

Big Idea: **Serving God is a choice.**

Discuss this statement: *You are as close to God as you have chosen to be.*

**1) God has chosen to serve his people. (v. 1-13)**

The people came together to present themselves before God. When you gather for worship with others you come with the sense of "presenting yourself to God." Do you live with a sense that God is watching you?

Joshua stood between God and the people. Describe a time when you sensed you were standing between God and others with an urgent message to deliver. Describe the weight a preacher must feel as he delivers an urgent message from God to his people.

Do you listen with a sense of urgency when a pastor preaches God's Word?

Have you ever listened to a sermon when you felt you listened with more urgency than the message was preached?

Read v.1-13. List all the things God did over 400 years to serve his people. How has Christ served you? How has he served you this week?

In what way does Christ serve us that we cannot serve him?

Why is it not demeaning for Christ to serve us?

**2) I must choose which God I will serve. (v. 14-15)**

Discuss this statement: *It is a sin to serve the Lord without sincerity, faithfulness, and gladness.*

Read Psalm 100:2, Acts 17:25 and Mark 10:45. Do you serve the Lord because you think he needs something from you? Why does God invite us to serve him?

• **CHOOSE - I must choose intentionally.**

Does your relationship with God display intentional choice or passive approval? What's the difference?

Have you ever excused your behavior on a lack of choice?

• **THIS DAY - I must choose immediately.**

When did you first choose to serve Christ?

Are you a procrastinator? How have you put off the choice to serve Christ?

• **WHOM - I must choose responsibly.**

Discuss this statement: *You have a choice which God you will choose but you do not get to choose the consequences of your choice.*

What gods continually compete with God for your service? What consequences have you encountered from choices to serve competing gods?

- **YOU - I must choose personally.**

Have you wrongly depended on the choices of parents, pastors, or friends when God is calling you to choose for yourself?

Do you make your choices based on the majority opinions of those around you?

- **WILL – I must choose repeatedly.**

Your ultimate choice to serve Christ will govern the choices you make everyday. How has your ultimate choice to serve Christ affected choices in these areas?

- Participation in church
- Serving others
- Sex
- Friends
- Time
- Money

#### Additional Scripture

- Deuteronomy 30:19-20
- Matthew 4:10
- Matthew 6:24
- Luke 16:13
- Romans 6:13
- Ephesians 1:4