TALK IT OVER

The Way Starts at Home
Pr. Israel Perdonsin | October 18th, 2026

Summary of the Message

If the rooms of your life could talk (your kitchen, your dorm, your commute, your group chats), **what would they say you worship?**

In Joshua 24, Joshua gathers the whole congregation, not just families, and challenges everyone to choose whom they will serve. Before he speaks to anyone else, he settles his own heart: "As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Pastor Israel showed us three things about this choice: it is personal before it is public, domestic before it is dramatic, and daily, not once. Whatever your house looks like (full table, empty chair, single or married), **the choice starts with you, today.** And the Way is not a program; it is a Person, Jesus, who walks the road with us day by day.

Context: Joshua and the People of Israel

Joshua was Moses' successor and led Israel into the Promised Land. In Joshua 24, at about 110 years old, he gathers the people at Shechem, where God first made the promise to Abraham. The land was conquered, but the danger now was the idols inside the house. So Joshua calls for a clear choice and starts with himself: *"As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."*

Key Points

1. **The choice is personal before it is public.** Joshua didn't wait for the perfect season or for his family to cooperate. You cannot delegate what you do not model, and you cannot postpone what you will not choose. Your children will rarely follow what you say, but they will almost always follow what you are. Being is greater than doing.
2. **The choice is domestic before it is dramatic.** A general who defeated 31 kings named his household, not his army. Your "house" is the sphere God has entrusted to you: a family table, a one-bedroom apartment, a home with an empty chair, and the church, the household of God.
3. **The choice is daily, not once.** "We will serve the Lord" is a covenant, not an announcement. Houses are built in a thousand ordinary days. When you fail, you don't quit; you repent, return and serve Him again tomorrow.

Key Bible Verses (NIV)

Joshua 24:14-15
"Now fear the Lord and serve him with all faithfulness. Throw away the gods your ancestors worshiped beyond the Euphrates River and in Egypt, and serve the Lord. But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your ancestors served beyond the Euphrates, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you are living. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord."

Psalm 127:1
"Unless the Lord builds the house, the builders labor in vain. Unless the Lord watches over the city, the guards stand watch in vain."

1 Corinthians 7:35
"I am saying this for your own good, not to restrict you, but that you may live in a right way in undivided devotion to the Lord."

1 Timothy 3:15
"...if I am delayed, you will know how people ought to conduct themselves in God's household, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and foundation of the truth."

Psalm 68:6
"God sets the lonely in families, he leads out the prisoners with singing; but the rebellious live in a sun-scorched land."

John 14:6
"Jesus answered, 'I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me.'"

Start Talking: Spark Conversation

1. If the rooms of your house could talk (your kitchen, your car, your phone), what is one funny or honest thing they would say about you?
2. What is one habit or tradition from the house you grew up in that you still carry today, good or bad?

TALK IT OVER

Start Thinking: Deepen the Thought

1. Joshua says "as for me" before he says "my house." Why do you think God's order is personal first, then home, then public? What happens when we try to reverse that order?
2. Israel was surrounded by the gods of Egypt (comfort, survival) and the gods of Canaan (prosperity, pleasure, success). Pastor Israel added "the gods of the scroll and the screen." Which of these compete most for first place in our homes today?

Start Sharing: Open Heart / Share Stories

1. What have you been waiting for before getting serious with God: a spouse, a better season, the kids being older, more stability? What has that waiting cost you?
2. Is there an "empty chair" in your house, someone who doesn't believe or who walked away? How have you been doing at staying faithful in your part of the house?

Start Doing: Commit to Act

1. Pick your one practice for this week. If your house has children: gather your family for 10 minutes (read, talk, pray, do). If your house is just you: 10 minutes of Bible every day at a fixed time, and invite someone from church to your table this month. Which one is yours, and what day and time will you start?
2. Choose one person you will pray for by name, every day, this month. Share the first name with the group so someone can check in on you next week.

Praying:

Lord Jesus,

Thank You for every house represented here: families, singles, homes with full tables and homes with an empty chair. Forgive us when comfort, success or the screen take Your place. Today we choose You, without waiting for the perfect season. Help us to be at home who we say we are on Sunday, and to build day by day, coming back to You when we fail. As for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.

In Jesus' name, amen.

Announcements:

- House of Prayer: every Friday at 7 PM At Centro de Formação.
- Serve: be a volunteer! Sign up here: volunteer form
- Thanksgiving is coming!