



# HOME GROUP GUIDE

November 17, 2019

More Memories — Joshua 24:1–28

**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 24.

1. In Joshua 24:1–13, Joshua gathers all the tribes of Israel at Schechem and begins to recount what God has done, starting with God calling Abraham (a worshiper of pagan gods), and continuing through the history of Israel — as slaves in Egypt, Moses leading them through the Red Sea and the desert, ending with stories of how God took the people across the Jordan River, driving out all the people there, and ultimately giving the land to the Israelites. Joshua is calling the people to remember what God has done.
  - Through each of these accounts of actual events, we learn about the character of God. What are some of the characteristics of God that you see in these stories? Knowing that God's character does not change (Hebrews 13:8), how does knowing these truths about who God is encourage you to trust Him today?

- In these stories, we are reminded of how God was and is the primary actor; for example, He gave the Israelites “a land you did not labor for, and cities you did not build, though you live in them; you are eating from vineyards and olive groves you did not plant” (Joshua 24:13, CSB). When have you seen God act on your behalf? Was it clear that He was doing the work? Was it easy or difficult for you to acknowledge that it was the Lord working? As time passes, do you have the tendency to minimize the Lord’s actions on your behalf and inflate your role?
  - Take time to identify and reflect on specific times you have seen God work on your behalf. Take time with your Home Group to talk about these times, to remember what He has done, and to give thanks to God for His faithfulness.
2. In Joshua 24:14–28, Joshua shifts from calling the people from remembering all that God has done for them, to taking action to follow God. Specifically, Joshua calls them to put away any foreign idols (Verse 23) and to “choose for yourselves today: Which will you worship” (Joshua 24:15, CSB).
    - After reading about how the Lord has been faithful to the Israelites and has rescued them from slavery and brought them into the Promised Land, does it surprise you that Joshua tells them to “get rid of the foreign gods” (Joshua 24:23, CSB) — indicating that despite all the Lord has done, the people have begun worshiping gods other than the Lord?
    - Oftentimes, our heart’s desire is to follow the Lord wholeheartedly, but gradually, other things begin to steal our heart’s affections. How has your heart been divided in the past week? Do you recognize your divided heart as idolatry? What steps can you take today to follow the Lord?
  3. Schechem is a place of historical and biblical significance. Take time individually or as a group to learn about the significance of Schechem. Doing so will help provide context for the significance of Joshua urging the people to remember what God has done for them.
  4. In this passage, we see that God is faithful but His people are not. We want a different story.
    - What can you do today, tomorrow and each day thereafter to help write a different story in your life? In your family’s life? In the church’s life?
    - Remember God’s faithfulness and choose today to follow Him. What practical steps can you take today and this week to follow the Lord? What areas in your life are you having a hard time following the Lord?

### **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. Pray that the group’s fellowship with God and one another would become enriched by the study of how God wants us to surrender to His will for our lives.

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

#### **When you wake:**

Every morning this week, read Joshua 24:14–15 as a family. Ask every person who they choose to serve today. Remind your family that they have a daily choice of who they are going to serve. Pray together and ask the Lord to help you serve Him and to get rid of the idols in your life.

**Before you sleep:**

Ask your family this question; what have you seen the Lord do for you today? Celebrate the work of the Lord and thank Him together. Then ask, what would you like to see the Lord do tomorrow? Pray together asking the Lord to help you look to Him and trust Him with tomorrow.

**When you sit down:**

Ask your kids what is something that is faithful and reliable. Remind them that faithful and reliable simply means that it is something/someone who always does exactly what is expected. For example, a clock that makes noise when the hour is done. Share with them some other things/people you think of when you think of faithful and reliable.

Ask them if God is faithful and reliable. You can read a little bit of Joshua 24 to remind your kids of how the Lord was faithful to people long ago and share with them a story from your life showing how the Lord has continued to be faithful in your life.

Ask them if they have ever let anyone down. When they say yes, admit that you have as well. Remind them that none of us are fully faithful, but the Lord is. So in our brokenness we can run to Him and trust Him that He is faithful even when we are not.

**Along the way:**

Look for moments to remind your kids of the Lord's faithfulness. If you see a rainbow in the sky or anything that reminds you of His faithfulness, use that as an opportunity to help your kids see the faithfulness of the Lord all around them.