

## PRAYER

- Pray for each person in your group to have the grace to trust and obey God's Word.  
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- Intercede for each member in your group to have the grace to grow in the fear of the Lord.  
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- Ask the Holy Spirit to show you mindsets and attitudes that hinder you from obeying and having confidence in His promises.  
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## NOTES

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## CONNECT

- Tell of a time when you disobeyed your parents. What was the command and what happened?
- What is one thing that you are afraid of?
- Tell of a time when you broke a promise. What was the promise and what happened?

## WORD

<sup>13</sup>Now when Joshua was near Jericho, he looked up and saw a man standing in front of him with a drawn sword in his hand. Joshua went up to him and asked, “Are you for us or for our enemies?” <sup>14</sup>“Neither,” he replied, “but as commander of the army of the LORD I have now come.” Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?”

Joshua 5:13,14

## WHAT *What does the Bible say?*

When the commander of the army of the Lord came to Joshua, he recognized that God’s favor would be with him in battle. Joshua must have been so confident that they will win! When God steps into our situation, He comes to fight for us so we can win the battles that we face in life. What should be our response to the Lord and to what He is doing or about to do in our lives?

- **Have the fear of the Lord.**

<sup>14</sup>. . . Then Joshua fell facedown to the ground in reverence, and asked him, “What message does my Lord have for his servant?” <sup>15</sup>The commander of the LORD’s army replied, “Take off your sandals, for the place where you are standing is holy.” And Joshua did so.

Joshua 5:14,15

Having the fear of the Lord is having a deep reverence or respect for God. And this reverence is accompanied with action. This means giving weight to His commands and who He is. Because He is Lord, God deserves our full attention and trust. Share an example of a person whom you love and respect highly. How do you relate to that person?

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- **Obey what He says.**

<sup>6</sup>So Joshua son of Nun called the priests and said to them, “Take up the ark of the covenant of the LORD and have seven priests carry trumpets in front of it.” <sup>7</sup>And he ordered the people, “Advance! March around the city, with the armed guard going ahead of the ark of the LORD.”

Joshua 6:6,7

In a war, privates and sergeants obey and trust the strategies employed by their generals. Why? Because they see the bigger picture. The same thing can be said of us. As we face challenges and battles in life, it would be wise for us to trust God and follow His commands. God’s wisdom is way beyond our limited view of life. And the best part is, He cares for our good. What happened when you chose to obey God in a situation you faced?

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- **Have faith in His promises.**

*By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days.*

Hebrews 11:30

Joshua and his army saw before their very eyes how God gave them the victory as they obeyed His instructions. God’s way may have seemed illogical to them, but they obeyed. In the same way, we can trust God’s promises and ways because of who He is: God is faithful, trustworthy, and a Keeper of His Word. Tell of a time when your faith in God’s promises was tested. How did He give you the victory and how did you respond while waiting?

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## SO WHAT *What is the relevance of the Word to my life?*

- How does confidence in God help us grow in our relationship with Him?
- How convinced are you that God is Lord of all and that He is in control? How is this trust seen in the way you handle situations in your life?
- Why is it important for us to give God the respect that is due Him?

## NOW WHAT *How do I apply the Word to my life?*

- What promises are you holding on to right now? How can you strengthen your confidence and faith that God will do what He promised you?
- What area in your life are you having a hard time obeying God’s Word?
- What one practical and specific thing can you do this week to express your deep respect and love to God?