

2026-07-19 Small Group Guide

Small Group Guide: "Making Up Your Mind - Who Is Lord?"

Opening Prayer

Begin your time together by asking God to speak to your hearts and help you honestly examine where you stand in your commitment to Him.

Ice Breaker

Share a time when you had difficulty making a decision between two good options. What helped you finally decide?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

We struggle with commitment - Like the Israelites at the edge of the Promised Land, we often waver in our trust in God when challenges appear bigger than His promises.

God calls us to be strong and courageous - Joshua received this command three times because God knows we need constant reminding to stand firm.

Our allegiance must be clear - We can't serve God wholeheartedly while constantly looking back at what the world offers.

Discouragement is a major weapon - We live in the most prosperous yet most discouraged society, often letting small things derail our faith.

Making up our minds ends half the battle - When we truly decide that Jesus is Lord, the tug-of-war loses much of its power.

Discussion Questions

Understanding the Message

The Israelites' Choice (Deuteronomy 1:26-32)

Why did the Israelites refuse to enter the Promised Land despite seeing God's faithfulness in Egypt and the desert?

What "giants" in your life cause you to doubt God's ability to lead you forward?

How does grumbling and complaining reveal where our trust really lies?

Joshua's Commission (Joshua 1:1-9)

Why do you think God repeated "be strong and courageous" three times to Joshua?

What's the difference between being "strong and courageous" versus being "terrified and discouraged"?

How does meditating on God's Word day and night connect to prosperity and success?

Personal Reflection

Picking Teams

Pastor Steve talked about how we "pick and choose" when to follow God.

When are you most tempted to "unpick" Jesus from your daily life?

What does it look like practically to make Jesus Lord of your whole week, not just Sunday morning?

The Discouragement Factor

On a scale of 1-10, how easily do you get discouraged? What typically discourages you most?

How might your discouragement be connected to not having fully settled who is Lord in your life?

Glued, Bolted, or Welded?

Pastor Steve asked if our acceptance of Christ is "glued together, bolted together, or welded together." Which best describes your current commitment?

What would it take for your faith to become "welded" - unbreakable at the

point of connection with God?

Application

Making Up Your Mind

What specific area of your life have you been wishy-washy about surrendering to God's lordship?

What would change this week if you truly settled that Jesus is Lord over that area?

Practical Obedience

Pastor Steve mentioned opportunities to serve (packing bags for Must Ministry, helping with children's rooms, etc.). When was the last time you asked God if He wanted you to participate in something before saying no? What's one practical way you could seek God's direction before making decisions this week?

This Week's Challenge

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: The Daily Declaration

Each morning this week, before checking your phone or starting your routine, declare out loud: "Jesus Christ is Lord of my life today." Then ask Him, "What do You want me to focus on today?"

Option 2: The Decision Filter

Before making any decision this week (even small ones), pause and ask: "Does this choice reflect that Jesus is truly Lord of my life?" Journal about what you discover.

Option 3: The Gratitude Reset

When you start to feel discouraged this week, immediately list 3 specific

ways God has been faithful to you. Thank Him for each one before moving forward.

Option 4: The Lordship Audit

Set aside 30 minutes this week to honestly evaluate different areas of your life (finances, relationships, time, career, entertainment, etc.). For each area, ask: "Is Jesus truly Lord here, or am I still in charge?"

Memory Verse

Joshua 1:9 - "Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the LORD your God will be with you wherever you go."

Closing Prayer Prompts

Confess areas where you've been wavering in your commitment to God

Ask for strength and courage to face the "giants" in your life

Pray for each other to have settled minds about who is Lord

Thank God for His faithfulness even when we've been unfaithful

Leader Notes

Be Vulnerable: As the leader, be willing to share your own struggles with making Jesus Lord in every area of your life.

Create Safety: Some may need to admit they've never truly made Jesus Lord. Make sure the group feels safe enough for honest confession.

Avoid Judgment: People are at different places in their journey. Focus on encouraging forward movement, not condemning current position.

Follow Up: Check in with group members during the week about their chosen challenge.

Practical Focus: Keep bringing the conversation back to specific, practical applications rather than theoretical discussions.