



**Sermon Discussion Guide for Cumberland Fellowship Church Sermon Series:
“The Message or the Miracle – Week 4”, May 3, 2026
“Joshua and Jericho”**

OPENING REFLECTION

When you look back at your spiritual journey, what “miracles” or moments of God’s faithfulness stand out most clearly? How have those experiences shaped your trust in God today?

KEY THEMES & DISCUSSION

THEME 1: God’s Faithfulness Across Generations- Scripture Focus: Joshua 1:1-8

Discussion Questions:

Reflect on the covenant journey from Abraham to Joshua. What does God’s persistent faithfulness to His promises—even across multiple generations—reveal about His character? How does this encourage you in areas where you’re waiting for God to fulfill His promises?

Personal Application: Are there promises from God’s Word that you’ve been holding onto but struggling to believe? What would it look like to trust that God’s timing is perfect, even when the wait feels long?

Going Deeper: The Israelites had to wait an entire generation (40 years) because of disobedience and lack of faith. What warnings does this offer us about the cost of unbelief? What blessings might we miss when we refuse to trust God’s word?

THEME 2: The Purpose Behind the Miracles

Key Concept: “EVERY MIRACLE WAS MEANT TO CAUSE THEM TO SURRENDER AND TRUST IN GOD’S PROVISION AND IN HIS PROMISE FOR THEM.”

Discussion Questions:

Examine Your Heart: Think about answered prayers and miracles you’ve witnessed. Did they lead you to deeper obedience and surrender, or did you simply move on to the next challenge? What’s the difference?

Challenge Question: The sermon states, “You’ve seen God perform miracle after miracle in your life all meant to cause you to surrender and be obedient to His message and His promise but you still don’t believe and you never get to experience what God had in store for you.” Does this describe any area of your life right now?

Practical Reflection: How can we cultivate a heart that sees God’s provision not as an end in itself, but as an invitation to trust Him more deeply?

THEME 3: Taking the First Step of Faith- Scripture Focus: Joshua 3:7-8 (Crossing the Jordan)

Discussion Questions:

The Priests’ Perspective: Imagine being the priests who had to step into the flooded Jordan River before seeing any evidence of God’s miracle. What fears or doubts might they have faced? What gave them the courage to obey?

Your Jordan River: Is there a “flooded river” in your life right now—a situation where God is calling you to take a step of faith before you see the outcome? What’s holding you back from stepping in?

Faith in Action: The sermon reminds us that “God was right there. His presence, the ark of the covenant, was the one that stepped into the water with them and led the way.” How does knowing God goes before you change your perspective on the risky steps of obedience He’s calling you to take?

THEME 4: Trusting God’s Battle Plan- Scripture Focus: Joshua 6:2-5 (The Battle of Jericho)

Discussion Questions:

Unconventional Obedience: God’s battle plan for Jericho made no logical sense—marching around walls for seven days. When has God asked you to do something that didn’t make sense by worldly standards? How did you respond?

Waiting Without Visible Progress: The Israelites saw no cracks in the walls, no visible progress day after day. The sermon says, “JUST BECAUSE YOU DON’T SEE ANY PROGRESS OR MOVEMENT IN YOUR SITUATION DOESN’T MEAN GOD ISN’T WORKING.” Where do you need to hear this truth today? How can you continue in faithful obedience when you see no results?

Past Tense Victory: God told Joshua, “I have delivered Jericho into your hands” (past tense) before they ever marched. What does this teach us about God’s perspective on our battles? How can we live in the reality of God’s already-accomplished victory?

THEME 5: Obedience in Victory- Scripture Focus: Joshua 6:17-19; 7:1 (Achan’s Sin)

Discussion Questions:

The Danger of Disobedience: After an incredible victory at Jericho, one man’s disobedience (Achan taking devoted things) led to defeat at Ai and cost lives. What does this teach us about how our personal obedience or disobedience affects others in the body of Christ?

Victory’s Temptations: Why do you think we’re sometimes most vulnerable to compromise right after a spiritual victory? What safeguards can we put in place to remain obedient in seasons of blessing?

Heart Check: God’s instruction was clear: “keep away from the devoted things.” Are there “devoted things” in your life—things God has clearly told you to remove or surrender—that you’re still holding onto? What’s preventing you from full obedience?

THEME 6: Learning from Loss

Key Concept: “WE USUALLY LEARN MORE FROM A LOSS OR A DEFEAT THAN WE DO IN A VICTORY SO DON’T WASTE THE LOSS BUT LEARN FROM IT.”

Discussion Questions:

Redemptive Defeats: Reflect on a spiritual “defeat” or difficult season in your life. What did you learn from it? How did God use it to realign you with His purposes?

The Film Session: Just as athletes review game film after a loss, how can we spiritually “review the film” when we experience setbacks? What practices help you identify where you got off course?

From Defeat to Victory: After repenting and getting aligned, Israel went on to win 12 battles in a row. What does this teach us about God’s grace and the power of returning to obedience?

THEME 7: The Core Message

Key Concept: “WHAT IF THIS MORNING THE GREATEST THING BETWEEN YOU AND GOD’S PROMISE ISN’T THE SIZE OF THE OBSTACLE STANDING IN FRONT OF YOU BUT THE LEVEL OF OBEDIENCE INSIDE OF YOU?”

Discussion Questions:

Honest Assessment: Is there an area where you’ve been blaming circumstances, other people, or the size of the obstacle when the real issue is your obedience to what God has already told you to do?

Message Over Miracle: The sermon concludes that “Victory isn’t found in the miracles we experience. It’s found in obedience and surrender to the message.” How does this challenge our culture’s (and perhaps the church’s) focus on seeking experiences and miracles over simple obedience?

Surrender Check: The final question of the sermon is: “ARE YOU SURRENDERED TO THE MESSAGE?” How would you honestly answer this today? What would full surrender look like in your current circumstances?

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

Identify your “Jordan River” – What step of faith is God asking you to take? **Identify your “Jericho walls”** – What impossible situation are you facing that requires you to trust God’s unconventional plan? **Identify your “devoted things”** – What is God asking you to surrender that you’ve been holding onto?

Action Steps: Write down specifically what God is calling you to do. Confess any disobedience or lack of faith to God. Share your commitment with one trusted person for accountability. Take the first step this week—step into your Jordan River. Journal daily about what you’re learning as you walk in obedience

CLOSING REFLECTION: God has already gone before you. He has already secured your victory. Your walls may not be cracking yet. You may see no visible progress. But God’s promise hasn’t changed. Your obedience today is preparing you for the breakthrough tomorrow. The miracles you’ve seen were meant to build your faith for this moment. Will you surrender to the message?

PRAYER FOCUS: Pray for courage to take the first step of faith in areas where God is calling you. Pray for perseverance to keep “marching around Jericho” even when you see no progress. Pray for revelation of any hidden disobedience that might be hindering God’s blessing. Pray for a heart that values obedience to God’s message over the pursuit of miracles. Pray for alignment with God’s purposes and complete surrender to His will.