

Sunday School Lesson, October 4, 2026

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Lesson—Do Not Conform to the World¹

Text: Joshua 24:18-27

I. Aim for Change/Learning Objectives

By the end of this lesson, we will...

1. Make worship a priority in our lives.
2. Identify the idols that distract us from God.
3. Strive not to be diverted from faithful living.

Why This Lesson Matters: We can make worship a priority in our lives by identifying the idols that distract us from God so that we will not be diverted from faithful living.

Key Verse: “*And put away the gods which your fathers served on the other side of the flood, and in Egypt; and serve ye the Lord. (Joshua 24:14b, KJV).*”

II. Topical Outline of the Lesson

1. Introduction
2. Remembering what God has done (Joshua 24:18-20)
3. Choosing Faithfulness over Familiar Idols (vv. 21-24)
4. Living Out Our Commitment to the Lord (vv. 25-27)

III. Prominent Character(s) in the Lesson

All Israel: God’s people chosen to receive the covenant blessing to be spread to all the world through Jesus Christ.

Joshua: By the end of the lesson, Joshua had led the people to great success in many ways. Joshua was now old and dying but had remained faithful to God enough that, on the precipice of death, he earned the narrative's title for Moses, “the servant of the Lord.” (24:29)

IV. Key Terms in the Lesson (KJV)

Chosen

Covenant

Jealous

Statute(s)

Witness

¹ Outline Content courtesy of the Sunday School Publishing Board Teacher Manual, which should be purchased at www.sspbnbc.com

V. Historical/Biblical Background and Lesson Context

The verses in Joshua 24 are part of a section of the book made up of Joshua's concluding words to the people. Jacob, Moses, Samuel, and David each had farewell speeches (usually near the accounts of their deaths), and Joshua was no different. In each case, these prominent leaders exhorted the people, looking backward at what had happened and forward to what was to come.

Joshua gathers the Israelites and calls them to remember the Lord's faithfulness and to choose their loyalty with honesty. This moment is not a casual speech. It is a public decision that defines what kind of community they will become in the land (*Wray Beal*, 255-257). This lesson focuses on the challenge of living faithfully within competing cultural influences. Joshua does not deny the presence of other gods or values. He names them and calls the people to put them away. Faithfulness requires discernment and courage.

Food for thought/question for consideration: (What have we learned, Charlie Brown?)

The Lord is always preparing us for the next season in our lives. As did Joshua, are you declaring the goodness of the Lord, And Speaking of all that he has done for you? It is our responsibility to make sure we tell the next generation to never forget God's faithfulness and that we must serve him with all our heart, mind, and strength. "...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." (*Joshua 24:15*)

Closing Hymn: *Blessed be the tie that binds, our hearts in Christian love;
The fellowship of kindred minds is like to that above.*

Sunday School Slogan: *To Sunday School to Sunday School, we all should go; we
have classes for all ages, help us to grow.*