

**Joshua 24:1-15 New Living Translation**

**1** Then Joshua summoned all the tribes of Israel to Shechem, including their elders, leaders, judges, and officers. So they came and presented themselves to God.

**2** Joshua said to the people, “This is what the LORD, the God of Israel, says: Long ago your ancestors, including Terah, the father of Abraham and Nahor, lived beyond the Euphrates River, and they worshiped other gods. **3** But I took your ancestor Abraham from the land beyond the Euphrates and led him into the land of Canaan. I gave him many descendants through his son Isaac. **4** To Isaac I gave Jacob and Esau. To Esau I gave the mountains of Seir, while Jacob and his children went down into Egypt.

**5** “Then I sent Moses and Aaron, and I brought terrible plagues on Egypt; and afterward I brought you out as a free people. **6** But when your ancestors arrived at the Red Sea, the Egyptians chased after you with chariots and charioteers. **7** When your ancestors cried out to the LORD, I put darkness between you and the Egyptians. I brought the sea crashing down on the Egyptians, drowning them. With your very own eyes you saw what I did. Then you lived in the wilderness for many years.

**8** “Finally, I brought you into the land of the Amorites on the east side of the Jordan. They fought against you, but I destroyed them before you. I gave you victory over them, and you took possession of their land. **9** Then Balak son of Zippor, king of Moab, started a war against Israel. He summoned Balaam son of Beor to curse you, **10** but I would not listen to him. Instead, I made Balaam bless you, and so I rescued you from Balak.

**11** “When you crossed the Jordan River and came to Jericho, the men of Jericho fought against you, as did the Amorites, the Perizzites, the Canaanites, the Hittites, the Girgashites, the Hivites, and the Jebusites. But I gave you victory over them. **12** And I sent terror ahead of you to drive out the two kings of the Amorites. It was not your swords or bows that brought you victory. **13** I gave you land you had not worked on, and I gave you towns you did not build—the towns where you are now living. I gave you vineyards and olive groves for food, though you did not plant them.

**14** “So fear the LORD and serve him wholeheartedly. Put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped when they lived beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the LORD alone. **15** But if you refuse to serve the LORD, then choose today whom you will serve. Would you prefer the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates? Or will it be the gods of the Amorites in whose land you now live? But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD.”

***Discussion/Journal Questions***

Aside from Jesus, who is your favorite person in the Bible? Why?

One of the neat aspects of the Bible is that it does not paint people with rose-colored glasses on. Even the “heroes” have warts. Why is this significant?

Read Joshua 24:1-15. Where do you see evidence of God’s grace in this account?

In the sermon, John said, “Through Jesus anyone can become one of God’s people. If we are moral people that thought should knock us down because this means that we aren’t accepted

through out morality. If we feel worthless, this thought should bring hope, because this means that Jesus isn't counting our past against us. It's just grace. And as we come to understand the depths of God's grace, it is empowering, because we can stand firm knowing that we are loved by the all powerful, all knowing, creator of the universe."

When you consider God's grace, does it knock you down, lift you up, or drive you forward? Why?

Why was it important for Joshua to remind the people of what God had done in their history? Why is it important for us to remember what God has done in our lives?

How can we make remembering a regular part of our spiritual practice?

What choices does Joshua call the people to make in Joshua 24:14-15?

What choices are we Americans facing today? What choices are you personally facing?

How can your group encourage and pray for you?

**Who are you praying for to accept Jesus, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?**

**Who are you currently discipling, and what specifically did you do this week to help them know, love, and follow Jesus?**

**Who are you considering for future discipleship relationships, and what specifically did you do this week to interact with them?**