

## JOSHUA 24:14-15

- › What does it mean to “fear the Lord”? According to verse 15, what does that involve? What might that look like for you in your context?
- › Why do you think Joshua opened his challenge to the Israelites with this bold plea to choose sides? What risks did he assume by making such a bold declaration?

## JOSHUA 24:16-18

- › On what basis did the Israelites make their decision to follow, worship, and serve the Lord exclusively (vv. 17-18)?
- › How did Joshua’s public stand influence the people’s response? What is the difference between “telling” something and “showing” something?

## JOSHUA 24:19-25

- › How did Joshua respond in verses 20-21 to the Israelites’ claim that they would serve the Lord (see also v. 22)? Does his response surprise you? Why or why not?
- › What did Joshua say would happen if the people turned their backs on God (v. 20)? Why did the Israelites need a reminder?
- › Why did Joshua continue to question the Israelites after they declared their devotion to God? What does this tell us about him? About the severity of his challenge?
- › Why must we be “all in” when it comes to following Jesus? What might that require of us (see Matt. 6:24)?

## CENTRAL TRUTH

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

## NOW WHAT?

- › What are some common idols that you and your peers may fall into worshiping (popularity, fear, acceptance, achievement, etc.)? Which are you most prone to?
- › Joshua, in essence, was challenging the Israelites to consider whether they loved the Lord enough to give up their idols. What idols might the Lord be calling you to part with?
- › What can we learn from Joshua's interactions with the people of Israel in terms of helping one another pursue Christ?
- › What are some practical ways we can support each other in following and worshiping Christ exclusively? How might we help one another live on mission?

## 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.

## KEEP ON DIGGING

- › Read, meditate on, and journal about Matthew 7:15-29. As you read, consider what kind of devotion Jesus desires His disciples to have to Him. List three takeaways that you will strive to apply to your life this week. Consider the areas of your life where your loyalties are divided. Record a prayer to God in your journal, asking Him to help you grow in your love for Him such that you would willingly part with your idols in order to focus on His glory, kingdom, and mission.