Were a Meme

Have each person describe which popular meme best represents their personality or their current mood. It's a fun way to get everyone laughing and see who's up-to-date on internet humor!

Key Scripture(s)**Joshua 5:13-15**

“When Joshua was near the town of Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with sword in hand... ‘I am the commander of the Lord’s army.’ At this, Joshua fell with his face to the ground in reverence.”

Matthew 28:18-20

“All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations... And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age.”

Talk About It**1. Surrender**

- a. Joshua’s encounter with the commander of the Lord’s army was a call to surrender, not to ask God to join his plans. Reflect on areas in your life where you tend to ask God to “join your side.” What might it look like to surrender fully to His leadership instead?
- b. How does surrendering to God change your perspective on challenges or responsibilities you face?

2. Follow

- a. God’s instructions to Joshua for conquering Jericho were unconventional, emphasizing obedience over personal strategy. Has there been a time when God led you in a direction that didn’t make sense at first? What did following Him in that moment teach you?
- b. How can we be more intentional about following God’s leading, especially when it challenges our own understanding?

3. Worship

- a. Joshua responded with immediate worship, recognizing he was on holy ground. Worshiping God helps keep Him at the center of our lives. How does worship influence our willingness to surrender and follow?
- b. In what ways can you make worship a regular, intentional part of your life that guides your decisions?

4. Win

- a. Joshua saw the Lord with a raised sword, symbolizing the assurance of victory. How does knowing that Jesus has already won the ultimate victory shape your confidence and peace in facing obstacles?
- b. What would it look like to live as if God’s victory is certain, letting go of fear and embracing trust in His promises?

Ways to Pray:**1. Pray for a Heart of Surrender**

Ask God for the courage to fully surrender our lives and plans to His will, trusting Him as the true Commander of our lives.

2. Seek God's Guidance and Faith to Follow

Pray for faith to follow God's leading, even when we don't understand the full picture, trusting that He is fighting our battles.

3. Thank God for His Victory and Provision

Express gratitude for the assurance of victory in Christ, asking Him to help us live generously and worshipfully, reflecting His heart to those around us.