

RELATIONSHIP STRONG
Small Group Discussion Guide
Commitment to Serve the Lord

Icebreaker:

- As a kid, what stories did your mom or dad tell you over and over about when they were growing up?
- How much do you know about your ancestors and your family history?

In the closing days of Joshua's life, the last action he would take as Israel's leader was to call the people to renew their covenant with the Lord.

Read: Joshua 24:1-27

1. Why do you think Joshua recounts Israel's history?
 - a) *because people like to hear about their roots*
 - b) *to remind them of what God did in the past*
 - c) *to challenge their commitment*
 - d) *to give them hope for the future*
2. After all they had through, why were the Israelites given a choice now about whom to serve?
 - a) *Joshua has doubts about their commitment*
 - b) *they needed to state openly their commitment*
 - c) *Faith is always a choice*
 - d) *you cannot serve God and something else*
3. Joshua reminded Israel of God's faithfulness. In what way has God shown his faithfulness to you?
4. Joshua used a stone to remind the people of their commitment. What reminds you of your decision to serve God?
5. When in your life did you make the choice to serve God?
6. What other "gods" besides the Lord are you tempted to serve?
 - a) *certain people*
 - b) *an idea or cause*
 - c) *pleasure*
 - d) *work or career*
 - e) *money*
 - f) *security*
 - g) *a habit*
 - h) *other*
7. What have you found helpful in being faithful to serve God?
 - a) *having a daily quiet time*
 - b) *regular church attendance*
 - c) *belonging to a Sabbath school class or a small group Bible study*
 - d) *being held accountable to others*
 - e) *other*
8. Conclude the study with the following exercise patterned after the covenant renewal in this Bible passage:
 - Share one thing God has done for you and your family (vs. 2-13)
 - Name one concrete spiritual commitment you want to make (vs. 14-18)
 - Write down on paper the "god" you wish to forsake (vs. 23-24)
 - Crumple the paper and throw it away
9. How can this group support you in prayer now and in the coming week?