

Small Group Guide



Share about a time when you had to choose between doing what you wanted and doing what you knew was right. What helped you make that decision?

Key Takeaways from the Sermon

1. **Promises Have Premises:** God's promises often come with conditions—obedience, trust, and surrender are the foundation upon which His promises rest.
2. **Two Gardens, Two Choices:**
 - Garden of Eden: Adam and Eve chose self-reliance over trust, bringing death
 - Garden of Gethsemane: Jesus chose surrender and obedience, bringing life
3. **Daily Decision Points:** Every day we face the same choice Adam and Jesus faced—will we trust God or trust ourselves?
4. **Life Through Surrender:** True life isn't grasped or seized; it's received through laying down our lives and surrendering to God's will.
5. **In Christ We Can Obey:** Jesus doesn't just show us what obedience looks like—He makes it possible by His presence in our lives.

Discussion Questions

1. The sermon contrasted Joshua 1:9 (the promise) with Joshua 1:7-8 (the promise). Why do you think we're often drawn to God's promises while overlooking the conditions attached to them?

2. Read John 12:24-25 together. What does Jesus mean when He says those who love their life will lose it, but those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life? How does this challenge our natural instincts?

3. In what areas of life do you find it hardest to believe that surrender leads to life rather than loss?

4. Compare and contrast the choices made in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 2-3) and the Garden of Gethsemane (Luke 22:39-44). What were the consequences of each choice?

5. The sermon stated: "Every day we face the same question. Will I trust God? Will I obey Him? Will I surrender? Or will I trust myself?" Can someone share a recent example of facing this choice?

6. Jesus prayed, "Not my will, but yours be done" while in anguish. What does this teach us about obedience? Does obedience mean we won't struggle or have difficult emotions?

7. The sermon said our choices "release life and blessing and healing to all of creation, or release death, dysfunction, and disorder." How have you seen your choices affect not just yourself but others around you?

8. Read Romans 5:17. What's the difference between being "in Adam" and being "in Christ"? How does being "in Christ" change our ability to obey?

9. Jeff encouraged us to pray "Father, not my will, but yours" when we're tempted to go our own way. Has anyone tried this? What happened?