

NEW GROUND

LIFE GROUP LEADER GUIDE

Sermon Date: Sunday, March 01, 2026

Sermon Passage: Joshua 24:1-28

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This Week's Main Takeaway

As we come to the end of New Ground, we arrive at a defining moment in book of Joshua. In Joshua 24, Joshua gathers the people at Shechem. The battles are behind them. The promises have been fulfilled. They are standing on land their fathers only dreamed about. And in that sacred moment, Joshua does not congratulate them. He confronts them. He recounts the faithfulness of God—from Abraham to Egypt, from wilderness to victory. And then he says, “Choose this day whom you will serve... but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.” New ground always demands new decisions. It is possible to stand in promise and still cling to idols.

This Week's Memory Verse

Joshua 24:14 (NIV), “Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD.”

Five Inductive Questions

1. GOD :: What does this passage imply about *God*?

God is faithful (vs. 3-12; notice how many times in these verses God reminds the people what He had done for them—15 times we read the word “I” [God]) and jealous (v. 19). He wants our allegiance primarily and undivided. Notice what Joshua says in verse 15. He says, “But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD.” This repeats Deuteronomy’s command to fear and worship the Lord only. In verses 16-18 and 21-22, we see Israel agree to this command.

2. MAN :: What does this passage imply about *man*?

We are prone to wander from the Lord due to our unfaithfulness (vs. 19-20). We wander backwards towards our old life due to worldly influence, and we grow complacent with God due to our comforts numbing us to need. One commentator says, “Because of sin, we are not able to serve God in our own strength.” Therefore, through power of the finish work of the Cross, we are empowered by the Holy Spirit to worship God in spirit and truth.

3. PROMISE :: Is there a *promise* to claim in this passage?

God blesses the faithful and obedient (v. 28), while He also lovingly chastens the complacent to course correct them.

4. COMMAND :: Is there a *command* to obey in this passage?

As believers, we are called to cling to Jesus and drop our Idols (vs. 23-27). You cannot cling to both. One commentator says, “God will not tolerate neutrality. We must choose to serve the One who has chosen us or choose not to serve Him. There is no middle ground.”

5. REPENT :: Reflecting on this portion of God’s Word, what can I *repent* of this week?

Consider this: What have you held to that God has called you to drop, because it rivals His position and allegiance in your life?

Sources:

Christ-Centered Exposition Commentary: Exalting Jesus in Joshua (Holman Publishers)

CSB Study Bible Notes (B&H Publishing)