

LifeGroup Shepherd Guide**May 26th – Family Matters: Serving Matters**

This guide is designed to give helpful hints in preparing for your group discussion.

Quick Review

Look back from your sermon notes – Was there anything that particularly challenged you from this sermon? Anything you didn't understand, agree with or connect with?

Introduction

Has there ever been a time where you begrudgingly served somewhere? A time where you were asked to give your time helping in a situation, and you were NOT looking forward to it? What were those circumstances and why did you have that perspective? At the end of serving or giving your time, did you see your attitude change in a positive way towards the experience? Why or why not?

Digging In

Question 1: Read Joshua 24:14. Pastor Jeff points out that Joshua challenges the nation of Israel to service the Lord. Serving God is a simple command! Notice, this first starts with a healthy “fear” of God. What does biblical fear look like? How does fearing the Lord lead you into serving Him? How have you seen this connection in your life?

Read Proverbs 1:7, 9:10, 1 Samuel 12:24

Question 2: Pastor Jeff talked about the idea of serving the Lord is a serious challenge! The same verse reminds us why this is the case. **Verse 14 in Joshua 24**, it shows that Joshua is challenging the people of Israel to abandon their idols and to serve God with faithfulness.

This idea might seem foreign to us because we do not blatantly worship and serve other “gods.” However, the reality of us serving things other than God is still true today. One theologian said it this way, “evaluate where you spend your time and your money, that is what you serve.”

In what ways this week have you dedicated your time, money and energy to serve God? How can you identify these things in your life today?

Question 3: Read Joshua 24:1-15. Throughout these verses, God details how He continually took care of Israel, delivered them time and time again (v. 5, 6, 10, 12), destroyed their enemies (v. 8, 11), and gave them the blessings they have today (v. 3, 4, 13). Joshua is telling the people of Israel that serving God is solid choice! The idea behind this principle is the “continuous action” of serving!

How do you remind yourself of the faithfulness of God in your life? What has He delivered you from in your past? How has God blessed you? In what ways do you see God's faithfulness to you and in response serve Him?

Questions 4: Joshua 24:18-23. Serving the Lord is a significant commitment! Have you ever considered the weight that comes with serving the Lord? Jesus in the New Testament puts it a different way, "deny yourself and take up your cross" (**Luke 9:23**).

Joshua reminds the people that following God will cost them something significant. Throw away your idols, get rid of the things that comforted you. Jesus says, you must give up your own life to follow me. How do these principles get you to consider the significant commitment it is to serve Jesus?

Praise / Prayer Requests

Pray for your group with these things in mind:

Adoration – How can I praise God for what this teaches me?

Confession – What sin can I confess because of what this teaches me?

Thanksgiving – How can I thank God for what Jesus has done?

Supplication – What do I need to ask of God in order to grow in light of this?