



International Bible Study Commentary

Verse-by-Verse Bible Lessons Thru the Bible

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International Bible Lessons

Teaching English as a Foreign Language

Ready-to-Teach Lesson: Why and When You Cannot

Joshua 24:18-27 (English Standard Version)

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When Preparation Time Is Short

This lesson has been selected from the complete Teacher Lesson and is ready to use. Begin with the two warm-up questions, read or play Joshua 24:18-27, and continue through the activities in order. The writing task may be completed in class or assigned as homework.

1) Warm-Up Questions

1. Why is it sometimes easier to make a promise than to keep it?
2. What actions can show that a person's words are sincere?

2) Vocabulary

Word/Phrase	Meaning	Teacher Prompt
holy	Perfectly pure and set apart from all sin and evil.	Why did Joshua remind the people that the LORD is holy?
forsake	To abandon, reject, or turn away from someone.	What did Joshua warn would happen if Israel forsook the LORD?
incline your heart	Turn your inner desires, loyalty, and attention toward someone.	Toward whom were the people to incline their hearts?
covenant	A solemn and binding agreement or relationship.	What did Joshua make with the people at Shechem?

3) Bible Text Comprehension

1. What two descriptions of God did Joshua give in verse 19?
2. What did Joshua warn would happen if the people served foreign gods?
3. What did Joshua tell them to put away?
4. Toward whom were they to incline their hearts?

4) Scripture Discussion

1. Why did Joshua challenge the people's quick promise to serve the LORD?
2. How would obedience demonstrate that the people's promise was sincere?

5) Speaking Practice

1. Retell Joshua 24:18-27 in your own words.
2. Explain the phrase "incline your heart to the LORD" in simple English.

Language Coaching Tip

If a student gives a short answer, invite a complete sentence: "Can you tell me more?" "Why do you think that?" or "Can you give an example?" Correct gently and model the sentence when needed.

6) Writing Task

Write a paragraph explaining why serving the LORD requires an undivided heart.

This may be completed during class or assigned as homework.

7) Wrap-Up

Wrap-Up: The people promised to serve the LORD, but Joshua warned them not to make that promise lightly. The LORD is holy and will not accept divided loyalty. The people were to put away foreign gods, incline their hearts toward the LORD, and obey His voice. Joshua made a covenant with them, wrote their words in the Book of the Law, and set up a large stone as a witness to their commitment.

Remember: "Faith does not merely promise to serve the Lord; faith puts away every rival and inclines the whole heart to Him."

Final Question: What rival must a person put away so the whole heart can be inclined toward the LORD?