

ROOTED IN LEADERSHIP

Joshua 5 | “It Has to Roll Away”

PHASE 3 STUDENT WORKBOOK

BIG IDEA

Before God advances a leader publicly, He often prepares that leader privately.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Tonight's Outcomes

- Explain how Joshua 5 connects consecration, healing, remembrance, provision, and surrender.
- Identify at least five leadership practices from Joshua's example.
- Name one “IT” that must roll away and one faithful next step for the next seven days.

Opening Reflection

SERMON ANCHOR

“The past is meant to be a piece of history, not a place to live in.”

What past experience has taught you something valuable—but could become harmful if you keep living from it?

Read the Text: Joshua 5

- vv. 1–9 — Covenant renewal, vulnerability, rest, and the reproach rolled away
- vv. 10–12 — Passover remembered; manna ceases; provision changes
- vv. 13–15 — Joshua meets the Commander; posture changes before strategy begins

Observe: What words, actions, or changes repeat or stand out?

Interpret: What does the chapter reveal about the kind of leader God can trust?

Research Lens: What Is Happening at Gilgal?

TEXT FEATURE	WHY IT MATTERS
Gilgal / “rolled away”	Joshua 5:9 uses wordplay between God “rolling away” reproach and the place-name Gilgal. The precise content of the “reproach of Egypt” is debated; plausible readings include slavery/shame, Egypt’s taunt, or uncircumcised covenant status.
Covenant renewal	Circumcision recalls Abraham’s covenant (Genesis 17). The wilderness-born generation is incorporated into covenant identity before military advance.
Passover memory	Passover recalls liberation from Egypt (Exodus 12). Israel enters its future by rehearsing who delivered them.
Changed provision	The manna’s end is not divine absence. God’s provision changes as Israel eats the land’s produce and assumes new responsibility.
Holy ground	Joshua’s encounter echoes Moses at the burning bush. Joshua is Israel’s human leader, but not the ultimate Commander.

Five Leadership Movements in Joshua 5

1. PAUSE BEFORE YOU PUSH

Joshua 5:2-8 — Israel has crossed the Jordan, but Joshua does not rush toward Jericho. Obedience creates a vulnerable pause for covenant renewal and healing.

Where am I pressing for progress while people still need healing?

2. LET GOD ROLL AWAY THE REPROACH

Joshua 5:9 — God says, “I have rolled away”—the decisive work belongs to God. Joshua leads the people through the obedient process but does not pretend to be their healer.

What shame, label, inherited pattern, or old failure has been leading me?

3. REMEMBER BEFORE YOU REACH

Joshua 5:10 — Passover reconnects the new generation to the story of deliverance before they face the next battle.

What must our team/church remember so we do not confuse our effort with God's grace?

4. ADAPT WHEN PROVISION CHANGES

Joshua 5:11–12 — Manna ceases, but provision does not. The form changes from wilderness food to the produce of the land.

What “manna” may have ended, and what resource or responsibility is now in my hand?

5. SURRENDER YOUR COMMAND

Joshua 5:13–15 — Joshua asks whether the armed figure is “for us or for our adversaries.” The answer redirects Joshua: God is not recruited into Joshua’s agenda. Joshua bows and asks for instruction.

What instruction must I receive before I announce a strategy?

Sermon Connection: Two Truths to Practice

TRUTH 1

“Learn, and don’t live in what God delivered you from.”

Complete the sentence: I will learn _____, but I will no longer live in

_____.

TRUTH 2

“Healing starts when you let God do the work.”

What is God asking you to release, receive, or obey?

The GILGAL Leadership Practice

- **G — Get honest:** Name the wound, shame, inherited pattern, or outdated method.
- **I — Invite God’s examination:** Pray Psalm 139:23–24; let Scripture expose motives and habits.
- **L — Learn without living there:** Write the lesson; refuse to rebuild an identity around the pain.
- **G — Give God room to heal:** Accept process, rest, counsel, accountability, and uncomfortable obedience.
- **A — Adjust to the new provision:** Identify what has changed and steward what God has placed in your hand now.
- **L — Lead from surrender:** Ask: “What does my Lord say to His servant?” before setting the plan.

My GILGAL commitment for the next seven days:

Case Study: The Ministry Is Growing—but the Team Is Hurting

A ministry receives a new opportunity. Attendance is rising, but the team carries unresolved conflict from the last season. The leader wants to launch immediately because “the door is open.” Several team members feel unheard and exhausted.

Which movement in Joshua 5 should guide the leader first? Why?

What would “Passover” look like in this situation?

What would surrendered strategy look like?

Personal Leadership Inventory

☐ Rarely ☐ Sometimes ☐ Often ☐ Consistently **I can pause without panicking when God requires preparation.**

☐ Rarely ☐ Sometimes ☐ Often ☐ Consistently **I address inherited dysfunction instead of normalizing it.**

☐ Rarely ☐ Sometimes ☐ Often ☐ Consistently **I create space for people to heal before demanding performance.**

☐ Rarely ☐ Sometimes ☐ Often ☐ Consistently **I preserve testimony without idolizing “the way we used to do it.”**

☐ Rarely ☐ Sometimes ☐ Often ☐ Consistently **I adapt when God’s method of provision changes.**

☐ Rarely ☐ Sometimes ☐ Often ☐ Consistently **I submit my plans to God before asking God to bless them.**

One strength God can use:

One growth edge God is confronting:

Closing Response

My “IT” that has to roll away:

The truth I will carry forward:

The obedient action I will take within 24 hours:

Prayer: Lord, roll away every reproach that keeps me from leading whole. Teach me to pause, remember, adapt, and surrender. Heal what I cannot fix by force. Align my plans with Your command, and make my leadership a witness to Your grace. Amen.
