



JOSHUA SERIES – PART 5

PASTOR LESTER ZIMMERMAN

AUGUST 3, 2025

WORSHIP

Begin your group with a time of worship. If someone in your group can lead worship, invite them to lead two or three songs. Alternatively, consider using one or more of these songs from our Sunday morning worship time:

- **The Joy** (*The Belonging Co.*)
- **Trust In God** (*Elevation Worship*)
- **Thank You Jesus For The Blood** (*Charity Gayle*)

SCRIPTURE REFERENCES

- Joshua 9-10
- Exodus 23:29; 34:11-12
- 1 Corinthians 10:11 & 2 Corinthians 12:10
- Judges 3:1-2
- 1 Samuel 16:7

OPENING PRAYER

Begin your session with a prayer, asking God to open your hearts and minds to His Word and the lessons from this sermon.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

1. Victory is often a process and comes in steps.
2. We should not judge by outward appearance.
3. It's crucial to slow down and ask God for guidance in decision-making.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. The sermon mentions that "God's promises are often connected to our faith and obedience and the steps he asks us to take." Can you share an experience where you've seen this principle at work in your own life?
2. Pastor Zimmerman states, "God loves us dearly but is more committed to our character development than our comfort." How do you feel about this statement? How have you seen God work on your character through challenges?
3. The Gibeonites deceived the Israelites through outward appearances. Can you think of a time when you misjudged someone based on their appearance? What did you learn from that experience?
4. The sermon emphasizes the importance of not making quick judgments. In our fast-paced world, how can we practically slow down and seek God's wisdom in our daily decisions?
5. The sermon mentions generational blessings and curses. How do you think our current decisions might impact future generations? How does this perspective affect your decision-making process?

PRACTICAL APPLICATIONS

1. This week, practice slowing down before making decisions. Take time to pray and seek God's guidance, even in seemingly small matters.
2. Reflect on any areas in your life where you might be judging by outward appearances. Ask God to help you see people and situations through His eyes.
3. Identify an area in your life where you're seeking victory or breakthrough. Create a step-by-step plan, recognizing that victory often comes through a process.
4. Before making any significant decisions this week, use the discernment tips mentioned in the sermon:
 - a. Check if you have peace in your spirit
 - b. Ensure it doesn't violate God's Word
 - c. Seek agreement with your spouse (if applicable)
 - d. Get wisdom from trusted others

CLOSING PRAYER

Encourage group members to share prayer requests and pray for each other, especially in areas where they need discernment or are facing important decisions.