

Choose

Gather (your tent getting to know each other)

We have a lot of choices to make on a daily basis. As you begin, choose one of the following questions to help everyone engage in conversation.

- Talk about the last major decision you made. What factors did you consider?
- Have you ever made a bad decision? How did you know it wasn't a good decision?

Grow (your tent growing as Christ-followers)

- The Day 8 Daily Reading encouraged us to journal about our belief and choice to follow Jesus. Share your answers to the following questions:
 - Who do you believe Jesus to be?
 - What is your choice about Him?
 - What is your, "as for me . . ." Statement?
- Read Joshua 24:14-20 in two translations.
- Watch and discuss the "Episode Two: Choose" teaching video.
- Our culture is full of counterfeit gods that vie for our attention and hearts. As a group, make a list of all the gods of our culture. Consider your group's list and answer the following:
 - Which gods have enticed your family in the past?
 - Which gods entice you personally?
- Joshua 24:16-20 records a crucial interaction between all the people of Israel and Joshua.
 - What is their reply to his initial challenge?
 - Why do you think Joshua responded the way he did in verses 19 and 20?
 - What truth about God is Joshua trying to convey to the people of Israel and us?
- In Joshua 23:6-8, the leaders of Israel are challenged to "cling" to the Lord. It is similar language to Genesis 2:24 and Matthew 19:5 that describe the oneness of a unified relationship between a married man and woman. What can we glean from these passages in light of our call to serve the Lord?
- Isaiah echoes the call for Israel to choose the god they will serve. Read Isaiah 45:20-25. What is clear about Isaiah's message? How have you seen this truth in your own life?
- Our choices are often the culmination of underlying thoughts and feelings. Their interactions are complicated but they move us toward or away from Jesus. Paul recognizes this and urges the Colossians church to seek and set their thoughts and feelings on Jesus above everything else. Read Colossians 3:1-4 and consider how your life choices move you toward or away from Jesus.
- Pastor Mike stated in the Day 8 Daily Reading, "Each of us individually has to choose the god (God) we are going to serve." If someone were to observe your life and daily actions from the last day, week, or month, what conclusions would they draw about whom you serve?
- Joshua warned the nation of Israel against choosing a duplicitous life, a life with one foot in the world and one foot with Jesus. He calls them to serve the Lord with sincerity and faithfulness. Sometimes, our temptation as Christ-followers is to soften our commitment to Jesus and to also follow some parts of this world. Take a few minutes and individually answer the questions posed from the Day 13 Daily Reading.
 - Is following Jesus worth all my relationships?
 - Is following Jesus worth all my possessions?
 - Is following Jesus worth all that I am?

Choose

Give (your tent serving each other)

- We serve Him best within the context of other Christ-followers and we thrive when we engage one another in the discipline of accountability. As you prepare to pray, find a way to break into groups of two or three and engage in the following spiritual formation:
 - Refer back to the list of counterfeit gods, share your list of gods you need to dispose.
 - Submit yourself to being held accountable for the gods that entice you.
 - Pray over each other.
 - Choose to daily pray for each other until you gather together again.

GO (your tent on mission)

- Finish crafting your, "as for me and my house" statement. Write it out in the **Your Covenant Story** resource located in the back of the book. Consider adding simple phrases that clarify your statement. Using the phrase, "Others may . . . But I will choose . . .," will provide clarity. Examples can include:
 - "Others may occasionally read the Bible, but I will choose to daily spend time in the Word."
 - "Others may attend Sunday services sporadically, but I will choose to attend and engage weekly."
 - Others may hide their gods, but I will choose to hold myself accountable against the gods that tempt me"
- Share your Joshua 24 experience with someone around you. Let them know about your "as for me and my house" statement.
- Continue reading the 40-day experience.