



Leader Note: This is the conclusion of our series in Joshua. We encourage you to move through the Scripture thoroughly and quickly to spend a majority of your time in the discussion questions. Remember that you are a facilitator of conversation. That means your goal is to get the students talking rather than just talking at them.

Introduction:

- What's the craziest thing you've ever done for someone you are "in love with"?
- Why did you do that for them?

Read Joshua 24:1-13

- Go through and circle every instance of God saying he did something for them: (Example: "I took", "I led", "I gave", "I sent", etc.)
- Why do you think God did all of these things for the Israelites? (Read Deuteronomy 7:6-8)

Read Joshua 24:14-15

- In light of all that God has done for them, what does Joshua say they should do?
- Why do you think Joshua gives them a choice in who they will serve?

Summary: Joshua tell the Israelites that in light of how God has loved them, they should love & serve Him.

Discussion Questions: *Really take your time here and challenge them to go deep!*

- How has God shown his love for us? (John 3:16, Romans 5:8)
- Why do you think God went to such extreme lengths to have a relationship with us? (A handful of potential answers may come up, but what sums it up is that he loves us. Steer the conversation that way).
- Read Joshua 24:23. What do you think it means to "incline your heart to the Lord?" (Some versions may say turn, offer, or yield your heart)
- If someone were to look at your life and how you live, what would they think your heart was inclined to? (Maybe ask: What do you spend most of your time thinking about, working for, serving, talking to, etc.)
- Has that thing or person ever loved you the way God has? Then why would you serve it over God?

Final Thoughts

- Just like Joshua gave a choice to the Israelites, we have a choice to follow Jesus or not. The choice is obvious. Jesus has loved us in a way no one else can. He alone is worthy of our love and service.
- John 14:15 Jesus says, "If you love me, you will keep my commandments."
- If you say you love Jesus, does your life reflect it? If not, the answer isn't to just "be better" or to "obey more", but rather to ask yourself if you really love Jesus in the first place. If you love him, then obedience will naturally follow. Love comes first, then obedience. Not the other way around. So...

The final question of Joshua is this: Do you love God or not?

Leaders: This is a great lesson to hit hard on the gospel. Many of our students may have never decided to follow Jesus. Use this as a chance to give them an opportunity to choose Jesus over the other 'gods' they serve. Take advantage of this opportunity to tell them how much God has loved them, and how they can know him through faith in Jesus.