

For the Family

Joshua was a man who God called to lead his people into the Promised Land. Toward the end of his life, Joshua called on the people to serve the Lord.

Read Joshua 24:14-15

Every generation must choose for themselves whether or not they will follow God. God helps us in two ways:

1. Our Family – Read Ephesians 6:1-4

Talk together about what it means for children to obey their parents. Talk about the rules of your house:

- Kindness and Courtesy
- Chores
- Screen time limits
- Daily schedule
- Other rules you have

Talk about how important it is for your children to obey you. Tell them how hard you are working to be a good parent. Talk about how these rules help everyone to learn how to love others and to make your family a place where God is honored.

2. Our Church – Read Hebrews 10:24-25

Talk together about how important it is to gather with other Christians on a regular basis. Explain why you go to church on the weekends and have your children go to Children's Ministry and Youth Ministry meetings and events. Talk about the other ways you get together with other Christians (small group, Bible study, Men's Ministry, Women's Ministry).

Our family is a place to learn how to love God and others.
Our church is a place to be encouraged to follow God.

Pray together that you will be a family where everyone is loved and God is honored. Thank him that you have a church where you₄ can be encouraged to love others and follow God.



Joshua Profiles in Faith

***Joshua 24:14-28; Judges 2:6-13;
Ephesians 6:1-4; Hebrews 10:19-25***

We opened our series *Profiles in Faith* with a look at the faith of **Abraham**. God called Abraham to leave his home. He followed God, even though he didn't know where they were going. He was called a child of God and his faith was credited to him as righteousness.

Last Week: King Saul and King David made major mistakes in their lives. Saul was rejected as king, while David was called a man after God's own heart. What was the difference?

When confronted about his failure to carry out God's judgment against the Amalekites, Saul lied, deflected, blamed, rationalized and finally made only a qualified confession of his sin.

When confronted about his adultery with Bathsheba and murder of her husband Uriah, David immediately repented, confessing clearly, "I have sinned against the Lord." Psalm 51 is a complete confession of his great sin.

Open

1. In what ways is your generation different from your parents' generation?

In what ways is the generation following yours different from your generation?

What are the top five ideals you would want to pass on to the next generation?

Joshua's Exhortation

Read Joshua 24:14-28

1. What had God done for the people of Israel? (See verses 2-13)
2. What does Joshua exhort the people to do? 14
How does he emphasize his exhortation? 15
What is the people's initial response? 16-18
3. How does Joshua further challenge the people? 19-20
What is the people's second response? 21
4. Joshua took three actions to close his exhortation.
What is the meaning and purpose of each of these?

Verse 22

Verse 23

Verses 25-27

Reflect

1. What does it mean to "*fear God and serve him*"?

How would you describe that to someone new to Christianity?

2. Do you have any "foreign gods" in your life that you are tempted to serve?

What can you do to resist them?

The Next Generation

Read Judges 2:6-13

1. Why do you think the next generation failed to keep the commitment of the previous generation?

The Family

Read Ephesians 6:1-4

1. What reasons does Paul give for children to obey their parents?
How persuasive are these reasons, in your opinion?

2. What warning does Paul give to fathers?

What is the distinction between "*provoking to anger*" and "*bringing them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord*"?

3. How would a family like this help the next generation to "*fear God and serve him*"?

The Church

Read Hebrews 10:19-25

1. What do each of these exhortations mean?
"Let us draw near with a true heart ..."

"Let us hold fast the confession of our hope ..."

"Let us ... stir up one another to love and good works"

"... encouraging one another ..."

2. How would a church like this help the next generation to "fear God and serve him"?

What can you do to help the next generation? Be specific.

Take-aways

Share with the group your take-away from your time together.

Next Steps:

- I will plan to participate in Make A Difference Saturday.
- I will evaluate with someone else if I have allowed spiritual drift into my life and home.
- I will renew my commitment to regular fellowship.
- I will have a conversation with a trusted person this week about applying God's word in my daily life (to my heart).