

ONE CONVERSATION

***Parents:** Can you recall a time when you started a project and halfway through, wished you hadn't? Perhaps you tried to renovate your house only to realize that you underestimated the time and money it would take to finish. Anything worth doing requires commitment—if we hope to finish, we must count the cost and be fully devoted to seeing things through. This is why Jesus called all who wished to be His disciples to take up their crosses and follow Him (Matt. 16:24). Jesus wanted His disciples to be clear on the sacrifice, commitment, and devotion that would be required to be His disciples. In this session, students looked at Joshua's final charge to the people of Israel in which he makes clear that there is no middle ground when it comes to following the one true God. We are either all in, or we are out.*

Help your son or daughter to see that we are talking about something far more important than a project or a sports team—we are talking about our commitment to the God who made us. Challenge students to count the cost of following Jesus. Following Christ is costly, but it is always worth it.

CENTRAL TRUTH

God requires undivided loyalty—you cannot serve both God and idols.

PERSONAL CHALLENGE

- **Dwell:** Have you embraced Joshua's challenge to serve the Lord alone? How can you know whether you have truly and sincerely embraced this challenge? According to Joshua, claiming we have embraced a life of exclusive devotion to God is not enough. We must demonstrate our faith with action. Set aside some time this week to take a personal inventory of your life, your priorities, desires, and focus. Where do you need to redirect your energy and focus to prioritize Christ? What is hindering you? Honestly wrestle with these questions and consider seeking out a brother or sister in Christ who will hold you accountable to strive for progress in these areas.
- **Memorize:** Joshua 24:15
- **Pray:** Thank God for sending Jesus to do what we could not do on our own—to live the fully devoted, righteous, mission-minded life that we have failed to live. Thank Him that His righteousness is credited to us through faith in Him such that we can live confidently for His kingdom and mission. Pray that He would help you to repent from those idols that are hindering you from loving Christ supremely and committing fully to the mission He has given you. Finally, pray that He would direct you in your efforts to commit fully to Him and to lovingly hold those around you to their commitment to do the same.