



Faith Community Church
Be Dependent
(Joshua, Part 6)

Faith Group Questions
& Discussion Guide



Opening Prayer: Pray for open eyes and hearts to see where we have acted independently of God.

Icebreaker: Share about a time when you made a decision that seemed completely reasonable at the time, but later you realized you should have asked for advice first. What did you learn from that experience?

Key Takeaways:

1. Deception often looks reasonable.
2. Independence - "I don't need to ask" - can be more dangerous than ignorance - "I don't know."
3. If we make a bad decision without seeking God first, we should walk in truth afterwards. Two sins don't make a good decision.

Discussion Questions:

1. Did you seek more, repent, or rejoice in discipline last week? Tell us about it!
2. Read Joshua 9:4-5, 12-13. What tactics made the Gibeonites' deception believable and effective *to God's people*? How have you seen those in modern-day deceptions?
3. What tempts us to make decisions without seeking God's counsel, especially after having these examples in Scripture? (Genesis 3:6, James 1:13-15)
4. What's the difference between ignorance and independence when it comes to seeking God? Which one do you struggle with more, and why? (Prov 9:10, Hosea 6:3)
5. Spiritual maturity can lead to making decisions based on familiarity instead of prayer. Have you experienced this in your own walk with God? (1 Chron 13:5-13, 15:11-13)
6. Read Proverbs 3:5-6 and James 4:13-15. What do these passages teach us about the balance between planning and depending on God?

7. God can redeem our mistakes (Gen 50:20, Rom 8:28, Acts 2:23). How does this truth provide both comfort and accountability? Why is it important to hold both together?

8. Jesus modeled complete dependence on God through prayer, even though He knew God's will. What does this teach us about our own prayer lives? (Lk 6:12-13, Mk 1:35)

9. How did Joshua demonstrate integrity even after discovering he'd been deceived? What does this teach us about responding to our own mistakes? (Joshua 9:9-13, for another story, read 1 Sam 30:1-8)

Practical Applications (Choose at least 1 to practice this week)

Option 1: The Pause Practice. Before making any decision this week (even small ones), pause and pray—even if it's just a 30-second prayer. Keep a journal of what happens when you intentionally include God in your daily decisions.

Option 2: The Audit. Review a recent decision you made. Ask yourself (and journal your responses):

- Did I seek God's counsel?
- Did I consult Scripture?
- Did I seek wise counsel from other believers?
- What would I do differently next time? **(THIS STEP IS KEY)**

Option 3: The Morning Commitment. Start each day this week with prayer, specifically asking God to guide your decisions and help you depend on Him rather than your own understanding.

Option 4: The Redemption Review. If you're living with the consequences of a decision made without seeking God, spend time this week asking God:

- How can I honor You in this situation now?
- What do You want to teach me through this?
- How might You redeem this for Your glory?

Closing Prayer: Father, our past may explain where we are. Our decisions may explain where we find ourselves today. But they do not have the authority to determine where You will take us next. Help us to honor You now, seek You now, and walk with You now.