

# Compass

BETHLEHEM BAPTIST CHURCH  
Vol. 31 Issue 9 • April 2026

## JOSHUA 24:14-21 ESV

<sup>14</sup> "Now therefore fear the Lord and serve him in sincerity and in faithfulness. Put away the gods that your fathers served beyond the River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. <sup>15</sup> And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." <sup>16</sup> Then the people answered, "Far be it from us that we should forsake the Lord to serve other gods, <sup>17</sup> for it is the Lord our God who brought us and our fathers up from the land of Egypt, out of the house of slavery, and who did those great signs in our sight and preserved us in all the way that we went, and among all the peoples through whom we passed. <sup>18</sup> And the Lord drove out before us all the peoples, the Amorites who lived in the land. Therefore we also will serve the Lord, for he is our God." <sup>19</sup> But Joshua said to the people, "You are not able to serve the Lord, for he is a holy God. He is a jealous God; he will not forgive your transgressions or your sins. <sup>20</sup> If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, then he will turn and do you harm and consume you, after having done you good." <sup>21</sup> And the people said to Joshua, "No, but we will serve the Lord."

## MAKE YOUR CHOICE

In life, we allow things to interfere with our devotion to God. And oftentimes we allow those people, places, and things to replace our communication with God.

In our text, we see that the Israelites had a problem with serving the gods of their fathers, "...beyond the river and in Egypt" (vs. 14), indicating they were serving gods from Mesopotamia (beyond the river) or the Amorites. (v.15) Joshua was concerned for the spiritual wellness of the Israelites and recognized they were not giving God their total devotion. See, the biblical definition of idol is anything that takes the place of God, whether a physical object, an image, or anything that absorbs a person's devotion more than God does.

Today, we turn to quick fixes for our situations, circumstances, or problems because we don't want to take the time to pray to God, to search His Word, or to wait on the Spirit's guidance. Instead of depending on God for resources and direction, we depend more on Google, Siri, YouTube, influencers, podcasters, and other social media platforms for answers. Scripture states, "Little children, keep yourselves from idols." (1John 5:21)

So, our text lays it out for us, take heed as Joshua declares, "But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD." (vs. 15)

Make your choice!

## WHAT TAKES YOUR TIME AND DEVOTION AWAY FROM SEEKING GOD?

Choose God in your life, remembering that even when we were sinners, Christ died for us. The scripture states, "...we ought always to give thanks to God for you, brothers beloved by the Lord, because God chose you as the firstfruits to be saved, through sanctification by the Spirit and belief in the truth." (2Thessalonians 2:13)



## SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON FOR

APRIL 26, 2026

## SUNDAY SCHOOL TITLE

LOVE THAT SHAPES SOCIETY

## SUNDAY SCHOOL SCRIPTURE

Deuteronomy 6:3–9;  
Matthew 19:3–9

## MAIN THOUGHT

Keep these words that I am commanding you today in your heart. Recite them to your children and talk about them when you are at home and when you are away, when you lie down and when you rise.

Deuteronomy 6:6–7, NRSVue

## CLOSING PRAYER

Dear God, thank you for waking me up today and allowing me to see the magnificence of your creation! Forgive me, Lord of all unrighteousness, and hear my prayer. Help me today to stay focused on you, O God. Remove any distractions that would hinder my praise and worship to you. I choose you, Lord! Amen!