

January 15, 2021
Sue Ellen's Choice
Read Joshua 24:16, 22-24



Sue Ellen wanted so badly to be part of Heather's group at school. *It will never happen unless Mom and Dad relax their rules a little and allow me to dress like Heather and her friends*, she thought. *I don't know why Mom and Dad have to be so old-fashioned!* So, on the way to school, Sue Ellen put on makeup and tied her blouse up in front to make it resemble a halter top. She knew her mother wouldn't like it, but she didn't care.

It worked! Heather's friends gave Sue Ellen friendly smiles and even invited her to a slumber party at Heather's house. Sue Ellen had never been so thrilled! *Mom won't approve, of course, but that's no big problem*, she thought. *I'll just pretend I'm going to stay with one of the girls from church. Then Mom will say it's okay.*

On Wednesday night, Sue Ellen's Bible study leader, Andrea, talked about the time Joshua challenged the children of Israel to choose the God they wanted to serve. "Sometimes kids have to choose whether they want to serve the god of popularity or the only true God," Andrea said. As Andrea continued speaking, Sue Ellen decided to ignore her guilty feelings.

Friday finally came—the big day of the slumber party. Sue Ellen was so excited! When she got to Heather's house, she was surprised to see boys there, too, and there didn't seem to be any adults around. *I wonder where Heather's folks are*, she thought. Wild music was playing, and the scene was pretty rowdy.

After a while, Heather came up to Sue Ellen. "Hi, Susie," she said. "My folks won't be home till late— isn't that great? I hope they'll never find out the guys were here." She giggled. "Here, have a cigarette," she urged.

"N-no, thanks," Sue Ellen stammered. She tried to enjoy herself, but she really wasn't comfortable. Before long she gave up, found a phone, and asked her mom to come get her. When Mom picked her up, a very quiet, subdued Sue Ellen got into the car. "Mom, I'm sorry I lied," she said. "From now on, I'm going to serve God, not popularity."

HOW ABOUT YOU?

What god do you serve? Clothes? Good grades? Popularity? TV? (You name it.) Any of these can be a god to you if they become more important than pleasing the Lord. Like the children of Israel, you need to choose today whom you are going to serve.

CHOOSE TO SERVE GOD

Scripture Memory Verse:

**“For be it from us to forsake the
Lord to serve other gods.”**

Joshua 24:16