

## **JOSHUA: CHOOSE THIS DAY DEVOTION AND DISCUSSION GUIDE**

### **Joshua 24:15 ESV**

And 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.”

#### **Opening Discussion:**

- The decisions we make are more significant than we realize.
- What are some decisions that you have made that changed the trajectory of your life? What decisions have you made that changed the trajectory of your children or grandchildren’s lives?

**Key thought:** Choose this day—the decision that determines destiny.

- We are created for worship. We all worship someone or something. We can worship ourselves, intellect, money, or success. What are some things our culture worships by their words and actions? Looking back over your life, is there a time when you worshiped something or someone other than God? Who/what? How did you change?
- How did the apples/onions illustration speak to you? How does this apply to who or what we worship?
- We all make choices about who or what we will worship. Joshua pressed Israel to make a decision about who they will worship.

#### 1) You Have a Serious Decision to Make (Verse 15).

- Life Principle: The choice you make determines the destiny you cultivate.
- The atmosphere around you is no accident, it is cultivated by choices (apples/onions).
- “As for me and my house, we will serve the LORD, for He is our God.” How can you embrace this one statement and change your home? How can you live this out and change the atmosphere of your church? Can you also live this out and change your community?

#### 2) You Have a Sacred Devotion to Pursue (Verses 25-27)

##### Joshua 24:25-27 ESV

<sup>25</sup> So Joshua made a covenant with the people that day, and put in place statutes and rules for them at Shechem. <sup>26</sup> And Joshua wrote these words in the Book of the Law of God. And he took a large stone and set it up there under the terebinth that was by the sanctuary of the Lord. <sup>27</sup> And Joshua said to all the people, “Behold, this stone shall be a witness against us, for it has heard all the words of the Lord that he spoke to us. Therefore, it shall be a witness against you, lest you deal falsely with your God.”

- Life Principle: The depth of your destiny is a consequence of your devotion.

- How can these verses be seen as a description of a marriage between Yahweh and Israel?
- Read Exodus 20:5. God is jealous when we worship anything other than Him. He deserves all of our devotion.
- We become what we behold. We behold Him until we become like Him.
- Is it more natural for you to put discipline before devotion? Discipline never leads to devotion, but devotion will lead to discipline. How can you be sure that devotion comes first?

### 3) You Have Destiny to Pass On (Verse 28)

Joshua 24:20 ESV: “So Joshua sent the people away, every man to his inheritance.

- This is the end of a 500-year narrative. It has been 500 years from the promise to the possession. What happened in between? The process.
- In what area(s) of your life are you between the promise and the possession? How can you better embrace the process? It is a choice.
- Life Principle: The process is often longer than you want.  
The process is more painful than you expect.  
The process involves more people than you thought.
- How does reviewing the nine memorial stones Joshua set up encourage or challenge you during your process? How do these reveal the importance of each choice you make along the way? How many people do your choices affect? Write down their names and remember them as you make choices in the process.

#### **Application:**

- What decision have you made or will you make that will determine the destiny for those who come after you? What will you cultivate for future generations to enjoy?
- How deep are you willing to go in your devotion? Will you choose devotion before discipline?
- Are you setting up the next generation to be successful? Ask the Holy Spirit to lead you in making active, conscious choices that will change the destiny of your family.