

Here are some questions to consider as you study Joshua 23:

- As you read this chapter, what evidence does Joshua give of God's faithfulness? Why do you think Joshua is so determined to remind Israel of this?
- What does Joshua exhort the Israelites to do? What does he tell them *not* to do?
- What is the relationship between what God has done and what Israel should do? How would you respond to someone who claimed that Israel's obedience would earn salvation from God?
- Why is it so important for Christians to be mindful of God's faithfulness in the past? How is remembering God's faithfulness the key to obedience? You might think that obedience "pays God back" for his faithfulness. "It's the least I can do for all he's done," you might say. But how does that misconception actually erode the power to obey that comes by remembering God's faithfulness?
- How often is your failure to obey God rooted in your forgetfulness of all he's done and promised? How can you build your awareness of God's faithfulness as you fight sin?
- As you read this chapter, you should get a sense of reverence and awe for God's commitment to Israel. It is this awareness that is meant to secure Israel's own faithfulness to God, but there are some credible threats here as well (see vv15–16). Does the fear of God move you to obedience or does it cause you to be afraid to do anything? Is it wrong to be scared to obedience? How does Joshua's instruction encourage Israel rather than merely cause dread?
- In all of this, we are reminded that Jesus is the only faithful Israelite. He's also the one true God of Israel. How do these two truths coincide in the Gospel? In other words, how does this story point us ahead to salvation in Christ?