



HOME GROUP GUIDE

November 10, 2019

The Blessing of God's Faithfulness — Joshua 23

About this guide: This guide is provided to assist your Home Group in discussion and application of the most recent sermon. This guide provides direction for application-based discussion within a small group as well as discussion material. **Please know that the guide is not designed with the intent that every question be answered systematically.** Feel free to pick and choose the questions that fit your group and structure your time together using the guide to maximize your group's benefit.

Notice organization of the guide: Looking Back, Looking Up and Looking Forward. "Looking Back" is the time for the group to consider how the last week or two has gone, to share about struggles and victories. Consider choosing one or two items from this section to answer.

"Looking Up and Looking Forward" is a time to discuss the sermon and how the group might further apply the truth of God's Word, making specific plans individually and as a group to walk by faith in the week to come. This is also a time to encourage each other, minister to each other and pray for each other. Try to choose a couple elements from this section.

The guide also contains a family discipleship section with a few ideas on how to intentionally engage in following the Lord as a family.

Looking Back:

- Share how you have been doing since you last met:
 - What biblical truths have been shaping your life and heart over the last week or so?
 - What has dominated your prayer life this week?
 - What was a "win" in your life this last week (something that happened that resulted in thankfulness, a moment of spiritual growth or victory, an answered prayer, etc.)?
 - What was the biggest challenge in your life this last week? Is there anything that you need to share with your Home Group in the form of confession?
- With whom were you able to begin to build a gospel bridge of conversation since the last time we met? With whom were you able to share the gospel message?
- How can the group help you this next week?

Looking Up and Looking Forward (specific, realistic, measurable, personal): Read Joshua 23.

Recap: After a period of rest from war in the Promised Land, Joshua gathers the elders of Israel to give a final address as he is nearing the end of his life. This address serves as a review of God's faithfulness, and as a reminder of God's promises pertaining to obedience and disobedience.

1. The chapter begins (Verses 1–5) by listing all the great victories that the Lord has provided for His people according to His promises. The emphasis in this entire chapter is on the word "you." Note that this word is repeated throughout the chapter.
 - What are some victories that God has accomplished in your life in the past three months? What are some victories that God has accomplished in your Home Group? In our church?

- What are the greatest victories that God has accomplished in your life? What are some victories that you would like to see God accomplish in the future?
2. As the chapter unfolds (Verses 6–11), we see an emphasis on remaining loyal to the Lord.
 - What does it mean to “remain loyal” to the Lord? How does that concept come to life in our daily lives?
 - What is the key to living a life of victory in the Lord? See Joshua 23:8. How can we as a Home Group help each other “cling to the Lord”?
 - What is the ever-present danger that Joshua warns against in these verses? How do we protect ourselves against idolatry? What are some of the idols that we face today? How can we use the power of our Home Groups to protect ourselves and each other from idolatry? Take some time this week to reflect on whether you have a heart that is undivided for the Lord. Ask Him to show you where idolatry may exist in your heart.
 3. In the final section (Verses 12–16), there is a major shift in this chapter toward God’s promises pertaining to disobedience.
 - What does God promise will happen in response to a lifestyle of idolatry? Notice that God’s promise of blessing and victory, and God’s promise of curse and discipline are both for the good of God’s people.
 - What is the purpose of God’s discipline? See Leviticus 26:23. Why is it difficult to view God’s discipline as helpful rather than harmful?
 - Read Proverbs 3:11; 6:23; 12:1; 13:1; 15:5 and 15:10. What do we learn about God’s desire to use discipline to keep us from destruction? How do we learn to accept the discipline of God when our natural desire is to avoid or reject it?

Don’t forget:

1. Pray for one another. Share one specific prayer request you need your group to pray each day until you meet again.
2. Pray for each of our campuses: the Georgetown Campus — Sundays at 9:30 and 11:00 a.m. and the Liberty Hill Campus at 11:00 a.m.
3. Give thanks for God’s faithfulness to keep His promises. Pray that we would learn to accept His discipline.

Family Discipleship Ideas (Deuteronomy 6:5–7):

When you wake: Read Joshua 23:8 each morning. Pray together and ask the Lord to show you how to be loyal to Him and not to the idols that seek to draw your affections from Him.

Before you sleep: Ask your kids what victories the Lord did in their life during the day. Share ways you were able to cling to the Lord throughout the day.

When you sit down: Gather your family together and find a space to write some things down where everybody can see. Then ask this question: What are the things that are most important to you? Write these things down on the board or sheet of paper. Then ask, how many of these help us love the Lord and/or love other people? How many of these distract us from loving the Lord and loving other people?

Share with your kids that anything that takes our affection from the Lord is an idol. Give an example of an idol that has been in your life. Talk through how you can move away from idolatry and toward Jesus.

Along the way: Identify moments for your kids where you/they have a choice to walk in idolatry or be loyal to the Lord. Help them see these moments and choose to cling to the Lord.