

Lighthouse Group Guide: The Choice is Yours

Scripture Reference: Joshua 24:14-24

Context

Joshua 24 records the farewell address of Joshua to the nation of Israel. After God brought them into the promised land and fulfilled His promises, Joshua gathers the tribes at Shechem. He challenges them to stop drifting and intentionally choose whom they will serve.

1. The Foundation of Grace

Question: Joshua reminds Israel of God's actions—"I took, I gave, I sent"—before he tells them what they must do. Why is it dangerous to start our Christian walk by focusing on what we do for God instead of what He has done for us?

Dig Deeper: Read Deuteronomy 6:5. How does the command to love God with all our heart naturally flow out of the realization of His grace?

Notes:

2. Rival Allegiances

Question: Joshua warns Israel to "put away the foreign gods." In our context, we don't usually bow before statues. What are the subtle "little-g" gods—things that aren't inherently bad but can become ultimate things—that compete for our allegiance today?

Dig Deeper: What is one area of your life where you feel you are currently serving two masters?

Notes:

3. The Myth of Neutrality

Question: Joshua tells the people, "If you are going to reject Yahweh, then go ahead and decide which worthless substitute you're going to give your life to." Why is it difficult for us to accept that we are constantly serving *something*?

Dig Deeper: How does this shift your perspective on "neutral" time in your daily routine?

Notes:

4. The "Not Yet" Trap

Question: We often feel like Augustine: "Give me chastity and continence, but not yet." Why do we often treat God's clear commands as suggestions to be followed only when life settles down?

Dig Deeper: What is one area of obedience or repentance you have been telling yourself you will deal with "eventually"?

Notes:

5. Past Decisions vs. Present Devotion

Question: Joshua says, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." Why is it insufficient for a believer to rely on a decision they made years ago if they aren't actively choosing to serve Him today?

Dig Deeper: How can we help one another keep our commitment to God in the present tense?

Notes:

6. The Weight of Allegiance

Question: Joshua tells the people, "You are not able to serve the Lord," because He is holy and jealous. How does this challenge our modern, casual view of what it means to be a Christian?

Dig Deeper: Does this make you nervous or secure? Why?

Notes:

7. Personal yet Communal

Question: Joshua's decision to serve the Lord impacted his entire household. How does your personal allegiance to Christ affect the people watching you—your spouse, children, friends, or coworkers?

Dig Deeper: In what way might your life be a beacon (or a stumbling block) to those closest to you?

Notes:

8. The Greatest Decision

Question: Why is it that we often view surrender to God as giving up the "good life," when Jesus says He came to give us life more abundantly (John 10:10)?

Dig Deeper: What fear holds you back from fully surrendering to the One you cannot lose?

Notes:

Carry-it-Forward

"What's one thing God impressed on you tonight that you want to carry into this week?"

Action Step: How will you specifically put that into action tomorrow?