

## Joshua Served God by Susan A. Hart, DCE

*“So have respect for the Lord. Serve Him. Be completely faithful to Him. Throw away the gods your people worshiped east of the Euphrates River and in Egypt. Serve the Lord. But suppose you don’t want to serve Him. Then choose for yourselves right now whom you will serve. You can choose the gods your people served east of the Euphrates River. Or you can serve the gods of the Amorites. After all, you are living in their land. But as for me and my family, we will serve the Lord.” Then the people answered Joshua, “We would never desert the Lord! We would never serve other gods!”*

*-Joshua 24:14-16 NIV*

Tom loves to play softball, and he also likes to win. When Tom picks the players for his softball team, he knows who he wants to have on his team. He picks Rachel because she is the best pitcher. She throws strikes right over the plate every time. Jim is quick in the infield, so Tom places him at short stop. First base would be shared between José and Eddie. They both have long arms to reach those close first-base outs. Susie would play third base, Ari in right field, and so on and so on. Tom always has a plan to win.

- Have you ever played on a winning team?
- Have you ever won a board game like chess or checkers where you needed to think hard about your next move?
- How did it feel to have a plan to win?

In the Bible, Joshua also knew how to win. Joshua knew God was the source of the power to win battles. He knew the best plan for success was following God’s plan. Sadly God’s people were beginning to think they could defeat other nations by their own power. They started to think it was their strength that won the battle, and not God’s.

As the leader, Joshua gave God’s people a choice. **(Reread the Bible passage.)** Joshua told them to make a decision—either follow God or follow something else. The people chose to follow God, the one and only true God.

We are faced with choices every day, too. From the moment we wake up until the time we go to sleep, we are faced with decisions. God can give us the strength to make the right choices. When we trust in God’s plan for our lives, we will follow the right path.

- Think about some of the choices you have made this week or this month. You don’t have to say it out loud, but were they the right choices? Do you think your choices followed God’s plan for your life?
- Think about this. Who do you choose to follow?

### Prayer

Dear God,

We thank You for the many choices You allow us to make.

Help us follow Your plan for our lives.

In Jesus’ name we pray. Amen.

