



Read Joshua 24:14-15

“Now therefore fear the LORD and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. 15And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”

Background

At the end of the book of Joshua, the children of Israel have entered the Promised Land, driven out (many of) the inhabitants, and settled in their assigned areas of the land by tribes. In his final addresses to the people, Joshua draws a dramatic line in the sand. Since the previous generation failed to inherit the Promised Land because of their unfaithfulness, Joshua challenged the current generation to make their allegiance clear - follow foreign gods or serve Yahweh fully and faithfully. As we reflect on God’s past faithfulness and dream about what God wants to do through First Orlando in the future, each of us need to determine whom “we will serve.” Today, Pastor Danny will call us to choose if we will let the false gods of the world today captivate our attention and affection or if we will give ourselves completely to serve the one true God.

Service Notes

What is your biggest takeaway from today’s message?



DISCUSSION GUIDE

Instructions

This discussion guide is to help you facilitate a conversation with your small group. The “Getting Started” section serves as a quick opener and introduction to the group conversation. In the “Talk it Over” section, feel free to use all or only some of the questions. Again, our hope is to have meaningful and encouraging conversations around the passage used in the sermon, not simply answer all the questions. Give each member of your group opportunity to respond. Take your time. Finally, the “Live it Out” section is to help identify a specific next step. Use these questions as a guide to find practical ways to apply the passage to our everyday life.

Getting Started

- ▼ What is one thing that stood out the most to you in this week’s message?

Talk it Over

- ▼ Read Joshua 24:14-15. What does it look like for us today to serve God with “sincerity and faithfulness?” Why do you believe Joshua would first command the people to “fear” the Lord? How does our view of God shape our obedience? What are some of the ‘gods’ in our time that try to steal our allegiance from God? What does it look like to ‘put away’ those false idols/gods in our own life?
- ▼ In what ways have you had to ‘draw lines in the sand’ as you have lived out your faith in your home, with your family and friends, or in your workplace? What are some practical ways you can use (or have used) your influence to help others faithfully follow the Lord right now? How have other people in your life challenged (and encouraged) you to remain faithful to the Lord because of their faithfulness and resolve?
- ▼ **Read Joshua 24:16-28 and Judges 2:6-16.** How would you summarize the people’s response to Joshua’s challenge? What can we learn from their reaction? According to the book of Judges, how well did the people keep their commitment to the Lord? What can we learn from their failure?
- ▼ **Read Matthew 6:19-24; 25-34.** What does Jesus have to say about serving two gods? How does Jesus encourage his listeners when faced with the temptation to serve ‘other’ gods (vs. 25-34)? How can you apply these words practically to your life today?

Live it Out

- ▼ In what ways and what areas of your life is God calling you to “choose this day” whom you will serve? How can this group pray for you to follow His leading in your life?