

Small Group Guide: Submitting to God's Authority

Sermon Overview

Pastor Tim Webb explored Numbers 16 and the rebellion of Korah, emphasizing the importance of submitting to God's Word and His appointed authority. The sermon challenged us to examine our hearts regarding obedience to Scripture and warned against seeking "new words" from God while neglecting the Word already revealed.

Opening Prayer & Icebreaker (10 minutes)

Icebreaker Question: What is one area of life where you find submission or obedience most difficult? (work, parenting, traffic laws, etc.)

Key Scripture Passages

- Numbers 16:1-50 (Korah's Rebellion)
- Numbers 12:1-16 (Miriam and Aaron's Challenge)
- Exodus 34:5-7 (God Reveals His Character)
- Jude 1:3 (Contending for the Faith)

Discussion Questions

Understanding God's Character (15 minutes)

1. In Exodus 34:6-7, God reveals His character to Moses. What attributes does God emphasize about Himself? Why do you think these specific characteristics were important for Israel to understand?
2. Pastor Tim mentioned that "the Bible is about God revealing Himself and His plan of redemption." How does this perspective change the way we approach reading Scripture?

The Danger of Rebellion (20 minutes)

3. In Numbers 12, Miriam and Aaron challenged Moses' unique authority. What was their actual complaint versus their real motivation? How do we sometimes disguise our rebellion against God's Word with spiritual-sounding language?

4. Korah said, "All the congregation are holy, every one of them" (Numbers 16:3). This sounds democratic and humble. Why was this statement actually rebellious? What does this teach us about evaluating spiritual claims?
5. The sermon stated: "When we reject Scripture while claiming spirituality, we often want the benefits of religion without the boundaries of obedience." Can you think of examples where people (or ourselves) want God's blessings without submitting to His commands?

Personal Application (20 minutes)

6. Pastor Tim warned about asking for "a new word from God" while refusing to submit to the Word already revealed. Have you ever been guilty of this? What does it look like practically to seek God's guidance while honoring His written Word?
7. The sermon mentioned that "a person who cannot be corrected is a person who is not under the authority of God's Word." How can we cultivate teachable hearts? What makes receiving correction so difficult?
8. Moses was described as "the most humble man on the face of the earth," yet he was also a powerful leader. How do we reconcile humility with strong leadership? What does biblical meekness actually look like?

The Path Forward (15 minutes)

9. Pastor Tim said, "We cannot do what we do not know." What practical steps can you take this week to become a better student of God's Word? What obstacles prevent you from consistent Bible study?
10. The sermon emphasized our responsibility to "deliver what has been delivered to us" to future generations. Who in your life needs you to faithfully teach them God's Word? (children, new believers, friends, etc.)

Key Takeaways

- **God's holiness demands our submission** - He is passionate about His Word and His appointed authority
- **Rebellion against God's Word is ultimately rebellion against God Himself** - We cannot separate God from His revealed truth
- **True humility means submitting to God's Word regardless of personal cost** - Meekness is power under control
- **We must learn God's Word before we can live it or teach it** - Knowledge precedes transformation

- **The church's role is to faithfully deliver the "once-for-all faith" to future generations** - We are stewards of truth

Practical Applications

Choose one or two to commit to this week:

1. **Daily Bible Reading:** Commit to reading one chapter of Scripture each day this week, asking God to reveal His character to you.
2. **Teachability Check:** Identify one area where you've been resistant to biblical teaching. Pray for a humble heart and discuss it with a trusted believer.
3. **Family Discipleship:** If you have children or mentees, schedule one intentional conversation this week to teach them something about God's character from Scripture.
4. **Accountability Partner:** Ask someone in your group to hold you accountable to submitting to a specific biblical command you've been avoiding.
5. **False Teaching Awareness:** Study one passage of Scripture deeply this week so you're better equipped to recognize truth from error.
6. **Confession and Realignment:** If you've been seeking God's blessing while living in disobedience, confess this to God and a trusted friend, then take steps toward obedience.

Closing Reflection (5 minutes)

Reflection Question: "If God were to examine your life this week, would He find you faithfully submitting to His revealed Word, or would He find you seeking new revelation while ignoring what He's already said?"

Closing Prayer

Pray together as a group:

- For teachable, humble hearts
- For greater love for God's Word
- For wisdom to recognize and reject false teaching
- For faithfulness in passing on truth to the next generation
- For specific needs shared during discussion