

GROUPS

s e r m o n g u i d e

JOSHUA: 08/23/2026 - PASTOR GEOFF SMITH

MAIN IDEA

THE LAST WORD...

TALK ABOUT IT

Ice Breaker: If you knew you were going to have one final conversation with the people you love, what is one thing you would want them to remember about you? Why?

1. Read Joshua 23:1–3. Why do you think remembering God's faithfulness was so important before Joshua talked about their future?
2. What are some specific ways you have seen God's faithfulness in your own life? How does remembering those moments change the way you face uncertainty or difficulty today?
3. Why is it easy to believe God is faithful when life is going well, but harder to trust Him when our plans fall apart?
4. When your plans don't go your way, how do you typically respond? What might that reveal about your trust in God?
5. What does it practically look like to "hold fast" to the Lord when other things are competing for our attention and affection?
6. How do you reconcile the Bible's warnings about consequences with the grace and forgiveness we receive through Jesus?
7. The sermon described our choices as producing different kinds of fruit. Looking at Galatians 5:22–23, which fruit of the Spirit do you most want God to develop in you right now? Why?
8. What are some subtle ways we can begin drifting from God without intentionally deciding to walk away from Him?
9. Why does Joshua present serving God as a daily choice rather than something that happens automatically?
10. What is the difference between wanting to follow God and intentionally choosing to follow Him?
11. Why is looking backward at God's faithfulness sometimes one of the best ways to strengthen our faith for what is ahead?
12. What changes when we see Jesus as God's ultimate "last word" rather than looking to our circumstances or performance?

KEY SCRIPTURES

JOSHUA 23 & 24

REFLECT

- Take a few moments to look back over the last year of your life. Where can you now recognize that God was present, even in something that felt difficult, disappointing, or out of your control at the time?
- What "last word" have you been allowing something other than Jesus to speak over you? Spend some time asking God to replace that message with what He says is true about you through Christ.

RESPOND

- What is one decision, habit, relationship, or area of your life where God is asking you to choose faithfulness rather than simply follow what feels easiest? What will taking that step look like this week?
- Who is one person you can encourage this week with the reminder that God is faithful and God is with them? What specifically could you say or do to remind them of that truth?

NEXT STEPS

- **ENCOUNTER:**
 - Join us at one of our Sunday services 8:30am, 10am and 11:30am
- **EXPERIENCE:**
 - Child Dedications - 8/30/2026 during all of our Sunday services. [REGISTER HERE](#)
 - River Baptisms - CONFLUENCE PARK
 - 5:30pm.
- **EXPAND**
 - Take some time this week to pray for our global and local outreach ministries