Real Life Downloaded & In the World

Fall 2026 | Lesson 5 | October 4, 2026

Lesson Title: A Renewed Covenant
Lesson Focus: Dedicate yourself to serving God always.
Bible Basis: Joshua 24:18–27
Key Text: Joshua 24:14b
Summary: Joshua leads the people to rededicate themselves to serving God.

A Milestone Moment for New Citizens
Thousands of football fans in Jacksonville took a break from cheering on their teams to witness a different kind of accomplishment: 100 people taking their final step toward becoming U.S. citizens. During this ceremony, each candidate completed years of dedication to the naturalization process by taking the Oath of Allegiance to the United States. The new citizens represented 50 countries of origin. A witness described the joy and pride evident on the faces of the candidates as they reached this significant milestone. While this halftime show featured no elaborate stunts, musical performances, or dance routines, it provided something even more memorable. As the crowd cheered, these newest citizens of the United States of America celebrated a life-changing moment they will never forget.

A Remembrance Stone for God's People
Joshua has assembled all the tribes and leaders at Shechem. He gives a final sermon to encourage them to commit to serving God. Although Israel's ancestors were idol-worshipers, they are called to reject the religions around them. The people repeatedly agree and commit to the covenant expectations. Joshua warns that keeping the covenant will not be easy, but rebellion will lead to disaster. The listeners want to choose the way of blessing, as Joshua had urged them to do, and they recommit to exclusive worship of God, formalizing a covenant renewal. Joshua records everything in written form, and as a second reminder he sets a standing stone as a witness to the commitments being made.

Questions
1. What goal have you worked for years to accomplish?
2. How do gratitude and focus impact long-term commitment?
3. What challenges our exclusive allegiance and worship of God in today's world?

Additional Links
Any videos or web materials are for your personal use.
If you play any media files in class, be sure to have the necessary rights to do so.

Playlists:
Contemporary Worship Weekly
https://open.spotify.com/playlist/4JGkwp5ZDf5Eww31SGcF4n?si=63d4fa10ddfa47aa
Echoes Worship Weekly (featuring African-American music artists)
https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2psN0hA48H9Iyh6vJc5KKb?si=3ef5bb07ee15409e
Traditional Worship Weekly

https://open.spotify.com/playlist/2utAcyXMWgIyBYmM6iBLfi?si=26c938e689ad4d1f

Study Resources:
Commentary: Bryan J. Whitfield's "Commentary on Joshua 24:1-3a, 14-25"
https://www.workingpreacher.org/commentaries/revised-common-lectionary/ordinary-32/commentary-on-joshua-241-3a-14-25-2
Commentary: Thomas L. Constable's "Israel's Second Renewal of the Covenant 24:1–28"
https://soniclight.com/tcon/notes/html/joshua/joshua.htm#c-israels-second-renewal-of-the-covenant-241-28
Devotion: Theology of Work on "Covenant: Israel Makes a Commitment (Joshua 23-24)"
https://www.theologyofwork.org/old-testament/joshua-judges-and-work/covenant-joshua-23-24/