

Welcome to Week 4 of Better!

WHAT DOES GOD WANT ME TO KNOW?

At times it can be difficult to get a good picture of biblical characters from one single story about them. For the purpose of tonight's study, lead your group in discovering the character of Joshua by reading three brief passages. Below are some principles you might want to draw out from the group discussion:

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| Exodus 17:9-10 | Joshua listened to his leader, Moses, and did exactly what he was asked. |
| Exodus 24:12-14 | Joshua is described as Moses' "assistant" or "aide." He accompanied Moses on assignments even when he wasn't the key player. Following Moses closely made it possible for Joshua to get closer to God's presence than anyone else in Israel (aside from Moses)! |
| Exodus 33:7-11 | Joshua didn't just follow Moses, he seems to go the extra mile—staying at the tent of meeting longer than Moses did. |

It may be helpful to ask your group this question (which was NOT included in the Sermon Companion): *What kind of things do you think Joshua learned from following Moses so faithfully?*

WHAT IS MY INITIAL REACTION?

In **John 5:19-20**, Jesus shows us that NO ONE will ever be above submitting to leadership. Jesus is God in the flesh and yet he still looked to the Father in order to know what he should say and how he should act. This verse exposes how misguided we are when we believe that we can operate in our own power and rely upon our own wisdom as Christ-followers. Just as Jesus looks to and submits to the Father, we should be looking to Jesus to teach us how to live and submit to his instruction.

WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?

This week's application section takes a different approach than what you might be used to. Take this opportunity to help your group develop a practice that they can do on their own throughout the week. You might start this activity by saying something like:

Now that we understand how the Lord's Prayer helps us to become better followers of Jesus, I would like to pray this passage out loud as a group. I know this is a little different than normal, but we will do it together. After we finish reading out loud, we will be silent for a minute or two. Consider the questions from the Sermon Companion and then listen quietly during that silent moment. I will pray for the entire group to finish the activity and then whoever is comfortable can share what they learned during this prayer time.

It is okay if this seems a little uncomfortable at first! Remember, just because something is hard doesn't mean it is bad. Allowing your members an opportunity to do this together will make it more likely that they spend time in prayer on their own during the week.

