



Simple Obedience
Pastor Joseph Zwanziger 01.18.2026

USING THIS SERMON DISCUSSION GUIDE

We have provided all the Scriptures references in the sermon and some discussion questions for you to use to discuss the weekend message.

This Sermon Discussion Guide is only a tool to aid you in meeting the needs of your group. For most groups, there are too many questions to answer in one session. Give priority to the needs and pace of your group members.

While the questions are important, remember your group's goal is to create an atmosphere that will foster true friendships. Use the discussion questions as you see fit but emphasize the relationships.

[*Joshua 6:1-5*] (ESV)

Now Jericho was shut up inside and outside because of the people of Israel. None went out, and none came in. And the Lord said to Joshua, “See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and mighty men of valor. You shall march around the city, all the men of war going around the city once. Thus shall you do for six days. Seven priests shall bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark. On the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. And when they make a long blast with the ram’s horn, when you hear the sound of the trumpet, then all the people shall shout with a great shout, and the wall of the city will fall down flat, and the people shall go up, everyone straight before him.”

“Shout”: ruah - signal with loud noise

“True faith doesn’t just celebrate ex post facto, after the miracle has already happened; true faith celebrates before the miracle happens, as if the miracle has already happened, because you know that you know that God is going to deliver on His promise.

-Mark Batterson – “The Circle Maker”

[Joshua 6:6-10, 15-16, 20] (ESV)

So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark of the Lord.” And he said to the people, “Go forward. March around the city and let the armed men pass on before the ark of the Lord.” And just as Joshua had commanded the people, the seven priests bearing the seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the Lord went forward, blowing the trumpets, with the ark of the covenant of the Lord following them. The armed men were walking before the priests who were blowing the trumpets, and the rear guard was walking after the ark, while the trumpets blew continually. But Joshua commanded the people, “You shall not shout or make your voice heard, neither shall any word go out of your mouth, until the day I tell you to shout. Then you shall shout.” On the seventh day they rose early, at the dawn of day, and marched around the city in the same manner seven times. It was only on that day that they marched around the city seven times. And at the seventh time, when the priests had blown the trumpets, Joshua said to the people, “Shout, for the Lord has given you the city. So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they captured the city.

[Psalm 68:1-2] (ESV)

God shall arise, his enemies shall be scattered; and those who hate him shall flee before him! As smoke is driven away, so you shall drive them away; as wax melts before fire, so the wicked shall perish before God!

Simple obedience leads to God’s supernatural results**[John 14:15] (ESV)**

“If you love me, you will keep [obey] my commandments.”

[Deut. 28:1-2] (ESV)

And if you faithfully obey the voice of the Lord your God, being careful to do all his commandments that I command you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations of the earth. And all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you, if you obey the voice of the Lord your God.”

1. Obey Immediately**[Joshua 6:6]**

So Joshua the son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant and let seven priests bear seven trumpets of rams’ horns before the ark of the Lord.”

2. Obey Completely**[Joshua 6:20]**

So the people shouted, and the trumpets were blown. As soon as the people heard the sound of the trumpet, the people shouted a great shout, and the wall fell down flat, so that the people went up into the city, every man straight before him, and they captured the city.

3. Obey Sincerely

[Joshua 5:13-15] (ESV)

When Joshua was by Jericho, he lifted up his eyes and looked, and behold, a man was standing before him with his drawn sword in his hand. And Joshua went to him and said to him, “Are you for us, or for our adversaries?” And he said, “No; but I am the commander of the army of the Lord. Now I have come.” And Joshua fell on his face to the earth and worshiped and said to him, “What does my lord say to his servant?”

“Worshiped”: bow in worship, prostrate oneself, i.e., make a low stance as a sign of honor, worship, and homage of deity

[Psalm 119:29–30] (NLT)

Keep me from lying to myself; give me the privilege of knowing your instructions. I have chosen to be faithful; I have determined to live by your regulations.

[Psalm 119:35] (NLT)

Make me walk along the path of your commands, for that is where my happiness is found.

[Psalm 119:40] (NLT)

I long to obey your commandments! Renew my life with your goodness.

[Psalm 119:45] (NLT)

I will walk in freedom, for I have devoted myself to your commandments.

How do we consecrate the inside of our lives?

Key Points:

- 1. Obey Immediately**
- 2. Obey Completely**
- 3. Obey Sincerely**

Applications for the Week:

Obedience in the kingdom of God is an invitation to abundant life, not a surrendering of freedom. Do you currently view God's commands as “hoops to jump through” or as “invitations” to a better way of living? How would changing your perspective change your response to scripture and shape your time with God this week?

Discussion Questions:

1. The Hebrew word *ruah* is used to describe the "shout" commanded by God. What are the different ways this word can be understood in the context of battle and worship?
2. According to Joshua 6:3-5, what were the specific instructions regarding the priests, the trumpets, and the ark during the march?
3. How many times is the "ark" mentioned in the account of the fall of Jericho, and what was its position in the procession?
4. In Joshua 5:13-15, how does Joshua react when he realizes he is speaking to the commander of the army of the Lord?

5. The walls of Jericho did not simply crumble; they fell forward to create ramps for the Israelites. What does this physical detail suggest about the way God provides a path through "impossible" obstacles?
6. When Joshua asks the commander of the Lord's army whose side he is on, the response is simply "No". What does this reveal about the importance of our alignment with God's agenda rather than asking Him to join ours?
7. The ark of the covenant is often referred to as the "ark of the presence". Why is circling a problem with the presence of God through worship and prayer more effective than relying solely on natural strategy?
8. We are often tempted to fight our battles only in the natural realm. Is there a "Jericho" in your life—a situation that feels shut up and impossible—that you need to stop over-analyzing and start "circling" in prayer and worship?