

**TITLE AND NUMBER:** 158: We will serve the Lord



**REFERENCE AND KEY VERSE(S):** Joshua 24:16-18

The people answered, 'Far be it from us to forsake the Lord to serve other gods! It was the Lord our God himself who brought us and our parents up out of Egypt, from that land of slavery, and performed those great signs before our eyes. He protected us on our entire journey and among all the nations through which we travelled. And the Lord drove out before us all the nations, including the Amorites, who lived in the land. We too will serve the Lord because he is our God.'

**LOOKING FURTHER:** Matthew 28:20; John 16:31-33

### What does this Bible passage tell us?

The Israelites were now settled in the Promised Land. They had overcome those who opposed them and the future looked promising. Now Joshua, who had succeeded Moses as their leader, was nearing the end of his life and was giving his farewell address to the people.

At times on their journey from Egypt, when things had been hard, the Israelites had turned away from God and worshipped false gods instead. Even today, some people may doubt or question faith in God when they see bad things happen.

Joshua calls the people to commit to following God faithfully, and to set aside those things that divert them from worshipping Him alone. In response, the people remember all the good things that God has done for them, how He has protected them and brought them safely to the Promised Land. They declare that they will indeed follow God. Even if things get hard again in the future, they promise they will not forget everything He has done. As for Joshua and his family, they promise that they will serve God whatever other people do or say.

The Bible tells us that life won't always be easy (John 16:31-33). There is a battle between good and evil, between God and the forces in the world. Some of us reading this may be experiencing hard times right now. And, as a result, we may question our faith in God. Whatever happens, it helps us if we remember times when God has helped us, and trust His promises to see us through. He promises to be with us always (Matthew 28:20).

### Reflections:

- The two passages in 'Looking Further' contain promises that God will be with us in hard times. Do you know any other promises from the Bible that are important to you? Make a note of them on the back of this sheet.
- Recall times when God has really helped you and been there for you. You might like to keep a 'journal' or diary so you can look back and see how God has helped you.
- Look out for someone who may be having a hard time. Encourage them by sharing one of God's promises that is special to you.

Write or draw something you read in this Bible Study that stood out to you.



# PROMISES

Do you have any questions about this week's Bible Study?



How does this week's message apply to your life?



What can we learn about God from this week's passage?



What would you like to ask God this week?



Has God responded to your prayers this week in the way you had hoped for? It's okay to talk to God about this.

