

I learned a lot of great things this year, but my favorite lesson came from a Bible verse in *Joshua 24:15*. It says, "*Choose this day whom you will serve... But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*" I think that verse is really special and powerful. It made me think a lot about who I want to follow in life.

In this verse, Joshua was talking to the people of Israel. He told them they had to make a big choice. They could follow the fake gods their ancestors used to worship, or they could follow the one true God. Joshua didn't try to make the choice for them. He just said very clearly what he was going to do. He said, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." I think that was super brave. Even if other people did something else, Joshua and his family were going to follow God no matter what.

This verse teaches me that I also have a choice. I can choose who I want to follow. I don't have to copy what everyone else is doing. I don't have to do what the world says is cool. I get to decide. And I choose Jesus! I want to follow Him with all my heart. I want to live my life the way He wants me to, even if it's hard sometimes.

Following God means we have to listen to Him, obey His Word, and trust Him. That's not always easy. Sometimes people might laugh or say things like, "Why do you care so much about God?" But I know that God loves me more than anyone else ever could, and He will never leave me. So I want to choose Him again and again, every single day.

This verse also reminds me that we shouldn't put anything above God. Some people care more about toys, video games, money, or being liked by others. But those things don't last forever. God does. I want Him to be number one in my heart. That means talking to Him in prayer, reading the Bible, and doing what makes Him happy.

Sometimes I make mistakes, but I know God forgives me. He gives me a new chance every time. That makes me want to love Him even more. Every day, I want to say, "Jesus, I choose You!" I want my house, my family, and my whole life to be all about serving Him.

So just like Joshua, I want to stand up and say, "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." No matter what other people choose, I choose God. And I'm proud of that!

-Renat Gaev