Looking back, looking forward

Joshua 24:1-3a,14-25

Joshua reminds the Israelites of their story and how God has looked after them in the past. He then invites the Israelites to respond to God's promise to be with them, by choosing to follow God.

Read this week's passage:



REFLECT

Consider promises and the role they play in your life. Who and what have you committed to? Do you have any symbols of these promises? What about any promises between you and God – revisit your baptism or another act of commitment if you've made one, or explore the idea of making this kind of commitment for the first time.

CRAFT

Make a photo phone case to help you remember significant people, places or moments in your life and journey of faith.

Write

Write down some hopes for the future. Consider what you hope for in your relationship with God and which promises of God you look to trust in as the future unfolds. Put these somewhere and revisit them in the future.

Living Scripture

'You cannot serve the Lord, for he is a holy God.' Joshua 24:19

Joshua encourages the people to follow God's ways, but he knows that they start off keen, but when the going gets tough, they get flaky. Have you been there: the idea of playing the piano is great, but daily practice? Ouch. Joshua knows that following God requires determination and discipline. He pushes them, God is too holy. They won't succeed. They take the challenge – they promise to serve God and they make an agreement, a covenant. Read on (in the Book of Judges), they still get things wrong, but God never gives up on them.

Before Jesus, people thought that they had to be perfect for God to love them. However much they tried, of course they failed. Jesus showed us that God is not just full of forgiveness and love, the Holy Spirit is there to help us. Somehow though we still think we've got to be perfect and try to do it by ourselves. Is that what you're doing?

First impressions

- How does this image portray the idea of looking back while going forward?
- Are there stories or events from the past that will help to shape your future?
- Which Bible passages help to remind you of God's faithfulness in your life?



Pray

Holy God, thank you for your word
which has been passed on for generations,
for those who have told us the story of Jesus,
and offered us the chance to hear and to learn.
Thank you for inspiring us to respond to your call
to love you and those around us.
We offer ourselves to you again today
so that we may love as you have loved us. Amen.





Start a memory box. You can decorate an old cardboard box or choose a box you like. Commit to placing things in there which can help keep track of your journey of faith, giving you something to look back on in the future.

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