



SERIES: LESSONS FOR LIFE FROM GOD'S SERVANT, JOSHUA

Lesson #11: "Passing On the Baton of Faith"

Joshua 23

Announcements and opening prayer



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** What are some of the great accomplishments and sacrifices of the past that generations take for granted, or don't even understand?

History is critical to the future. It has been truthfully said that if someone can rewrite history, they can change the world.

Question: How has that happened in our time?

Creation has been challenged by the THEORY of evolution. Some events have been removed from history books. In Paluxy River Dinosaur Park in Glen Rose, Texas, there were footprints discovered of man and dinosaur in a preserved river bed. Those prints were explained away, supposedly. However, there are pictures that still remain taken by an archaeology professor when they were discovered. Websites try to say that even creationist do not believe the story. That isn't necessarily true!

Transition: Keeping true history alive is critical to the future of the world, but more importantly, it is important to our faith that we keep the truth alive and passed on accurately from generation to generation.

The Bottom Line: Joshua was concerned for the people and he prepared the people and their leaders for the future!

LESSON PLAN



"Denotes "Apply"

Read Joshua 23:1-5

When the wars for the Promised Land have finally ceased, Joshua is well-advanced in years. We will learn in the next chapter that he was 110 when he died, so he is close to that now.

2. What does Joshua do?



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3. What is the first thing Joshua says to them?

⌚ As a people of God, what are some of the important events and promises we need to remember?

Read Joshua 23:6-11

4. What is the first command Joshua gives the leaders and the people of Israel?

5. They have just defeated all the nations on both sides of the Jordan River. Now there is peace. Why would Joshua need to tell them to be very strong?

6. What does Joshua tell them to do to stay very strong?

⌚ How can we apply these principles from God's instructions through Joshua to our lives?

We should carefully learn the truths of God in the entire Bible and obey them regardless of what the culture we inhabit believes or practices. We do not bow down to whatever is socially or politically correct if it conflicts with God's Word. We focus on loving our God, which also means loving His creation.)

Read Joshua 23:12-13

7. What warning is given by Joshua?

⌚ Is that warning still true within Christianity?

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God is the same yesterday, today and forever. The same allegiances will take us down paths that bring us pain from our choices. We will see God's blessings disappear because we are quenching His Holy Spirit in our lives by choosing to align with unholiness. We are called to be holy in an unholy world.

Read Joshua 23:14-16

8. What is Joshua doing with the last days of his life?

⌚ If Joshua were talking to you as parents and believers, what would he be saying to you today?



Interactive Teaching Ideas: ideas for learner-focused teaching. Ask the class to discuss at each table the following assignment and then share the results from each table. If you don't have tables, simply divide into groups for this part of the lesson. **Three important lessons are contained in this chapter.** 1) Never forget the benefits of following God; 2) Just one and God make a majority; and 3) The soul that continues in sin will die. Discuss these at your table and share insights about these lessons.



Going Deeper/Homework:

Memory Verse: "Be exalted, O God, above the heavens; let your glory be over all the earth" (Psalm 57:5).