

We will serve the Lord.

A long, long, long time ago, God led the Israelite people out of slavery in Egypt, into the desert, and finally into the wonderful land He had promised.

The Israelites had waited a long time to enter this land flowing with milk and honey (sounds like a great place to live!). God had rescued them from slavery in Egypt and led them safely through the dangerous wilderness to an amazing new home. They should have been so thankful and eager to worship God, but they weren't.

Many of the Israelites had noticed that people of other nations were worshipping other gods. Pretty soon some of these Israelites also began worshipping these manmade idols. Can you believe that?! After witnessing miracles and being delivered from slavery, some people chose to worship statues instead of God.

Here in Knoxville we do this too. We notice our friends and neighbors putting money, strength, popularity, or beauty first in their lives and those idols begin to creep into our minds and hearts. It's not that we don't want to worship God, but instead our hearts become full with love for all these other small, manmade gods.

Joshua, the leader of the Israelites, told the people of God to throw away all the idols and to serve God with ALL faithfulness. Living life as a follower of God is not something we can do halfway. It requires our focus to constantly be on God and what He desires for our lives.

The Israelites had taken their eyes off the God who sustained them. They turned their worship to idols and Joshua reminded them that they can't worship idols if they are truly worshipping God with ALL they have.

Who will you worship and serve today? God or idols?

Family Discussion Questions:

Read Joshua 24:14-15 as a family and summarize it in your own words.

What are some idols in your life that you need to stop worshipping?

What would it look like to serve God all the way?



Joshua 24:14-15

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Joshua 2:15b