

Joshua: God Promises

RENEWAL – Joshua 23 – LEADERS' VERSION

Introduction

Share with each other your memory of the best speech you have heard at a formal function. What made it so good? (And if you can't remember a good one, you can probably remember a bad one! Why was it so bad?)

In chapter 23-24 Joshua summons the people to come and listen to him for perhaps the last time. He is "old and well advanced in years" and he is both laying out the joys of having followed God and warnings for the future.

Analysis

As a review opportunity at this point in the study or at the end, you can play a game with Joshua 24. While most of this study is focussed on chapter 23, with 24:1-13 you can play "SORT THE HISTORY". Write out on little cards or pieces of paper each of the events detailed in the first 13 verses of Joshua 24. There should be at least 12 individual ones (you could do more or less depending on how your group is going with the OT story). Then split your group into two (boys vs girls if you can) and with Bible's closed give them 3 minutes to sort them into order. Then run through each group to see how they went.

Read Joshua 23.

Summarise Joshua's speech into a sentence.

Perhaps do this in groups of 2

How does Joshua motivate the people to action? How important is it that he starts with this?

See vv.3-4, 9-10. The motivation is the faithfulness of God. This is important from the perspective that God always acts first in saving us! He has sought us out and we respond to him. We don't seek him hoping he will respond to us!

What must Israel do in order to continue to enjoy the rest God has won for them?

Again you could split your group into three to discuss v.6-8, v.12-13 and v.15-16 – or look at each of those sections in turn. Thematically they are all similar – flee from those things that can entrap or persuade you to wander away from God! Don't dabble in things that will be traps and thorns in your eyes!

What does Joshua mean when he tells the people to 'be very careful to Love the Lord?' (v.11)

What will happen to Israel if they are unfaithful to their faithful God?

Application

Why is it easier to be obedient to God if we are confident of his goodness and faithfulness? How can you grow in this confidence?

Read Hebrews 12:1-3

What are the traps and thorns in your life that you need to throw off??

Do we need to take more seriously the challenge to hold fast to the Lord our God? How will you do that as a group? Encourage one another by praying individually for each other that you may do just that!

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