

XXXIX

THE OLD TESTAMENT

Leader Conversation Guide – XXXIX: Joshua

Main Idea

Have you ever made a decision you later regretted because you didn't take the time to seek wisdom from God? Life is full of choices—some small, some life-altering—and the way we approach them matters. Too often, we rely on our own understanding, moving forward without stopping to ask God for guidance.

In Joshua 9, we see the Israelites fall into this very trap. They made a treaty with the Gibeonites without inquiring of the Lord, and their failure to seek His direction led to unintended consequences. Yet even in their mistake, God remained faithful, and Joshua demonstrated integrity by honoring his commitment. This passage challenges us to consider how we make decisions, who we listen to, and why keeping our word matters to God. As we dive into this discussion, we'll explore the importance of seeking God's wisdom, the weight of our commitments, and how faithfulness in the small things shapes our journey with Him. Let's lean in, reflect, and learn from these truths as we follow Christ in our own lives.

But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

JOSHUA 24:15

Make It Practical

STOP – Sleep on it: Not every decision needs to be made in the moment. Taking time to pause can prevent us from making impulsive choices that lead to regret. (Proverbs 19:2-3)

- Move quickly with reversible decisions.
- Move slowly with irreversible decisions.

LOOK – Get the facts: Before making a decision, take the time to gather wisdom, seek advice, and ensure you have all the necessary information.

- Proverbs 14:12 – “There is a way that seems right to a person, but its end is the way to death.”
- Proverbs 12:15 – “The way of fools seems right to them, but the wise listen to advice.”

LISTEN – Check in with God: The Israelites “sampled their provisions but did not inquire of the Lord” (Joshua 9:14), leading them into a binding agreement without His guidance. We must learn from their mistake and seek God in all things.

- Proverbs 3:5-6 – “Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; in all your ways submit to Him, and He will make your paths straight.”

Talk About It

Decision-Making and God's Guidance: In Joshua 9:14, the Israelites made a treaty without inquiring of the Lord. How can we ensure that we seek God's wisdom in our decision-making, and what are some practical ways to apply the "Stop, Look, Listen" approach in our daily lives?

The Weight of Commitment: Joshua and the leaders honored their oath to the Gibeonites even after realizing they had been deceived (Joshua 9:18-19). What does this teach us about the importance of keeping our commitments, and how can we stay faithful to our word even when it's difficult?

Choosing Who to Serve: Joshua 24:15 challenges the Israelites to choose whom they will serve. In today's world, what are some of the "gods" that compete for our devotion, and how can we intentionally commit to serving the Lord in our personal lives and families?

If you don't check in with God, you'll never have the privilege of hearing from Him.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for Your wisdom and guidance in every decision we face. We confess that too often, we rely on our own understanding instead of seeking You first. Help us to slow down, seek the truth, and listen for Your voice in all that we do. Holy Spirit, give us discernment to make choices that honor You and faithfulness to keep our commitments, even when it's difficult. Shape our hearts to trust You more each day. May our lives reflect Your wisdom, integrity, and grace as we follow You. In Jesus' Name, Amen.

Next Steps

1. Make Seeking God a Daily Habit
 - Before making any major decision this week, take time to pray and ask for God's wisdom (James 1:5).
 - Start each day by reading a Proverb or Psalm to grow in biblical wisdom.
2. Slow Down and Evaluate Your Decisions
 - Use the Stop, Look, Listen method when facing choices—big or small.
 - If you're struggling with a decision, seek wise counsel from a mentor, pastor, or trusted friend (Proverbs 15:22).
3. Honor Your Commitments
 - Reflect on any commitments you've made—are you honoring them, even when it's difficult?
 - If there's a commitment you've neglected, take one step this week to follow through with integrity.
4. Trust God with the Outcome
 - If you've made past mistakes, remember that God's grace is greater than your failures.
 - Ask Him to redeem any decisions where you acted without seeking His wisdom.