

# ***Get In The Game***

Text: Joshua 24:1-15

## **The Plain Truth**

Move from the \_\_\_\_\_ to  
Significance by \_\_\_\_\_.

1. Move from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_.
2. We \_\_\_\_\_ God by \_\_\_\_\_ others.

### **One Year Bible Reading**

Oct. 5: Jeremiah 4:19-6:15, Colossians 1:18-2:7, Psalm 77:1-20, Proverbs 24:23-25

Oct. 6: Jeremiah 6:16-8:7, Colossians 2:8-23, Psalm 78:1-31, Proverbs 24:26

Oct. 7: Jeremiah 8:8-9:26, Colossians 3:1-17, Psalm 78:32-55, Proverbs 24:27

Oct. 8: Jeremiah 10:1-11:23, Colossians 3:18-4:18, Psalm 78:56-72, Prov. 24:28-29

Oct. 9: Jeremiah 12:1-14:10, 1 Thess. 1:1-2:8, Psalm 79:1-13, Prov. 24:30-34

Oct. 10: Jeremiah 14:11-16:15, 1 Thess. 2:9-3:13, Psalm 80:1-19, Proverbs 25:1-5

Oct. 11: Jeremiah 16:16-18:23, 1 Thess. 4:1-5:3, Psalm 81:1-16, Proverbs 25:6-8

October 4 & 5, 2014

# Get In The Game

Life Group Lesson • Week of October 5

For sixteen years Christ Church has appropriately called our annual weekend of recommitment, “Joshua Celebration.” Based on chapters 23 and 24 of the book of Joshua, this is a time we remember where the Lord has brought us, what the Lord has brought us through, and how in grateful response we are going to serve the Lord in the coming year.

In Exodus 34:20b, God tells His people through His servant, Moses: “No one may appear before me without an offering.” Ultimately Jesus Christ offered Himself on our behalf when He died on the cross, and because of that great sacrifice, God now invites us into His presence through His Son. Yet we still “appear” before God with an offering—an offering of our very lives, our love, our thanksgiving, our praise, our worship, and our commitment to faithfully honor Him in *all* areas of our lives.

Israel is a people called into existence by the LORD Himself. As this new nation gathers at Shechem (Joshua 24:1)—free people in the Promised Land—Joshua challenges with urgency the thousands standing before him to “put away forever the idols your ancestors worshiped...Serve the LORD alone” (see Joshua 24:14).

God has made the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob a mighty nation. As they stand on the brink of a new era, an aged Joshua says you have a choice to make: will you serve the false gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates? Will you serve the gods of the land in which you now live? Or will you choose this day to serve and worship the One true living God—the One who rescued you from Egypt, provided for you in the wilderness, and conquered mighty armies before your very eyes—the LORD of hosts, El Shaddai, the Almighty? Tell me, who will you serve?

## Read Joshua 24:1-15

1. Who in your past has made the choice to “put away forever” the worship of idols in order for you to know God personally and be where you are today?
2. Because Joshua takes a stand, the people are willing to take a stand. What would change for you (and those around you) if *you* finally chose to take a stand and boldly declare with your words and your life: “But as for me and my family, we will serve the LORD”—come what may, no matter what, I choose God—I’m going to live for Christ from this day forward (v15b)?

Taking a stand for the Lord is not always easy, and as Joshua 24:16-27 affirm, making a choice for God is a serious matter and shouldn’t be entered into lightly. Christ calls us to do things like take up our cross daily and follow Him (Mark 8:34), like sell all our possessions and give our money to the poor (Mark 10:21).

3. Think of something Christ has called you to do personally that perhaps you were reluctant to respond to initially. How did you eventually respond?

If yes, what helped you say yes to the Lord and what were the results?

If no, what can you learn as you look back?

If you know deep in your heart you have worshiped false idols, or missed specific opportunities to serve the Lord, or failed to take a stand for Christ in your family or in the workplace—it’s not too late to start. Though we are often unfaithful, the Lord is unchanging and always faithful. He still loves you. He still wants you. Whatever is passed know that “His mercies begin afresh each morning” (see Lamentations 3:22-23). God’s Word (the Bible) is filled with stories of people who were given a second-chance to love Him, to serve Him, to say the right thing, to do the right thing. If you are breathing right now, God is giving you a second-chance too.

David is a man who knew what it was like to get a do-over, and rightly declares: “The LORD is compassionate and merciful, slow to get angry and filled with unending love. He will not constantly accuse us, nor remain angry forever...The LORD is like a father to His children, tender and compassionate to those who fear Him. For He knows how weak we are; He remembers we are only dust” (Psalm 103:8-9, 13-14).

4. Though our flesh is weak God’s Spirit will help us be strong as we take a step toward Him. Think of ways God has blessed you. He alone is worthy of your worship, your attention, your time, your devotion, and your heart. If you are ready to *finally* serve the LORD, then boldly declare it as Joshua did!

“But as for me \_\_\_\_\_ and my family \_\_\_\_\_, we will serve the LORD.” (Fill in the blanks with your name and the names of persons in your family, persons to whom you are responsible.)

Because I trust the Lord to help me, I commit the following areas of my life to Him:

\_\_\_\_\_.

With the Lord’s help, this is how I promise to serve His people and give to His church in the coming year:

\_\_\_\_\_.

*“And so, dear brothers and sister, I plead with you to give your bodies to God because of all He has done for you. Let them be a living and holy sacrifice—the kind He will find acceptable. This is truly the way to worship Him.”*

*(Romans 12:1)*