

Bible Reading Together during this Covid-19 Shutdown

January 24-30: Read Joshua 24 & Gospel of John 14 & 15

Joshua 24

This is the last chapter of Joshua. The fight to drive out the inhabitants of the Promised Land was largely successful, and the twelve tribes are ready to go their separate ways to occupy their lands. But Joshua is worried. This is his final message to them.

Further Study & Discussion

- Joshua begins with recounting all the things that God did among them. How important is that as we close out an old year and begin anew? Or as we embark on a new home, a new setting, a new job?
- After the recounting God's blessings, Joshua proclaims a covenant in vv.14-15. The people are challenged to commit themselves to God and remain faithful to Him as God was faithful and committed to them. How is this like worship? In worship, when do we commit ourselves to God? How do we commit ourselves to God?
- When the people agreed to commit themselves to God, Joshua pushed back, "You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins." What did Joshua mean by this? Why did he get so negative?

John 14-15

While the other Gospels are thin on the conversation that took place during the Last Supper, John's Gospel spends three full chapters on their conversation that night. It begins in chapter 14.

Further Study & Discussion

- Jesus may have been unusually silent that evening. That troubled the disciples, and it required Jesus to lift up their spirits. He began chapter 14 with, "Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me." Read that line several times. Once more with eyes closed. What is the Holy Spirit saying to you?
- Jesus offers a full teaching on the ministry of the Holy Spirit in us beginning v.15. He is the Advocate, the Truth, invisible, and living in us (vv.16-17). List the many things the Spirit will do.
- Jesus begins chapter 15 with an analogy of the grape vine and the fruit. What does it mean for us to be branches? What are the fruit? And how does Jesus feed the branches?
- What is the command Jesus is talking about in chapter 15? How does love connect with joy (v.11) and bearing much fruit (v.16)?