

GROUUPS

s e r m o n g u i d e

JOSHUA: 05/31/2026 - Pastor Mike Wilson

MAIN IDEA

IF AT FIRST YOU DONT SUCCEED...

TALK ABOUT IT

Ice Breaker: Share about a time when you failed at something initially but succeeded when ou tried again. What changed?

Lean In and LISTEN to the LORD

1. In verse 1, God tells Joshua, "Do not fear and do not be dismayed." Why do you think Joshua needed to hear that after the previous defeat at Ai?
2. What stands out to you about Joshua's response to God's instructions in verses 1-3?
3. How can we better "lean in and listen" to God when we're facing uncertainty, disappointment, or failure?

Rise Up After Failure

4. Joshua and Israel had previously experienced defeat at Ai. What do you learn about God's character from the fact that He gives them another opportunity?
5. What are some common reasons people struggle to get back up after failure, disappointment, or sin?
6. Is there an area of your life where God may be calling you to "rise up" and trust Him again instead of staying discouraged?

Embrace God's Different Strategy

7. God's plan for Ai was very different from His plan for Jericho. Why do you think God often works in different ways rather than repeating the same methods?
8. The outline says, "Let go of what worked before." What can happen when we rely more on past experiences than on God's present direction?
9. Read 1 Corinthians 1:27. When have you seen God use something that seemed weak, unlikely, or foolish to accomplish His purposes?
10. God's strategy required Israel to appear vulnerable and retreat before attacking. Why can following God's plan sometimes feel risky or uncomfortable?
11. What is one situation in your life where you may need to trust God's direction even when it doesn't make complete sense yet?

KEY SCRIPTURES

JOSHUA 8 - READ THE WHOLE CHAPTER

TALK ABOUT IT (CONT.)

Finish Strong with Full Obedience

12. The victory at Ai required Israel to stay engaged until the mission was complete. Why is finishing well often harder than starting well?
13. Read Colossians 3:23 and Psalm 115:1. How can we honor God both in the process of obedience and in the outcomes He provides? What does that look like practically this week?

Closing Challenge: What is one specific step of obedience God may be asking you to take this week as you seek to listen to Him more closely?

NEXT STEPS

• ENCOUNTER:

- **Holy Spirit Saturday** - June 13 from 9:00 AM-2:00 PM in the Living Room. Come learn about the role of the Holy Spirit in our faith journey; \$5 registration includes breakfast, lunch, and childcare. A sign-up link will be included in next week's sermon notes.

• EXPERIENCE:

- PRAY for:
 - Small groups will grow deeper & closer
 - For new attenders to get into small groups.
- Have you attended Growth Track? If not, come check it out! 1st, 2nd & 3rd Sundays of the month at 10am in the Fireside Room.

• EXPAND

- JOIN the VBS Team - 3 Nights of Fun sharing the Gospel! July 7, 8 & 9!
- [VBS Team Sign up!](#)

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NOTES

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