

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

Lesson #12: "Recounting the Past Victories of Faith"

Joshua 24

Announcements and opening prayer



Connect: an opportunity for people to immediately interact and connect with each other; icebreaker/attention getters. **Icebreaker:** If I asked you, "What was one of the greatest victories in your life," what would you say?

Transition: Memories are like magnets that can affect the course of our lives. Major events can change us for the good or the not-so-good.

The Bottom Line: God's past work in our lives should be relived to keep us fully focused on Him!

LESSON PLAN



"Denotes "Apply"

Read Joshua 24:1

2. The Altar to God for worship was at the tabernacle in Shiloh. Why did Joshua call the tribes and leaders together at Shechem?

Shechem was the holy place of all the great Patriarchs. This is where Abraham first received the promise from God after entering Canaan. Jacob settled in Shechem, purified his house from strange gods and buried them under the oak (Gen 33:19; 35:2, 4). Joshua is calling them to commit only to the one true God just like Jacob had done. This spot probably had an incredible impact on the people and their leaders when Joshua preached to them.

- ⌚ What city or place would cause you to stand and listen with a sense of awe?
- ⌚ Do you think God would be pleased if we approached a yearly congregational meeting that way?

Read Joshua 24:2-13



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3. List the great works of God that He gives them to remember and celebrate.

⌚ What can you recount of the great things God has done for us as a church, His people of God?

⌚ What are some things God has done for His church around the world?

Read Joshua 24:14-18

4. What challenge does Joshua throw down?

⌚ How do Christians add a few gods with their worship to better fit in with the American culture we live in?

5. What was the response of the people of God to Joshua's challenge?

Read Joshua 24:19-27

6. How does Joshua further push them to look closely at their faith commitment?

7. How do the people respond to Joshua?

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④ Joshua tells them how to keep their promise. He says they must YIELD their hearts to the Lord God of Israel. Describe how you would teach someone to yield their hearts?

Read Joshua 24:28-33

8. How old was Joshua when he died and where was he buried?

9. Did the people of Israel keep their promise to obey and serve God after Joshua died?

10. Whose bones were the Israelites still packing around?

They were to bury them at Shechem on the land Jacob bought for the family, probably for a future burial site. Joseph died around 1805 BC. Joshua died around 1375 BC. That means Israel has carried Joseph's bones around for 430 years! The custom was to burn the body and separate the bones. They were put into an ossuary, a stone bone box for burial.



The ornate ossuary contained the bones of a sixty year old man (Caiaphas) and his family. On the side (as above) and the back of the ossuary is inscribed Caiaphas' name ("Yosef bar [son of] Caifa"). Several ossuaries were discovered in a tomb located to the south of Jerusalem

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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. **What are some of the valuable lessons you have learned from the Book of Joshua during our studies?**



Going Deeper/Homework:

Memory Verse: "Blessed is the one who reads the words of this prophecy, and blessed are those who hear it and take to heart what is written in it, because the time is near" (Rev. 1:3).

Next study to be uploaded: "8 Great Truths from Jesus to the Churches in Revelation."