



Who Do You Want To Be?

Joshua 24:15

December 28, 2025

BIG IDEA

At the end of his life, Joshua stands before Israel with a question that cuts through the noise of life and reaches into the heart: *Who do you want to be?* After all the battles, all the miracles, all the wandering, and all the victories, Joshua knew every person—and every generation—must decide who they will serve. A life of faith does not drift into existence; it is chosen, shaped by daily decisions, influences, mentors, and the posture of our hearts toward God.

Joshua calls Israel to clarity. No more spiritual fog. No more borrowed convictions. No more divided loyalties. He challenges them to choose the Lord with sincerity and truth. And his challenge is the same for us today. Our lives are telling a story—to our families, our church, and our world. The question is whether our story will be shaped by God's faithfulness or by substitutes that cannot save. Standing at the end of a busy year, this is our moment to decide what kind of people—and what kind of church—we want to be.

THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURE

Joshua 24:15 (ESV)

And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the LORD, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD."

MAIN THEME

Joshua is near death. Israel is settled in the Promised Land. The battles are behind them, but the future is uncertain. Joshua is not thinking about monuments or victories; he is thinking about *who the people are becoming*. And so he asks them to choose—decisively and honestly—whom they will serve.

DISCUSSION & APPLICATION

1. Who You Become Is Shaped by Who You Learn From



Joshua 24:14–15; Hebrews 13:7

- Who has played a formative role in helping you walk with God? What did they model?
- Joshua learned under Moses; who are the “Moses figures” you need in your life right now?
- What obstacles keep people from seeking mentorship or spiritual guidance?
- What step can you take this week to intentionally learn from someone who walks with God?

2. Faithfulness Can Fade in a Moment—Stay on Guard

Joshua 24:31; Judges 2:10; 1 Corinthians 10:12

- Why do you think an entire generation “did not know the Lord” after Joshua died?
- What are common ways Christians today forget God’s provision, protection, and guidance?
- Where are you personally tempted to rely on substitutes—security, success, approval, control?
- How can you build habits that help guard your heart and keep your faith vibrant?

3. Every Life Tells a Story—What Story Are You Writing?

Joshua 24:15; Psalm 78:4–7

- What do you want to be remembered for at the end of your life?
- How do small, daily decisions shape the story of your life more than dramatic moments?
- Which decisions or habits need to change for your story to reflect God’s purposes?
- How does choosing to serve the Lord bring peace, joy, and purpose into your everyday life?

4. A Healthy Church Forms When Each Person Chooses Faithfulness

Acts 2:42–47; Matthew 28:18–20

- Which marks of the Acts 2 church most inspire you as you think about Ridgewood’s mission?
- How does personal devotion to God strengthen the entire church body?
- Ridgewood saw God move powerfully this year—VBS decisions, baptisms, Togo church plants, ABLE ministry, connect groups, salvations. Which story encourages you most?
- What role do *you* play in helping Ridgewood live out its calling to make disciples?

PRAY

Dear Lord, thank you for the timeless words of Joshua that challenge us to choose who we will be. Help us to walk with you wholeheartedly, to learn from those who have gone before us, and to guard our hearts from drifting away. Shape our stories so they reflect your faithfulness. Strengthen Ridgewood Church to be a community devoted to your Word, your mission, and your presence. As we enter a new year, help us choose—day by day—to serve



you with joy, courage, and conviction. Make us a people who bring glory to you and hope to our world.
Amen.

DIG DEEPER

For further study this week:

- Deuteronomy 31:6-8 — God's faithfulness to His people
- Psalm 78:1-8 — Passing faith to the next generation
- Judges 2:6-15 — The danger of forgetting God
- Acts 2:42-47 — A portrait of a healthy church
- 1 Samuel 8:1-22 — Trusting God as King

NEXT WEEK'S BIG IDEA

"God will lead Ridgewood Church into a bright and exciting future!"

