

LifeGroup Questions

The Challenge

Based On: Joshua 24:14-28

February 2, 2014

Overview Joshua 24:14-28

Life is full of choices. From the moment we wake up in the morning we start making choices about our day. The first decision for many is whether or not we will actually get up with our alarm clock or choose to sleep in. Once up we begin making decisions about what we will have for breakfast, what we will wear, how much creamer to put in our coffee . . . Most of the decisions we make are not life altering. In today's passage Joshua is challenging the people of Israel to make a decision. Joshua 24:15 reads: ¹⁵“But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve.” This is a life altering decision. Joshua is asking them to leave behind their foreign gods and serve God with their whole heart. The people respond wholeheartedly saying they will worship the God of Israel. Joshua knows their hearts and that their enthusiasm is overshadowed by divided loyalty. He recounts how God has been faithful to them throughout their history. The phrase “serve God with all faithfulness” literally means to serve with integrity and truth. Throughout Israel's history they have not been able to completely commit to God. From their ancestors to those standing in front of Joshua that today there had always been divided loyalty. Even after hearing them reaffirm their commitment, Joshua charges them to throw away their foreign gods. They were stating how committed they were to God while they had foreign idols in their tents. Our God is a jealous God and will not accept divided worship. No matter what the people decided Joshua was going to lead the way by stating “as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” What decision are you going to make today?

Bible Study: Joshua 24:14-28

1. Have you ever made a decision that turned out to be life altering? How did you go about making the decision? In what ways are you holding yourself accountable?
2. This passage is Joshua's challenge to the people of Israel to fully commit themselves to God. Discuss a time when someone challenged you to fully commit yourself something (ie. work, school, marriage). How did you respond?
3. Describe a time when you had to take a stand no matter what anyone else around you was doing.
4. Read Psalm 19:9 and Deuteronomy 10:12. What does it mean to fear the Lord? How can believers have a fear of the Lord and still draw near to Him in worship?
5. Israel was passionately stating their commitment to God while they still had foreign gods in their tents. What are some things that divide people's commitment to God? How do people who say they believe in Jesus know if they are fully committed?
6. Joshua repeats his challenge to the people three times. He wanted to make sure they knew the seriousness of the commitment they were making. What is the difference between making a commitment based on emotions and one that is fully thought out? How can you make sure your commitments are fully thought out?
7. Joshua set up a stone to remind the people of their commitment. In what ways is it good practice to have a reminder established for a commitment you made?

8. Joshua told the people to throw away their foreign gods. Do you feel like there is anything in your life holding you back from being fully committed to God? What steps do you need to take so you can say with truth and integrity “as for me and my house we will serve the Lord”?