

LEADERSHIP LESSON # 65: THE HOLY GROUND SUNDAY SCHOOL

OUTLINE BY RICK ELLISON

It is always important to understand that we are on holy ground when we come together for Bible study. We are not on holy ground because of the brick, boards and structure of our physical education space. We are on holy ground when we open the word of God as well as our hearts to the work of the **Holy Spirit** in our lives. We are on holy ground because God is present.

An example comes from the Old Testament story of **Joshua**. Let's read **Joshua 5:13-15**. In the Old Testament Joshua was leading God's army to conquer **Jericho**. When he was near Jericho he was walking along and apparently looking down. The cares and issues of this world often cause us to go through life looking down. There are those special times when God gets our attention and we look up. Something caused Joshua to look up.

Joshua was surprised by a man who stood in front of him. There was something special about this man. There was something different about this man. He stood before Joshua with a drawn sword in his hand. Who was this man? This man was like a son of god. He was like one eternal. Joshua approached him very carefully. Joshua asked him if he was on their side. Joshua was concerned that he might have been on the side of the enemy.

The man replied that that he was not on either side. He was the **commander** of a greater army. He was commander of the Lord's army. It was as though this commander had come to review the troops and what was going on.

Joshua was overcome as he looked at this man. This man appeared to be a divine person. Joshua treated him with the greatest respect. Even though Joshua was a general of the army of Israel he fell on his face on the ground and worshipped the one before him. There was no questioning of who this man represented. He joyfully submitted to this commander. He humbled himself to this one who stood before him.

The commander of the army could have told him many things. He simply told Joshua to take off his sandals. Joshua was on holy ground. His life would never be the same. When we gather for Bible study we are on holy ground because Jesus is there. (Adapted from *Spiritual Food For Sunday School Leaders* by Rick Ellison.)

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