

LIFE GROUP

Notes

Session 8



READING: Joshua 24:11-15

IN *Introduction*

The Israelites are finally settled in the promised land and Joshua uses this opportunity to remind the Israelites of God's faithfulness to His promises. The first promise about the land was made to Abraham some centuries beforehand, it's been a long time coming but finally they have arrived and begin to settle. The Israelites are finally settled and are enjoying cities that they didn't build and are reaping the rewards of vineyards they didn't plant. They are becoming comfortable & secure and it's here that Joshua gathers all the leaders together and asks them - 'Now that we are here - who will you serve?'

QUESTION: We all remember a time when we've received either great or terrible customer service in a shop or restaurant. What were the qualities of the good / bad service that you received?

UP *Explore*

Joshua 24:11-13

- The people of God are told that it wasn't by their 'swords or bow' that they got the victory. Their swords & bows certainly would have been used a lot but this is not the reason for their victory. God uses the Israelites but ultimately the victory comes from God. What implications does this have in our lives & ministry?
 - The Israelites are reminded of God's faithfulness in the past. Looking back and remembering what God has done plays an important part in the lives of the Israelites, it part of their rhythm of life and worship. Can we remember times when God has been faithful to us? What role do these memories & experiences play in our faith?
 - God has been faithful to His promises but it has taken a long time. During this waiting period they have endured slavery, wilderness wanderings and many, many battles. When we are waiting on God to fulfill His promises we can go through tough times, what helps us to continue to trust God?
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OUT *Impact*

Joshua 24:14-15

- Now that they are settled and comfortable, Joshua passionately implores them to choose to serve God. In our context in Hazlemere and it's surrounding areas we live relatively comfortable lives. Can our comfortable position become a stumbling block in our faith?
- When Joshua uses the phrase 'as for me and my household' it indicates that he intends to serve God with everything he's got and in every area of life. We all find some areas of lives easier to give in service to the Lord than others. Where are the areas that we need to recommit in service to the Lord? It could be our finances, our time, our physical houses, our work life, our marriages or our parenting.
- Sometimes we are given specific callings for specific tasks. Are there any specific areas you feel called to and how have you responded?

