

"Now fear the LORD and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your forefathers worshiped beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the LORD. But if serving the LORD seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your forefathers served beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the LORD." Then 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 fathers 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 traveled. 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."

²³ "Now then," said Joshua, "throw away the foreign gods that are among you and yield your hearts to the LORD, the God of Israel."

Perhaps no one would argue that families face tremendous challenges. All of us are looking for answers to the increasing stresses of daily living.

1. It is not uncommon for us to be *drawn* to that which is harmful.
 - We sometimes have an affinity for the gods of the **CEMETARY**.
 - We sometimes have a fascination with the gods of **CULTURE**.
 - We invest little or nothing in knowing the God of **CREATION**.
2. Hope emerges as we *center* on who God is and what God has done.
3. There are definitive actions that help us *orient* our lives toward God.
 - Get rid of the things that would take us **AWAY** from God.
 - Passionately resist any temptation that might lead to a **BETRAYAL** of our family or our faith.
 - So live that life reflects **COMMUNION** with God.