In today's bustling world, families are faced with countless choices on where to focus their attention and devotion. The timeless message from Joshua 24:14-15 offers a guiding principle: "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." This declaration challenges us to consciously choose faith over worldly distractions.

A Lesson from Joshua

Joshua's call to the Israelites, delivered at the end of his life, was a powerful reminder that every family has the ability to choose their path. Joshua addressed all the tribes of Israel when he declared, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." The Israelites were living in the Promised Land, but there were a lot of other cultures around them who worshiped different gods. Joshua wanted the people to decide who they would follow.

Today, we face similar choices. We can let busyness, screens, attitudes, and others pull us away from God or we can choose to serve Him together as a family. This is why we're making a House of Faith today to remind us who we belong to.

Family Prayer

Dear God, thank You for loving our family and giving us Your Word to guide us. Help us choose You each day, just like Joshua did, and teach our house to serve You with happy hearts and faithful actions. Give us wisdom to make good choices, courage to follow You even when it is hard, and love that shows others who You are. We trust You to lead our family, and we promise to serve You together. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Family Faith Activity: The House of Faith

Engaging children in faith-based activities can help them understand the importance of choosing to serve God as a family. Here's a creative craft that can be both fun and meaningful.

Craft Materials:

- Construction paper or cardstock
- Crayons, markers, or colored pencils
- Popsicle sticks (optional for 3D effects)
- o Glue or tape

- o Child-safe scissors
- Stickers or glitter (optional)
- Printed verse: Joshua 24:15b (optional)

Steps to Create Your House of Faith:

- 1. **Introduce the Craft**: Explain that you'll be creating a "House of Faith" to symbolize your family's commitment to serving God.
- 2. **Draw or Build the House**: Encourage kids to draw a house, adding details like a roof, walls, and windows. Optional: Use popsicle sticks for a 3D effect.
- 3. **Decorate the Inside**: Inside the house, write or draw ways your family serves God. What does our family do that shows we love God? What is one thing we can start doing this week to serve Him together? Who could we help as a family? What is one kind thing you can do for someone?
- 4. **Add the Memory Verse**: Write Joshua 24:15b on the house. If needed, help younger children trace the words.
- 5. **Share and Reflect**: Discuss how each family member's contribution shows ways you can serve God together. *What's one new way we could serve God this month?*
- 6. **Display the Craft**: Hang the finished craft in a visible place as a daily reminder of your family's commitment to faith.

Discipling Tips for Parents

- Interactive Engagement: Let children choose colors and ideas for their house by asking questions.
- o **Reinforce the Verse**: Recite the memory verse daily to reinforce its message.
- o Connect Actions to Faith: Highlight everyday actions as acts of service to God.
- o **Celebrate Effort:** Praise creativity and thoughtful participation.

Choosing to serve the Lord as a family is a powerful decision. At home, families can joyfully create lasting, Christ-centered memories that strengthen their commitment to serve God together, especially as we celebrate the hope and love of Jesus this Christmas season.

Online Resources

Review the video for a more comprehensive lesson on Joshua chapters 11-24 on Youtube (*Time: 13:56*)

Review the animated video of <u>Joshua 24</u> as a family and/or use the <u>Sermons4Kids Trivia</u>

<u>Countdown Video</u> (Scroll to the bottom of the page to locate various handouts such as coloring pages, word searches, and more! *Subscription required to download the video to remove the watermarks*)

Review the video of the Lesson on YouTube (Time: 2:16)