

NEXT STARTS NOW

1976–

Next Starts With Yes! (Week 7)

Preacher: **Daniel Erasmus**

Worship:

Suggested Song: “**Gratitude**” – **Brandon Lake**

A song that helps us remember God’s faithfulness and respond with a renewed “yes.”

Check-in:

What is one thing from the Next Starts Now series that has most challenged or shaped you?

Big Idea:

As Joshua gathers Israel at **Shechem**, he calls them to do three things before stepping into what is next:

1. **Remember God’s faithfulness** – they did not arrive in the Promised Land by their own strength, effort, or ability.
2. **Trust God in the journey** – even when the process feels slow, circular, or unclear, God has been directing their steps.
3. **Renew their yes** – now that they are in the land, Joshua asks: How will you live here? Who will you serve?

Joshua 24 is not about fighting a battle; it’s about **making a decision**. In the same way, Palm Sunday invites us to declare again that Jesus is King – not just with celebration, but with surrender.

Next does not start with strategy.

Next starts with YES.

Key Scriptures:

- **Joshua 24:1–15** – Remembering God’s acts & choosing whom to serve

- **Joshua 24:23** – “Yield your hearts to the Lord”
- **Proverbs 3:5–6** – Trust in the Lord with all your heart
- **Matthew 21 (Palm Sunday)** – Jesus enters Jerusalem as King

Discussion Questions:

1. **Remember – Seeing God’s Faithfulness**
As Joshua reminded Israel of everything God had done, what are one or two key moments in your journey where you can clearly say: “**Only God brought me through that**”?
2. **Trust – When the Journey Isn’t Straight**
Where in your life does following Jesus feel slow, circular, or unclear – and how might remembering God’s past faithfulness help you trust Him in the present?
3. **Renew – Saying Yes Again**
Joshua called Israel to “choose today whom you will serve.”
What would a **renewed YES** to Jesus look like for you right now – in your priorities, habits, or decisions?

Prayer Pointers

Lead the group in praying through three movements:

- **Remember** – “Lord, thank You for all You have done.”
- **Return** – “Bring my heart back where it has drifted.”
- **Renew** – “Today, I choose again to serve You with my whole heart.”